

## Why they picked Sunday to march

Regarding cartoonist Oliphant's nasty jab at the 50,000 to 100,000 women and men who marched in over 90-degree heat under a scorching sun to express their support of the Equal Rights Amendment (*The Star*, July 9), Oliphant obviously thought it was stupid to hold the march on a summer Sunday [when legislators were unlikely to be at work.]

He is apparently ignorant of the fact that the march was held on the anniversary of the death of Dr. Alice Paul, who wrote the ERA and had it introduced into Congress for the first time in 1923. Thus it was highly appropriate for the ERA march to be held on July 9, to assure that the efforts of this valiant woman on behalf of women's rights were not in vain.

Aside from his lack of understanding of the history behind the march date, Oliphant's portrayal of the marchers was insulting and sexist — stereotyped, wild-eyed, enormous-bosomed women. If he had seen the march, he would have observed that women and men of all sizes, professions, religious affiliations and ages participated, from small children to senior citizens who had marched in the first suffragette parades. The stereotyping and misinformation that Oliphant and other persons in the news media have given the public is rude and inexcusable.

This type of activity is one reason the Equal Rights Amendment has not yet passed, despite the fact that polls show the majority of Americans support it. The 7-year extension we marched for on that Sunday is needed to allow time to right the effects of this kind of news media irresponsibility by giving the American people the facts. Contrary to opinions that it is changing rules in the middle of the game (and the amending of our Constitution is no game), the extension is the only way to give fair play a chance in an increasingly dirty smear campaign against the ERA.

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## 'What a change in the climate!'

Congratulations to *The Star* on its fine coverage of the ERA march and all the various personalities participating, including the 8-month old baby! Your Sue Mullin's historical piece was particularly interesting and put the whole thing in perspective. What a change in the climate since 1913!

Please keep up this editorial interest in the ERA so that we can get it ratified!

Washington, D.C.

Helen Lilli