

National

ERA passage drive in trouble

United Press International
The drive to pass the Equal Rights Amendment is in serious trouble with less than nine months go before the deadline for ratification runs out, a survey of the 15 ratified states showed Thursday.

In none of the 15 unrati- fied states does passage look likely,

and in some states, appears impos- sible, according to the survey by United Press International report- ers covering state politics.

The survey came as members of the National Organization for Women gathered in Washington for a final national conference to plot a multimillion dollar cam- paign between now and the June

30, 1982, deadline. NOW plans an extensive television advertising campaign as well as a grass roots drive and hopes to capitalize on what it terms the anti-woman mentality of the Reagan adminis- tration.

Both NOW and the anti-ERA drive led by Phyllis Schlafly agree the target states in the final months are Virginia, North and South Carolina, Illinois, Florida, and Georgia.

To date, 35 of the needed 38 states have ratified ERA. The original seven-year period for ratifi- cation was to have expired March 22, 1979, but was extended by Congress. No state has ratified ERA since Indiana on Jan. 12, 1977.

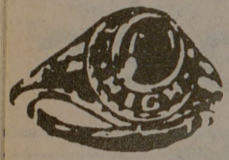
Four of the ratifying states, Nebraska, Tennessee, Idaho and Kentucky, have tried to rescind

their action, a legally questionable effort. The case is now before the Supreme Court, which is ex- pected rule shortly on whether the rescissions are proper.

Virginia is the only non-ratified state that has legislative elections before time runs out for the ERA and ERA supporters are trying to play down the issue in the state's legislative election in hopes of gaining a last chance at passage in 1982.

In Illinois, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida and Okla- homa, ERA passage appears slim to poor, but ERA supporters still have some hope.

In Florida NOW has launched an 11th hour campaign, similar to a presidential campaign, they say, to put grass roots pressure on Florida senators opposed to ERA.



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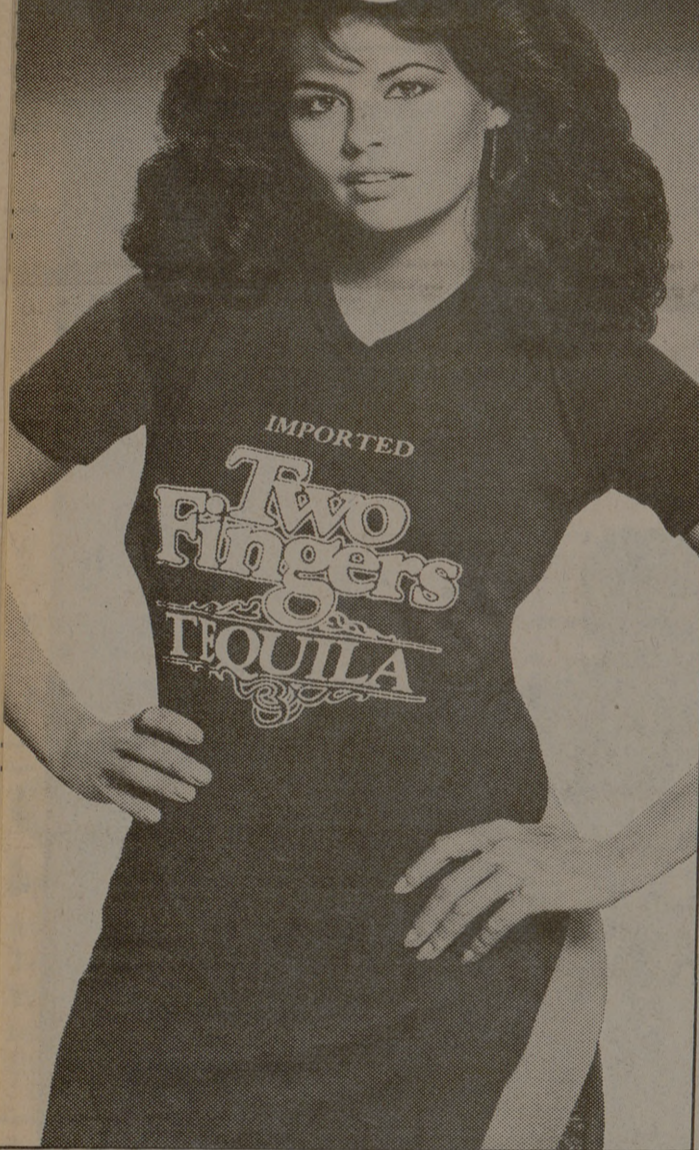
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Staff photo by Greg Gamm

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Texas A&M Band member Mike Fraley helps entertain the crowd at Saturday's halftime of the A&M-University of Houston football game. Fraley played his Bass, a 40-pound instrument, at the

halftime performance along with the rest of the 303-member marching band. The Aggie Band practices six days a week for about an hour a day to prepare for the halftime performances.

Wrong call gives police path to loot

United Press International
FRENCH LICK, Ind. — Rodney Jennings found out the hard way it pays to make sure you've dialed the right number before starting a conversation.

State Trooper Tim McClure Friday said Jennings, 29, French Lick, dialed policeman David Moffatt's home phone by mistake Thursday night.

Not realizing to whom he was talking, Jennings offered to sell some stolen television sets, McClure said. Moffatt "played along" and learned the location of loot taken in burglaries of recreational vehicles at a camp near Patoka Lake, the trooper said.

Police checked a barn and found television sets, portable ovens and other kitchen appliances. Then they got Jennings and arrested him.

Investigators are still trying to figure out who Jennings was trying to call.

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