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Commission for Women

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Supreme Court reviews abortion case

In July, the United States Supreme Court will issue its ruling in the case Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services. There has been much speculation about what various rulings by the Court in that case would do. Here is a thumbnail sketch of what the case is, and what possible outcomes can arise from various decisions.

In Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services, the court will rule on the constitutionality of a Missouri law, struck down by two lower courts, which restricts the use of public funds and buildings for abortions and counseling and raises obstacles to abortion after 20 weeks. In addition, the law’s preamble clearly states that life begins at conception. Ultimately, this is what puts Webster vs. Reproductive Services at direct odds with Roe vs. Wade, inasmuch as Roe vs. Wade specifically maintains that a state “may not adopt one theory of when life begins.” This distinguishes the Missouri law from other laws considered by the Court that only sought to put controls on abortion. As the Reagan administration’s brief to the court last fall maintained, this is the first case with the new court makeup that genuinely offers a chance to overturn the earlier decision.

What are the scenarios from possible decisions then? If the Supreme Court uses this case to strike down Roe vs. Wade, the immediate consequence would allow each state to design its own definition of when life begins, and therefore, tailor individual abortion laws. Six states have already passed laws which specify that should Roe be overturned, abortion would immediately and automatically become illegal in those states. Political analysts feel that in the aftermath of an overturning only ten to fifteen states would retain abortion in the form in which we now see it. Several other states would probably allow abortions to be performed only in hospitals so that procedures and attending physicians could be monitored. State review boards would be set up again, as they once were, ruling on whether individual women should have abortions by assessing physical and mental consequences of carrying the pregnancy to full term.

The Supreme Court may decide not to overturn Roe vs. Wade, but restrictions may be placed upon abortion on demand. The time limit for having an abortion is likely to come under fire. Many feel it is a matter of time before serious restrictions will be placed on receiving an abortion after the fourth month of pregnancy. While this case may not deal with parental consent, it is likely that future cases before the Court may uphold that issue as well.

A final possibility may be that the Court may decide to uphold Roe vs. Wade in this case and simply uphold the lower court’s decision. Certainly the argument presented in questioning, that an overturning of Roe could lead to attacks on Griswold vs. Connecticut, seemed to disturb the justices. Griswold vs. Connecticut approved the use of contraception, including some contraceptives which work as abortifacients, IUD’s for example.

YWCA seeks nominations

The Knoxville YWCA is currently seeking nominations of women who will be saluted at the fifth annual Tribute to Women to be held on Tuesday, October 10, 1989, at the Hyatt Regency. Nominations may be made in the categories of arts, business and industry, education, government, human services, and volunteer community services.

Nominees should have shown qualities of leadership, demonstrated significant professional growth, made a significant contribution or impact in their field and shown a high level of achievement. In addition, nominees have to reside, be employed or be active in Knoxville or surrounding areas.

The aim of the Tribute to Women is to stimulate an increased awareness of the talents, abilities and accomplishments of women and to raise funds for vital services and programs offered by the Knoxville YWCA.

Deadline for making nominations is midnight, July 1. A special nomination form can be acquired from the Knoxville YWCA located at 420 W. Clinch Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37902.
Burton discusses activities and goals of CFW

by Linda Burton

Linda Burton is stepping down after two years of chairing the Commission for Women. The CFW is electing a new chair who will be recommended to the Chancellor for appointment. Linda would like to thank Commission members and the University community for their support during her term as Chair.

INTRODUCTION

The UT Commission for Women is a committee appointed by Chancellor Jack Reese to advise him about issues of importance to women on campus. In addition, the Commission recommends programming, policies and procedures which have an impact on women faculty, staff and students. Meetings of the Commission are held monthly to set the direction for issues important to the Commission. These meetings are open to the public in order that the Commission may serve as a forum for all women on campus. This past year Commission membership consisted of 11 faculty, 19 exempt and non-exempt members, and 5 student members. Carol Guthrie served as the Networker editor and coordinated office activities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Early in the year, Commission members approved the goals and objectives delineated below:

I. Explore issues of importance to women and to present these issues to the Chancellor
   A. By examining leave for adoption and parental leave
   B. By reporting on status of women on campus
   C. By exploring maternity leave for faculty
   D. By discussing concerns of dual career families

II. Support seeing more women placed in positions on campus

III. Work toward salary equity
   A. By suggesting and discussing salary studies
   B. By distributing salary studies to women on campus

IV. Increase the visibility of women's issues on campus
   A. By publishing articles in Networker
   B. By sponsoring Focus on Women luncheons
   C. By organizing Women's Week
   D. By educating the university community by publishing Networker and publicity in Context and The Daily Beacon
   E. By sponsoring on open forum for women on campus and Commission members

V. Provide developmental activities for campus women
   A. By co-sponsoring Professional Development Grants
   B. By encouraging leadership through Commission for Women
   C. By co-sponsoring an applicant to HERS
   D. By educating University women to increase their awareness of inequities

VI. Support safety
   A. By conducting a lighting tour and reporting on results
   B. By sponsoring self-defense classes
   C. By publicizing Escort Van Service
   D. By sponsoring programs on date rape and sexual assault
   E. By publicizing services of UT Police Department

VII. Continue a close working relationship with the director of Affirmative action
   A. By the chairperson's meeting biweekly with the director
   B. By reviewing the Affirmative Action Plan
   C. By working to create a resource list of campus experts on women's issues

VIII. Respond directly to specific problems relating to women's issues

IX. Increase the networking opportunities for women on campus
   A. By sponsoring a reception for new female faculty and staff
   B. By distributing Networker

X. Continue to highlight women's health issues
   A. By co-sponsoring mobile mammography on campus
   B. By sponsoring a women's health fair

XI. Promote the expansion of child care
   A. By highlighting child care needs

XII. Work toward seeing a task force selected to study the status of women at The University of Tennessee
   A. By working with the new chancellor to see the task force established

SUBCOMMITTEES

Many of these goals were accomplished through the work of various subcommittees. At the request of the Chancellor, the Commission formed a maternity leave committee during fiscal year 1987-88. The committee found that the maternity leave policy seemed adequate for exempt and non-exempt women. However, the policy for nine-month faculty women appeared vague. With the approval of the Chancellor and Provost, a survey of faculty attitudes and beliefs on maternity leave is being conducted by the Department of Child and Family Studies, College of Human Ecology. The survey should be completed by the end of spring semester.

From March 7-10, 1989, Women's Week, a celebration in honor of women on campus, increased the visibility of women's issues. Highlights of the week included:

1. Showcase of women in UT's history illustrated in the University Center, Networker

2. Mobil Mammography Unit screening for breast cancer.

3. Women's film Working Girl (1986) shown in Hodges Library with an introduction and discussion led by Dr. Chris Holmmlund, Romance Languages.

4. Faculty women spotlight presented in the University Center by Dr. Kathleen Lawler, Thura Mack, Dr. Geraldine Gesell, and Dr. Joanne Logan.

5. Women's Studies reception hosted by Dr. Martha Lee Osborne, chair of Women's Studies at 2012 Lake Avenue.

6. Smart Choices: Learning to be Healthier at Any Age, seminar sponsored by Women's, UT Medical Center.

7. Women's health fair coordinated by (Please see BURTON page 3)
Burton...(continued from page 2)

8. Chancellor's reception for UTK women, attended by approximately 400 women.

9. Women in Leadership Conference, sponsored by UTK Personnel. Women from all phases of campus life attended many of these events.

In addition, visibility was enhanced by sponsoring two Focus on Women luncheons. Dr. Anne Mayhew, department head in Economics, spoke on comparable worth and Donna Davis, a local attorney, spoke on the political and legal issues surrounding abortion. The Chair also appeared on WUTK's radio program "In Affirmative."

Professional development grants, sponsored by the Chancellor, continued through fiscal year 1988-89 with several women on campus attending local seminars. (In order to apply for these grants, the women send requests to the CFW to attend a professional development program, then send a copy of the program with resume to the Chair.)

For the fourth year, the CFW selected an applicant to attend the HERS Institute, a month long program held each year at Bryn Mawr. The goal is to help women develop for careers in higher education. This year's nominee is Judy Webster, associate professor, Hodges Library.

Safety remains an important campus issue. The Chair served on a campus-wide safety committee, appointed by the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs. The committee made eight recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor, who is appointing a Safety Concerns Committee. This committee will be charged with conducting a fresh campus lighting survey, evaluating the effectiveness of the escort van service and monitoring institutional effectiveness in communicating safety concerns to the University community. Moreover, UT Police conducted a self-defense class for women, and Ed Yovella, chief of police, spoke at the March CFW meeting.

The Chair also served on a campus-wide child care committee. The committee recommended a five-year plan to Chancellor Jack Reese, designed to expand tremendously the child care facilities on campus. At present, more than 160 children are on the waiting list for places in the UTK Cumberland Child Care Center. Lack of available funds for present expansion led the Chancellor to ask that child care be placed into the long-range plans for the University.

Pay equity remains an issue. Last year, the survey of faculty salaries provided information which enable faculty women to see how they stand in regard to tenure and pay as compared with male faculty. The exempt salary administration plan has progressed with the Business, Planning and Finance division and Student Affairs areas completed. The plan is now being implemented in the Provost's area. Once implemented completely, the plan will provide statistics to analyze exempt salaries.

FUTURE

While the Commission has experienced an active year, important issues on campus remain to be studied. These issues again include:

1. Pay Equity
2. Hiring and Promotional Practices
3. Child Care
4. Professional Development Opportunities
5. Comparable Worth
6. Dual Career Families
7. Education on Women's Issues
8. Expansion of Permanent Part-time Faculty Positions

In 1989 the American Council on Education special report "The New Agenda of Women for Higher Education," Donna Shavlik, Judith Touchton, and Carol Pearson give three primary reasons why "now is the time for our colleges and universities to become responsive to the values, ideas, beliefs, talents, hopes, dreams, and visions of women." These reasons are described below:

1. Our global society is facing problems of potentially catastrophic proportions. We need the best and brightest minds to attend to these problems. Women constitute half of the human resources available. They have the potential of providing at least half the answers.

2. Higher education has a special responsibility to be a progressive, enlightening social force. This is our heritage, and this is our role. We should be a model for others to emulate. How can we expect society to do what we cannot do for ourselves?

3. Theory, knowledge, and practice have been developed by and about women to help us rethink our institutional priorities, plans, and programs, and reshape the process. It is intellectually irresponsible not to use this new body of knowledge and grasp its implications for all our institutions.

Moreover, the researchers give 15 recommendations for accomplishing the aforementioned goals. The recommendations are:

1. Seek a strong commitment from the leadership of the institution to understanding and addressing the concerns of women students, faculty, staff, and administrators.
2. Correct inequities in hiring, promotion, tenure, and salary of women faculty, administrators, and staff.
3. Provide a supportive campus climate for women.
4. Make a permanent institutional commitment to women's studies.
5. Review all policies for effect on majority women and minority women and men.
6. Integrate impact studies into the planning process.
7. Give specific attention to sexual harassment.
8. Prepare an annual status report.
9. Initiate a campus values inventory.
10. Develop an institution-wide concern for children and families.
11. Appreciate the value of diversity.
12. Make leadership development and commitment to fostering women's leadership joint priorities.
13. Establish or reaffirm the commitment to a Commission on Women.
14. Appoint a high-level person whose formal responsibilities include advocacy for women on campus.
15. Create a center for the exploration of community and personal relationships.

In the past few years, UTK has successfully worked to accomplish many of these recommendations. Yet, much remains to be accomplished. During the coming year, a task force on the status of women at UT needs to be appointed. In 1987 a similar task force studied the State Board of Regents colleges and universities and made 33 recommendations to improve the status of women on those campuses. An executive development program should be implemented on the Knoxville campus so that we can truly "grow our own." Moreover, an attitude survey of campus values needs to be undertaken so that the institution can assess itself to see how closely its actions match the values of faculty and staff.

Another issue concerning faculty women is their sometimes ambiguous status as part-time instructors. In some departments individual women and men have served the university as part-time faculty for more than a decade, providing invaluable instruction and, in some instances, bringing distinction to UTK by notable publication. More attention should be paid to the contributions of these people, and emphasis should be given to the possibility of establishing additional continuing part-time positions.

In closing, Judith A. Sturnick, Presi...
Designer drugs pose danger to women (Part two of two)

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine, also known as crystal, crack, and most commonly, speed, is a drug undergoing a major euphoric effects and is less expensive as a street drug. Experts say that many crack users opt for crystal’s less expensive and longer lasting high when their money runs short. In M.M. Kirsch’s recent wire service story it is maintained that speed may well be the most abused illegal drug today.

Effects

Like other stimulants, methamphetamine produces euphoria and acts to relieve fatigue and suppress the appetite. The effects on the central nervous system and the cardiovascular system are very similar to that of cocaine. Users feel a sense of well being and may feel that their intellectual abilities are heightened.

Crystal is usually taken intravenously and its effect is felt in seconds. The high is relatively long lasting, four to six hours. Impurities in the street drug often cause an extra kick, but they are not an effect of pharmaceutical methamphetamine.

Dangers

Addiction liability is high. The body quickly builds a high tolerance and the effects serve to reinforce its use.

Adverse reactions vary. Early on users usually complain of headaches and dizziness. As doses increase, paranoia, mood swings, and vermiculation, the feeling that worms or insects are crawling under the skin, usually begin to manifest themselves. Long term use results in severe physical deterioration, high blood pressure, heart abnormalities, and high risk for heart and cerebrovascular problems. At this time, the principal risk from crystal lies in the contamination of shared needles. Methamphetamine users should be considered at significant risk to contract AIDS because of this.

One other problem now connected with methamphetamine use is the development of Huntington’s chorea-like symptoms. A recent study at the University of California Medical Center showed that several long time crystal users exhibited “characteristic choreiform movements.” Among them were involuntary writhing of the trunk and involuntary movements of the upper extremities, neck, head, and tongue.

PCP (Angel Dust)

PCP (phencyclidine) first surfaced in the 1960’s when LSD became illegal. It rapidly became unpopular because of its unpleasant hallucinogenic qualities. The drug’s effects would linger for hours and caused users to become aggressive and violent. In the 1970’s, PCP became popular as a drug to be smoked. Cigarettes dipped in PCP are popular in most large cities with people who ask for it by name and enjoy its bizarre effects. Unfortunately, the drug is also misrepresented frequently and is sold as Ecstasy, crack, crystal, and most commonly, psilocybin mushrooms.

In liquid form, PCP sells from $200 to $500 an ounce and is a yellow or green color. It has an unpleasant fecal aroma. In small doses, PCP has been reported to cause the following symptoms: agitation and excitement, gross incoordination, blank stare appearance, catatonic rigidity, inability to speak, horizontal and vertical nystagmus (rapid involuntary movement of the eyeball), loss of response to a pinprick, and flushing.

At moderate doses, the following can occur: coma or stupor, eyes remain open (blink response disappears), pupils in midposition, vomiting, hyper-salivation, and fever.

At high doses prolonged coma, severe hypertension and convulsions can occur.

One of the more serious side effects of PCP is its ability to recirculate. It stores in fat, and remains in the system and unusually long amount of time, some experts even say over a year.

Burton... (continued from page 3)