

Women Faculty at FAU Still Fight Discrimination

By SUSAN SACHS
Herald Staff Writer

When Frances Myers was hired in 1969 as an assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University, she had taught for 13 years, published a book on dance and choreographed 21 nationally televised football half-time shows. Her doctorate degree was three years old.

Myers says two men were hired at the same time for positions one rank above her, as associate professors. "They had fewer credentials," she says. "But they're full professors now, and I'm just an associate."

Since being hired a decade ago, her colleagues have elected her head of the theater department. Every year, Myers applies to FAU's salary equity committee for more money. But the committee, a requirement of the state Board of Regents, considers only salary comparisons within the same rank.

"I have a whole file of this nonsense," she says. "They never told anybody what criteria they use for determining whether anyone is discriminated against."

Endilee Bush resigned this year after five years as FAU's special assistant to the president for women and minority affairs. She is reluctant to talk about her experiences.

"The problem I had at FAU was a national problem," she says. "It's something that deals with our inner selves, our hearts and minds. Until we change those, things aren't going to change."

FAU's paralegal training program employs five private attorneys and one Realtor as teachers. All are men. The program also employs five legal assistants — all women.

"We had a few women [attorneys], but they weren't very successful in teaching," says Jane Sonnenberg, continuing education coordinator. "We found one or two who were interested, but they were only in practice for one or two years."

Most of the students in the program are women. Adds Sonnenberg: "I think females prefer the males,

maybe because most of my attorneys are young."

"I'm not going any place," Patsy Ceros-Livingston, associate professor of education for almost 12 years, says cheerily. "I don't even put in for anything any more. I've been labeled as a troublemaker because I've spoken out for women and blacks."

FAU is 16 years old. For the past eight years, the university has been studied, criticized and threatened over the promotion, hiring and pay of women faculty members.

University women complain nothing has changed, although many are tired of talking about it. Says one: "We can't be screaming all the time at our colleagues. It's not our job."

In 1971, an investigator from the federal Health, Education and Welfare Department visited the FAU campus in Boca Raton. He found "the average salary of male faculty members is higher than that of female faculty at every rank with the exception of instructors, which is the only rank at which females outnumber males."

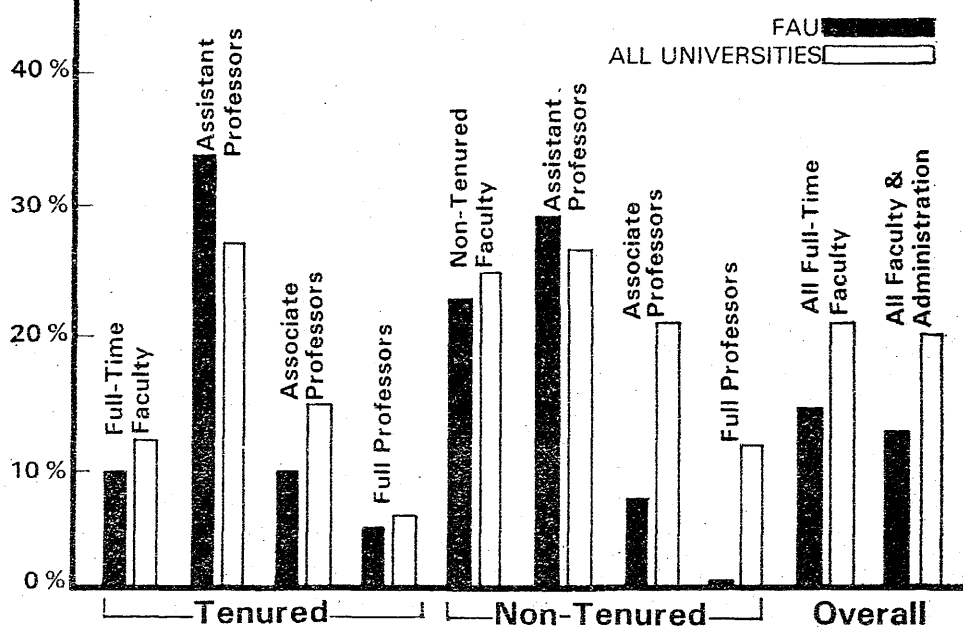
Four of 17 promotions that year had gone to women faculty members, the investigator found. The average salary increase for men who were promoted was \$1,625. The average increase for the promoted women was \$833.

In 1976, the South Palm Beach County chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) filed a complaint with HEW, alleging discrimination on the basis of sex at FAU.

The complaint stated the composition of fulltime faculty members at FAU hadn't changed at all since the HEW visit in 1972. In both years, only 14 per cent of the faculty were women.

The latest report filed with the state Board of Regents comparing the ranks of men and women faculty at FAU for 1978-79 school year shows a slight improvement. Women comprised 14.8 per cent of the full-time faculty. That is the lowest percentage of all nine state universities.

Percentage of Women As Faculty In Florida State Universities



"What we do at the Board of Regents is gather their statistical information from year to year," says Howard Campbell, systems coordinator in the office of equal opportunity programs.

"We publish it, and let people draw their own conclusions. The chances are, if they don't look good, someone will sue."

The NOW complaint of three years ago has never been investigated by HEW, first because the giant federal agency said it had a tremendous backlog of work. Now the federal government is blocked from investigating the complaint because FAU protested that HEW had no jurisdiction over labor relations in universities. The question is being considered in HEW's legal affairs office.

"The university has to take the action it thinks is right," says FAU attorney Leonard Klatt. "And standing up to the federal government on this is right. It has

nothing to do with the merits of the case."

He says the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is the proper place for the women's complaint. The women say the administration prefers the EEOC because of a state agreement with the agency that permits the university to choose one of its administrators to act as investigator.

"It's the administration investigating the administration," complains Vencie Smith, one of the most vocal of the faculty women and head of the communications department. "It would be a headwash."

However, FAU officials have staunchly denied that the women who asked NOW to file the complaint have anything to complain about.

"We categorically deny that there is any substance to those statements," asserts Kenneth Michels, the vice

Turn to Page 38 Col. I

Alfred Spuck, right, bears down during practice for Special Olympics.

Smiles Give Voice To Their Feelings

By LUCY EMERSON
Herald Staff Writer

When Alfred tries to talk about his feelings, the words get lost. Crinkles form at the corners of his eyes. He wags his head and grins. To every question he responds, "I hope so."

But when Alfred Spuck gets his turn at the bowling alley, there is no confusion. Bam. Nine pins down. Swoosh. A spare.

"I'm a little bit good," he says, grinning sheepishly. Spuck works, too, performing simple tasks at the Palm Beach Habilitation Center, a facility for the mentally retarded.

Saturday, Spuck and 67 men and women like him gathered at the Major League Lanes, sharpening their skills at rolling a heavy ball down the glistening alley.

They all are practicing for the Special Olympics that will begin Nov. 10 with the county games. In addition to bowling, the retarded will compete against each other in gymnastics and basketball.

Andrea Smith, 23, was hopping with excitement Saturday. She groaned and covered her eyes when her ball veered away from an obstinate pair of pins.

"I'm trying to beat everybody," she said, craning her head to get a look at the scoresheet. Her dark, page-boy

styled hair swung like a pendulum.

"Andrea, Andrea, you're up. C'mon, slow poke," her teammates cried. She jumped up, wrestled her pantsuit into place and selected a ball. "Hey Herbie, watch," she shouted.

Herb Ellis, coordinator of the Special Olympics, looked up. He always looks up. The house parent for a crowd of Habilitation Center clients in the residential program, Ellis is a great favorite.

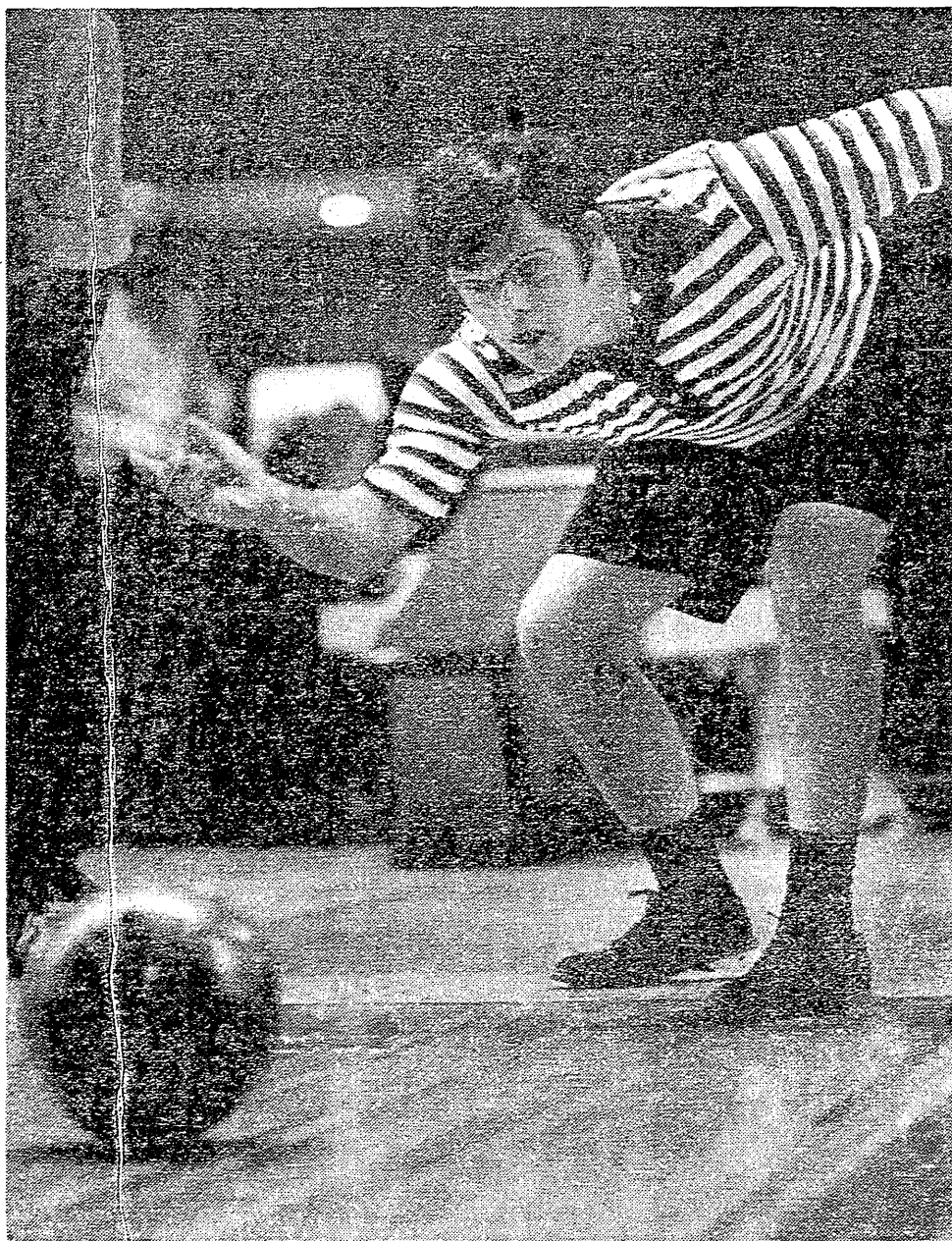
Andrea giggles when she says his name. "He's so cute," she says.

To Ellis, his charges are very important people. And the Special Olympics is vital. "They love it," he said. "They practice for the Special Olympics and look forward to it."

Emmett Allain, 37, bowls while wearing his cowboy hat. When he scores well, he spins to face his teammates and flashes a thumbs-up sign, his face reflecting his glee.

He dresses as he does because he loves Roy Rogers, Elvis Presley and bowling. Emmett owns his shoes, ball, bowling grip, towel and carrying bag.

"He loves to bowl," said Emmett's mother, Beulah, who watched. "Oh, it means a whole lot, a whole lot. He's tickled to death that he's going to be in the Special Olympics."



— JERROLD HOWARD / Miami Herald Staff

Don't Cut VA Funds, Ex-Servicemen Tell Lawmakers

Battle to Obtain Hospital Care Angers Veterans

By TIM PALLESEN
Herald Staff Writer

South Florida veterans, upset by overflowing hospital waiting rooms, argued Saturday against curbs on Veterans Administration funding as the number of South Florida veterans continues to increase.

Speakers from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and other organizations told two members of a congressional subcommittee that veterans with non-service-related ailments are routinely being denied health care at Veterans Administration hospitals and clinics.

Of danger ahead, they said, are significant cuts in VA spending proposed by the Carter

administration.

"Nothing was said about the future cost of programs when ... men and women were sent off to serve in World War II ... or to Southeast Asia, to serve in a war they had nothing to do with starting," said Florida American Legion Commander Ed Bahret.

"THE AMERICAN Legion is distressed that those with short memories now rise up and say that veterans' benefits cost too much," said Bahret. "It is hardly coming of these complainers to raise their voices now that the wars are over and peace has come."

Aides of Rep. Dan Mica (D., Fla.), who heard testimony Saturday along with Rep. David Satterfield (D., Va.), said the often-anxious testimony would be repeated when Congress orders a showdown with the President over how much should be trimmed from the VA budget. The two sides differ by \$76.4 million.

"What we see unfolding is a sad picture of

years of deterioration in veterans' care," said Mica. "This is being highlighted here today. And obviously there's a big job ahead of us."

Satterfield, chairman of the Veterans subcommittee on Medical Facilities and Benefits, made it clear that he will be leading the plea for no slippage in veterans' health care.

"I worry that we'll be nickled and dimed to a point where we'll wake up some day and find that you've lost it," said Satterfield, warning that some federal officials are hoping to absorb veterans' health care under a national health-care package.

THE HEARING in West Palm Beach actually turned into more of a pep rally for veterans' funding. Not only did Mica, Satterfield and the audience agree, but Thomas C. Doherty, director of the VA Medical Center in Miami, said veterans' medical needs in South Florida are "growing at such an alarming rate that we're unable to take care of this demand."

Individual veterans told stories of how they waited several hours in line at the hospital, and veterans from Broward stressed the particular importance of locating a new outpatient clinic in their county.

"This is an insult to the men who did not wait in line to serve their country," said Bahret, ticking off statistics on how retirement-age veterans are flooding into South Florida.

Paul Calhoun Jr., speaking for the VFW legislative office, warned that America may not have veterans' support if there is ever the need to reinstitute the draft. And Fabian Hannan, commander of the Palm Beach County Veterans Council, said President Carter should dip into his foreign aid budget to help the veterans at home.

"We feel sorry for the rest of the world," said Hannan. "But when American tax dollars go to taking care of people who kick us in the pants at every turn, defame us, laugh at us for being the prize suckers of the world — then we are angry."

Brerly

Social Security Aide Dies in 'Cycle Crash

From Herald Staff and Wire Reports

Tom Parker Perry, 43, field chief for the Social Security Administration, was killed early Saturday when his motorcycle collided with a car in West Palm Beach, the Florida Highway Patrol reported.

Perry, of 11063 47th Rd., Royal Palm Beach, died after his motorcycle struck the rear of a 1956 Willis Jeep and burst into flames at 12:40 a.m.

The mishap — in which another vehicle slid into a canal while trying to avoid the accident — occurred on Okeechobee Boulevard, just east of U.S. 441, police said.

The driver of the jeep, a 15-year-old Loxahatchee boy, received minor injuries. He was charged with driving without a license. Other charges were pending, police said.

A spokesman for the Highway Patrol said the jeep, which was traveling at about 20 miles per hour, partially off the road, had no visible tail lights.

The third vehicle, a 1980 Mazda driven by Dennis L. Prebler, of 139 Ponce de Leon, Royal Palm Beach, veered into the Palm Beach Canal to avoid the motorcycle, police said. He was uninjured.

Students Must Have Shots for Measles

By Friday, 4,285 of the 23,024 Palm Beach County high school students still had not complied with the district requirement that they present proof of measles immunization by Oct. 29.

Superintendent Tom Mills said those students who fail to turn in proof by Tuesday morning will be sent home and not admitted to school until they comply.

Van, Train Collide; Drayman Dies

A Delray Beach man died when the van he was riding in dived into a moving train.

Carl Scott Crocker, 35, of 113 Germantown Rd., was sitting in the passenger seat when the van collided with the train. He was killed instantly, police said.

The van's driver, James L. Rogers, was having difficulty closing the door of his 1975 GMC van, according to police.

He apparently fell out of the vehicle before it crossed the Florida East Coast Railway tracks at SE Fourth Street. Rogers, charged with careless driving, suffered only minor injuries.

Jupiter Man Dies As Car Leaves Road

A Jupiter man was killed Saturday morning when the car he was driving southbound on Alternate A1A left the road and struck a tree south of the bridge over the Loxahatchee River.

The accident victim was identified as William T. Carey, 29, of 9088 Reed Dr., Palm Beach Gardens. Jupiter police did not explain why the car left the road.