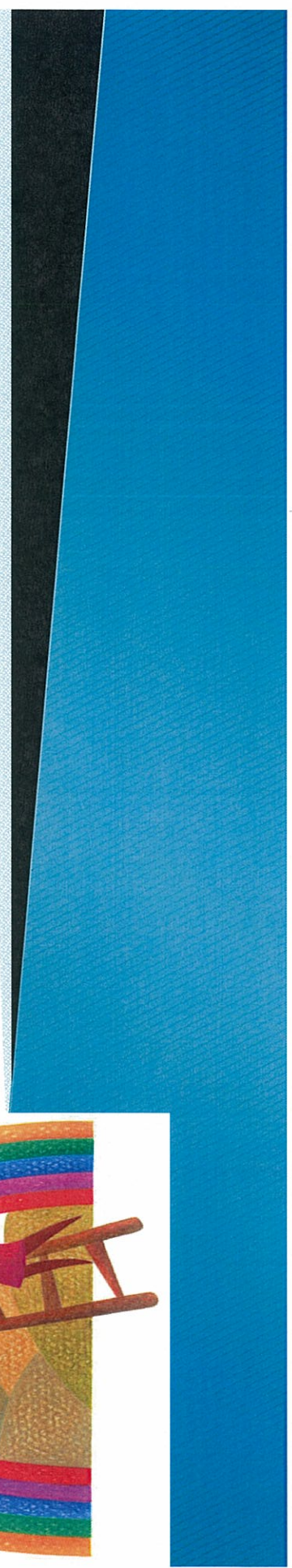


THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

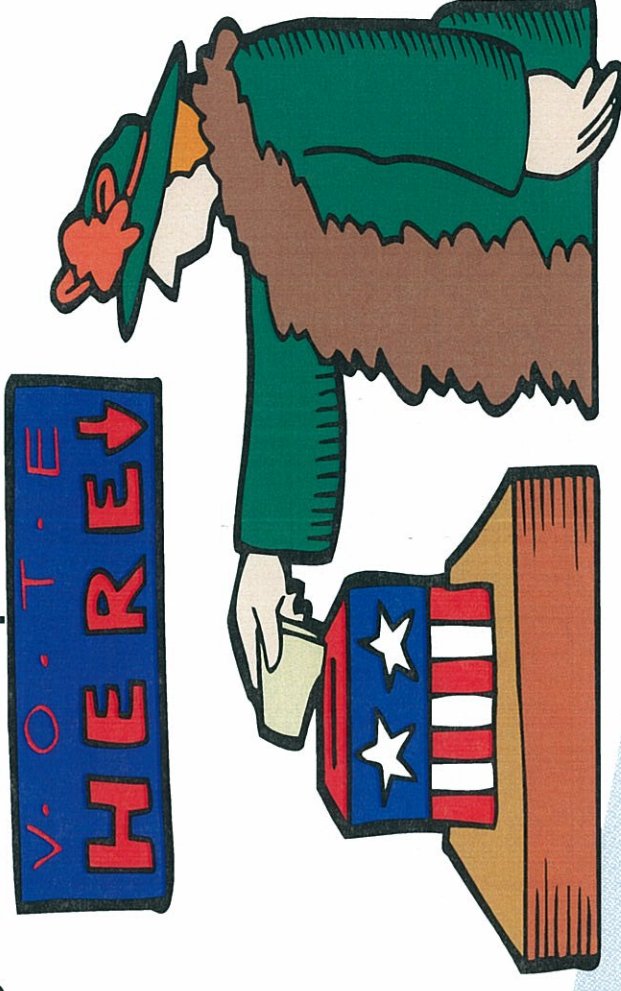


A history of Arkansas Women
Legislators



HISTORY OF WOMEN IN POLITICS

- ▶ 1917 – Arkansas women granted right to vote in primary elections.
- ▶ 1920 – All women in America gained full suffrage – 19th Amendment
- ▶ 1920 – Arkansas women first voted but not eligible to run for Legislature, according to AG's opinion.



Beginning of Women's Service

- ▶ November 1920 – Constitutional Amendment passed by voters to allow women to serve in public office.

- ▶ 1922 – First woman appointed to Legislature (House of Representatives) by Governor Thomas McRae

FRANCES HUNT OF PINE BLUFF

- ▶ Later, Governor McRae appointed the first woman sheriff



First Elected Women Legislators

- ▶ 1922 – Representative Hunt
- ▶ 1923 – Erle Chambers (Little Rock)
- ▶ 1925 – Elizabeth Thompson (Phillips County)
- ▶ 1927 – Florence McRaven – Pulaski County
- ▶ 1929 – Maude Brown (Monroe County)
- ▶ 1931 – Ethel Cunningham (Yell County)
- ▶ 1935 – Ella B. Hurst – Washington County
- ▶ 1943 – Alene Word (Mississippi County)
- ▶ 1945 – Helen Buchanan (Nevada County)
- ▶ 1953 – Lera Rowlette (Miller County)



DEMOGRAPHICS of the FIRST 10

- ▶ All Democrats
- ▶ All elected to the House of Representatives
- ▶ Both rural and urban areas represented
- ▶ All congressional districts represented
- ▶ Only one was elected to fill term of deceased husband (Helen Buchanan)
- ▶ Husbands of Hunt, Brown and Hurst had previously served in Legislature.
- ▶ 3 single; 4 widows
- ▶ Professions: newspaper, farmer's wife, attorneys, two were later university faculty members



The Beginning to Now

- ▶ Since 1922, 105 women legislators have served in the Arkansas General Assembly
- ▶ In 2009, the Women's Legislative Caucus held a Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol to honor the most women ever to serve in the legislature: 31
- ▶ 2010: 30 women



TODAY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- ▶ House of Representatives – 22 women
 - 11 Democrats; 11 Republicans
- ▶ Senate – 8 women
 - 5 Democrats; 3 Republicans

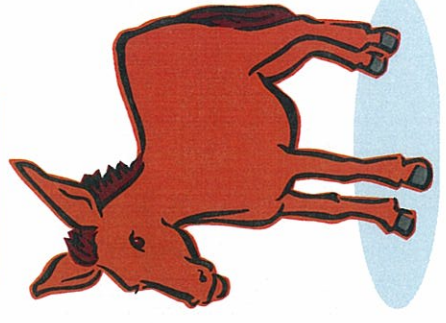
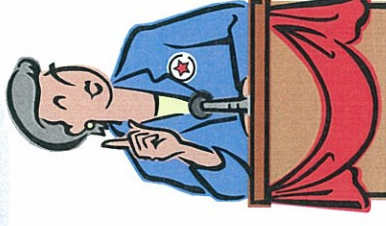
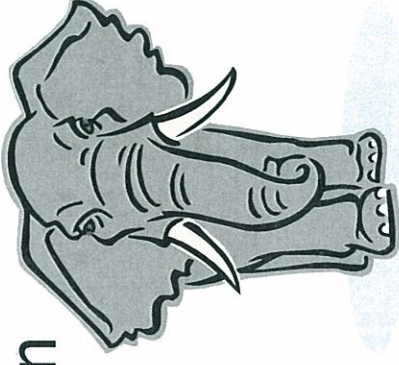
THAT IS 30 OUT OF 135 LEGISLATORS!!

▶ Women Committee Chairs

- A Committees: House – Health
- A Committees: Senate – none
- B Committees: House – Aging/Children/Youth;
City/County/Local
- B Committees: Senate – State Agencies;
Children/Youth
- C Committee – Senate – Transportation

▶ Women Committee Vice-Chairs

- All Senate Committees – five (5)
- All House Committees – five (5)



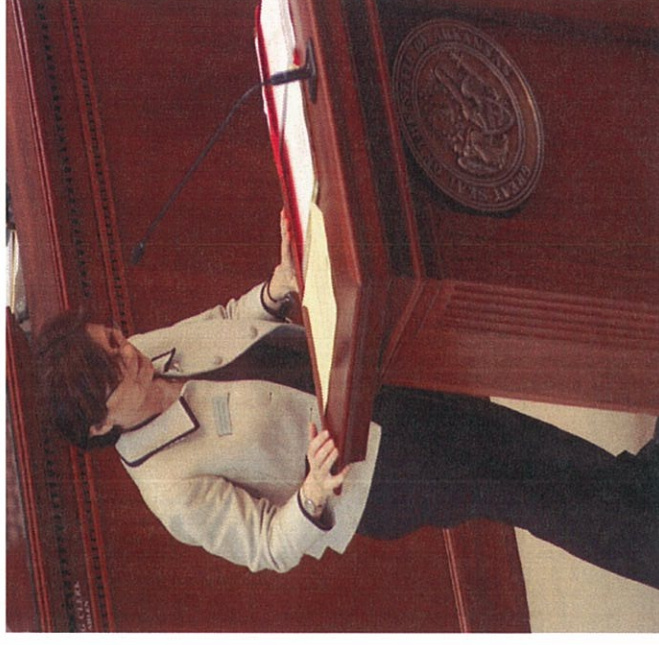
Today's General Assembly

- ▶ Senate Select
 - Rules, Resolutions and Memorials
- ▶ Joint Select Committees
 - Energy
- ▶ Legislative Council (Senate Chair)



Arkansas Women Political Leaders

- ▶ We are among only five states to have a woman serving as Majority Leader.
- ▶ Senate Majority Whip is woman!
- ▶ 2011 House Minority Whip was woman!
- ▶ 2010 Senate Minority Leader was woman!
- ▶ 2011–12 Chair of House Budget is woman!
 - First woman to hold this position



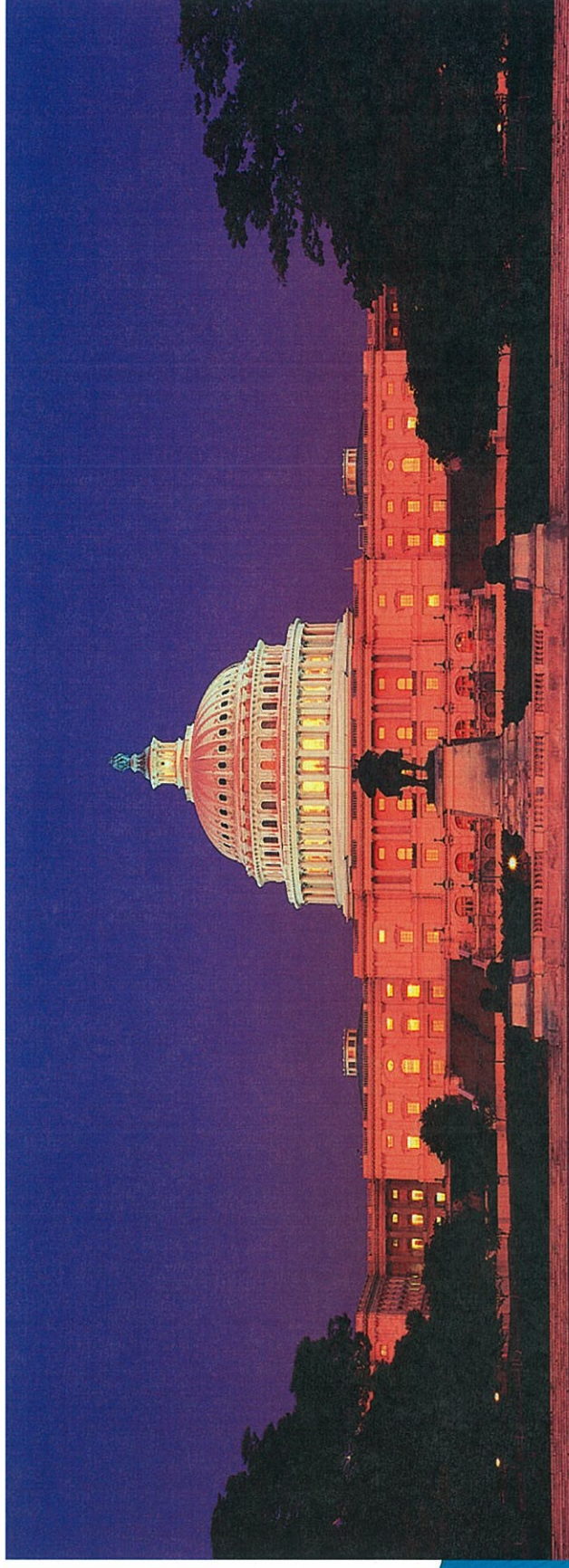
Women Leadership

- ▶ Women in U.S.: 50.8% – Arkansas: 50.9%
- ▶ 25% of families in Arkansas are led by single mothers
- ▶ Women Leadership in U.S. Corporations
 - Top Executive – 16%
 - Middle Managers – 50%



Women in Congress

- ▶ 90 of 535 seats in 112th Congress (16.8%)
 - 17 of 100 seats on Senate (17%)
 - 12 Democrats 5 Republicans
 - 73 of 435 seats in House (16.8%, 26 states)
 - 49 Democrats 24 Republicans



HATTIE WYATT CARRAWAY

- ▶ Second woman to serve in U.S. Senate - “Silent Hattie”
- ▶ Appointed by Arkansas Governor Harvey Parnell - 1931
- ▶ Won seat by election - 1932 (92% of vote)
- ▶ Created the Arkansas Democratic Women’s Club
- ▶ Served 14 years
- ▶ First woman to chair a Senate Committee - Enrolled Bills Committee
- ▶ First woman to endorse and vote for ERA



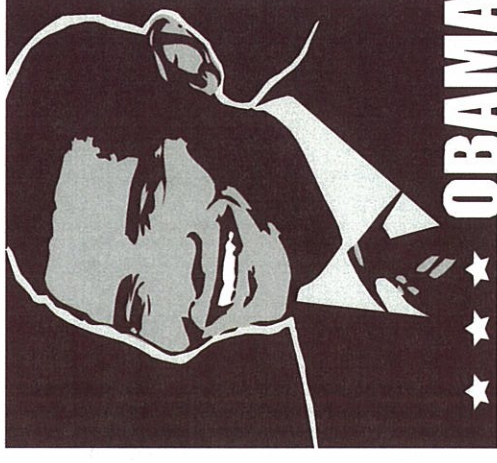
Top Women in President's Cabinet

- ▶ President Barack Obama Cabinet
 - Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
 - Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis
 - Secretary of Health/Human Services
Kathleen Sebelius
 - Secretary of Homeland Security

Janet Napolitano

- ▶ President George W. Bush Cabinet:

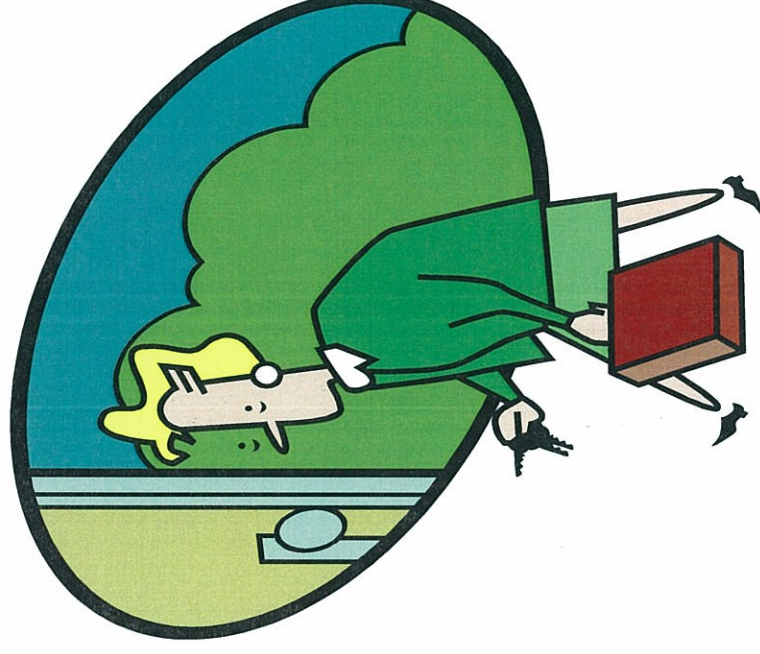
- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice
- Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao
- Secretary of Interior Gale Norton
- Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman
- Secretary of Transportation (Acting)
Mary Peters
- Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings



Why Women Do Not Run

Reason One

- ▶ Women are too busy with work and family obligations.



Reason Two

▶ **THEY WAIT TO BE
RECRUITED!**



Reason Three

- ▶ Women fear the rigor of the campaign!



Reason Four

- ▶ Women sometimes lack the confidence in their political ability and would rather work in the background.



- ▶ Reference: Brookings Institute: *Why Women Are Not In The Room* (2008)

WHY WOMEN SHOULD RUN!

Reason one

- ▶ Women work harder and longer!



REASON TWO

Women are already working behind the scenes and understand the process.



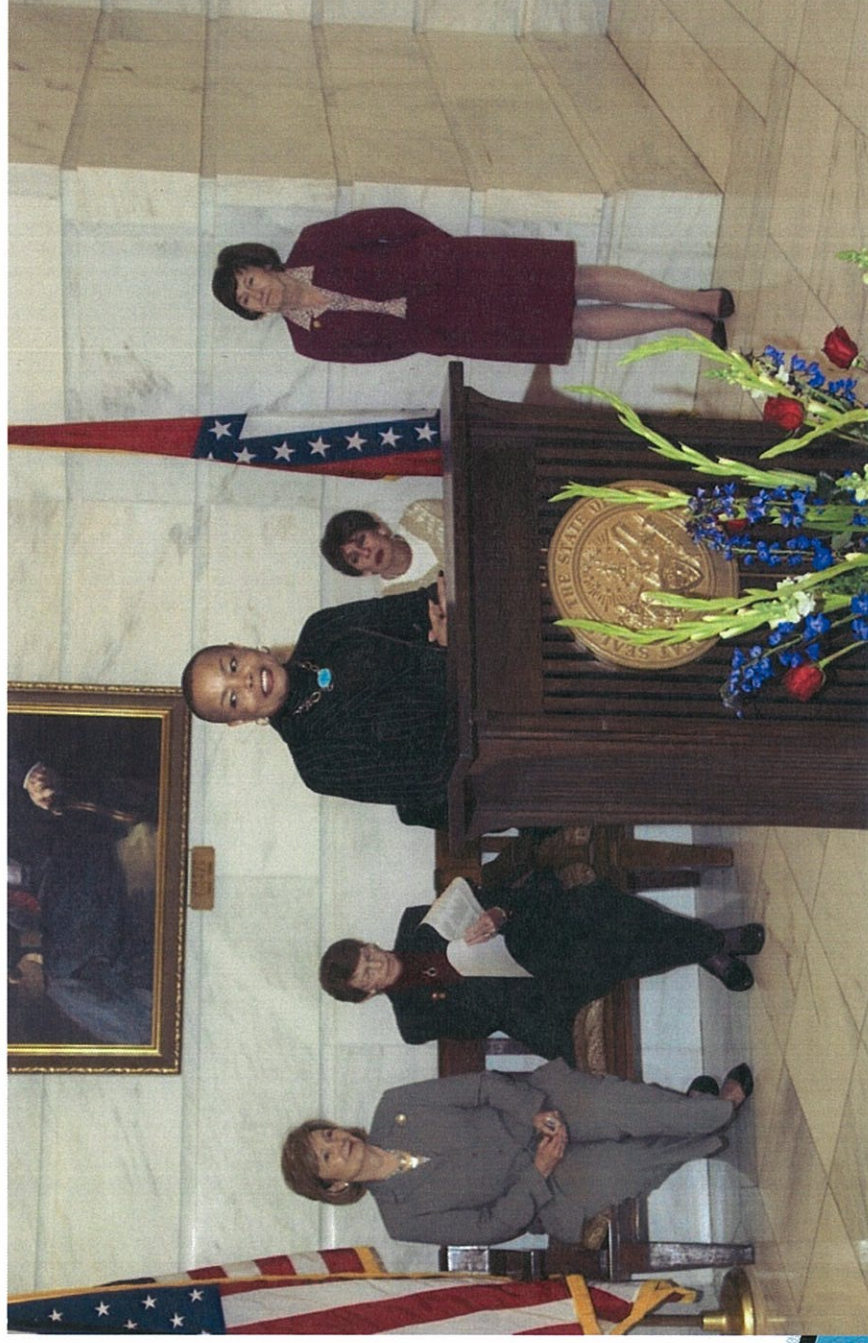
REASON THREE

► Women do the
common good,
not the political
good!



REASON FOUR

- ▶ Women are better at “fixing it” and not likely to worry about the blame!



REASON FIVE

- ▶ **Women know how to negotiate and compromise!**



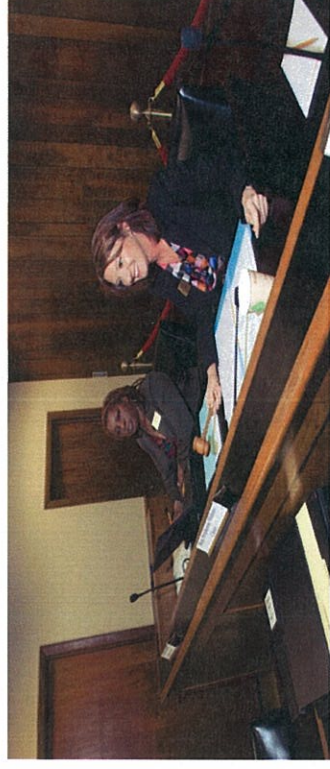
LESSONS LEARNED

- ▶ Sound policy does not happen without politics!
- ▶ Politics is a difficult process of compromise!
- ▶ Yesterday's enemy is tomorrow's best friend!
- ▶ Turn the anger into imagination.
- ▶ Plan your work and work your plan!
- ▶ Never burn bridges—no matter how hurt you are!
- ▶ Every vote counts!!!



WHAT HAVE WOMEN DONE

- ▶ Women have changed and shifted the conversation in many areas: breast cancer, heart disease, domestic violence have been the causes but now it is all over the board.
- ▶ Women have provided the “tipping point” in many discussions.
- ▶ Women have moved the “concrete barriers” and replaced with “orange cones.”



What people say about women legislators?

- ▶ “Women bring a different and needed frame of reference to government.”
- ▶ “We need women to reflect the realities of our society - women work, run companies, raise families and care for elders and they can make laws, too!”
- ▶ **“Women are more patient, more determined to seek every avenue to find the answer.”**
- ▶ “Women understand how to use advocacy in making a difference and getting things done.”
- ▶ *“Women know that the purpose of life is not to be happy - it is to matter, to be productive, to be useful and to have it make a difference that you lived at all.”*



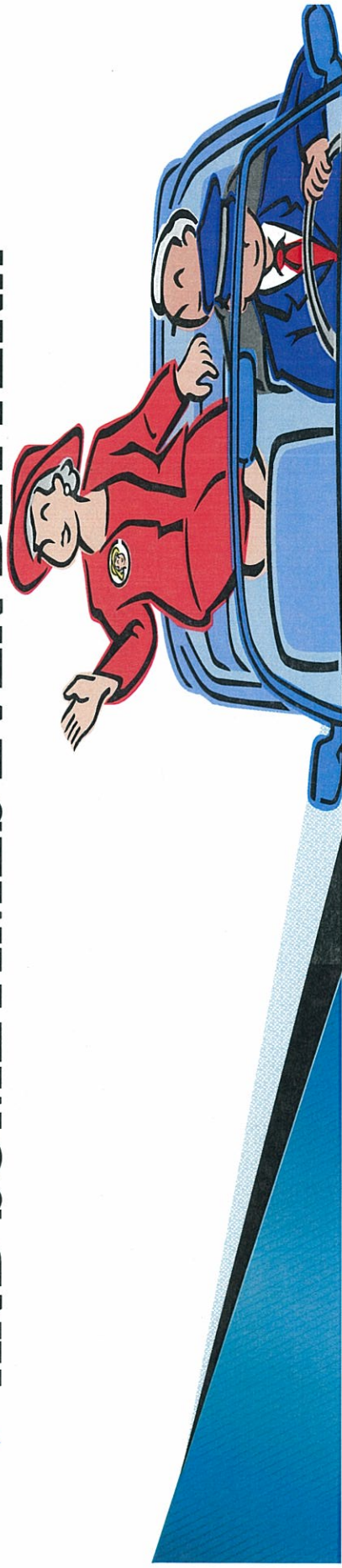
BUT - WE KNOW THE TRUTH!

▶ GIRLS CAN

DO

ANYTHING -

▶ AND SOMETIMES EVEN BETTER!!



EVERY TIME A WOMAN RUNS; WOMEN WIN!

*Destiny is no matter of chance but
a matter of choice. It is not a
thing to be waited for but a thing
to be achieved.*

Williams Jennings Bryan

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