

National

# Rallies start ERA countdown

WASHINGTON — With only a year to go for ratification, supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment scheduled "ERA countdown rallies" today in 161 cities across the United States.

The National Organization for Women, the organizer of the events, said in a statement, "these rallies are expected to be the largest simultaneous gatherings for women's rights in history."

The rallies, scheduled in 42 states, are to be held at 11 a.m. EDT.

"These rallies are to serve notice to our opponents that we will not quit," said Eleanor Smeal, the NOW president. "To put it bluntly, we intend to fight like hell."

"One of the problems we've been having is that people think that it will come," she said on NBC's "Today" show. "Now, people realize we can go backward unless they do something."

"The backlash to the antiwomen's rights proposals is actually creating the momentum for this last year."

"People's lives are at stake with the Equal Rights Amendment," said actor Alan Alda, a prominent backer who appeared with Ms. Smeal on NBC.

The amendment has been ratified in 35 states. Only three more states are needed to make the amendment part of the Constitution.

But the going has been slow.

Indiana was the last state to ratify the ERA in 1977. Recent efforts have failed in other states, notably Illinois, Florida, Virginia and Nevada. Besides those, the states that have not ratified the ERA are Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Utah, Missouri, Alabama, Arkansas and Arizona.

Congress in 1979 extended the seven-year

deadline for ratification another three years. The new deadline is June 30, 1982 — one year away.

The ERA text reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."

In announcing today's rallies, Ms. Smeal indicated they would be directed in part at President Reagan's opposition to ERA.

"The Reagan administration is trying to drive women's rights backwards," she said. "We won't let that happen. The ERA countdown campaigns will be the largest in women's rights history. It will be tough, costly and hard-hitting."

Major rallies were scheduled in Washington, New York City, Los Angeles and Springfield, Ill.



Experimental beauty

Staff photo by Greg Gammon

This close-up of a Pink Floradale Rose is but one of over a thousand varieties of experimental plants tested at the Texas A&M University Floral Test Gardens each year. The gardens, which are located on Houston

street across from the Moore Communications Center, are a joint effort of the Horticultural Sciences and the Ground Maintenance departments.

# Kansan's tattoos are works of art

United Press International  
HUTCHINSON, Kan. — All the world is a canvas for Gill Montie, and he'll paint on paper, metal or walls of taverns. But his specialty is painting on skin.

Montie, 26, says he is an artist of tattoo, as opposed to a common tattooer who engraves the word "Mother" on hundreds of drunken sailors. He will have none of such work — he says it is only for making money — and instead specializes in "artwork" imbedded in flesh.

"There are lots of tattooers around here," says his wife, Cathy. "But he's the only tattoo artist."

His friends are all walking testimonies to his craft with beautifully intricate scenes painted all over their arms, backs and chests.

"I don't do things like tattoo names," Montie says. "I'm not into imbedding pigment into flesh just for the sake of it. I want to make pretty pictures. I want to make a design on skin and make people say, 'Wow!'"

Montie is covered with tattoos of plants and animals and has his wife's name emblazoned on his chest.

A friend, Phil Thomas, has pic-

tures of pirates, fish, seashells and mermaids that cover his entire arm from his neck down to his wrist. He and Montie decided on an ocean theme for his body and the next step will be painting the battle of Atlantis on his back.

Thomas is one of six people in the Hutchinson area who, in effect, have dedicated almost their entire bodies to Montie's art.

"When people buy my art, they wear it on their bodies the rest of

their lives," says Montie. "They've made a commitment to wear my art forever. That's the highest form of flattery an artist can know."

"Even people who don't like tattoos can appreciate this. They can like it just for its value as art."

Montie admits tattooists don't generally have reputations comparable to that of renowned artists like Monet or Degas, and are generally considered fast-buck oper-

ators working out of dingy shops. He thinks tattooing has been maligned, however, and is trying to clean up its image.

"Tattooing used to be only for royalty 100 years ago," he says. "But when it went from the Orient to the Western world, it became strictly a moneymaking proposition. It's starting to clean up its image, though, and people are starting to accept it again."

# Police given more freedom on arrests

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is giving police greater leeway in how they inform suspects of the famous "Miranda warning" about self-incrimination.

Over the protests of three justices, the high court Monday struck down a ruling that had thrown out a California man's murder conviction on grounds he had not been properly advised of his right to have an attorney present during police questioning.

A state appeals court had reversed the conviction of Randall Mes-Frysock and cleared the way for a new trial because of the police gave him his warnings. But the high court said Monday a California court "essentially" handed down a flat rule requiring that the content of Miranda warnings be a virtual incantation of the precise language laid down in the Miranda opinion.

"Such a rigid rule was not mandated by Miranda or any other decision of this court, and is not required to serve the purposes of Miranda," the court declared in an opinion.

In other action Monday, the Supreme Court dealt a direct blow to ex-CIA agent Philip Agee, ruling 7-2 the government may revoke the passport of any American considered a threat to national security or foreign policy.

Handed organized labor a powerful collective bargaining victory, ruling 8-1 that companies must negotiate with unions over operation of pension and welfare trust funds.

Allowed federal rules on worker exposure to airborne lead particles to take effect, based on ruling last June permitting the

government to impose strict controls on exposure to cotton dust.

— In another follow-up action, cleared the way for three suits seeking money damages from former President Richard Nixon and his top aides for illegal wiretaps. Last week, the court favored another such suit, and Monday it gave the green light to cases brought by the Jewish Defense League, a New York Times reporter and an anti-war group.



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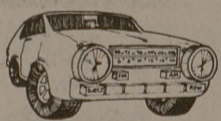
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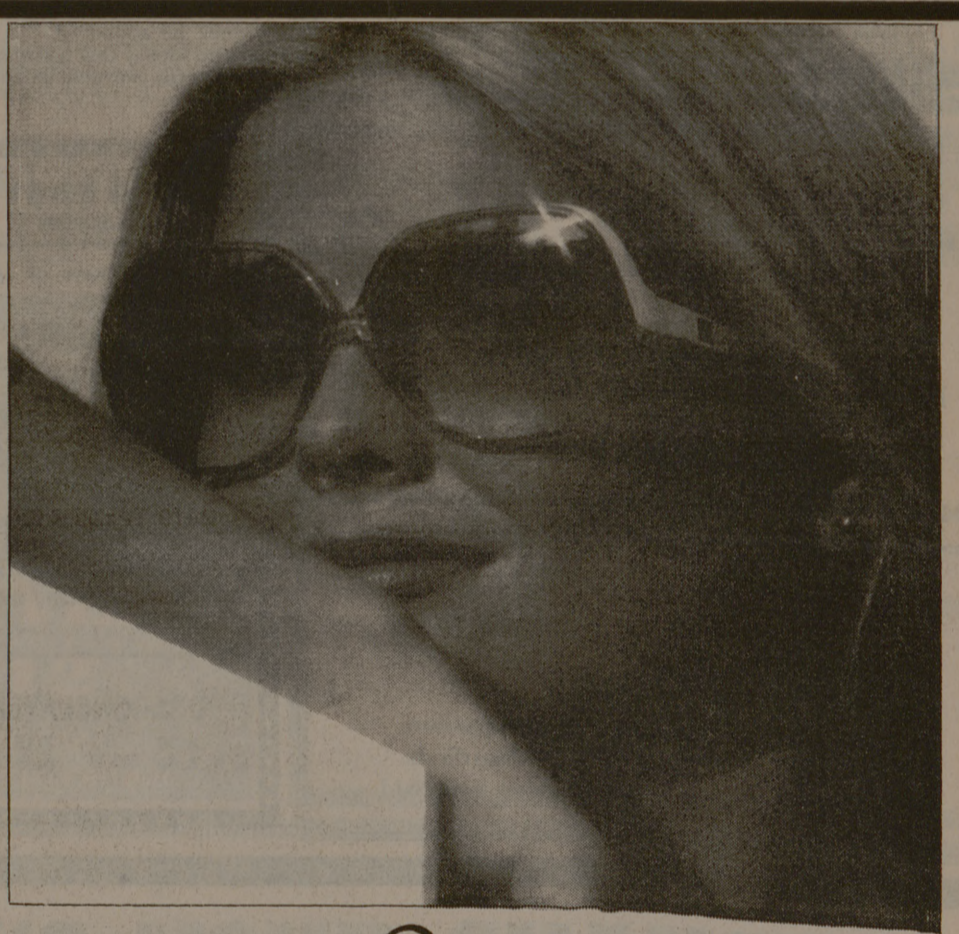
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