

Marchers urge women to vote

Modern Day Suffragist
March held at SCSU

By Michelle Tan
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Go out and vote. About 50 people chanted that simple message Wednesday as they marched across the St. Cloud State University campus.

Wednesday's Modern Day Suffragist March was an effort by student Deb Erickson to encourage women to vote, 84 years after women won that hard-fought right.

About 22 million single women didn't vote in the 2002 election, said Erickson, who was inspired to organize the march after reading an article with that statistic and watching the movie "Iron Jawed Angels."

If you go ...

What: Showings of "Iron Jawed Angels."

When and where: 2 p.m. Tuesday and noon Oct. 18 in the Atwood Memorial Center Little Theatre.

■ 4 p.m. Oct. 27 and 6 p.m. Oct. 28 in room 122 of the James W. Miller Learning Resources Center.

Information: Call the Women's Center at 308-4958.

"I thought it was appalling that so many women don't vote," she said.

The women who fought for the right to vote were spit on, accosted, jailed, shackled and force fed, Erickson said.

That struggle is depicted in "Iron Jawed Angels," starring Hilary Swank and

Frances O'Connor.

Organizers hope the march will inspire women to vote and educate others about what women went through to be allowed to vote, said Jane Olsen, director of the Women's Center at St. Cloud State.

"I think it's lack of information and knowledge of the history of this country, and lack of inspiration," Olsen said about why so many women don't vote.

During the march, participants carried banners and signs and chanted, "No vote, no voice, no fair," "Lead, follow or get out of the way," and "Go out and vote."

Student Michelle Moschkau participated in the march.

"If you're not voting, you don't have a voice, and this is a democracy," she said. "A



Times photo by Kimm Anderson, kanderson@stcloudtimes.com

From the steps of Stewart Hall, St. Cloud State University communication studies professor Tami Spry speaks Wednesday about the importance of women exercising their right to vote. Her speech was the culmination of the University Women's Center's "A Modern Day Suffragists March."

lot of people don't have that right," Erickson said.

The march was a success,

"People were stopping and listening," she said. "I

think it piqued people's interest, and that's what we wanted to do."