

UA accused of sex discrimination

By JEAN KIZER
Managing Editor

A University student has filed a complaint charging the University with sex discrimination in its sports program.

Linda Moffitt, a member of last year's UA women's basketball team, filed the class action complaint through the Office of Civil Rights, a branch of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Since the University receives federal funds, a federal agency can investigate for improper use of those funds.

Dr. John Gilmore, head of the physical education department, said the Civil Rights Office sent a letter to the Uni-

versity asking several specific questions about the sports program and requesting an over all description of the department.

Gilmore answered the letter last week and the UA's business manager, Dr. Earl Peterson, wrote a cover letter to Gilmore's answer. However, Gilmore complained that the Office of Civil Rights "isn't doing this legally." He said the original letter asking for a description of the UA sports program should have included specific instances of discrimination, which it didn't.

The information sent by the University goes to Seattle to be evaluated by the Civil Rights Office. The Office may or may not send an investigative team

to the UA, depending on whether the Office thinks it is necessary.

"It's not a suit yet," Gilmore said. "It hasn't entered the legal arena yet."

The University presently fields a women's basketball team and has women competitors on the rifle, pistol, ski and swim teams. Only the hockey team is exclusively male.

The women's basketball team receives \$3000, a large increase over last year, while the men's team receives \$40,000.

In the total sports program, 33 men have tuition waivers and only three women. Men receive \$15,000 in talent grants

while women receive only \$1,000.

Gilmore admitted that women are discriminated against in other areas, such as having less desirable practice time, less extensive locker facilities and a staff without a female coach.

Ms. Moffitt thinks the sports program not only discriminates against women, but is "unfair to all sports except men's basketball." She said she would like to see "all sports have adequate funding."

In answer to the complaint, Gilmore says, "There is discrimination here but there are reasons." He said, "Budget-wise we discriminate against all sports in favor of men's basketball."

The philosophy of the P.E. department is, in Gilmore's words, "If we didn't have men's basketball we wouldn't have anything else." He says the basketball team has taken 10 years to build, "with a lot of emphasis from Wood (William R. Wood, former UA president)."

Gilmore thinks the men's basketball budget can't be decreased by very much, "without giving up the whole thing." He said cutting the men's basketball budget would result in

"seven weaker teams instead of one team that could hang on to a little status."

It is not known when the Office of Civil Rights will finish its investigation, or what the results will be. "I would suspect they'll put us on a time schedule," Gilmore said. "I would think they would come back with a recommendation that we should give so much money over the next few years to the various teams."

Gilmore sees two possible results of the complaint. The University could come out very well. For example, the Office of Civil Rights could force the University to add a woman coach to its staff, something Gilmore thinks is very necessary.

On the other hand, he said, "The complaint could really hurt us." Gilmore said he would be very upset if the men's basketball budget had to be cut in order to equalize the expenditures of the men and women and the other teams.

Speaking directly of Ms. Moffitt's complaint, Gilmore said, "It could really help women or it could cause a lot of antagonism and bad feelings, some deserved and some not deserved."

Ex speech professor takes UA to court, seeks lost wages

By JIM LEIRER
Staff Writer

The suit against the University of Alaska filed by former UA assistant professor of speech Lawrence Gordon goes before the Superior Court in February 1974.

Gordon after his contract expired May 31, 1972. Wood apparently made this decision at the recommendation of the head of the Department of Speech, Radio and Drama, Dr. Walter Ensign. Ensign based his decision on unfavorable faculty eval-

1973, when Dean Mueller gave him his termination notice dated May 31, 1972. Mueller, the suit states, refused and offered instead to "sanitize" Gordon's unfavorable faculty evaluation form by having Dr. Ensign write a favorable form and substitute