

President Establishes Women's Rights Office

BY SHARON COLE
STAFF WRITER

As part of the Violence Against Women Act approved in the 1994 Crime Bill, on March 22 President Clinton appointed the first director of the Department of Justice's new office to deal with violence against women.

Bonnie Campbell, former attorney general of Iowa, was named head of the newly created office.

The Violence Against Women Office was authorized and funded in the 1994 Crime Bill and will deal with crimes against women, including sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking.

Campbell will represent the administration in its efforts to fight violence against women.

She will work with the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Campbell devoted much effort to these types of crimes as attorney general of Iowa.

She pushed to strengthen the state's domestic violence laws and to increase funding for shelters. She also authorized an anti-stalking law passed in 1992, one of the nation's first.

Campbell said she was delighted with the appointment and honored that the president and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno had chosen her.

She said that she was excited by the new office and that it brought "the weight of the presidency" to the issue of violence against women.

The 1994 Crime Bill also included the Violence Against Women Act, which provides \$1.6 billion in the next six years to improve prevention programs, increase police, create services for victims and prosecute criminals.

The Violence Against Women Office will be responsible for distributing this money in the form of grants to the states. On March 22, Clinton also announced the first grants to states, which total \$26 million.

Communities may use this money to fund women's shelters and crisis centers and to pay for rape crisis therapists, domestic violence hotlines and more prosecutors.

In order to receive the grant, states must comply with specific regulations. Each state must spend 25 percent of the grant money to improve and enhance direct services for crime victims, 25 percent on law enforcement and 25 percent on prosecution of criminals.

The remaining 25 percent may be spent at the state's discretion.

Caroline Adelman, head of public affairs for the Department of Justice, said a second goal of the office would be to "raise the profile of the issue and make people realize this isn't a private matter, but the law."

Campbell said she would work on "educating players in the justice system and the public at large" on the trauma women experienced as victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

"Violence usually targeted against women is usually (committed by) someone they are intimate with or acquainted with or it's intimate in nature," she said.

Campbell said she thought the American criminal justice system needed to improve its sensitivity when working with victims of crime.

"A broad challenge is to sensitize the criminal justice system to successfully prosecute sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking cases," she said.

Campbell stressed the need to prosecute violent crimes vigilantly.

"If they (criminals) know there is a pen-

The Violence Against Women Act

The Violence Against Women Act is the first comprehensive federal effort to fight violence against women and to protect the rights of victims. Violence against women is one of America's most serious crime problems.

- During the past 10 years, the rape rate has increased nearly three times as fast as the total crime rate.
- 700,000 rapes are committed or attempted each year.
- Three million to 4 million women are victims of family violence every year.
- One-third of all American women killed die at the hands of a husband or boyfriend.

SOURCE: WHITE HOUSE DTH/CHRIS ANDERSON

ally attached to their actions, a certain percentage will not commit these crimes," she said.

She said she thought the grant program would allow areas to tailor programs to their specific needs because a university community like Chapel Hill would have different problems than an urban area like Raleigh would.

Campbell said she would work to raise the profile of crimes against women by traveling to conferences and forums, providing research, and helping to develop policies to help protect victims and their rights.

Adelman said an advisory committee for the Violence Against Women Office was being created to work on legislation, to provide training sessions for law enforcement and crisis centers, and to help states in their efforts to set up and enhance programs dealing with violence.

The advisory committee would act as a liaison between the states and the federal government, she said.

Clinton, in a press conference announcing Campbell's appointment, said the newly created office was an overlooked item in the debate over the 1994 Crime Bill because it had bipartisan support.

"We really had a national consensus that we had to do something," Clinton said.

The president said he thought the growing crime rate against women necessitated involvement by the federal government.

"If children aren't safe in their homes, if college women aren't safe in their dorms, if mothers can't raise their children in safety, then the American dream will never be real for them," he said.

"We had to take responsibility for trying to come to grips with issues that we ordinarily would think of as issues that belong to local law enforcement or local social agencies, or even to the privacy of the home."

Joan Zorza, senior attorney for the national Battered Women's Law Project, said she thought the Violence Against Women Office would be able to examine what government policies worked best and what needed reevaluating.

She also said the coordination between the office, state programs and women's groups would improve current efforts to fight violence against women.

"Unless we get everyone on board, we're just going to go floundering three steps forward and two back," she said.

Zorza said the formation of the federal office added the power of the government to the fight against crime.

"They will have a lot of government force behind them."

House Bill May Eliminate Tenure in Public Schools

BY WENDY GOODMAN
STAFF WRITER

N.C. representatives are trying to push a bill through the General Assembly that would eliminate tenure for educators in the state.

Last week, Rep. Gene Arnold, R-Nash, filed the bill, which would phase out tenure or career status.

Currently, teachers can be granted tenure after three years on the job. This basis of tenure is to prevent the unfair dismissal of teachers.

Under the law, the only way a teacher of three years can be fired is if one of 15 acts that are listed in the Fair Employment and Dismissal Act is violated.

According to supporters of the new bill, the elimination of tenure would allow educators to be more responsive to parents and more open to reform efforts.

"Tenure isn't needed anymore," Arnold said. "I don't know why any teacher who can teach well and has a good record would worry about it."

Arnold said he thought that teachers who already had tenure would not lose their status but that those who did not have it would really not lose anything.

"A teacher now can go throughout his career without tenure, and I don't think it really means anything," he said.

Arnold said his main problem with tenure was that it gave the same respect to good teachers as to teachers who really didn't seem to care.

"Tenure rewards teachers for staying three years, for longevity rather than performance," he said.

"A teacher with a substandard rating gets paid the same as teacher of the year in this system, for instance, and that is not fair."

Arnold said he thought that the bill's only opposition thus far was from the N.C. Association of Educators and that many people outside of teaching, such as school administrators, had spoken out in favor of the bill.

Lone Perry, director of the Division of Human Resources Management at the N.C.

Department of Public Instruction, said she thought the bill would more than likely hurt teachers but agreed that it could help administrators.

"The intent to allow administrators more freedom is good," Perry said.

"The dismissal process takes a lot of time and is not a pleasant activity; it also takes a lot of (tax) money from the citizens."

Protecting teachers from favoritism shown by administrators, from the elimination of their jobs and from unfair treatment in general is the more important function of the tenure law, she said.

"It (the bill) will have a very negative impact because tenure is designed to protect teachers and allow them to be able to teach without worry," Perry said.

Bill Wilson, the political affairs director with the NCAE said he agreed that the passage of this law would create several problems for teachers in the state.

"It really will damage the teachers' ability to speak out against the administration, their actions and whether other educators

are performing their duties," Wilson said. Although the law is not specifically aimed at those who already had been granted tenure, a change in their position could mean the loss of their career status.

"If the teacher currently has tenure, he has due process rights which are guaranteed by the Fair Employment and Dismissal Act," Wilson said. "Those who do not already have tenure would never receive this status."

He said that before the tenure law was passed in the early 1970s, there had been several lawsuits because people were being wrongly fired. The bill was designed to prevent firings because of political, religious, racial or gender differences.

Wilson said that a public hearing was held on March 21 and that the bill went to the House Education Committee on March 23. The findings from this committee will be presented April 6, and the fate of tenure could be decided then.

He said, "We expect the attack to continue, but we don't expect to lose our fair employment rights."

Not only have they grown from their experiences as the group's leaders, but they have had an impact on other members.

"There is a lot to be taken from what they've done," said Johnson, who is running unopposed for co-chairman next year. "I have learned a lot from both of them. They've been productive, especially in an organization as diverse as B-GLAD."

Next year, Willard will study abroad, but he insists on maintaining a daily e-mail relationship with the new leaders. "There will be lots of logistics you come across that only the (previous) co-chairs would know about," he said.

Prince plans on editing the Lambda, B-GLAD's newsletter. "People asked me to run again, but there is no way I'd do it again. The cost of my GPA is too high. It's the end of the year, and I'm tired. It's tough being the gay representative for the whole campus. Most people don't come to Carolina being a lesbian extraordinaire."

HEROES

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denied (being gay) and found it hard to get involved. Then I realized my sense of right and wrong and a desire to fight for justice. All my heroes are freedom fighters, and that made me realize that's what I want to do with my life. So I went to the office and told them I wanted to help."

Now, as co-chairmen, they helped wrap up the year with another Celebration Week, held this week, consisting of activities for the group's members and the community.

The main goal of the week was to educate, said Prince, a sophomore from Zebulon. "A lot of times, people think of B-GLAD as a mysterious organization with members they don't know. I think it helps to see actual people in the Pit."

Programs included a picnic at Polk Place, a rally in the Pit, a semiformal and several films and panel discussions on gay issues. Despite some last-minute planning, the scheduled events have gone well, said Frank Johnson, the coordinator of the week who helped with most of the planning.

"I'm disappointed with the lack of activities, and we were scrambling around at the last minute," said Johnson, a sophomore from Emerald Isle. "But we are accomplishing something. The Pit tables have been very productive, and the programs have been well attended."

Willard described the difference in the group's approach from last year as more laid back and less intense. He cited the reason for the relaxed effort as a result of a less homophobic campus this year and a general liberal attitude overall.

"Lots of times, I feel like we didn't have as much opposition," said Willard, a junior from East Bend. "I know there needs to be opposition for people to get involved and motivated to work for something."

The group was originally formed as the Carolina Gay Association in 1974, when it became the first gay organization on a college campus in the South. In 1985, the group changed its name to the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association to get more women involved. The most recent change occurred in 1992 when the group became Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity to open it up to all people.

This year, Prince and Willard have led a strong core of active members hoping to strengthen the programs and services that B-GLAD provides. "My main goal as presi-

Name: Dawn Prince
Birthdate: Jan. 18, 1975, in Raleigh
Hometown: Zebulon
Major: Journalism and mass communication
Hobby: Writing
Philosophy on Life: "You can only do so many things in life to help the world. If you don't find someone to share it with and you don't do what makes you happy, then you've failed yourself."

Name: Patrick Willard
Birthdate: June 21, 1974, in Gainesville, Ga.
Hometown: East Bend
Major: International studies
Hobbies: Music, singing and reading.
Philosophy on Life: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

dent was to improve the outreach program," she said. "I wanted to make Carolina a more tolerant place to be in."

Willard's goals included making the group more accessible, getting people involved and raising membership as well as enacting a nondiscrimination policy through UNC. He also hoped to change B-GLAD's image within the gay community. "Gays thought the group was too political," Willard said. "They were afraid of joining the group because they didn't like the atmosphere of the group or the way it was presented through the newspaper."

Once they formed their vision, the group's infrastructure and outreach program were targeted. The outreach program consists of a committee that goes into residence halls, classes and small groups to answer questions about the organization.

As an added service, they transformed their office into a resource center and a place for members to meet. "It's a safe place for people to hang out, and people come in here writing papers," she said. Members volunteer to hold office hours to help those looking for information.

The office, located in the Student Union, contains pamphlets, brochures, and issues of prominent gay and lesbian publications to help members keep in touch with issues affecting the gay community.

Willard held a book drive for the library to increase its holdings from 60 to 500 books, and a data base is in the works, too.

Looking at what the duo has accomplished, Johnson said he felt confident saying that the year had gone well. "The two have definitely improved the group from what they came in with," he said. "You can tell the differences in the office and as a whole after their terms have ended."

Prince said that she and Willard had successfully maintained a balance between the male and female leadership roles. "Pat and I are strong in being motivators," she said. "That's the hardest part, being able to motivate members to work on issues you're dealing with. Both of us never gave up. Several times, we could have thrown in the towel; it's happened in the past."

Willard said delegating responsibility had not always been easy. Board members have occasionally abandoned responsibilities, and duties have fallen on them and a dedicated few. "I know Pat's been miffed at times, so much was left for us to do, but you have to take into account that the members will need guidance," Prince said.

Both have achieved a level of personal satisfaction as well as leaving the group in good shape for the future. "I have a great sense of satisfaction," Prince said. "I've spent a lot of time on a cause that's very dear to my heart."

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