

FEATURES

Attractions & Distractions

27 Tuesday

Campus wide prayer vigil
Young Life meeting in BJ Lounge at 9:15 p.m.

28 Wednesday

Campus wide prayer vigil
Chapel at 11:15 a.m.

29 Thursday

Campus wide prayer vigil

30 Friday

Campus wide prayer vigil
Forum: Jim Singleton
Casino Night in the HUB at 8 p.m.

1 Saturday

Springfest at Riverfront Park from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

2 Sunday

Bloomeday

3 Monday

Forum: Westminster House

Women's Task Force addresses campus inequality

Carley Burrell
Whitworthian Staff Writer

At Whitworth College, more than half of the student body is female, while less than one third of the faculty and administration are female.

The Women's Task Force was formed to tackle this problem and deal with other gender issues. The Women's Task Force was generated after the college adopted the human development theme.

Pat MacDonald, former chairperson of the force, said, "It became very clear that the committee that was implementing the theme was not reaching the goal with women in the same way they were with men." In order to focus on the development of the full potential of women in the campus community, the Women's Task Force branched off of the human development committee.

According to Janet Yoder, Chair of the Women's Task Force, the gender inequality on campus is a part of our culture. "I think we mirror society," she said. She said that the administration, in spite of good intentions, has not had "a clear vision of how and why they need to hire more females," Yoder said.

In the past, there has not been an effort to recruit females to faculty and administrative positions on campus, said Yoder. Whitworth does not discourage females from applying, but no exceptional effort was made. This year, Ken Shippy, Provost and Dean of the Faculty, "has made some efforts to insure that every search has a woman or minority candidate as one of the finalists," said Yoder.

Yet this is just a small step in the right direction. Some of the areas on campus, including the religion and communications departments, do not have any female role models among the faculty. "That affects the whole flavor of the campus, the atmosphere of the classroom, and the whole process of mentoring students," said Yoder.

In addition to the few female

faculty on campus, the Women's Task Force is also concerned about the issue of males frequently being hired at higher ranks and promoted faster than females. "Often circumstances or career paths look different for males and females, and we reward the male configuration, but we don't reward the female configuration," said Yoder. "Our system for tenure and promotion is very much a system geared to reward the male-type track, and penalizes the female characteristic track, professionally," Yoder said.

Yoder explained that 33 percent of the female faculty either are not and/or cannot be tenured, while only 14 percent of the male faculty fall into this category. Currently, the possibility of offering tenure to part-time faculty is being considered. This would greatly benefit women who, for reasons such as raising a family, have been unable to achieve tenure thus far, she said.

Compared to other colleges and universities, Whitworth tends to be more advanced at achieving equity in relation to other Christian colleges. However, in relation to higher education generally, Whitworth is behind, particularly at the high levels of administration.

"We've never had a female president, for instance," said MacDonald, "and yet, there are female presidents at many colleges and universities." The only area for which there has been a female vice president is the last two vice presidents of student life. "The Women's Task Force continues to push very hard and very intentionally to achieve a woman at the vice presidential level," said MacDonald.

In addition to the issue of gender in the faculty, the Women's Task Force is also concerned with increasing gender equality in all other areas of campus.

Last year, a sub-group of the task force completely re-wrote the sexual harassment policy for both the student side of campus and the employee side of the campus. "A lot of time was spent on that," said

Yoder, adding that "it was an extremely important task."

This year the task force has been discussing problems in the athletic department. They are concerned about whether there is equality in funding and financial aid for female athletes. They have also been talking about the possibilities of hiring in the athletic department. "It seems that we have a high turnover of faculty in that department and we wonder what the reasons for that are," said Yoder.

The task force has also demonstrated concern for a women's study program on campus. Tammy Reid, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and a member of the women's task force is particularly interested in looking into an area of conservation in women's studies.

To better serve the campus, two discussion groups have been formed, one is the women's discussion group and the other is the Faculty Women's Forum.

The women's discussion group began in October and meets every other Tuesday. The last meeting will be Tuesday, May 4, at noon in the chapel. Both groups were formed to provide a place where women meet together to discuss

issues that concern them. The women's discussion group is for students, faculty and administrators.

Dayna Coleman and Devon Singh began the group. The group provides a place "where faculty, staff and students can come together to talk about issues that pertain to women on this campus," said Singh. The group does not gather for "male-bashing. We don't do that at all," she said.

"The women who attend all feel supported and empowered when we leave," said Coleman. They leave with the reassurance that they are not alone. "We can learn from each other," said Coleman. "The stories of overcoming discrimination provide [the rest of the group] with encouragement."

"We also talk a lot about the term 'feminism,'" said Coleman. The word seems to have very negative connotations on campus, but actually it is a very positive word. At one meeting, the group looked the word up in the dictionary.

According to Webster's Dictionary, feminism means "the policy, practice or advocacy of political, economic and social equality for women." This is what the task force has set out to do.

IT'S COMING!



Springfest '93
Saturday, May 1
Riverfront Park,
Clocktower Meadow
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

10 a.m. Jazz Band
11:45 a.m. Mr. Whitworth
1:15 p.m. Jazz Choir
2:30 p.m. Jimmyfish

Booths, arts and crafts, Mr. Whitworth competition and much, much more!

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Plus One 22oz. Soft Drink.
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