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# THE WHITWORTHIAN

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## Springfest...



President Bill Robinson participates in Baldwin-Jenkins' dunking booth at Riverfront Park on Saturday, May 4. Springfest, sponsored by ASWC, helped raise approximately \$700 for City Gate.

## Sexual harassment: Whitworth's policies, procedures, problems

CINDY BRETT  
Editor In Chief

If Whitworth is typical of other colleges and universities around the country, the chances are that about half the women sitting in class with you today will have been sexually harassed on campus by the time they graduate. While the numbers may not be that high, sexual harassment is a reality on campus — one that students often don't know how to address.

"[Sexual harassment has] taken all shapes and forms," said Tom Johnson, vice president for Business Affairs and interim Human Resources director. Referring to incidents of which he is aware, Johnson said: "We've had them and unfortunately, it's part of our institutional life." Johnson said he is aware of an average of one sexual harassment case per year during his seven years at Whitworth.

Because instances like these get reported to various offices on campus, and the college has no centralized way of tracking the statistics, it's impossible to know exactly how extensive sexual harassment is at Whitworth. For example, anyone reporting sexual harassment to the health center will have that information kept confidential, unless the student wants to take the issue further, said Janelle Thayer, director of counseling services.

Because of confidentiality, Whitworth administrators could not provide specific examples of cases of sexual harassment on campus. As happens elsewhere, however, the overwhelming proportion of sexual harassment victims are women.

According to the American Psychological Association (APA), sexual harassment is extremely widespread and it touches the lives of 40 to 60 percent of working women; and similar proportions of female students at colleges and universities.

Policies have been written that outline the process a person would go through with a sexual harassment grievance. Sexual harassment, as defined by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and Title IX of the Education Amendment, can be found in the Whitworth College Student Handbook and Staff Handbook. It is described as "unwelcome sexual advances,

requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." Examples might include offensive remarks, crude stories or jokes, and inappropriate physical contact which demean either gender or degrade a person.

For students, violating this behavior policy is a Big Three, but before a complaint reaches Student Life, a victim of sexual harassment may go through a myriad of channels to discuss an encounter with sexual harassment. These channels could include the health center, residents assistance, mentors, or friends.

"In order for any policies to work, I think that when someone is feeling vulnerable and has questions about whether there have been abuses of any kind, they need to be able to approach a variety of people in authority and find that they get good information," said Tammy Reid, associate dean of Academic Affairs.

According to Dick Mandeville, associate dean of students and director of Residence Life, there is not a universal way for students to report sexual harassment at Whitworth, but he does not necessarily see that as a problem. "What we're trying to do is to value accessibility, and maybe we need to do a better job at saying, 'Here are the different options for you.'" He added: "But the moment we say if [sexual harassment] happens, this is the way you have to report it, we're going to drive a certain amount of people underground and that's the last thing we want to have happen."

According to the APA, sexual harassment is offensive, often frightening and confusing. In addition, research by APA has shown that women are often forced to leave school or jobs to avoid harassment, and they may experience serious psychological and health-related problems.

If the sexual harassment grievance involved a student-to-student complaint, Student Life would handle the complaint. However, if any combination of student-to-faculty-to-staff were to have a sexual harassment grievance, Human Resources would be in charge of the procedure, and it would be handled discreetly, according to Johnson.

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## A High-Tech Book Burning

College Press Service

University of California at Santa Barbara film studies professor, Constance Penley, fears she soon may become a target of high-tech book burning.

Penley believes one provision of the expansive Telecommunications Act, passed by Congress in February, the Communications Decency Act, could criminalize transmission of her book "Popular Science and Sexuality in America" over the Internet.

Part of the bill, which overhauls telephone, television and computer regulations, sets penalties of up to two years in jail or a \$250,000 fine for anyone who knowingly transmits indecent information to minors on-line.

More than 40 national associations and companies have filed suit against the indecency provision with the American Civil Lib-

erties Union and a federal judge has placed an injunction on implementing the clause while the case is pending.

Meanwhile the possibility of regulating the Internet has prompted a wave of debate as faculty, students, and community members consider how the ban could affect their lives.

Some faculty and students claim the legislation violates First Amendment rights.

But local anti-pornography activities claim it as a victory against what they consider cyberspace trash.

Norris Goss, vice president of Santa Barbara Citizens Against Pornography, rejected the claim that regulating questionable material could threaten free speech. "We are not censors; we just want to protect the community from harm," she said.

But what one community considers harmful may be accept-

able to others, according to ACLU Southern California chapter attorney Sam Mistrano.

The court defines "indecency" as material involving sexual or excretory matters found "patently offensive" by community standards. This definition of "indecency" is extremely open-ended to Mistrano.

"Indecency" is a term used in regulating broadcasting, and you can't compare the Internet as a medium to broadcasting," she said. "It's more like print or other public forms on the street."

Many of the campus' computing staff question how the Internet indecency ban could be enforced at universities.

Mistrano said the ACLU's case will eliminate some questions by abolishing the indecency measure. He said he believes some lawmakers regard the new regulations as an unwanted segment of the Telecommunications Act.

# Gage receives Students' Choice Professor of the Year for 1996

**ANNEMARIE EKLUND**  
Staff Writer

Dr. Howard Gage, professor of mathematics and computer science, was honored as the Students' Choice Professor of the Year for 1996. This award was presented at the Faculty Appreciation Day Forum on Monday, April 29.



Howard Gage

Alisa Tongg, ASWC spirit coordinator, said she created the award to honor the Whitworth professor who goes "beyond the call of duty." Tongg finds it spectacular that so many Whitworth professors want to invest so much in the college community; she wants to start a tradition which affirms professors who exemplify a giving, caring spirit.

Gage is humbled and honored by the award. "When I think about the quality of teachers on campus—such fantastic people—it is humbling to be selected from those of such high caliber. That's what makes it meaningful," said Gage.

Gage, who has Parkinson's disease, is traveling to Stockholm, Sweden on June 11 for neurological surgery. He has spent fall and spring setting up the surgery and travel plans for himself and his wife, Judy. Gage wanted his children, Julie and Brian, who are Whitworth alumni to accompany them to Sweden, but thought they were unable to come up with the funding. Then, taking a leap of faith, Gage bought four airline tickets, believing in God's provision for his family.

On Friday, April 26, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees for Whitworth, President Bill Robinson sent around a collection to help fund Julie and Brian Gage's trip with their parents. The collection totaled enough to pay their way.

Gage believes the financial gift from the board reflects not only the board's affirmation of him, but also their support for all the Whitworth faculty. "That money is not only a very kind gift to me, but also an expression of appreciation to the larger group of people," said Gage. He was overwhelmed and blessed by the board's support.

Robinson commented that "[Gage] is such a great example of Christian commitment and what it means to be a citizen in the kingdom of God."

Robinson believes Gage's family deserves the money because, "Howard and Judy Gage have cared for so many people over the years."

Dealing with medical complications has made this year the most challenging year for Gage to teach. But he has been encouraged by the support he's received from the Whitworth community, and specifically from his students. "I just marvel at this place. God really is at work. I see lives changed and I see people going out to serve the Lord. I think that's pretty fantastic."

# Harassment

Continued from Page 1

Although there are policies in place for the community, some believe that problems start long before the policy is ever looked at by a person who has been sexually harassed. According to Janet Yoder, assistant professor and director of English Language program, one of the main problems is the lack of education at Whitworth regarding sexual harassment. "A policy is only as good as the people who have a responsibility for implementing it are, and if there's no commitment to making it known in terms of educating staff what options there are...[and] if there's no commitment to making the policy user friendly, in the sense that people are comfortable using it, it's not going to be used."

President Bill Robinson agrees that Whitworth is not adequately educating the community about sexual harassment. "I don't think we do as good a job as we should be doing in educating the Whitworth community in the whole area of sexual harassment." Robinson suggested utilizing freshman orientation, sessions in residents hall, and forums to increase awareness.

Robinson, Yoder, Johnson and

Reid agree there is not enough sexual harassment education available to the Whitworth community, but they hope that will change with the hiring of the Human Resources Director, Alice Kellar, from Grinnell College in Iowa. "One of the new emphasis with a new director of Human Resources [is] that we will be doing more internal training of staff in relationship to a variety of issues, [including] sexual harassment," said Reid.

Yoder said she believes the view of sexual harassment at Whitworth needs to be changed. "I think we've relied on this false security that we're a Christian community and we can work everything out, and therefore everyone will have the best intentions in what they do and how they do it."

Yoder said Whitworth cur-

- Up to 50 percent of all female college students experience some form of sexual harassment.

- As many as 70 percent of women in the working world have been sexually harassed in some way.

- Up to 12 percent of male students report sexual harassment.

- 50 to 85 percent of American women will be sexually harassed during their academic or working life.

rently has a decent sexual harassment policy, but that the environment for using it is poor. "It isn't just the words on the paper, it's the commitment to understanding that sexual harassment is a power issue; it's a control issue. It's an issue of discrimination based on gender usually, and it has to do with who's in charge and who's not." Yoder added, "The males on campus, in my opinion, need to be sensitive to the fact that women may feel differently about certain structures or certain behaviors than they do."

—Karen DuBerke  
contributed to this story

## Financial Aid Update

On Tuesday, April 23, congressional and White House negotiators reached an agreement on funding for the Department of Education for the 1996 budget. Contrary to information from the College Press Service included in the "Financial aid cutbacks..." article in The Whitworthian last week, none of the proposed cuts from the Federal Family Education Loan Program were included in the approved 1996 budget.

# CAMPUS BEAT

## Security Report

- May 1 5:30 p.m.  
Lewd conduct at Library.
- May 2 2:48 p.m.  
Fire in a trash can north of the Whitworth Campus Center.  
9:47 p.m.  
Money was reported stolen from Ballard.  
8:15 p.m.  
A wallet was reported stolen from a backpack in Leavitt Dining Hall



## ASWC Minutes

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

- Groundbreaking for the new dorm could start as early as this May. The project should be completed in January 1998.
- Next year's ASWC budget was passed. Copies will be posted in dorm lounges.
- Turn in your address at the information booth in the WCC if you will not be here next fall and would like your yearbook mailed to you.

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From The Whitworthian staff