

New Position At WSU Is National Pacesetter

PULLMAN--The appointment of Ernestine Madison as Washington State University's first vice provost for human relations and resources is "making institutional and educational history," said WSU Provost Thomas George.

In announcing the selection of Madison, currently director of the WSU Center for Human Rights and assistant to the president, George said the new position is a pacesetter nationally in combining the Human Resources Services (faculty and staff personnel), Minority Affairs, Disabled Student Services and Ombudsman's offices, the Center for Human Rights (formerly called Affirmative Action), and the Women's Resource and Research Center. Very few major universities have taken such a comprehensive approach.

"This is a major step for WSU in addressing human resource issues encompassing diversity, and we're pleased to have a person of Ernestine Madison's abilities to lead this effort," George said. "She has demonstrated superb leadership at our university and throughout her career in higher education and public school education. She is eminently qualified to fill this new position."

Madison, who began her new position July 1, will report directly to the provost. She will be responsible for developing and implementing policies and procedures to enable WSU to achieve its goal of a multicultural and diverse community, George said.

"Dr. Madison will provide intellectual leadership for academic and curricular changes that ensure an environment which is friendly, inviting and supportive of students, staff and faculty. She will provide leadership for WSU's four campuses in recruiting and retaining diverse and talented undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and personnel at all levels."

Commenting on her appointment, Madison noted that the position is "a tremendous task and responsibility, but the results can be very rewarding to all of us--and I am prepared to meet the challenge."

"It's not going to be easy, but change is never easy because there is fear and uncertainty," she



Ernestine Madison

said. "But with the type of people I'll be working with, we'll make great strides for WSU. My goal is for WSU to become a national model for diversity."

The innovative organizational structure was developed by a faculty and staff committee led by Felicia Gaskins, assistant to the provost for diversity. The reorganization plan was announced in January of this year.

Madison came to WSU in 1990 as director of affirmative action and special programs and assistant to the president. Recently, that office was changed to the Center for Human Rights. Plans for the future leadership of the center are under discussion, she indicated.

At Mississippi State University, immediately before coming to WSU, Madison was assistant vice president for cultural diversity. Also at MSU, she was assistant to the vice president for student affairs/director of minority affairs, 1987-90. She served previously as assistant to the vice

president for administration and development/minority affairs counselor, 1985-87.

One of five candidates interviewed for the job and the only one at WSU, Madison is a graduate of Southern University, Baton Rouge, La., and earned a master's degree in social science and education from the University of Mississippi. Her doctorate in education is from Mississippi State University.

Madison has published widely in educational journals, including articles on the Black teacher shortage, teaching minority studies in high school, and minority student recruitment and retention.

A member of Pullman Rotary Club and the YWCA Board of Directors of Pullman, her career includes teaching public high school social studies, 1961-84, in Vicksburg, Miss., and serving a year as Vicksburg Middle School principal. In 1979, she was Mississippi's Teacher of the Year and one of four finalists for the national honor.

Other honors she has

received include service awards from Mississippi State Black student, Vietnamese student and alumni groups. She was a Fulbright-Hays Fellow in Cameroon, West Africa, in 1981, and has served on numerous state and national commissions, including the Mississippi Constitutional Revision Commission and the Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee on School Finance.

The selection of Madison culminates six months of work by a 16-member search committee headed by Nancy Baker, WSU director of libraries.

What's Goin' On

Blended Families Topic Of Sister Spirit Series At YWCA

The Sister Spirit series, offered by the East Cherry YWCA held on Saturdays from 10:00am-1:00pm, is a monthly discussion series especially for African American women. The discussions provide a unique forum for African American women to explore issues affecting their daily lives. Each session offers information and support to encourage African American women to work together to bring about positive changes. Each session includes lunch and child care at no cost.

The next session is Saturday, July 25. The topic is "Blended families."

Other topics and dates are: Aug. 22, "Racism," Sept. 26, "Alcoholism and Drug Addiction," Oct. 24, "Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence," and Nov. 14, "Coping with the Holidays." The Sister Spirit series will be held at the YWCA East Cherry Branch, 2820 E. Cherry. For more information call Lisa at 461-8480.

Dunbar Reunion

The 6th All-School Dunbar Reunion Celebration by the Dunbar High School Reunion Committee of Okmulgee, Oklahoma will have a very special memorial service which will be held during the reunion for Mr. C.A. Jackson.

Mr. Jackson served as principal of the Dunbar High School and supervisor of Attucks and Banneker grade schools from 1946 until 1969.

DEAR DIANE:

Last year, when my husband and I married, his parents, who live in another state, told us they couldn't attend the wedding because of his father's poor health. We were understanding about it, even though we offered to fly them up, and let it go at that. They did send us money, but that wasn't the point. We know they're up against it financially, and we didn't want their gift. What we really wanted was for them to share our joy and special day with us.

Now, we come to find out that they attended the wedding of one of his second cousins. She happens to live even farther away than we

The Okmulgee board of Education will honor his outstanding service to education and the community by dedicating the C.A. Jackson Cafetorium to his memory.

The dedicatory service will be held Saturday, Aug. 1 at 3:30 p.m., Okmulgee Middle School, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Contact the address below if there are any questions regarding the dedication and/or the reunion. Dunbar Reunion, P.O. Box 1473, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447; or call (918) 756-3826.

Family Support Resource Fair

The Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition is sponsoring a Family Support Resource Fair. The purpose of the fair is to inform the WROC community about services and programs that currently exist, and to provide the opportunity to learn how to access them. The resource fair will be Friday, July 31, at the WROC office, 2212 So. Jackson, 1-4 p.m.. You and your family are invited to participate in the fair, as well as your friends and neighbors. Your help is needed in making this event a success.

Childcare and activities will be provided for the children. Come see who wins the raffle drawing giving away a variety of gift certificates and prizes. Call Janetta at WROC for more information at 324-3063.

Helping The Blind

Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted offers you a golden opportunity to do some good - and feel great about it! You can spend a couple hours a week helping a blind or partially sighted neighbor in all parts of King and Snohomish counties by reading mail, balancing a checkbook, taking him or her shopping, or even just going for a walk. For more information on this fun and rewarding opportunity, call 525-5556 or 1-800-458-4888.

Volunteers Needed To Hear Cases Of Minor Offenses

The Central Seattle Conference Committee is in urgent need of volunteers to hear the cases of minor offenders. They require three to six hours of service monthly (all in the evening) and a minimum of one year of service. If you live in the Madrona area and desire to work with youth, please call Ethel Mitchell between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm at 296-1133. Minorities are encouraged to apply.

Dear Diane

By Diane Van Arsdale

do, and to make matters worse, they drove! Here we were, willing to fly them up at our expense, but they didn't come. On top of all this, my father-in-law is in no better health than he was last year since he suffers from chronic emphysema. I might also add that there is bad blood between my husband and the bride's parents, and for good reason. They owe his family quite a bit of money and refuse to pay it back or even admit that they're wrong. However, these people get the royal treatment from the very people they double-crossed!

My husband and I are insulted and angry, to say the least. They're more concerned with what people will say if they don't do what's expected of them. As for their son, obviously they don't think enough of him to even care what he's feeling. My guess is they felt that since this was not a first wedding for us, they didn't feel it "counted."

I'm livid about this. He's so upset, he refuses to even call them anymore.

FURIOUS

DEAR FURIOUS:

I can't blame both of you for feeling as you do. Your husband's parents' actions are inexcusable and thoughtless. If they couldn't attend their own son's wedding, they most certainly should not have gone to that other wedding, but you can't always control what other people will do.

Chalk it up to experience. At least, you and your husband know where you stand. In time, perhaps, you may be able to find it in your hearts to forgive them. Should you talk to them, by all means, let them know how you feel and give them an opportunity to apologize. Under the circumstances, it's the least they can do!

Dear Dex by Dexter Dyer

DEAR READERS:

Many of you wrote to respond to Not Lying, the 13-year-old boy who was being abused by his stepfather. Here are some of the best replies. Hopefully, Not Lying will realize he can get help and support to get out of his horrifying situation.

DEAR DEX:

My calm Sunday afternoon has just been shattered by reading your column. I am sure this will not be the only letter you will receive in response to the letter signed "Not Lying."

Please let that 13-year-old boy who was being sexually abused by his stepfather know that he is welcome to join our family ANYTIME!

We are probably located in a different state, but since our reputations can be checked out through the school systems where our children are going and the local powers-that-be, and since it wouldn't be necessary to receive monies (as far as we are concerned) — as the mother in this family, I can't see why there should be a problem!

We are a cattle ranching family, and have it tight financially, as it appears most others do. But we are managing to raise well-mannered, pleasant, well-educated children. They range from 26 to 12. The first four are married. One has just graduated from high school and is off to college, so four are still at home.

We would love to have him, honest. ***

DEAR DEX:

When I read the letter from the young man whose stepfather has been molesting him, I felt nothing but pain and sadness, and an anger so powerful, it scared even me! Why so dramatic? Because I was molested as a child of three, until the age of 14. And the pain goes on.

And on and on, until you make up your mind that you need a better life. And you decide to go from a victim to a survivor, which is really the way God intended for us. And while you're at it, you realize that sometimes talking about the pain helps you feel better inside.

The total outcome? In seeking help and protection for yourself, you will also come to realize that the person who hurt you is the sick one in the picture, not you. And in return you will see that you are, and always will be, better off than he is.

If that young man reads this letter, I ask him in the name of God, to reach out and get the help and love he so deserves. Signed: A SURVIVOR

Annual Block Party

Atlantic Street Center is hosting its 1992 Annual Block Party at 2103 S. Atlantic Street, July 24, from 3:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Food, fun, and live entertainment for the entire family. No drugs or alcohol permitted. For further information, call 329-2050.

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