

Board target of second bias suit

PORTLAND (AP) — Another sex-discrimination lawsuit was filed Tuesday against the State Board of Higher Education — this one to cover about 1,000 women excluded by a judge from a similar lawsuit now being tried in Portland, a spokeswoman for the plaintiffs said.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, is "intrinsically

related" to the existing case, Penk vs. the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, said Diana Kale, case manager with Faculty Women for Equity.

The Penk lawsuit alleges that Oregon's eight public colleges and universities have discriminated against women faculty members. In August, U.S. District Judge Helen Frye excluded "non-teaching"

women with faculty rank from the 2,200 faculty women in the \$33 million case.

The new case covers the excluded women, who include librarians, research assistants, research associates, extension agents, counselors, emergency part-time faculty, and administrators below the rank of dean, Kale said.

"We hope to move to consolidate this trial back with the Penk case," she said. "It's also important in terms of negotiating a settlement that we be able to negotiate for the entire group, rather than just a portion."

The lead plaintiff in the new case is Betty Wallace, an extension agent at Oregon State University.

Testimony in the Penk lawsuit continues before Frye. On Tuesday, attorneys for the state were cross-examining witnesses, Kale said.

Rutherford, Kerans debate

BEND (AP) — The two candidates for Oregon state treasurer criticized each others' legislative records, economic forecasts and plans for Oregon's future in their latest debate.

House Speaker Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, told the audience of about 50 on Monday that the state is ready for a change. He proposed a coalition that "seeks to draw together all those in the business and industrial world, in the professions, in academics and in local government."

Kerans said that as treasurer, he would reorganize the local government investment pool, the fund in which local agencies deposit their funds.

Incumbent Republican Bill Rutherford said that upon being appointed to the office last spring, he set economic growth as his first goal.

He also said he has worked to invest public employee retirement system funds wisely; to improve the state's bond rate; to improve communication between his office and Oregonians; and to improve the operations and investments of the common school fund administered by the State Land Board.

Rutherford said one of his jobs is to convince investors that Oregon bonds "are indeed a good investment."

"I grew up on Main Street (in McMinnville) and I've experienced Wall Street, and I believe I can bring the two together for the benefit of Oregon," he said.

Both men opposed passage of Ballot Measure 2, the 1.5 percent property tax limitation.

No benefit cuts, Reagan asserts

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, responding to a challenge by Walter Mondale, ruled out on Tuesday any cuts or changes in Social Security benefits for current recipients or future retirees.

In an abrupt policy shift prompted by Mondale's suggestion at a Cincinnati campaign stop that Reagan might revamp the Social Security system, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the president had authorized him to announce that he "will never stand for reduction in Social Security benefits for anybody."

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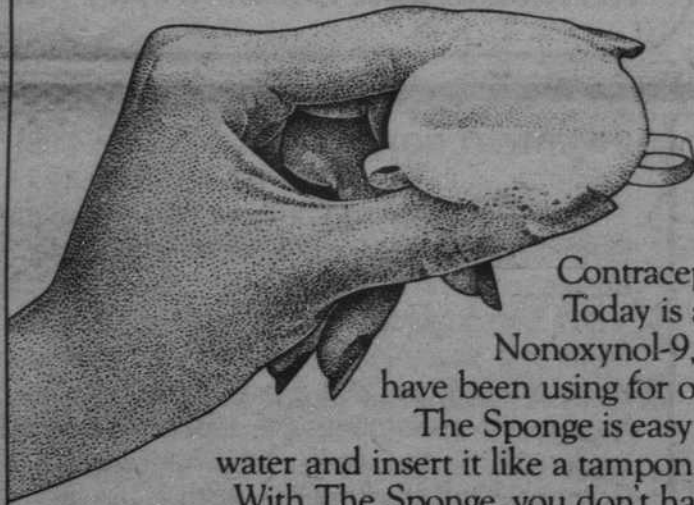
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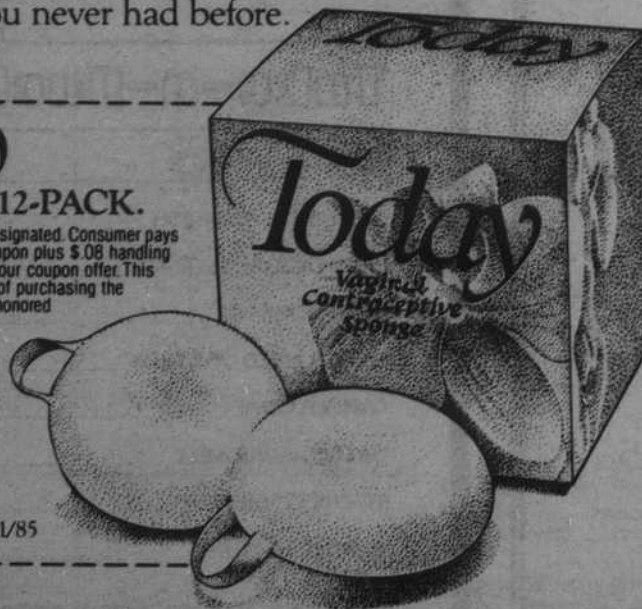
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