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Equality memo creates backlash at WSU



PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Barbara Harbach still believes the professional climate for women at Washington State University is better than at most universities.

But the music professor had to wonder after she and five other women faculty members circulated a memo urging change in attitudes toward women and curriculum.

Instead of the productive discussion she had hoped for, Harbach said the memo provoked a backlash.

Harbach said the memo's circulation led to 75 instances of what she called sexual harassment. She reported receiving several anonymous notes and harassing telephone calls.

Still, she and other women give the university passing marks for promoting gender equity. But they say there is still a long way to go.

"I think that probably no university is ideal for women," cell biologist Margaret Schelling said. "Women are under-represented in any group you look at. WSU, however, isn't at the bottom of the barrel."

After Harbach reported the response to the

memo, Music and Theater Arts Director Erich Lear issued his own memorandum.

"I've never found out who did it," Lear said of the response to Harbach's memo. "It's one of the worst things that has ever happened in that setting and there's no recourse except to declare the awfulness of what has been done."

Since Harbach sent her memo in October, she said some progress is noticeable. The faculty plans a "gender caucus" this fall to continue talks.

"WSU is very concerned about the problem," Harbach said in a recent interview. "It is slow, but at least it's not glacial."

Washington State President Sam Smith is given credit for helping to increase the numbers of women in key administrative and faculty positions during his eight-year tenure.

Women make up 32 percent of the upper-level administration at Washington State, up from 14 percent in 1989.

Sallie Giffen, vice president for business affairs, is the highest ranking woman in Smith's administration. Others include Sally Savage, assistant to the president and legal counsel, and Ernestine Madison, vice provost for human relations and resources.

"We go out and try to recruit women," Smith said recently. "We've been working to

take advantage of the fact that it is just morally logical to recruit everyone, regardless of gender, and it's good business sense."

While improvements are being made in administrative and faculty ranks, staff women continue to experience sexual discrimination, administrative assistant Lisa McMullen said.

"When there's a situation where sexual harassment is going on with faculty women, it's also going to be happening to staff women," she said. Women in lower-echelon jobs, such as secretaries and clerks, were not asked if they had experienced gender discrimination when Harbach raised the issue among the faculty.

"An individual staff woman would never have brought a charge," she said. "But when a faculty woman brought it up, it would have been an opportunity. It's a class issue."

Some women say they have never encountered gender barriers, while others have bitter experiences.

"WSU is one of the few places that will consider two people," said physicist Margaret M. Murnane, whose hiring included her husband and research partner, Henry C. Kapteyn. "It's easy to pay lip service (to gender equity), but it's not done here."

Reports say Packwood will run

PORTLAND (AP) — Campaign reports filed with the Federal Election Commission indicate Sen. Bob Packwood is laying the groundwork for a re-election bid.

The senator's political action committee, "Bob Packwood in 1998," contains \$28,000, the reports show. Packwood has \$782,000 left over from last year's campaign.

The senator, under investigation by the Senate Ethics Committee on allegations of sexual misconduct, has not said flatly that he will run in 1998.

Packwood said in May that he probably won't make that deci-

sion until mid-1997.

The report shows he has spent \$147,000 in the first six months of the year, paying the costs of staff, mailing and bills at motels and restaurants.

Packwood is far ahead of Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., who is up for re-election in three years. Hatfield has spent \$27,000 in the past six months and had just \$2,600 left in campaign funds at the end of the six-month reporting period June 30.

Packwood spent \$40,000 for accounting, \$4,000 for computer services, \$3,000 for mail services and about \$8,000 for payment to a bank for unitemized

expenses.

The two biggest donations, \$5,000 apiece, came from political action committees representing the National Cable Television Association and Imported Automobile Dealers.

It's unclear whether he'll use them to promote his separate legal trust fund.

His committee reported \$3,700 in travel, meal and lodging expenses. The bills included a \$1,061 bill at the Regency Hotel in New York March 9 and a \$473 tab in a Portland restaurant, Cal's at John's Landing, Feb. 12.

ET ALS

MISCELLANEOUS

Lawrence Gallery — on Highway 18 between McMinnville and Sheridan — will have an exhibition of sculptures and fountains by metal sculptor John Richon Aug. 7-22. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. all week. For more information, call 843-3633.

LaVerne Krause Gallery will have an exhibit featuring work from the University Department of Fine and Applied Arts Aug. 9-13. Regular gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 346-3610.

Eugene PeaceWorks and Lane County American Peace Test will honor the 48th commemoration of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Sunday with a potluck starting at 5:30 p.m. in the No. 2 shelter at Alton Baker Park. For more information, call 343-8548.

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