

More women fill top positions

By Katherine Boas
Brown University

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (U-WIRE)— Sheila Blumstein made University history last week when she was named interim president, marking the first time that Brown has had a woman as its president. As Blumstein takes her place at the top of Brown's administration, she is surrounded by many other senior administrators who are women — a phenomenon not yet commonplace in today's male-dominated society.

Although Blumstein is a trailblazer for Brown, she is by no means the first woman university president. Women took college presidencies as early as the 1930s, when Ada Louise Comstock was president of Radcliffe College.

Only in recent years have women taken the presidencies of major

research institutions. Nan Keohane was one of the first female presidents of a major research institution, appointed to the Duke University presidency in 1993.

"At the time, there was some discussion on Duke having the courage to make this appointment," said Duke Senior Vice President John F. Burness.

Judith Rodin became the first female president of an Ivy League institution when she became president of the University of Pennsylvania in 1994. Immediately preceding Rodin was interim president Claire Fagin, who served in 1993.

The American Council on Education's 1995 survey of college and university presidents found that 16.5 percent of presidents are women, while 6.1 percent of private, doctorate-granting institutions have woman presidents.

"Eventually we'll come to a point where the percentage of women in

the administration equals the percentage of women in higher education," said Provost Kathryn Spoehr '69. Spoehr is the first female provost of Brown.

Although the number of females in higher education as a whole is still lower than that of their male counterparts, women are better-represented now than they have ever been before.

"All this is relatively new," said Laura Freid, executive vice president for public affairs and University relations. "The big picture is that this is 25 years of women in the work force."

"Most presidents don't become president unless they've had a lot of experience," said Kathryn Stuart, assistant to Oberlin College president Nancy Dye. "They haven't had the opportunity," King said. "There aren't as many women in the pipeline."

Margery Resnick, chair of the program in women's studies at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said that another reason for the small number of female presidents is that men are perceived to be more likely to raise money for the universities over which they preside.

"The president is usually thought of not as an intellectual but as someone who can get money," Resnick said.

The president — a figurehead for university fund-raising — is chosen by the university's most preeminent donors, the traditionally male-dominated board of trustees.

"Most boards are predominantly male investment bankers," Freid said. "People tend to choose people they're comfortable with."

Still, women like Rodin, Keohane, and Dye have succeeded at their respective colleges and universities, setting the stage for woman presidents of the future.

Opinion: Courage, not condoms

By Nicole Proctor
UT- Chattanooga

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. (U-WIRE)— I hope everyone was able to pick up a free condom in celebration of sex responsibility week. I hope you were able to pick up two, three, or four, and then deposited them in the nearest trash can.

I understand that some could argue that this is not a misuse of student funds, because every student on campus wants a free condom and every student on campus is having sex. However, some people might suggest that a respectful course of action would be to distribute this sacred information and dump the latex coalition. Is the condom an enticement to pick up the literature? Why not offer a Snickers bar?

There could be more effective and respectful ways to educate and heighten the awareness of safe sex on campus. Why not distribute this information via the postal service where more students could be reached?

Attention intelligentsia of GAMMA (the student organization which sponsored "sex week"), create an informational website or use e-mail services to educate students on this topic. Then students can individually partake in your fun if they choose. At least this is discreet and respectful of other students' opinions and beliefs.

Southwest University in Springfield, Missouri has taken this concept a step further. The Taylor Health Center offers a 12-week contraceptive shot for women. For just \$36 female students can be injected with a shot of Depo-provera, which allows them to have sex for up to 12 weeks without the worry of unwanted pregnancy. While some here on campus are now drooling at the thought of condom-free sex, others such as myself are wondering where the madness will stop.

When did the university turn into a gynecological catering service, meeting the needs of the sexually active student?

I understand that every student must make his or her own decision, and it is my concern to be both objective and reasonable, but the distribution of condoms seems to blur the line between choice and persuasion. Condoms are tangible, while information is intangible. We educate the mind with information. One does not need a prescription from a doctor to buy a condom, so why distribute them for education's sake?

This substandard distribution of condoms seems to cheapen the act of sex. I understand that many people have sex for many different reasons. The only response of some proponents of abstinence is to pass out courage and individuality instead of condoms.

Wisconsin professor investigated

By Shenaz Bagha
University of Wisconsin

MADISON, WISC. (U-WIRE)— A University of Wisconsin at Madison professor is under investigation for possible misuse of university funds, according to a Feb. 15 article in the Wisconsin State Journal.

Professor Edward Oplinger, who has been with the university for 30 years, resigned Tuesday. Oplinger, 56, was a professor in the university's agronomy department, which is a part of the College of Agricultural

Life Sciences.

Concerns over Oplinger's management of university and private accounts were reported six months ago to CALS Dean Elton Aberle, according to a statement from Chancellor David Ward's office.

"Extraordinary and regrettable" circumstances led to Oplinger's resignation, Ward said in the statement.

Ward asked UW's Office of Internal Affairs to investigate all accounts that were being overseen by Oplinger. The audit is still being

pursued, and a monetary amount has not been specified for the allegations. The inquiry and its findings have been turned over to the Dane County district attorney's office.

Oplinger has been relieved of any administrative oversight duties, but he has not been charged with any crimes. Oplinger has been a faculty member at UW since 1970. He began as an assistant professor and received his tenure after five years with the university.

A soybean expert, Oplinger was secretary-treasurer of the Wisconsin

State Soybean Association, a state program funded by farmers that provides technical assistance and promotes soybean production. He is no longer affiliated with the organization.

Oplinger's resignation will go into effect July 3. He will spend the rest of the semester completing his obligations to the university, but will not take on new faculty responsibility, Ward said in the statement.

Neither Oplinger nor his attorney could be reached for comment.

Opinion: Why marry for love?

By Joseph Plambeck
University of Iowa

IOWA CITY, IOWA (U-Wire)— As a wee-little ankle-biter, I believed in a connection between the love and marriage thing. In pubescence, I learned there wasn't always a direct connection — largely just a correlation. Last week, all of my ideal notions about love and marriage stopped cold.

Now I think it's necessary to become a millionaire if I ever plan on being hitched. In fact, I'll need multimillions. This way I can, very romantically I must say, choose a woman out of a litter of 50 to spend my golden years beside. Or at least have spend my money for me.

Such was the path Rick Rockwell took when he married Darva Conger on last Tuesday's FOX special, "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire." A principled developer/comedian/ investor/ motivational speaker, worth at least the required \$2 million and having at least \$750,000 cash, Rockwell remained in anonymity while he watched 50 equally principled women strut their stuff. After

choosing his prey in Conger, unmasking himself and being OKed by her (surprise), the two were married on stage in front of a multimillion television audience.

I've yet to decide who put themselves at greater risk, Rockwell or the women. For Rockwell, marrying a virtual unknown, albeit one kind of his choosing, could lead to a divorce. And as a multimillionaire, a divorce could be a bad, bad thing. Financially, for him, that is. For the women, all they knew of their hopeful groom-to-be was he had lots of money. One doesn't need a very strong imagination to think of some pretty horrible attributes he could have carried along. And I mean horrible.

Maybe my abhorrence about this single episode is unjustified. Maybe marriage is, and should be, about gaining financial and social status for women and gaining a nice body for men. Maybe that our popular culture continues breeding such beliefs is beneficial. Maybe I'm in the wrong time period, where money and superficial beauty means more than life itself. Maybe I shouldn't worry about it. Because it's not that I actually watched the show.

I just can't avoid all of the reading material glorifying its success. The "who wants to" craze seems to have hit almost Pokémon's heights. Scary thing is, we could all probably think of even better — and just as trashy — "who wants to" ideas. How I pity those people who get paid to think up such stuff. With "who wants to" ratings shooting through the roof, such programs will surely become less of a novelty and more of the norm. Soon we'll all be a part of a nationwide "who wants to be something-or-other."

That's the way we're raised, I guess. Just as I want to travel around the world, starting today, I also want to own a nice new leather coat so I can leave it at home when I go out to the bars. My personal I want to list keeps growing, and now I'm putting all my eggs in one basket, waiting for Regis to call me back. And you're the same way. Admit it.

Obviously, getting more of these "who wants to" shows gives a great reason to organize. I figure if we get enough of these shows going on, with everyone watching them, our chances of participation will go up. Even if we don't ever make it on the shows, at least there will always be

something exciting on TV.

We should maybe give Rockwell some credit, then. First, he's on the front line of this "who wants to" surge — way to read the trends. Second, his new wife is — or was, would be my best guess — an emergency-room nurse, an admirable job. Third, from what I hear, she wasn't the most physically attractive choice on the stage — she had a degree of personality. Maybe, hopefully, the nuptial promises will last a while. Wouldn't that be fairy-talish?

Now the newlyweds — or newly met, depending on how you look at the situation — are honeymooning in the Caribbean somewhere. FOX won't say exactly where because they want to protect their privacy. The network believed they may need some time alone to figure some things out — like each other's middle names, would be my best guess. With another "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire" expected in May, FOX wants things to remain positive. I'm sure it'll do whatever it can to ensure the Rockwell-Conger match stays together until then. We want them to.