

# Crowd rallies for rights

By Mark Harms  
Staff Reporter

Undeterred by rainy weather, a small crowd of women's rights supporters gathered on the steps of the State Capitol Saturday afternoon to celebrate the 73rd anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: women's suffrage.

"There are a lot of people who don't believe in the constitution and letting people speak out," said Eldonna Rayburn, who emceed for the rally and coordinates the Lincoln chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Rayburn was warning against possible hecklers or troublemakers, but none were present at the rally.

Tara Muir, the lead-off speaker and state coordinator of NOW, said the women's suffrage movement made great strides advancing equality for women early in the century; but because of the current backlash against women's rights, the struggle for equality continues.

"We're still living in a country that does not view women as equal before the law," Muir said.

Women still make less money than men, husbands can legally rape their

wives in 30 states and battery is the leading cause of injury among women, she said.

"We don't have to be confused if we look back to our mothers and grandmothers in the suffrage movement," Muir said.

She said the activists of that era picketed the White House and were arrested and sentenced to workhouses. They also went on hunger strikes to advance their cause, she said.

"Until more of us in Nebraska take off our lady-like white gloves and get into the trenches, we'll never win equality in this state," Muir said.

She said she wanted the men and women of Nebraska who believe in women's rights to run for office.

"If you believe in the radical notion that women are equal, you too are a feminist," she said.

Reisha Johnson, an administrator for the Women's Medical Center in Omaha, said abortions — while still legal — are becoming harder to get because of restrictive laws and harassment of doctors performing abortions.

"Abortion remains safe, but it remains to be seen how long it will remain legal and available," Johnson said.

## Bjorklund

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attorney of his and Bjorklund's alleged involvement in the Harms murder case.

The case generated much publicity, which prompted Endacott to grant a change of venue and have the jury selected from Sidney and Cheyenne County.

The southwestern Nebraska area was selected because most Lincoln and Omaha news organizations don't reach the area.

An Associated Press story in the Aug. 17 Sidney Telegraph, prompted Helvie to file a second motion Friday to again request closing the hearings to the press.

Helvie said the article showed a connection between what occurred in Lincoln and what was reported in Sidney.

"That has the potential of contaminating the jury," he said.

Endacott again overruled the motion to close the hearings, citing that a fair trial could still result from public hearings.

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