

Duo speaks on sexual bias

By Eve Nations
Staff Reporter

Sexual bias in the classroom begins early in the educational system, according to a husband and wife research team who spoke Thursday to about 200 people.

David and Myra Sadker, two professors of education from American University in Washington, D.C., gave the lecture "Sex Bias from Classroom to Boardroom," to a mostly student audience at the Wick Alumni Center in an effort to combat sexism and sexual harassment across the country.

About one half of elementary classrooms and one third of college classrooms are segregated by sex, David Sadker said.

Males and females also are segregated in the way a teacher interacts with the student, he said.

"Males are more likely to get positive reinforcement from a teacher," David Sadker said. "Females just get told they are wrong."

"Females are more likely to get positive reinforcement on their appearance or the neatness of their homework than the content of the homework," he said.

Classrooms usually contain three different types of students, he said.

Certain students always have their hands up, he said. These students, although they only number one or two per classroom, are more

likely to be male. They also consume about 25 percent of the teacher's attention, he said.

The second type of students are nominal students, David Sadker said.

These students usually only get one question per class period, he said. "If the teacher asks them more than one, they think they are being picked on," he said.

The third type are silent students. Usually half of a class never talks, especially in college, he said. They are the spectators in the classroom.

Research shows that males are more aggressive in the classroom, Myra Sadker said.

"Males are eight times more likely to yell out answers," she said. "Girls don't usually yell out answers, but when they do, teachers are more likely to tell them to raise their hands next time."

Girls, when tested in elementary school, perform better than boys in all areas of academics, she said. But by the time they graduate from high school, boys score higher than girls, Myra Sadker said.

This is because boys get more attention in school, she said.

People perceive boys and girls acting a certain way, David Sadker said. Accepting the way people act instead of the way their gender should act will help break the stereotyping, he said.

"We all should do a better job making the reality and the perception the same," he said.

International House gets a vote

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Reporter

The Residence Hall Association passed a bill Thursday giving the International House the right to elect representatives to RHA, after debate over constitutionality and whether the house already had representation.

Opponents of the bill argued that residents of the house, which consists of two floors in the Neihardt complex, already have representation through Neihardt senators.

Abel President Bart Vitek quoted the RHA constitution as saying, "No overlapping of jurisdiction shall be allowed." He said giving separate representation to the house would result in overlapping.

RHA member Steve Thomlison agreed. "It appears to have an unconstitutionality to it," he said.

Conrad Castaneda, Neihardt president, said the International House is financially separate from Neihardt, and is therefore a distinct entity.

RHA distributes funds to the International House separately from Neihardt.

RHA members were not sure whether residents of the house are included in the official population of Neihardt.

RHA member Stacy Mohling said residents of the house should have total representation.

"I'm very embarrassed that RHA is trying to shove them in the back corner," she said.

Smith President Devi Bohling argued that the International House has only about 70 residents, whereas most other halls with RHA representation have at least 250.

RHA member Bill Vobejda said the house is a special interest floor, with no greater privileges than an engineering or journalism floor.

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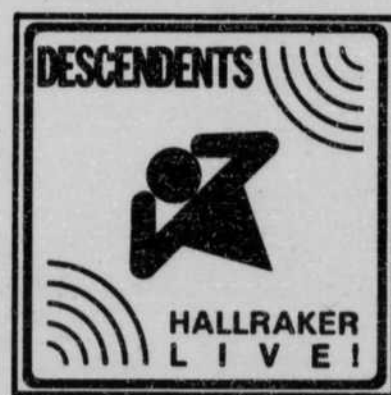
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