



From the archives: The article below was originally printed Feb. 24, 1984

Committee investigates sex discrimination at NT

Discussion on the topic of sex discrimination have begun in the New Trier faculty council, resulting in the formation of an investigative committee and possible career workshops.

A motion was unanimously passed to form a committee to study the appointment process for administrative positions and to "promote equal opportunity for men and women" in these positions, during the council's February 14 meeting.

THE COMMITTEE will be appointed by Ms. Mary Ann Griffin, faculty council president. The members of the committee are scheduled to be announced by today.

The committee will investigate all aspects of administrative appointments, from the interviewing procedures to the posting of appointments. The promotion of equal opportunity for men and women will remain up to the discretion of the committee, according to

Ms. Griffin.

Although the faculty was united in its wish for an investigative committee, the members by no means agree on whether or not a sex discrimination problem exists, Ms. Griffin said.

"WITH THE faculty as diverse as it is, it is not surprising that the views on sex discrimination are so wide-ranging," she said.

Dr. Roderick Bickert, superintendent, feels that the formation of this committee is a great stride toward sexual equality. However, Dr. Bickert also added that he does not feel that sexual discrimination in the administration is a problem at NT.

It was brought out that many women were recently appointed in coordinating positions at the West campus. However, most of these women will lose their positions when the campuses merge.

The discussions were spark-

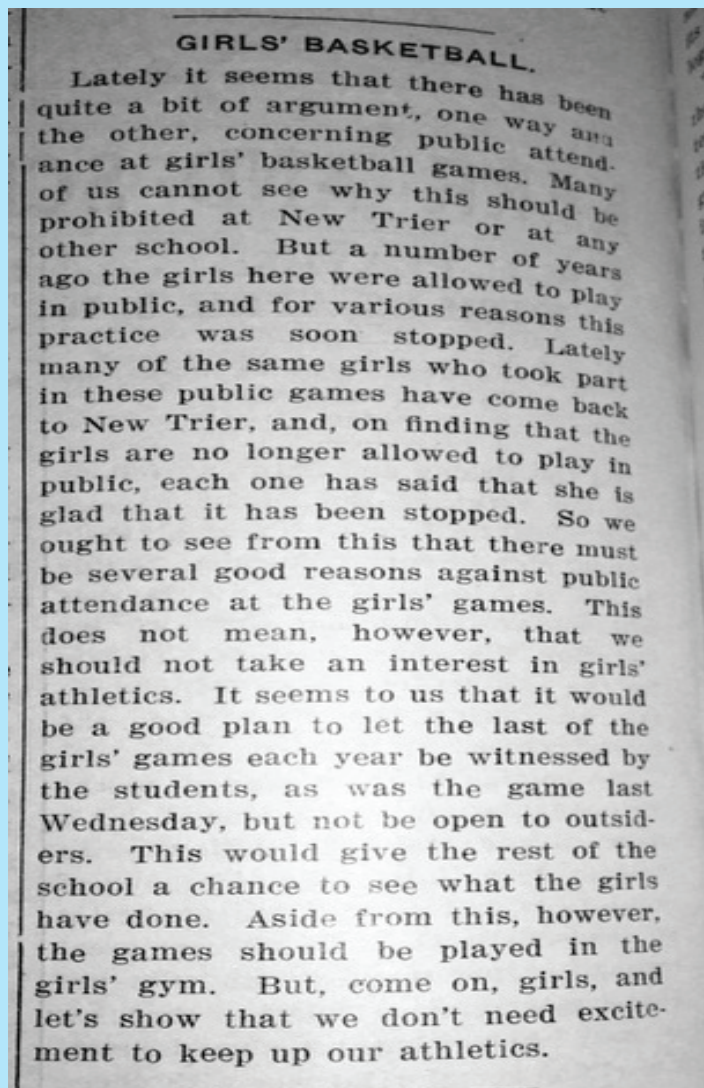
ed by the recent realignment and reduction of the New Trier township administration, following the resignation of former assistant superintendent, Dr. John Patzwald.

WHILE THE controversy was initiated by the lack of women in the recent promotions, Ms. Griffin stated that the council was questioning the appointments themselves.

"It just happened that the predominance of men in the administration was brought to the council's attention in light of the recent realignment. We are not trying to dispute the actual promotions, we are just opposing the absence of women in the administration," she said.

The council also has tentative plans to form "career workshops" to deal with the general topic of career advancement, and, more specifically, to place emphasis on advancement by women, according to Ms. Griffin.

From the archives: Originally published Mar. 23, 1926



Looking back at 100 years of women at NT

Marginalization of women has been an issue for generations. Some of the reprinted articles on this page sexualize female students at New Trier. *Junior girls grow Cupid-minded with plans for valentine dance* portrays the junior girls as predators "out hunting for boys." These articles highlight the rampant sexism that existed in the 1950s. Similarly, *Students degrade dancers* reports on the fact that two students brought binoculars to the 1993 Kinesis Showcase in order to shed light on the gross exploitation of female students. On the other hand, in order to prevent the oversexualization of women, policy that banned the student body from watching girls athletic events was put in place. This policy effectively oppressed female athletes.

A 1926 article reports the change banning the student body from watching Girls Basketball games, arguing that girls "don't need excitement." By choosing not to celebrate female athletes, the school marginalized them. This can also be seen in the *Title IX's spirit hits NT-E* article. Originally, boys on the cheer team were highlighted in routines, and it wasn't until they stopped participating in the sport that the cheerleading team started counting on the girls. The female cheerleaders were overlooked. Part of the issue today is that people don't always see the problems in society. In *Committee investigates sex discrimination at NT* (1984), the superintendent felt that no sex discrimination existed at New Trier. We have come a long way in the past 100 years, though discrimination and the objectification of women persists. Thus, it is up to our generation to speak up to ultimately foster change.

From the archives: Originally printed Feb. 5, 1993

Students degrade dancers

Dear New Trier,

I learned after attending the Thursday performance of the Kinesis Showcase, to my disgust, that two male members of the audience that night had brought binoculars.

Besides being a complete embarrassment to themselves and reinforcing the negative stereotypes that exist in society about men and their behavior towards women, their actions completely trivialized the hard work and creativity that went into Thursday's performance.

THERE IS no doubt that the dancers felt extremely exploited by the fact that these individuals came to the Showcase for the sole purpose of seeing women in leotards, and apparently had no interest in the true artistic purpose of the show.

I find it particularly disheartening that the community of New Trier is investing the time and money into Fine Arts productions, only to see members of the student body devalue all of their efforts with childish, demeaning behavior as these persons did on Thursday.

Am I blowing this small incident out of proportion? Maybe so, but I feel as a woman, and as a human-being, that remaining silent about this is condoning it, and to do that is a direct hinderance to social change.

BECAUSE THESE people chose to behave in such a way at a public function, they have made themselves subject to public judgement.

If they would like to treat women like slabs of meat in their private lives, I invite them to do so. It is up to the women whom they exploit to do something about it. But this was done at our school function, so we not only have the right, but the responsibility to let them know we disapprove.

Many people have told me the binoculars were brought to the show as a joke. What is so funny about reducing people to objects?

Thank you for listening,
Erica Nelson

New Trier News

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From the archives: Originally printed Nov. 4, 1997

Title IX's spirit hits NT-E

Two boys were among the audience for the variety performance for the November try-out, making the November try-out a bit more of a boys' affair.

Senior Mike Bergman, Chris Jorgensen, and Kevin Trine are now officially members of the variety squad along with 10 girls who also qualified.

"It has been decided that the boys will sit with the fans and help to make their spirit heard at the try-outs," said the cheerleaders.

The boys, who will wear white pants and green, red, and blue shirts, will also perform on the stage during the try-out and will help with the crowd.

Varsity captain Krista

Hayes thought that the boys just needed more experience before the actual season really began.

"When they finally have the experience," she said, "they will really help the squad."

Kevin Trine said that the boys prefer to be called "yellowheads" as opposed to cheerleaders.

"We're changing our philosophy," he said, "we're not going to be cheerleaders, it's going to be yellowheads."

Until this, there were only male cheerleaders at NT. Then, following the example of the rest of the Central Suburban League, NT cheerleading went co-ed. But the following year the boys lost all enthusiasm for cheerleading and from that point on, the cheerleaders have been exclusively female.

The other members of the variety squad are juniors Ellen Adams, Sue Collins captain, Krista Hayes, captain, Lisa Hall, Emily Hall, Ellen Hall, and Lisa McLean. The other

members are Junior Heidi Gifford, and Senior Barb Parnell.

The winning cheerleaders are Junior Tami Green, captain, sophomore Becky Bass, captain, Anna Thornton, Barb Magay, Amanda Kline, and freshman Maria Hauer, Sue Miller, and Julie Marshall.

The sophomore basketball cheerleaders are Julie Bessert, sophomore, Donna Bergman, captain, Laura Bergman, Anna Bessert, Lisa Kline, Kaitlin Jones, sophomore, Krista King, and Susan Turner, captain.

For freshmen, the "A" cheerleaders are Mallie Campbell, Janet Crawford, Marie Dierrell, Marie Gray, Susan Johnson, Penny Johnson, Dana Kline, and Amy Kline. The "B" cheerleaders are Sandy Kline, Mary Kline, Carolyn McConnell, Sherry Parnell, Lisa Richards, Lynn Kennedy, Lindsey Kline, and Kim Towner.

From the archives: The article above was originally printed Jan. 25, 1957

Junior girls grow Cupid-minded with plans for Valentine dance

Boys beware!

Junior girls will be hunting for boys for the "Sweetheart Swing," annual dance given by the female clan of the junior class. Valentine Day will set the theme for the dance to be held on February 9 from 8:30 to midnight at the Glencoe Woman's Library club.

Tickets will be sold for \$2 in adviser rooms. Committee sign-up sheets have also been passed around, and the following committee heads have been chosen. Marion Welsh and Mary Michel will handle tickets, Margaret Ragland and Shiela Bru will be in charge of arrangements, and Lettie Meek and Joan Lacey will be head of refreshments.

Other heads are Carol Forbis and Bonnie Cossman, taking care of clean-up; Ann Sedwick and Diane Williams, publicity; Barb Kelly and Peggy Smith, decorating, and Madeline Pinsof and Margaret Stockton, invitations.

Assisting with the various committees will be Mr. and Mrs. E.D. Coolidge, Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. McGrew, Mr. and Mrs. George I. Proval, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Schmid.

Here's a switch! Mike Jackson relaxes as Mary Stuebner looks through little black book in search of date for "Sweetheart Swing." (photo by Myers)

