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usu status of women NEWS

Volume III, Number 3, August 1975

TITLE IX BECOMES LAW-- INTACT

The August 4, 1975, Chronicle of Higher Education reports that an "aggressive last minute lobbying effort" by women's rights advocates helped defeat an ammendment to Title IX which would have exempted honorary societies and gym classes from its rules. The Senate voted 65 to 29 and the House voted 215 to 178 against the Ammendment.

Title IX is now in force three years after it was passed as a law, although opponent Rep. James G. O'Hara (D, Mich) might attempt passage of a bill this fall allowing separation of PE classes if facilities are equal.

UTAH WOMEN'S CONSORTIUM CONDEMNS BIAS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

At their annual conference in Cedar City, Utah, on the SUSC campus, the Consortium of Utah Women in Higher Education passed a resolution condemning sex discrimination by local school districts. The resolution, passed on the last session of the July 31 to August 1 meeting, urged compliance by local school administrators with federal laws and guidelines which prohibit the use of sex as a criterion for determination of job title, responsibilities,

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS GET NEW DIRECTOR AND ELEVEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Marilyn Weiss, formerly coach and department chairman of the University of Northern Colorado Lab School, has been named Director of Women's Athletics at USU.

Ms. Weiss will administer the women's athletic program and coach volley ball, basketball, and track and field. She succeeds Fern Gardner who accepted a similar position at the University of Utah.

The new director has also been the Women's Athletic Coordinator at the UNC lab school since 1967 and last year coached the University of Colorado Women's Volley Ball Team.

Ms. Weiss will admin-

or compensation.

The action came in response to state biases against the capabilities of women administrators as demonstrated by the discriminatory attitudes expressed by James C. Blair, Superintendent of the Logan City School District in his letter to women legislators and by the tacit support given to these attitudes through the silence of the State Department of Public Instruction and other school boards, and the vote of confidence given Dr. Blair by the Logan City

ister the scholarships for women athletes-- the first at USU.

The 11 scholarships offered are divided into 10 in-state and 1 out-of-state. There is a possibility of a few more surfacing before the beginning of the 1975-76 school year. Anyone interested in the scholarships are welcome to see the new women's athletic director about them after she arrives on campus August 20.

Although too few for a full women's athletic program, the availability of scholarships for women athletes for the first time in USU's history is encouraging. Scholarships for men athletes at USU currently number 125.

Board of Education.

In other action, the Consortium elected Shauna M. Adix as Executive Director for another year. Judy Gappa, Director of Affirmative Action here at USU, and Jan Tyler, Director of the Family Consultation Center at BYU, were elected as directors.

The 3-year-old Consortium includes members from eight institutions of higher learning from every part of the state.

ATTITUDES - POSITIVE AND OTHERWISE

At a recent meeting of the American Council on Education, Stephen K. Bailey, Vice President of the organization, deplored the cost of the miles of red tape imposed on colleges and universities by federal regulations on equal employment and education.

But he said, "We have been quite as guilty as other segments of society in perpetuating evils of caste and class--especially those based on race, sex, and age." He went on to say that these evils would undoubtedly have remained entrenched in the system were it not for the "prods and threats" of the federal government.

He suggested as remedies that higher education make social justice one of its own goals, internalize the equal opportunity philosophy, and move ahead with reform before the government's bureaucratic guns are loaded.

HIGHER EDUCATION ASKED FOR IT

Many university women deplored the movement of HEW and Civil Rights regulations on to the nation's campuses, and not altogether because they foresaw the inevitable forms, investigators, and fine print. As Bernice Sandler and others maintained at the time, it was rather a disgrace that these bastions of humanities, arts, and the scientific method had to be forced by the federal government to do what they should have been doing all along--on their own.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AT FALL FACULTY MEETING

We understand that there will be a concerted effort at USU's department heads' meeting this fall to disseminate information about affirmative action in personnel hiring and practices.

We hope this will have the effect of diffusing the responsibility for affirmative action throughout the university staff and result in a more positive attitude toward hiring minorities and women.

Right now, the prevailing attitude is, "we'd better do it or get slapped with a suit." Resentment then breeds defensiveness and slogans like "reverse discrimination" and "compromised standards" are tucked in shirt pockets and brought out whenever aggressive women need quieting down.

The latest silencer is that affirmative action is "backfiring" in regard to hiring women, since it insists on nationwide or regionwide recruitment. The resultant applicant pools contain so many well-qualified and experienced men, the story goes, that women can't compete and are not being hired. (It's too bad, but we women asked for it.)

But what chance did women have in competing before affirmative action, when advertising was sketchy and the buddy system was in full swing? And how does this reasoning account for the fact that

cases are being won, even on this campus, in which better qualified women weren't chosen? Above all, if women are not able to compete and are thus not being hired why the stated fear of a reverse discrimination suit?

Besides the waste of creativity that these smokescreens represent and the amount of meeting time they gobble up, they detract from the really fine women and minorities who are being hired--not because of preferential treatment, but because they are good.

THEM AGAINST US

While affirmative action remains a "them-against-us" game, costly and time-consuming watchdogging will continue on both sides, each thinking that the most consummate evil is being cooked up by the other, with minorities and women carrying the burden of disclosure.

Women and minorities should not do for administration personnel what they know very well they should be doing for themselves; staff members should not be harangued further by the administration with the horrors which might result if they don't follow affirmative action--unless they're deliberately out to create bitterness. Rather, we all need to hear, as members of the staff, that this university must comply with affirmative action because it makes good hiring sense, because it's fair, because we should have been doing it all along.

It will take thoughtful and sensitive leadership to convey this attitude.