

4-28-2008 Gender Equity Forum

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2 JOSH CENTOR: The United States tour of "Mondays With
3 Myles" continues.

4 We are at the Gender Equity and Issues Forum in
5 Boston, Massachusetts.

6 Dr. Brand, you make this a yearly stop. Why?

7 DR. MYLES BRAND: First of all, I'm pleased that the
8 NCAA is able to sponsor these forums year after year. And the
9 reason I come is because of the central importance of the
10 issue of gender equity in intercollegiate athletics.

11 Certainly, we want young women, as well as young men,
12 to have every opportunity to participate and succeed. If we
13 really do believe participation that athletics has value in
14 the education of young people, as I certainly believe, we want
15 to make every opportunity available to the young women, as we
16 do to young men.

17 JOSH CENTOR: How far have we come in the few years
18 that you have been coming -- 4, 5, 6 years? I know it's been
19 18 years, but how far have we come since you have been coming
20 to this conference?

21 DR. MYLES BRAND: I've seen the conference grow in
22 terms of participation levels. We have larger audiences. The
23 level of interest of our audience, and the knowledge in which
24 they are coming in -- so those have been attending in the past
25 and reading the literature and the media, as well, are in

1 pretty good shape in terms of understanding the issues.

2 But also, very importantly, the broadening of the
3 issues. A lot of it, at least at the beginning, had to do
4 with I would say the details of Title IX. There are still a
5 lot of issues facing Title IX that we haven't resolved yet.
6 But gender equity issues, as a whole, I think are now under
7 more consideration than ever in the past.

8 JOSH CENTOR: Well, when you come to town, you don't
9 get to just chill out and relax. You moderated a panel
10 yesterday. Talking about where we go from here, tell me about
11 this panel, why it was important.

12 DR. MYLES BRAND: It was important to have some of the
13 national leaders in this area talk about these issues. These
14 were individuals who literally devoted their lives to issues
15 of gender equity and other questions of equity, both
16 financially, as well as in terms of women and race. They
17 have, I think, contributed a lot of provocative questions.

18 JOSH CENTOR: Now, just so our listeners know, those
19 panelist's that joined Dr. Brand were Donna Lopiano, Andrew
20 Zimbalist, and Nancy Hogshead-Makar.

21 Dr. Brand, Donna Lopiano has said that Title IX has
22 been very successful, but the glass is only half full. What
23 needs still to happen?

24 DR. MYLES BRAND: Well, if you just look at the
25 numbers, you can understand why Donna said that.

1 Since 1972, when Title IX first passed, the number of
2 women participating has gone up six times, which is
3 remarkable. And now there is about 180,000 women
4 participating in college sports, which is absolutely
5 astounding and great. But it is only 42 percent of those who
6 participate.

7 Moreover, women's sports continues to suffer in a
8 number of ways in terms of the support that the
9 student-athletes have in participation, in travel issues, in
10 facilities, and so on. So while we have made dramatic
11 progress -- there is no question about that -- the job isn't
12 finished.

13 JOSH CENTOR: You know, you said that number 42
14 percent. Last week we were talking about beach volleyball on
15 the DoubleAZone. And somebody commented, How come emerging
16 sports aren't for male student-athletes as well? And I
17 believe it has something to do with that 42 percent, doesn't
18 it?

19 DR. MYLES BRAND: It does exactly. I mean, one of the
20 things we are trying to do in terms of emerging sports is to
21 provide additional opportunities for women to participate.
22 And that sometimes means starting new sports, emerging sports,
23 if you like. We have to give genuine opportunities for those
24 that have interest and ability.

25 JOSH CENTOR: There is concern about female coaches,

1 in that in terms of gender equity there is still a major
2 problem there -- we have a lot of male coaches in women's
3 sports. What's the consensus here?

4 DR. MYLES BRAND: That's an interesting story, not
5 necessarily a good one for women. When Title IX was still
6 being passed in the early '70s about 90 percent of those who
7 coached women were women, and now it's under 45 percent of
8 those who coach women are women. So males are actually the
9 predominate coaches in women's sports.

10 It's not that men aren't good coaches. That's not the
11 point, but the fact that women who participate in sports now
12 are not getting a reasonable opportunity to be the coaches of
13 the future. And I think we need to find ways to develop and
14 support young women who do want to become coaches.

15 JOSH CENTOR: And certainly we don't see it on the
16 flip side -- female coaches in men's sports as much as we see
17 male coaches in female sports.

18 DR. MYLES BRAND: It has always been rare and
19 continues to be very rare that women coach men's sports.
20 Sometimes you'll get, for example, a rifle coach in which
21 it'll be a co-ed team or some such, but it's rare.

22 JOSH CENTOR: Let's talk about the demographic that's
23 here. I have been told that there is almost 300 people that
24 have come out to Boston to start the week with us here at the
25 Gender Equity Issues Forum.

1 Are the right people here?

2 DR. MYLES BRAND: The people here are the right
3 people. Are all the people that need to be here here? No.

4 I mean, the fact is that not everyone can travel to
5 Boston and participate in this colloquium that needs to be
6 here.

7 The fact of the matter is we want more and more women
8 and men to understand better what Title IX is about, what
9 gender equity is about, and why you need to do it.

10 I want to go back to the first point, Josh, the real
11 reason for doing this. Why was the NCAA so interested in
12 gender equity in college sports is because the value that
13 sports participation adds to the college experience. If you
14 really believe that, you just have to make sure that women are
15 participating as well.

16 JOSH CENTOR: All right, Dr. Brand. Well,
17 Massachusetts was good for the Gender Equity and Issues Forum.
18 We don't know where we'll be next year, but I'm sure you'll be
19 there.

20 Thanks for joining me today.

21 DR. MYLES BRAND: My pleasure.

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