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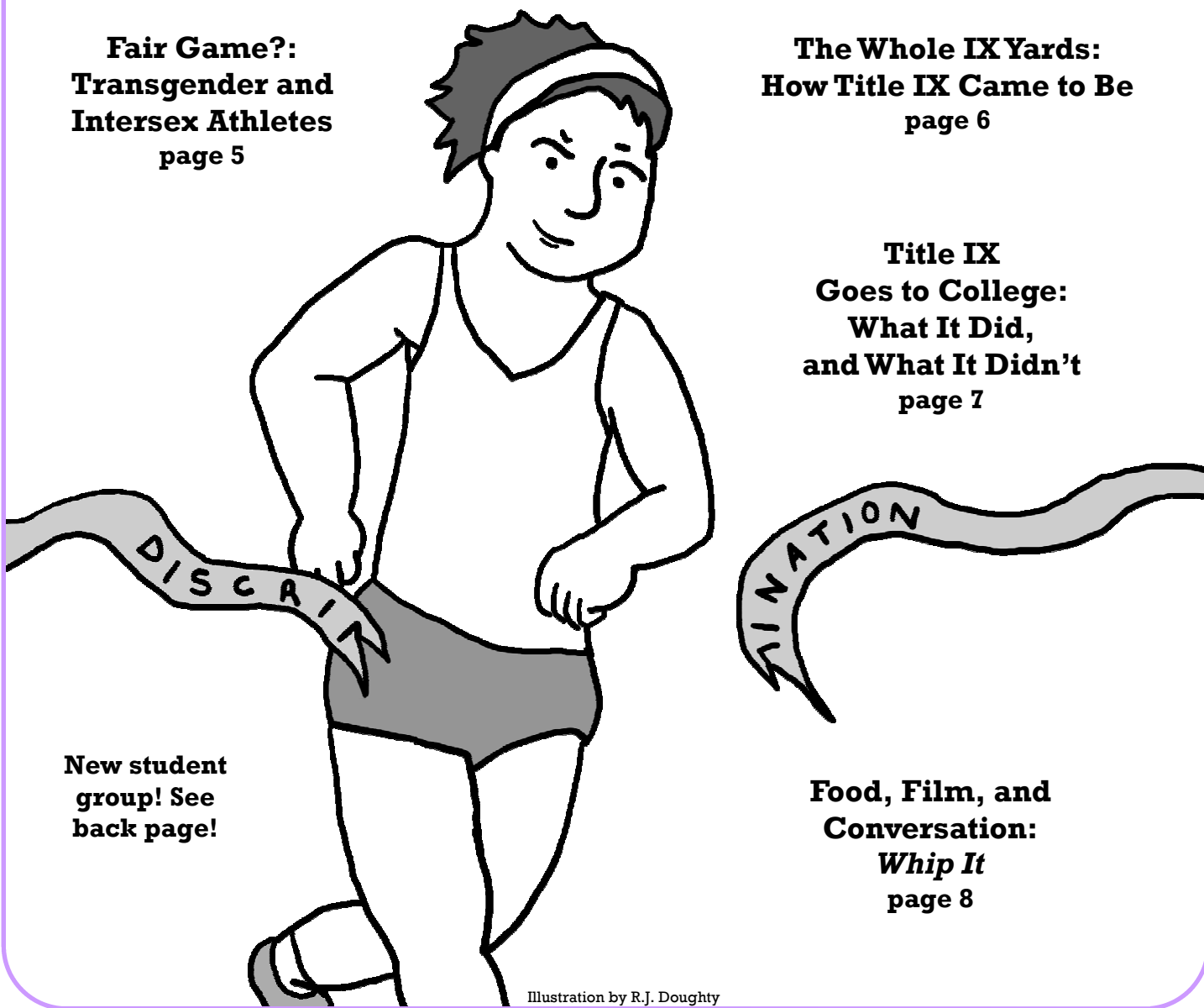


Illustration by R.J. Doughty



Inspiring Woman: Eunice Kennedy Shriver by Skyla Seamans

Eunice Kennedy Shriver truly is an inspirational woman. Throughout her whole life, she was an advocate for children's health as well as disability issues. Born in 1921, she was a part of the Kennedy family and actively campaigned for her elder brother, U.S. President John F. Kennedy, during his successful 1960 U.S. presidential election. In 1962, Shriver greatly contributed to the founding of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development which is a part of the National Institutes of Health. She also helped to establish various other healthcare facilities and support networks throughout the country. Her striving to make a difference did not stop there. She also founded the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Center for Community of Caring at the University of Utah in 1982. The Community of Caring is an inclusive character education program with a major focus on disabilities. It has been adopted by almost 1,200 schools nationwide. She was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1984 by U.S. President Ronald Reagan because of her work on behalf of the disabled.

On top of all of her achievements and activism for children's healthcare and those with disabilities, Eunice Kennedy Shriver is best known for founding the Special Olympics in 1962. When Shriver was growing up, she developed a passion for competition and sports. "I was always trying to find my brothers, not my sisters," she said. "I wanted to play football and I was very good. I was always the quarterback." Shriver's love for sports and care for developmentally disabled people contributed to her founding of the Special Olympics; this gave the developmentally disabled a chance to participate in athletic competitions.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver just wanted to be involved and make a difference in as many ways as she could. However, she couldn't have much influence on the big political stage, because in the 1950s, women didn't have much say in politics like her brothers did. Shriver saw that just like political roles were limited to her as a woman, many more opportunities were limited for people with developmental delays. She felt the need to do something, anything, to make a difference in their lives and dedicated the rest of her life to doing just that. She realized she was capable of major achievement and helping those in need is what she did.

It all began, in 1962, when Shriver opened her home as a summer camp to mentally disabled children

because most other camps wouldn't accept children with "special needs". For years, Shriver ran her camp with no charge at Timberlawn, the family estate in Maryland. She taught the kids at the camp, as well as her own children who joined in, how to swim, play soccer, go through obstacle courses and other activities no one else could find the time to engage them in; they loved every minute of it. "The great gift that we had as kids," Tim Shriver, the son of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, says, "was never to be introduced to disability or intellectual disability as a cause but more as an activity. Never as a burden, but rather as a joy. Our introduction to people with special needs was to swim or to play kickball or to go horseback riding. Part of her genius has always been to create things that are appealing, create opportunities that are joyful that people want to join, that make things fun."

Shriver's summer camp led her and her husband, Sargent, to start the Special Olympics. Eunice Kennedy Shriver opened the first national games. It was the summer of 1968, in Chicago, just weeks after the assassination of Robert Kennedy. "In ancient Rome, the gladiators went into the arena with these words on their lips," Shriver told the athletes, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt. Let us begin the Olympics." What began that year has continuously grown. Today, more than 3.1 million athletes of all ages are involved in Special Olympics sports training and competition in more than one hundred and seventy countries. The organization offers children and adults with developmental challenges year-round training and competition in thirty different summer and winter sports. The Special Olympics serves as an advocate for children and young adults with special needs. It is truly a global movement, with more than 550,000 athletes in the United States, 500,000 in China, 210,000 in India, 4,400 in Rwanda and 600 in Afghanistan. Special Olympics World Games are held every two years and were most recently held in Ireland in 2003, in Japan in 2005, in China in 2007 and Idaho, USA in 2009.

Those who participate in the Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness, greater self-confidence and a more positive outlook on life. Most importantly, the Special Olympics sharpened the focus on its mission not just as a sports organization for people with developmental disabilities, but also as a valuable catalyst for social change. "I think that really the only way you change people's attitudes or behavior is to work with them," Shriver told an interviewer, "not write papers or serve on committees. Who's going to work with the child to change him, with the juvenile delinquent and the retarded? Who's going to teach

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Women Athletes of the World: The Olympics by Corinne Blake

The very first Olympic Games were held in 776 B.C. This was a sporting event strictly for men. Married women were not even allowed to view the event. Only virgins and prostitutes were allowed as spectators. You may think we have come a long way since then and the truth is, we have. Women are allowed to both watch and participate in the Olympic Games today. In the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, the advancement of women in the Olympics was evident when the participation of women athletes reached a record high of 42% of the total athletes present. Women still do not have as many events as men, but we're getting there (though it's not without a fight).

Even in Ancient Greece, women did not take being discriminated against lightly. In 440 B.C. a woman named Kallipateira coached her son to boxing victory. The first woman champion in the Olympics, and the first woman to be a champion horse trainer, was a Spartan princess named Cynisa. In 392 B.C. her team won in the four horse chariot race. Unfortunately, the princess was probably barred from the award ceremony. Women have certainly come a long way since the ancient Olympic games, but it hasn't been easy, and there is still a long way to go.

In 1894, thanks to Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was founded and this led to the first modern Olympic games in 1896. Originally, de Coubertin felt that the inclusion of women in these games would be "impractical, uninteresting, unaesthetic, and incorrect." That changed four years later when the first women competed in the Olympics Games. Only eleven women competed; their sports were golf and lawn tennis. The first woman gold medalist was England's Charlotte Cooper, who won the tennis singles.

You can say that women were eventually "allowed" to compete alongside the men, but saying that implies that women simply waited patiently on the sidelines for their turn. This was not the case; especially not for British figure skater Madge Syers. In 1902, she entered the men's world figure skating championship (there was no women's competition) and placed second. Six years later she became the first woman to win an Olympic Gold in figure skating. In 1924, the first year the winter Olympics were separate from the summer Olympics, figure skating was the only sport open to women. Even today, women are not sitting idly by while they are kept from certain events. A group of women skiers from Canada have been fighting for a chance to compete in ski jumping in the 2010 Olympics. They have gone as far as bringing their case to the Canadian Supreme Court, claiming that their exclusion from the event violates Canada's anti-discrimination laws. While they may have failed to bring ski jumping around for this year, if they keep fighting, their efforts may pay off

in four years and future skiers will have even more to look forward to.

Women have not only been able to represent themselves as athletes, but also in leadership roles in the IOC though the advancement in athletic leadership roles has moved even more slowly. For the first eighty-seven years, there was no female representation present on the IOC. Finally, in 1981, IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch welcomed the first two female delegates to the committee. These women were Pirjo Haggman of Finland and Flor Isava-Fonseca of Venezuela. Since, then the IOC has been making an effort to show its support of women in sports. In 1990, Flor Isava Fonesca was the first woman elected to the IOC Executive Board, and in 1997 Anita L. DeFrantz became vice-president. In 1995 the IOC Women and Sports commission was created to advise the president of the IOC and Executive Board on policies to increase female involvement in sports and every four years a world conference is held to look at progress made in the field of the Olympic Movement. The IOC has also made sure to acknowledge great women athletes with their Women and Sports Trophy. This trophy is awarded to someone (or an organization) for "...remarkable contribution to the development, encouragement and reinforcement of women's participation in sports..." In 2009, this award was given to five remarkable women: Lydia Nskera of Burundi, Maria Caridad Colon Ruense of Cuba, Narvin Dashjants of Mongolia, Danira Nakic Bilic of Croatia and Auvita Rapilla of Papua New Guinea. The awards were given on March 8, International Women's Day.

Despite major advancements towards increased gender equality in the Olympic games, women athletes are fighting another war: the fight to be judged by their athletic accomplishments, and not their looks. Of course, the media does not make this an easy task. If you google "men and the Olympics" the first link on the page is about men and basketball in the 2008 Olympics. The next few links go on to tell you about different result for different men's games. If you google "women and the Olympics", the first link on the page is about the "50 Most Beautiful Women of the 2008 Olympics". Why is it that male athletes are acknowledged for their scores and accomplishments while females are judged by their looks and shapes? Furthermore, the eighth link on the page is a link for the "7 Scariest Women at the 2008 Olympic Games", a webpage dedicated to talking about women weightlifters and of course judging them by their looks, implying that women with strength are scary, whereas strong men are looked upon with awe.

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Women in Sports, Homophobia, and the Gay Games

by RJ Doughty

There still exist many people that feel that homosexuality is an abnormality, and that gays, lesbians and bisexual people are dangerous. The mainstream culture of the United States may avoid being openly hostile, but heterosexuality is still an automatic assumption, and homosexuality or bisexuality is treated as a deviation from that “norm” (and often one that is played as weird, funny, or threatening). The idea of homosexuality as unnatural has followed us from the United States of the 1950s, when homosexuality was still defined medically as a dangerous pathology, gay bars were routinely raided by the police, and female athletes lived in a climate of suspicion and fear that they could be labeled a lesbian.

As sports and athleticism were seen as masculine activities, and a woman performing a masculine activity was seen as a lesbian, female athletes in the socially conservative U.S. after World War II began to compulsively go out of their way to “prove” their femininity, and thus, their heterosexuality. This was, of course, incredibly damaging to lesbians in the world of sports, who were forced to either keep their lives in the closet or lose their jobs. In the following decades, to be an out lesbian in sports meant facing harassment from one’s colleagues and to be cut off from career opportunities. Billy Jean King, after admitting to a seven-year affair with a woman in 1981, was forced to resign from her role as president of the Women’s Tennis Association and lost approximately 1.5 million dollars in sponsorships, advertisements, and endorsements. While she initially apologized to the public for her gay relationship, later in life King became an advocate for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people, earning her a Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by President Obama in August 2009. She raised funds for the Gay Games and spoke out about the damage homophobia in sports does to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender athletes. But homophobia hurt straight women athletes, as well.

The association of women athletes with lesbianism is blamed by some for the difficulty of popularizing women’s sports during a crucial moment in history. Preoccupation with dispelling suspicion of homosexuality and proving femininity has contributed to the trivialization of women athletes and women’s sports. While a stereotype exists of the destructive lesbian athlete who seduces unwilling young heterosexual women (in 1996, U.S. golf commentator Ben Wright said “lesbians in the sport hurt women’s golf”), there’s a more insidious and common reality. Sexual harassment and assault at the hands of heterosexual male colleagues occurs in much higher numbers, and the danger of being labeled a lesbian deters female athletes from rejecting or reporting it.

The gay rights movement, as well as the

women’s movement, created a possibility for change. In the 1970s, women-only sports clubs and organizations sought to change the male-dominated field to one that centered women and was inclusive and supportive of lesbians. After the famous Stonewall riots of 1969, the idea of gay and lesbian cultural activities became more feasible, including the development of gay and lesbian sports teams and events. In 1982, the first international Gay Games were held in San Francisco, CA.

The Gay Games were originally called the Gay Olympic Games, as they have several similarities to the Olympic Games – they are held every four years, kicked off with an inspirational opening ceremony that brings together people from all corners of the globe. The United States Olympics Committee, however, demanded in court that the term “Olympics” was their exclusive property (even though there has been no objection to its use by other, less controversial groups, such as the Special Olympics).

Unlike the Olympics, however, the Gay Games de-emphasize competition in favor of “personal best”, including categories for both professionals and novices. Their goal is inclusion rather than elitism, allowing persons of any level of ability to participate in any category they choose. Some of the sports are broken up into men’s and women’s, and some allow for mixed genders. People of varying ages and people with disabilities are also encouraged to take part, and nationalism is discouraged – instead of nations, people identify with regions or cities.

The Gay Games benefit GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) participants both personally and politically. Many participants describe feeling sustained, or feel the Gay Games helps them overcome and heal from negative experiences with sports. One gay male participant stated that the announcement of the first Gay Games was the very first time it occurred to him that his sexuality and his love of sports could co-exist. The Gay Games create a community for GLBT people who would never otherwise see themselves as athletes, as well as homosexual, bisexual or transgender athletes who may otherwise not see themselves as part of the GLBT community.

The Gay Games also function to normalize GLBT people to the world at large. Specifically in the context of the 1980s, when homosexuality was closely associated with AIDs, the image of GLBT people as strong, active and normal challenged expectations. The Gay Games also creates a somewhat idealized microcosm in which GLBT athletes are free of the atmosphere of fear and discrimination that continues to plague the world of sports. While lesbians are usually outcasts, and their sexuality is something to hide, at the Gay Games they are insiders, and their sexuality a source of celebration.

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**Fair Game?:
Transgender and
Intersex Athletes
by Alexandra Nichipor**

The issue of intersex athletes was largely unknown (except to those players disenfranchised due to its constraints) until the accusations against

Caster Semenya made national headlines.

Semenya is an 18-year-old middle-distance runner hailing from South Africa. She set national records in the 2008 African Junior Championships, and she won the gold medal for the women's 800-meter run in the 2009 World Championships in Athletics, with the impressive time of 1:55.45. This was a full eight seconds under her previous time for the 800-meter, a fact that attracted the attention of the International Association of Athletics Federation (also called the IAAF), the governing body of the sports event.

It is not unusual to test athletes for performance-enhancing drugs after such dramatic improvement, but perhaps because of her physical appearance, the authorities chose instead to perform a "gender test". *(Editor's Note: While many scholars make a distinction between sex [physical] and gender [social, cultural], and furthermore, between gender identity [man, woman, genderqueer, other], and gender roles [masculine, feminine, androgynous], the IAAF lumps them all together in "gender" testing, indicating that they may not be clear on what exactly they're testing for.)* Perhaps because her appearance and athletic excellence were considered unfeminine, she was forced to undergo physical exams, chromosomal testing, and psychological evaluation.

Her fellow athletes perpetuated this sexist view. "These kinds of people should not run with us. For me, she's not a woman, she's a man," said Elisa Cusma of Italy, who finished sixth in the 800-meter race. Another athlete, Mariya Savinova of Russia (who finished fifth), stated that Semenya would never pass the 'gender tests' - "Just look at her." Not only are these comments insensitive, but they are also a sign of some very poor losers.

In a truly despicable breach of privacy, details of the controversy were released to the public, and reports of Semenya's test results also reached the news media. "Tests show that controversial runner, Caster Semenya, is a man...and a woman!" blared a piece in the New York Daily News. The article goes on to call her a hermaphrodite, an archaic and offensive term, and continues to refer to her as a "controversial runner," although it was never her running that was controversial.

The medical tests showed that Semenya has no ovaries and a very high level of natural testosterone, although she has female genitals and self-identifies as a woman. In short, she is intersex, a catch-all term for congenital anomalies related to sexual differentiation, and often caused by unusual chromosomal combinations. Being intersex is remarkably common - some experts estimate that 1 per 200 babies are born intersex - and often goes unnoticed for many years. Semenya was never aware of her condition until the tests were con-

ducted. There are many, many physical ways of being intersex, since there are many different combinations of sex chromosomes; instead of being XY (male) or XX (female), one might be XXY, or XXX, or maybe XXXY. There are also conditions in which people with XY chromosomes develop female characteristics, and people with XX chromosomes develop male characteristics. As you may imagine, all of these different combinations have differing effects on levels of estrogen, androgen, and testosterone in the body, thus producing different effects on human genitalia and reproductive organs. Our attempts to fit these natural variations into the set categories of BOY or GIRL can have cruel consequences, literally ruining lives - as Semenya discovered.

Global news outlets carried the story of her "gender testing," and the world gathered around to stare at the gonads of a star athlete. The IAAF threatened to revoke Semenya's gold medal, and prominent voices called for her to step down from her athletic career. She was put on suicide watch. Articles all over the world sniped about her physical appearance and misrepresented her personhood and life experience. Here's an example from an Australian newspaper: "There's something dangling between her legs - that's obvious - and she's got an Adam's apple."

Semenya is not the first athlete to undergo such humiliation. Hers is, in fact, the eighth case of gender testing that the IAAF has administered, but due to her athletic accomplishments, her case was the most popularized by the media.

Gender testing has a long and shady history in the arena of high-level sports. As soon as women began to compete professionally, where major prizes and sponsorship were at stake, authorities feared that men would pose as women in order to use their supposed physical advantage to win games. Early gender testing involved the examination of the athlete's genitalia by a panel of medical experts. Not only is this practice utterly humiliating for the athlete, it is totally inaccurate, since external genitalia does not always correlate with internal genitalia or hormone levels. With the advent of more sophisticated chromosomal tests, which could analyze the makeup of an athlete's DNA, the policy of mandatory gender testing (for women only) was instituted in the Olympics in 1968. The benefits of such a policy were unclear: though there was some evidence that "gender masquerading" took place during the decades of World War II and the Cold War, when athletic victory was associated with political superiority, the sex-testing policy hurt more people than it helped.

The German high-jumper Dora Ratjen was an early case of an intersex person whose career was violently derailed by gender testing policies. After competing in the 1938 Olympics, she fell under suspicion, and was judged to have "ambiguous genitalia"

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In a world with great female athletes like Venus and Serena Williams, Shawn Johnson, Nastia Liukin, Lisa Leslie, and Candace Parker, it may be hard to imagine that women were once not seen as athletes and most leagues were for boys. This was especially true in schools and universities. There were leagues for boys and men in all kinds of sports, but there were fewer opportunities for girls and women to be able to participate in sports. The Title IX legislation helped women and girls have greater opportunities to participate in sports at the same level as men.

Title IX was part of the Education Amendment of 1976. It states that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, except that..." It continues to list those activities that are exempt which include voluntary youth groups like Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, fraternities and sororities, military training, religious organizations, and public schools with a tradition of having members of only one sex in attendance. Father-son and mother-daughter events are exempt, as well, if there is a corresponding event for the other sex, along with scholarships for "beauty" pageants that were traditionally made for one sex.

Title IX prohibits gender discrimination as well as discrimination against disabled people. There is a specific section dedicated to the blind and severely vision impaired that says that no one with vision impairment may be denied entrance into an organization that is receiving federal financial aid. It also states it does not mean that the organization has to provide special accommodations or equipment for those with visual impairments.

The history of Title IX really dates back to 1965, when the presidential Executive Order 11246 that prohibited companies with federal ties from discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin was passed. Later, on October 13, 1968 it was amended by President Lyndon Johnson to include

discrimination by sex as well. It was Bernice R. Sander that first used the order to benefit women. She realized that most universities and colleges had federal contracts so they were therefore forbidden to deny employment on the basis of race. Rep. Martha Griffiths, a Democrat from Michigan, gave the first speech in Congress on the discrimination towards women that occurred in education.

In June and July of 1970 Representative Edith Green, a Democrat from Ohio that chaired the subcommittee that was in charge of higher education, drafted legislation that prohibited sex discrimination in education. Rep. Green led the first congressional hearings on the matter. The hearings would be the first step in the

The Whole IX Yards: How Title IX Came to Be by Brianna R. Vear



passing of Title IX. The original plan was to amend Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in any program receiving financial aid. African American leaders feared that by including sex it would hinder the progress. So Rep. Green proposed that it be a separate title, which became Title IX.

There was little lobbying for the bill, due to the fear of attracting the opponents of the bill's attention. Higher education didn't lobby for or against the bill, never realizing the impact it would have on athletics. Elementary and secondary education was, for the most part, unaware of the bill, because at the time of proposal it was for higher education alone. On June 8, 1972, Congress passed the bill, President Nixon signed Title IX making it law on June 23, and it came into effect July 1, 1972.

It was not until May 27, 1975 that President Ford signed the Title IX regulations. The definition of federal financial assistance was included in these regulations. It also included federal action that was not of a financial nature, such as contracts, licenses and statutory regulations. It also required all institutions effected by Title IX to have a Title IX Coordinator. A Title IX coordinator is responsible for providing all information on Title IX to members, handling grievances, and teaching staff grievance procedures.

According to the U.S. Department of Education

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Title IX Goes to College: What It Did, and What It Didn't by guest contributor Deborah Raber

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance” (*Section 901a of Title IX of the Education*

Amendments of 1972)

Initially a general educational amendment enacted to increase collegiate educational opportunities in areas such as medical, business, and law fields, Title IX did not specifically address athletics. It wasn't until 1974 and the passage of the Javits Amendment, that further clarification with regards to athletics was formulated. The following year brought about yet more clarification with Title IX's application to athletics. These regulations addressed athletic programs and required institutions receiving federal aid to provide equal athletic opportunities for both genders. While banning sex discrimination, these regulations also established a 3-year time frame to be compliant or federal assistance would be withheld. To date, hundreds of reports have been forwarded to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), but no funding has been withheld.

As soon as regulations were passed applying Title IX to college athletics, the battles began. Multiple attempts were made to alter and weaken the law, but each time Congress denied these efforts. Even the NCAA, in the mid-70's, advocated curtailing Title IX claiming it was a threat to men's athletics' programs bringing about an eventual demise of college athletics. This was just the start of many myths surrounding the amendment that increased athletic opportunities for all college students.

Finally in 1984, anti-Title IX advocates, President Regan and Republicans in Washington had their way and the amendment was suspended for four years as a result of *Grove City vs. Bell*. Then in 1988, the Civil Rights Restoration Act was passed by Congress and Title IX was back on the books. This time frame is important to keep in mind when discussing the myths of Title IX.

As the profile of college athletics became more of a business, it was clear that further clarification of Title IX was needed. So, in 1996 the OCR went to work explaining how the amendment applies to collegiate athletics. Colleges and universities were mandated to report annually on their compliance with Title IX. The Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act of 1994 required in-

stitutions to report all revenues, expenses and capital expenditures on behalf of their intercollegiate athletics program, including private donations. Standards were developed by which compliance was measured: 1) scholarships, 2) general benefits and services (budgets, fields, uniforms, etc.), and 3) sport participation (together known as the “three prong test”). The first two areas were pretty straight forward, but the last has become the most controversial and misunderstood part of the law.

The three prong test gives colleges and universities three ways to comply with Title IX. The first and what has become the most controversial prong, focuses on student-athlete participation reflective of the full-time, undergraduate student population. This avenue for an athletics department to show compliance has become known as the proportionality prong. The second prong allows an institution to show a history and continuing practice of program expansion of the underrepresented gender. The third option would be for an athletics department to fully meet the interests and abilities of the underrepresented gender. The last two options for compliance, as straight forward as they seem, require continuous and detailed record keeping on the institution's part.

It seems a law that increases athletics opportunities for both genders would be a good thing. Instead, Title IX continues to be under fire. One would think that the 21st century is a time of progress. When Bush Jr. took office, advocates of Title IX knew a battle was looming. In 2002, a commission was formed to review opportunities in college athletics. All attempts to weaken Title IX failed after countless Congressional hearings over the months to follow. The threats did not stop, though, as collegiate wrestling coaches played a large part in attempting to reduce the strength of the amendment. This time, under the amazing leadership of the late Myles Brand, the NCAA did the right thing and defended Title IX. The NCAA made it clear that cutting men's programs to comply with Title IX was not an acceptable practice.

Regardless of the NCAA's stance, each year athletics departments around the country are forced to cut their budgets. To deal with budget shortfalls, many athletics administrators from major universities right down to small colleges throughout the country have made the poor decision to discontinue teams. In most cases Title IX is wrongfully blamed. It is a gross misinterpretation of the law when this statement is made.

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Film, Food, and
Conversation:
Whip It

**Wednesday, February 17th
7pm
Hoosac Harbor**

Bliss Cavendar (Ellen Page) feels trapped in her small-town Texas life. She wants more out of life than to compete in beauty pageants out of her mother's demands. She discovers her calling during a shopping trip to Austin, where she finds a flyer for a Roller Derby event. She falls in love with the sport, practicing constantly, and lying about her age to make a Roller Derby team. She takes on the name Babe Ruthless, her Roller Derby alter ego. She finds camaraderie with her teammates, a fierce group of dedicated and talented athletes. *Whip It* also features the talents of Alia Shawkat, Kristen Wiig, Drew Barrymore, Eve, Juliette Lewis, and real life roller derby athletes Rachel Piplica and Kristen Adolphi.



In honor of Girl's and Women's and Sports Day, join the Women's Center for this film (written by a former roller derby star), in honor of all female athletes. Stick around after the film for snack and conversation!

Inspiring Woman, continued

them to swim? To catch a ball? You have to work with the person. It's quite simple, actually."

In Shriver's later years, she was still actively working as an advocate for people with mental retardation. At eighty-five, during the 2006 Special Olympics Summer Games, Shriver stepped up to the podium and made it very clear that she would always keep fighting for people with developmental disabilities. "We've got to be so proud of what our special friends do and their future," said Shriver, "Their possibility of really bringing to the world something that really resembles peace and hope and faith and love that's what they can do. And we're so proud of them. And we want to keep going all the time, the next twenty years. I'm going. You come with me?" When asked why she continued to work so tirelessly on the issue she replied, "Because it's so outrageous, still. In so many countries. They're not accepted in the schools. They're not accepted in play programs. They're just not accepted. So we have much to do."

For her work in nationalizing the Special Olympics, Shriver received the Civitan International World Citizenship Award. Her advocacy on this issue has also earned her other rewards and recognitions, including honorary degrees from various universities. She is also the second American and only woman to appear on a U.S. coin while still living. Her portrait is on the obverse of the 1995 memorial silver dollar honoring the Special Olympics. On the reverse side is the quotation, "As we hope for the best in them, hope is reborn in us." Eunice Kennedy Shriver died on August 11, 2009 at the age of 88, but her inspiration lives on. Her devotion and determination to make a difference will always be admired. "You are the stars and the world is watching you. By your presence you send a message to every village, every city, every nation. A message of hope. A message of victory." –Eunice Shriver, 1987 Special Olympics World Games, South Bend, Indiana.

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Women Athletes of the World, continued

Many websites dedicated to sexy picture of beautiful athletes make their way into the google lineup. One article on espn.com implies that the best way for a woman athlete to get noticed is to pose naked. Ironically, in the early years of the Olympics, women were barred from events that would show too much skin. In 1912, when swimming was added as an event for women, American women were not even allowed to compete because they were barred from sports that did not require them to wear long skirts! Of course, today, this seems ridiculous. Obviously, women shouldn't be forced to hide their bodies, but is it any more fair for women to be portrayed as sexy when they've fought so hard to be portrayed as athletes?

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Title IX Goes to College: What It Did, and What It Didn't, continued

Several misconceptions follow:

1) Title IX decreases opportunities for male athletes in order to provide increased opportunities for females to participate:

Fact: from 1984-1988 when Title IX enforcement was suspended, the number of college wrestling programs took its sharpest decline in the history of the sport while football continued to increase.

Fact: both men's and women's gymnastics programs have been on the decline.

Fact: since the passage of Title IX, football added 7,199 participants and baseball added 5,452 participants.

Fact: from 1988-2002, NCAA DIII schools have added a net of 212 teams for men, DII schools have added a net of 23 teams for men, while DI has lost 174 teams for men with DI-A dropping the most at 109 teams.

2) Boys are more interested in sports than girls or opportunities for males have decreased since the passage of Title IX:

Fact: from 1972 to 2008:

High school participation by girls has increased 940% while boys participation has increased 19% - *ncwge.org*

Participation opportunities have grown for both NCAA men (+31 percent) and women (+456 percent)

3) Title IX decreases opportunities for male athletes in order to provide increased opportunities for females to participate:

Fact: Title IX's purpose is to create the same opportunity and quality of treatment for female athletes as is afforded male athletes. The law does not require reductions in opportunities for male athletes.

Fact: Some educational institutions have chosen to cut men's non-revenue sports and maintained that this was necessary in order to comply with Title IX, thereby making women's programs the easy scapegoat to blame for the loss of these men's programs. However, it is the school's choice to cut back in this unfortunate manner.

Fact: Title IX is not to blame for school priorities that short-change men's minor sports. During the 1980s, when few schools were expanding opportunities

for women to play sports, men's minor sports were being eliminated in order to spend more money on football and other men's revenue-producing sports.

Fact: Cutting men's sports is not the intent of Title IX. The intent of Title IX is to bring treatment of the disadvantaged gender up to the level of the advantaged group.

Let's look at a few other facts surrounding DI-A football and basketball to help understand the state of collegiate athletics and what the real budget problems are for big time college athletics programs:

- On average, 74% of DI-A athletics department operating budgets for men's teams goes to football and men's basketball leaving just 21% for the rest of the men's programs and 5% for unrelated costs.

- On average, the DI operating budget for women's basketball is \$1.2 million, averaging \$75K for 16 players and \$3.8 million for the rest of the women's teams with an average of \$16K per participant.

- On average the DI operating budget for men's basketball is \$2.1 million or \$123K per player, \$6.5 million or \$55K per football player, leaving \$2.9 million or \$15K per athlete for the rest of the men's teams.

- A fully funded DI-A football program has 89 scholarships while a fully funded men's soccer program has only 11.

Difficult decisions have to be made each year and have only become more difficult with the looming economic issues of the times. Colleges and universities are being forced to shave budgets and athletics department are not immune. Politics and fundraising play huge roles in these decisions. In the end, in order for all to succeed, the difficult decisions are often the right decisions.

Sadly, twenty-seven years after the passage of a law that is intended to close the gender gap, a canyon still exists. In 2002, the Chronicle of Higher Education reported that although the average DI-A female population is 52%, women's athletics only accounts for 41% of scholarships, 29% of operating budgets, and 30% of recruiting resources. With these numbers in mind, it is obvious that continued advocacy for enforcement of Title IX is necessary.

Sources:

Unless otherwise noted all stats and facts are courtesy of the NCAA.

The Whole IX Yards: How Title IX Came To Be, continued

report titled *Title IX: 25 Years of Progress*, since 1971 the participation of women in intercollegiate sports has increased fourfold. For example, in 1995, women made up thirty-seven percent of college athletes as opposed to the fifteen percent in 1972. In 1996 girls made up thirty-nine percent of high school athletes as compared with the seven point five percent in 1971, and in the 1996 Olympics, women from the U.S. won nineteen Olympic medals, more than in any prior year.

Title IX has affected more than just sports though. According to *Title IX: 25 years of Progress*, in 1994, sixty-three percent of female high school graduates went on to college, a twenty percent increase from 1973. The number of women earning a bachelor's degree increased from eighteen percent in 1971 to twenty-seven percent in 1994. Also in 1994, thirty-eight percent of medical degrees were awarded to women, up from only nine percent in 1972. The same year, forty-three percent of law degrees and forty-four percent of all doctoral degrees were received by women.

There are still many accomplishments that need to be made. In 1996, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that women made up ninety-eight point six percent of secretaries and ninety-six point nine percent of receptionists, but were only nine point two percent of all engineers, architects and surveyors and four point one percent of mechanics and repair technicians. Even those women who earn a degree in mathematics or science still face inequality in the labor market. In 1993, women who majored in natural sciences earned 15 percent less than male colleagues with the same degree. Women graduates of a four year college earned about twenty percent less than a male with the same degree.

The American Association of University Women, along with The Women's Sports Foundation and The Legal Aid Society - Employment Law Center, has worked to create and fund *Title IX Program in a Box*. It consists of materials about the Title IX legislation and explains how to find out if your school is in compliance with the aspects of Title IX regarding athletics. The purpose of this program is to lay out the steps of how to make sure that your school's athletics are in compliance with Title IX and to help the school make changes before it faces a law suit.

Title IX faces a lot of opposition. Opponents of Title IX say that although it is great that women's sports have been benefiting, men's sports have not benefited and most often there has been a negative

impact on them. More than four hundred and thirty high school wrestling teams have been eliminated since Title IX's inception, and opponents say it is because the school either does not have the funding or enough interest to create a female team. They will allow women on the team, but then when it comes time for the meet, the opposing team's coach will not allow their players to go up against a woman. Supporters of Title IX argue that the cutting of men's teams is not an effect of the legislation's enforcement, but the fault of unfortunate budgeting decisions by school administrations. Other male-dominated sports, like football, have not been affected.

Title IX remains controversial and may still have some kinks to work out, but so far it has been successful in helping level the playing field for women in education. There is still a lot to be accomplished though, such as eliminating the wage gap, making jobs that require science and math degrees be seen as less "male oriented", and ensuring men's sports are not hurt in the process of attempting to create equality. Since 1975, when all aspects of Title IX had been passed, there has been a great increase in the number women in sports, as well as the number of women earning degrees.

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Fair Game?: Transgender and Intersex Athletes, continued

by a panel of experts. It was revealed that the Hitler Youth Movement had forced Ratjen to compete as a woman, and after the athlete was barred from competing in any further games, Ratjen moved back to Germany and lived as a man named Hermann. Although Ratjen's case is sometimes cited as an example of masquerading, it is actually a poignant example of the difficulty of living as intersex, and specifically, of being an intersex athlete.

Of course, such testing is utterly useless for transgender folks, and they, like intersex people, suffer the consequences of having ambiguous gender in the rigidly binary realm of sports. "Transgender" is an umbrella term for those people whose gender identity and expressions do not match those of their gender assigned at birth. Transgender and intersex are two very different terms, used to describe two very different states of being, but I have lumped them together in this article because these people endure similar challenges within the sex-segregated world of sports.

There is concern that trans women will have an advantage over cisgender female athletes (that is, those athletes who were assigned female at birth, and identify as female), since those born male presumably have more muscle mass. There is also worry that trans men have an advantage over the cisgender male athletes they are competing with, because they often take testosterone in order to complete their transition from woman to man, and high levels of this hormone are associated with increased endurance. It also goes without saying that trans athletes may experience harassment from other players who feel that calling a male player a girl constitutes playfulness rather than harassment.

Despite the concern, most medical professionals believe that when men transition to women, they lose a large proportion of their muscle mass (up to 30%). Given that such athletes would be lugging around a male skeletal structure with female musculature, any advantage that a trans woman might have is pretty much moot.

Behind the discrimination against both groups is the sneaky suspicion that male athletes will pose as women in order to exercise their supposed physical superiority and win competitions.

We assume that most men are physically larger and stronger than most women, and this is generally true. However, it is dangerous to trade in generalities, and there is an enormous amount of overlap; there are many, many women, especially trained athletes, who are physically stronger than most men. Also, it appears that women have a natural physiological advantage in swimming (since a woman's extra body fat buoys her up, helping her move faster through the water), and distance running (since her

body can break down stored fat and use it for energy when other stores are exhausted).

Perhaps the strict gender binaries enforced in the sports world are due more to our discomfort with female athletes than with the realities of male and female athletic ability. And we *do* have a certain discomfort with female athletes, as evidenced by the under-funding of female sports and the tendency to sexualize those female athletes that are supported. Type "female athletes" into Google, and the first five results will be mostly along the lines of 'Hottest female athlete of the year.'

What causes this discomfort? Is it the idea of muscular, powerful women? The association between physical sport and sexual exertion? Does the idea of a female participating in competitive physical sports undermine our whole idea of what femininity is about?

I'll leave it to the reader to decide. Suffice it to say that women athletes challenge our notions of gender, but transgender or intersex athletes flip the whole idea of gender tail over teakettle.

Participation for trans folks in the realm of competitive professional sports has historically been very difficult, due to gender testing that misidentified them, but this was changed with the case of Renee Richards.

Richards had transitioned to a woman, and began competing in women's tennis at the remarkable age of 43. She sought exemption from the standard of gender testing when she was scheduled to compete at the 1977 United States Open Tennis Championship. When she came up against serious opposition, she took her case to the Supreme Court.

The court ruled in her favor, stating that although modern gender-testing methods were a good way to establish an athlete's gender, Richards was clearly a different case. Richards was able to compete, and her case also set a precedent for transgendered people in the world of competitive sports. In 2004, the International Olympics Committee formulated a policy allowing transsexual athletes to participate in Olympic events, and other sports organizations have followed suit. However, there is a requirement in this policy that the athlete must undergo complete genital surgery before being allowed to compete. While this effectively weeds out any gender masqueraders, it causes serious problems for female-to-male transgender people, for whom genital reconstructive surgery is extremely difficult and rather dangerous. It also isolates those who don't desire genital reconstruction, as well as athletes from countries where these surgeries are illegal, or people who simply cannot afford such expensive procedures. Since then, regulations for gender testing have been relaxed in most sports events, which is good news for intersex athletes.

Activism for transgender and intersex athletes often consists simply of being themselves, living their lives in the gender that fits, and competing in their chosen sport. For their allies, speaking out against unjust policies and refuting hate-mongers are important steps to gaining equal footing in the world of sports competitions. When I told people that I was writing an article on intersex and transgendered athletes, I was often met with, "Those exist?!" I had to explain that yes, they did, before detailing the issues that intersex and trans athletes face. It's worth it to engage and educate in everyday conversation, since providing the facts on a subject can change the way that people view it. Another way to help is to write to journalists who misrepresent trans or intersex issues within sports. In the AP Stylebook, the journalists' bible, there are accepted industry standards for discussing transgender individuals and trans issues—such as using a transgender person's preferred pronoun. When a writer ignores these guidelines, not only are they being offensive, they are also being a bad journalist.

There is still a long way to go, and it is important to note that although larger, professional sports bodies are beginning to formulate policies that allow for the participation of intersex and trans athletes, many university and high school sports have no such regulations.

Caster Semenya was only eighteen when her chromosomal condition was broadcast to the world. She has since regained her confidence, and plans on competing in local events in Africa. Let's hope that no other teenager has to endure such humiliation.

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Women in Sports, Homophobia and the Gay Games, continued

There are still obstacles to overcome to make the Gay Games fully inclusive and idyllic – women remain under-represented, and the number of transgender participants is still quite low. While the Games have slowly incorporated more and more non-Western countries since their first year, many regions are still under-represented or unrepresented because participants cannot afford to travel, or because to be an out homosexual is dangerous or illegal in their home nation. For example, Uganda is currently debating a law that would make homosexuality punishable by death. Efforts, like the Gay Games, to create a visible international GLBT community, however, ideally hold up a hopeful alternative for GLBT people who are isolated and oppressed and confront the harmful notion that queer people are in any way dangerous or less than normal.

While the Gay Games challenge homophobia on a national and even international level, local queer sports teams can provide a more immediate and accessible community. You may have never heard of them, but there are plenty to find here in Western Massachusetts and the surrounding area: there are gay men's bowling, volleyball and dodgeball teams in Northampton; GLBT basketball and softball in Springfield; a gay basketball league in Boston; a gay-friendly hockey league in Albany; and a GLBT outdoors club and GLBT bowling league in the New York capital region. Just this year, students at Hampshire College formed the Queer Football Association Gala, or Q-FAG.

The Federation of Gay Games' website provides detailed advice for starting your own lesbian, gay or all-inclusive GLBT sports team, club or league. They give pointers on finding members, establishing group leadership, raising funds and getting publicity. "Global change begins with local change," the website extols – even if it's just a few friends kicking around a ball, out GLBT athletes have the power to defy expectations and confront discrimination within sports and beyond.

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S. T. A. G. E.

STUDENTS TAKING ACTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY



There is a new club forming on campus called S.T.A.G.E. (Students Taking Action for Gender Equality). We're all about equal rights and coming together to bridge the gap between the sexes in school, at work, at home, and anywhere else, for that matter. If you want not only your voice to be heard about inequality but also want to actually take action to alter how gender at our school and in our society is perceived and plays out, this is the right place for you.

We meet **Sunday nights at 7:00 pm in the Women's Center**, which is on the third floor of the campus center, room 322. Come see what we're all about; everyone is welcome!