

Third World women interest Zelmer Nursing dean new vp

by Nina Miller

If women don't like something nowadays at least they can rely on common support, says Dean of Nursing Amy Zelmer.

Thus Zelmer, who will replace Dr. Jean Lauber as university Associate Vice President Academic, says although her new position will continue to involve women's concerns, much of the groundwork has already been done.

Zelmer says now she is particularly interested in the position of women in Third World countries. She lived in India for several years as a health education specialist, and is a founding member of a Canadian women's group, Match, which links women in developing countries and Canada.

Match supports small-scale projects designed to educate and enlighten women in underdeveloped countries.

Cutbacks steering committee starts up

First there was COTIAC. Then there were the Cutbacks Committees . . . all three of them. Now it's the cutbacks steering committee . . . doing it all for you.

The steering committee, formed at a special meeting yesterday, plans to help lobby provincial MLAs and to publish a pamphlet on tuition increases and cutbacks, as well as publicizing student concerns.

The lobby of the provincial government will tentatively take place March 27, roughly a week before the size of the provincial government's operating grant to the university is announced.

Three to five students will meet with each MLA to express their grievances during the lobby.

Chairmen named

Three new department chairmen were appointed at Friday's monthly Board of Governors meeting.

Dr. A.N. Kamal will become chairman of the physics department, Dr. N.W. Rutter chairman of geology department and Dr. William Skoropad chairman of the plant science department.

All appointments are for a five-year period commencing July 1.

The plight of women in the third world is much different, Zelmer points out. Since women do the agricultural labor and carry much of the economic burden, their significance in Third World development cannot be ignored, she says.

In return, Zelmer stresses, we have a lot to learn from the third world.

"It depresses me how insulated it is at the U of A," she says. "It is to our benefit to have a sufficient mix of people."

However, she adds, it is usually men who come here from elsewhere, probably because of different career orientations.

Women are prevalent in situational professions, such as nursing and social work, which need a basic education in the social setting of their country, she says.

As for male-dominated faculties at the university and claims of discrimination, Zelmer argues that she is in no position



Dr. Amy Zelmer

to criticize. Engineers have been more successful in recruiting women than the nursing faculty has been with men, she says.

In this respect, she says, university is a reflection of our society and society isn't that easy to change.

"Nothing is ever simple in dealing with women's issues," she sighs. Zelmer, who is also a member of the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee and the Academic Women's Association, says she regrets that nurses haven't been more involved in women's organizations.

Nurses are largely misunderstood by feminist groups and often scorned by them for assuming traditionally female roles, Zelmer says.

The Senate Task Force on Women is a positive step, Zelmer says. Thanks to Jean Lauber, she adds, most of the women's issues have largely been dealt with. Therefore, when she assumes Jean Lauber's position as associate VP in July, women's problems on campus may not be a major issue, she says.

Is Zelmer pleased with the position of women today?

"It has changed a lot in twenty years — but not enough."

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