

opinion cont.

ERA: vote "yes" for equality

(Continued from page 4)
remember, it's a state amendment; Massachusetts ratified the Federal ERA in 1972 — for MIT students and why do the campaign people urge you to get out and vote yes on No. 1 on November 2 if it's the only thing you do that day, which we doubt it is? The answer doesn't come out of some public relations person's head but right from the Cambridge public. You may have seen those sidewalk headquarters tables in Central and Harvard Squares. They've been there in Harvard Square all summer, in Central Square part of the summer, and in Kendall Square, at Mayor Al Vellucci's Marketplace most of the summer, ending there with a big ERA rally on the final Marketplace day.

What came out of the public? They are interested in issues more than in candidates; when they care about an issue they care about the positive side of it — what's it all about, why do we need it — more than the negative (what might be bad); and there is widespread interest in the Equal Rights Amendment. Quite frankly, we probably haven't met the public's need for information on the ERA in Cambridge in spite of all the workshops and panels. What was really needed was a way to get to the people in the houses and apartments in Cambridgeport, Riverside, East Cambridge, and North Cambridge — people who don't stop at sidewalk tables and don't go to workshops, but who need the ERA and are interested in finding out more about it. They are beginning to be aware that wage differentials, for instance, between the sexes — unequal pay for equal work — are much greater at the working-class level than the middle-class level. ERA, in other words, is an issue that cuts across class lines. The core of the issue is equal pay for equal work. Women are paid only 57% of what men are for doing the same work, if you lump all the strata together. The interest of the public was in telling us horror stories about inequalities for women and minorities in hiring, pay and promotion — not in the social evolution of the family. The

can-of-worms argument against ERA (you have no idea what might happen if you pass that amendment) simply wasn't in evidence as much as the need for the entry of women (and minorities, who are included in the Massachusetts state amendment) into the job market on a fair basis, which turns out to mean the need for their admission — explicitly — into the body politic.

This particular issue, ERA, probably has attracted more interest than any of the others on the ballot; but there are nine referenda in this election, some of them of national importance. The handgun ban, for example, will be the first such state ban if Massachusetts passes it. ERA is in the same category: it is a nationally important vote we're casting here because only if we pass a state ERA will the drives to ratify the Federal ERA in a number of states be revived. They are now dormant. Proponents are watching us, since New Jersey and New York defeated state ERAs after ratifying the Federal. We can't afford to follow suit if we want the Federal ERA to have a chance; there are only four more years to get four more states. Opposition to ERAs is powerful. It comes from the same sources

ultimately as opposition to other progressive measures — from entrenched business and financial interests that see many painful market adjustments ahead of them if women ever become serious producers instead of consumers who work occasionally at low-paid jobs or for pin money.

For the male student who looks forward to marrying a woman who can support herself, and who presumably will be looking to him for personal and emotional enrichment rather than cold cash, the issue has the ideological appeal we spoke of above. We have found that issues indeed have an appeal that candidates don't have. People began to tell us that they would register to vote only in order to vote on the issues: issues don't change their minds after the election. Hence we worked out our ERA bookmarks for MIT and Harvard students, suggesting that they register in Massachusetts if it was convenient to do so, in order to vote Yes on number 1. Many did.

We are hoping to assist anyone who would like to canvass at MIT to get out the vote on November 2. It is so utterly important to vote issues: they are the wave of the future. For information call Frances Lawsier, x3-4524.

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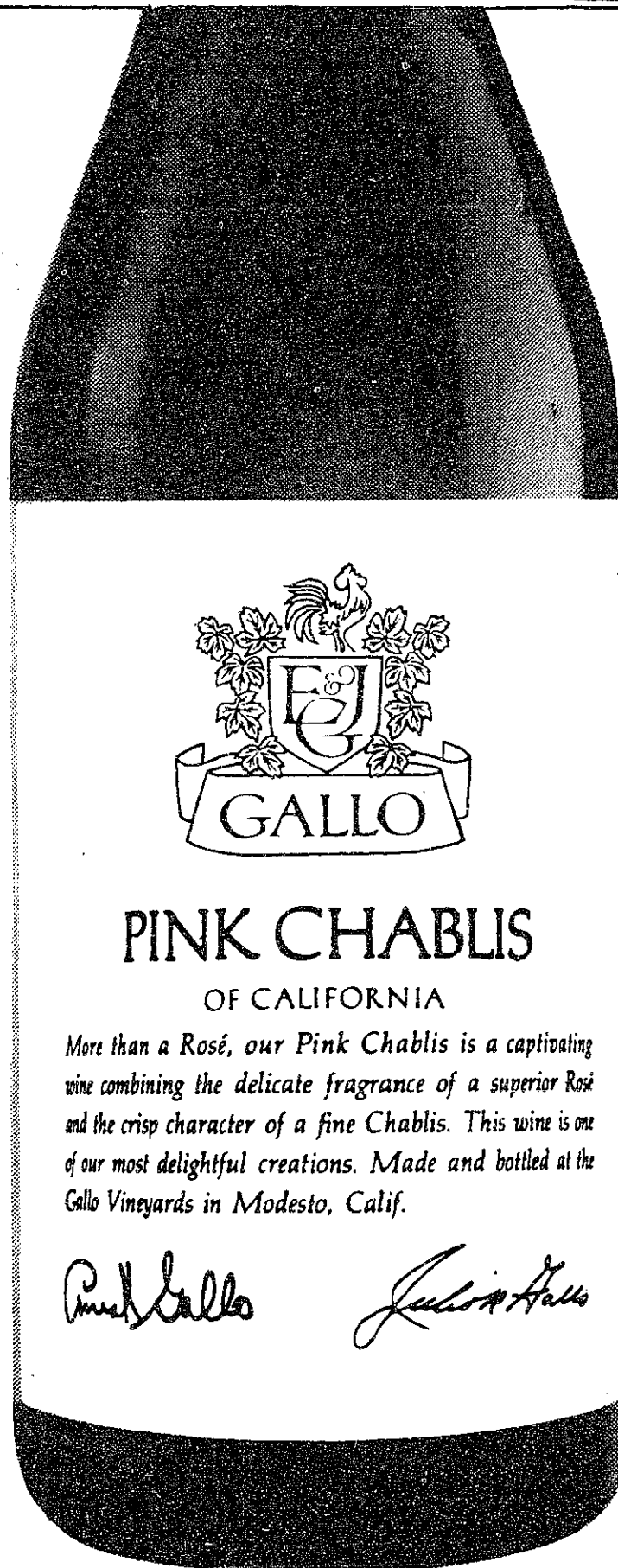
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Time Magazine November 27, 1972 page 81

More than a Rosé.

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Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal



SEIJI OZAWA
Music Director
Wednesday
November 10 at 7:30 pm
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Murray Perahia
pianist

works to be rehearsed:
Bartok: Music for Strings, percussion and Celeste
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4
Wagner: 'Tannhauser' Overture

Michael Steinberg,
Director of Publications of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, will host an informal discussion period beginning at about 6:50 pm in the Cabot-Cahners Room at Symphony Hall. So come early.
All seats unreserved at \$3.00.
All proceeds benefit the Orchestra's Pension Fund.