## Chambers warns of male dominance

By MARY M. MASSIE Of the Emerald

The rights, programs and needs of women are riding a congressional yoyo helped by a male-dominated Congress. Marjorie Chambers said Friday night at the University.

Chambers is president of the American Association of University Women and chairer of the National Council on Women's Education.

"So long as Congress remains an exclusive male club. women's issues will continue to be tradeable," Chambers Her speech preliminary to a women's rolemodel workshop held Saturday

"We've all got to realize, once and for all, that women are indeed discriminated against and that we can end up just like the Iranian women (losing everything they have gained) if there is a real change in political climate in this country," Chambers said.

Analyzing the national plan of action adopted by the National Women's Conference two years ago in Houston, Chambers said the 95th Congress did contribute one outstanding success to the women's movement by extending the time for states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The measure now has until June 30, 1982, to gain ratification.

Chambers pointed to what she described as some small but steady employment gains in Congress for women. "In revision of the Civil Rights Amendment, they have forbidden discrimination in hiring, promoting and firing a woman because she is pregnant and they also forbid any forced maternity leave without pay," she

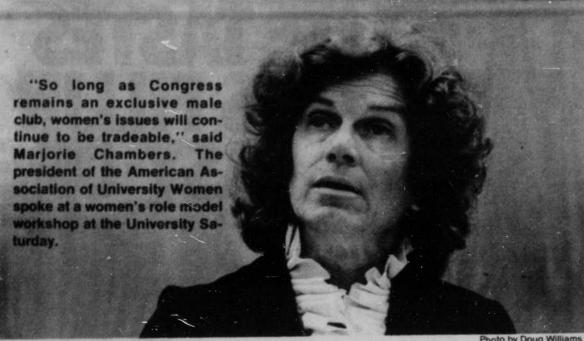
However, Chambers did cite congressional legislation concerning private employers and women and indicated women should look at it with serious concern

"Private employers do not have to provide medical benefits to women who have an abortion. However they may give them sick pay and sick leave if there are any complica-

"Her employer will see her through if she has a postoperative experience and lives, but will not help her to have a safe therapeutic abortion," she added.

Shifting to employment, Chambers said the federal government will increase the number of part-time jobs beyond the clerical level and introduce a program of flexitime. Both are designed to help people whose primary responsibilities are homemaking and taking care of children and to help women with college degrees stay in contact with a work atmosphere.

On education, Chambers said, "It was a real coup that we got the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) revised. Unfortunately we do not seem to



hoto by Doug Williams

be doing very well in the financing of it.

'The Emergency School Act which was designed to rid public schools of discrimination is appropriated upwards of \$250 million each year to serve approximately 20 percent of the population.

Chambers said the Title IX legislation concerning equal athletic opportunity for women in colleges and universities is being ignored by the administration in lieu of more pressing racial problems. "I think you've got to recognize the politics that are involved," said Chambers. "Right now the president is very happy to take care of any black issues because he won the election by the black vote.'

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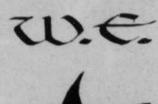
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