

## - Central Illinois -

## Seek 'new middle,' Goodman

By SUE BROWN

Herald &amp; Review Lifestyle Writer

Ellen Goodman is a lot like your favorite neighbor.

Tuesday night the Pulitzer Prize winner's blonde hair was casually combed to the side, her shoes were practical flats, and the right seam of her silk suit jacket was ripped a tad just under the arm.

That naturalness and a sense of humor set a festive tone for the 840 people attending the YWCA's Women of Excellence banquet at the Decatur Holiday Inn. Syndicated columnist Goodman keynoted with a speech on people's changing needs, then seven Decatur women were cited for excellence in accomplishment.

It was that same convivial ease and ready laugh, though, that Goodman used to deflect the tougher questions at the press conference preceding her speech. She's clearly more comfortable behind a word processor, where she can reflect on and carefully construct her opinions, than a podium.

She'd make no predictions on whether the Senate Judiciary Committee will confirm Judge Robert Bork's appointment to the Supreme Court. Repeating her published opposition to stands he's taken on abortion and other family issues, she allowed, "The vote will be close, I think."

She hopes Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.) and other women will stay in the race for president in 1988, but Goodman thinks it's too soon for a woman to land the top executive seat.

"Still, it's important for women to pave the way for those that will follow," she said. "You never win anything unless you keep trying."

She gave more to her audience at the banquet.

"Women need access to the best of the traditional male roles

— particularly success in the workplace — while they win respect for the traditional female roles, especially that of caretaker," Goodman advised. "We've been more successful at getting into the male world than changing it for the better."

She used a Washington, D.C.-based friend's anecdote to illustrate society's lack of respect for motherhood and family: "In this city it's more socially acceptable to say you're a transsexual than to admit that you're a homemaker not currently working outside the home."

Goodman believes the roles of home manager and parent will be more highly valued when men share them and women don't feel guilty about accepting this help.

The audience roared when she quoted another friend: "Women will be equal when that TV commercial about ring-around-the collar comes on and, instead of expressing remorse and vowing to try a new detergent, the actress tells the guy he ought to wash his neck."

One man in the crowd complained, in jest, that the joke was sexist. But there was overwhelmingly favorable response to Goodman's recommendation that women and men work together in a "new middle" between the poles of radical feminism and the ultra-conservative right.

Women should find ways to get the best of both the work and domestic worlds, she charged, and men should help them do that. She advocated, too, taking action in the community to help families whose partners have equivalent roles.

"Don't get discouraged," concluded the 46-year-old who has combined a demanding journalism career and a family for years. "Change comes slowly."



The crowd at the Women of Excellence banquet, one of seven women honored



## 1987's V

A reporter at Tuesday night's Women Of Excellence banquet asked keynoter, columnist Ellen Goodman, if Decatur men should fear that the YWCA's seven Women Of Excellence awardees will take over.

"You should feel lucky that you have such interesting and accomplished women" Goodman replied.

Selected from 35 outstanding



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Columnist Ellen Goodman, right, speaks with Jeanne Connolly, co-chairman of the Women of Excellence banquet Tuesday.

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Selected from 35 outstanding achievers nominated by community organizations and individuals were these women:

**Medicine** : Diane Lucille Wentworth-Jensen, vice president of nursing at Decatur Memorial Hospital.



# Goodman adv



Photo by Herb Slodounik

ence banquet applauds Charlotte Meyer, this year. Other winners are at right.



Diane Wentworth-J



Nancy Roucher



Penny Severns



Nellie Winick



Marcia Morey

## Women honored

Seven women took honors in the YWCA's Women of Excellence celebration Tuesday night at the Holiday Inn.

Those recognized and awards they received were:

- Nancy Roucher, Della Crowder Miller and Annette Van Dyke arts and culture award.

- Charlotte Meyer, Cora Bell Ryman education award.

- Penny Severns, Leona Bowman government and politics award.

- Diane Jensen, Sue Hagan and Dr. Clare Garber science and medicine award.

- Marcia Morey, Harriett Kirby athletic award.

- Nellie Winick, Fannie A. Bivans and Mary Love business and professional award.

- Fanny Bassett, Marie Gray Baker community volunteer award.

## Goodman speaks

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# Women of Excellence

**Athletics:** Marcia Morey, former Millikin champion swimmer who participated in the Olympics and now a teacher, writer and attorney.

**Volunteerism:** Fanny Powers Bassett, a worker for more than 30 years with the Decatur Memorial Hospital auxiliary.

**Government:** Sen. Penny Severns, D-Decatur, representing

**Business:** Nellie Blanchard Winick, retiree from the Hi-Flier Mfg. Co., where she worked her way from secretary to a vice presidency.

**Education:** Charlotte Meyer, retiree from a 40-year career in the Decatur Public Schools as teacher, principal and then assistant superintendent of elementary education.

Said awardee Marcia Morey, "I feel honored, and want to go out and contribute all that I can. And I'll give credit for my achievements where it's due: to the people of Decatur."

Her advice to other women: "Be at peace with yourself, then give the best of what you are to your work and your community."

Honoree Sen. Penny Severns

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**Volunteerism:** Fanny Powers Bassett, a worker for more than 30 years with the Decatur Memorial Hospital auxiliary.

**Government:** Sen. Penny Severns, D-Decatur, representing the 51st District in the State Assembly.

**Arts:** Nancy Roucher, recently moved from Decatur to Sarasota, Fla., after founding the Decatur Area Arts Council and sitting on its board for 13 years.

**Business:** Nellie Blanchard Winick, retiree from the Hi-Flier Mfg. Co., where she worked her way from secretary to a vice presidency.

**Education:** Charlotte Meyer, retiree from a 40-year career in the Decatur Public Schools as teacher, principal and then assistant superintendent of elementary education.

Diane Wentworth-Jensen was tearful as she gripped her trophy. "This award is the highlight of my career so far," she said. "It's also made me glad I'm home in Decatur after 11 years of working in Muncie, Ind."

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Her advice to other women: "Be at peace with yourself, then give the best of what you are to your work and your community."

Honoree Sen. Penny Severns ducked fans' cameras to quickly respond to a remark made by a 1986 political opponent: "the district isn't ready for a woman," H. G. "Skinny" Taylor snapped.

"The events of this evening certainly do prove him wrong," she said, smiling widely.