

Koontz . . .

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Koontz has served as National Education Association President, U.S. Delegate to the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women and Director of the Women's Bureau for the U.S. Department of Labor. She holds more than 30 honorary degrees.

Women have never been certain what their rights are, Koontz said.

"Women need to learn to regard power as a natural right," Koontz said. "But we've always handed power to everyone else and shied away from it like shrunken violets.

"We have it in us but we've been controlled," she said. "Today, what we're about is change. The issue is to come together, bring about change and make it better for all of us."

People should earn as much as their talents are worth, Koontz said.

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Traditionally, she said, men handle property, material and heavy objects on the job, while women handle people. Yet men and women are paid differently for their skills, Koontz said.

Koontz pointed to two factors women should use to evaluate their jobs.

First, the ability to handle interruptions while continuing to give out and take in from several different sources and handling it all at once with efficiency; and second, frequently picking up lighter objects. Men usually are paid a lot for picking up heavy objects, but women frequently pick up lighter objects and are not paid more for it, Koontz said.

Women have let themselves earn less for these abilities because it is ego-fulfilling to be able to shift gears quickly and to do so many things at once.

"Ego is not going to pay the rent," Koontz said.

But, Koontz said, achieving pay equity will take time. Women must give the time necessary because their lives depend on it, she said.

By the end of this decade, Koontz said, the number of women who will be older than 65 is scary. Their pensions will be based on what was earned in their working lives. The pensions these women will be receiving will place many of them below the poverty line, Koontz said.

"How long should women have to suffer this economic bias?" Koontz asked.

The economic plight of single college students, especially women in the same category, is another problem group Koontz discussed.

Students in college will take any job they can get — short temporary, transitional, low-paying subordinate positions — because they are desperate for money, Koontz said.

"We should stop assigning jobs that don't pay anything to single women and students. But, these people become stuck in this class and it's hard to get out," Koontz said.

"You just don't realize how many of these people are up against a brick wall," Koontz said.

A college education is not compulsory, Koontz said, it's optional.

The issue now, she said, is should public funds such as grants, loans and state-funded universities support a profession allowing people to become self-employed?

If you're going to be a doctor, the answer seems to be no. If you're going to be a public-serving lawyer, the answer seems to be yes, she said.

Marolyn Robson, chairwoman of the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women, said parents who support children in college are beginning to realize it costs as much to educate daughters as sons. However, Robson said, college graduates with the same skills and same degrees are earning different salaries only because they are male or female.

Young people need to understand pay equity and to work for it, Robson said. "Our country recognizes groups," she said.

College students could form support groups, learn about pay equity, contact senators and use the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women as an information referral center, Robson said.

Koontz said that along with women and college students, part-time workers also are not getting benefits full-time workers do. Part-time workers need an association to belong to with an executive director to get group benefits, she said.

"Empowerment," Koontz said. "That's what we're about, finding resources and using them."



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Elizabeth Koontz, chairwoman of the National
Commission of Working Women.

Off The Wire

National and international news
from the Reuter News Report

Snipers kill Marine, wound three others

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Snipers killed one U.S. Marine and wounded three others at Beirut airport Monday, and the marines retaliated with tank, mortar and machine gun fire in three separate exchanges that shut the airport for several hours. Sources in Amal, the Shi'ite Moslem militia, said the marines' fire killed two people and wounded 15 in Shi'ite slums adjoining the marine base.

Beirut Radio said that in addition to the marine casualties, four other people were wounded at the airport. The marines opened fire after being attacked by sniper fire and then twice more by rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and automatic weapons, Maj. Dennis Brooks said. The marine that died had been awaiting helicopter evacuation to a U.S. warship offshore for treatment of his wounds. He was the 259th marine to die since U.S. forces deployed in Lebanon in August 1982.

Byrd questions Marine safety

WASHINGTON — Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd Monday suggested a second high-level Pentagon investigation may be needed to determine if security for U.S. Marines in Beirut has been bolstered enough. The first study, chaired by retired Adm. Robert Long and completed last month in the wake of the October 23 terrorist bombing of Marine headquarters in Beirut, sharply faulted U.S. military commanders for inadequately protecting their troops and also criticized overall U.S. policy in the area. The West Virginia lawmaker made his suggestion as Democrats took to the Senate floor to launch a campaign critical of the Reagan administration's approach to Lebanon.

U.S. to sell tanks to Lebanon

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon informed Congress Monday it plans to sell Lebanon 35 M-60 tanks as part of the U.S. effort to build up the Lebanese armed forces and help the country reassert its sovereignty. It put the value of the tanks and spare parts at \$28 million, and said the sale would require that 12 U.S. government personnel be assigned to Lebanon for about six months. Other recent U.S. arms sales to Lebanon included \$102 million worth of ammunition and 253 armored personnel carriers worth \$61 million.

Rollins: Reagan has head start

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's reelection campaign director said Monday Reagan was starting his race well ahead in about 46 states but could still lose "if everything went wrong" especially on the foreign front. In an interview following Reagan's announcement last night that he and Vice President George Bush will seek a second term, campaign director Edward Rollins said what worries him most are uncontrollable international events including the vulnerability of the U.S. Marines in Lebanon.

Rollins, in an interview with wire service reporters, said he assumes the Democratic nominee will be liberal ex-Vice President Walter Mondale and that Reagan pollsters cannot find even four states where Reagan is clearly trailing Mondale.

Wolfe, 75, marries 26th bride

LAS VEGAS, Nevada — Glynn "Scotty" Wolfe, who claims to be the world's most married man, said Monday he had taken his 26th bride, Christine Camacho. "I feel wonderful," the 75-year-old Wolfe declared. "Marriage is the greatest adventure in the world, next to death." Camacho, at 38, is the oldest of Wolfe's string of brides. They were married on Saturday, he said, at the Little White Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas.

The chapel hostess, Leslie Ortega, said of the bride, "What I mostly remember of her is she had a lot of tattoos." Wolfe, who says he has 40 children and has paid more than \$500,000 in alimony, is a former coal miner and used car dealer who runs a boarding house in Blythe, Calif. None of his previous brides was older than 22. He said his longest marriage lasted five years and his shortest 30 days. Asked his plans for his latest bride, Wolfe said, "I'm going to cook her favorite type of hamburger."