

Oakland U economist chosen for state post

An Oakland University economist has been tapped by Gov. William G. Milliken to be commissioner of financial institutions.

She is Dr. Martha R. Seger, Bloomfield Hills resident who since Aug. 15 has been associate professor of finance and economics at the Rochester-based OUI.

Dr. Seger will succeed Richard J. Francis, Birmingham lawyer who returned to private practice last April.

This semester, Dr. Seger taught management in the master of business administration program and investment analysis to juniors and seniors in finance.

She was scheduled to teach monetary theory and capital markets during the winter semester, but will take a leave of absence to go to Lansing Jan. 1.

As commissioner of financial institutions, she will report to Commerce Department Director William McLaughlin. Her bureau oversees the financial integrity of 240 state-chartered banks, 31 state-chartered savings and loan institutions, 598 credit unions, and several hundred consumer finance companies.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, she received a bachelor's of business administration in accounting and finance in 1954, a master's of business administration in finance in 1955 and a Ph.D. in business economics and finance in 1971.

From 1964 to 1967, she was a financial economist to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington.

Then she returned to metropolitan Detroit to work for two major banks. At Detroit Bank and Trust Co. from 1967-71, she rose to vice president and chief economist. At Bank of the Commonwealth from 1974-76, she became divisional vice president in charge of investments and economics.

Since 1976 she has been a consultant to Detroit Edison Co., United Capital Management of Denver and First National Bank of Birmingham (Ala.). From 1975-78 she was a lecturer in finance at the University of Windsor and in 1978-79, adjunct associate professor of business economics at the University of Michigan.

Derogatory namecalling out of place

I hate the term, whether you spell it fatter or fat.

I recently heard it used on the radio in reference to a former fatty, and I'll bet the formerly heavy individual didn't like it either.

I've seen it in headlines, too, and kids use it a lot to describe obese individuals. In fact, it seems children automatically set up a dislike for another child who is chubby. Prejudices seem to be built into society, with name-calling a standard.

Actually, I'm not comfortable with many of the words used to describe overweight people. There are a variety that can be used: chubby, fat, obese, overweight, plump, roly-poly, heavy, corpulent, rotund or portly.

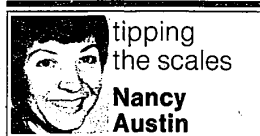
Physicians refer to morbid obesity and exogenous obesity, and those aren't much better.

I suppose of all them, I don't mind saying overweight or heavy.

THEN THERE are the old sing-song versus kids used to sing on the school playground to annoy an overweight child like: "Fatty-fatty two by four. . . ." Being a family newspaper, I can't print the rest. But to say it is unkind or uncomplimentary is an understatement.

"And what about the song, 'I don't want her, you can have her, she's too fat for me.'"

There is a lot of prejudice against the



tipping the scales
Nancy Austin

overweight people of this world. And while I don't believe that fat is beautiful, I don't believe anyone has a right to call names, make derogatory comments, generalize about the work qualifications of an individual who is overweight.

Unfortunately, it seems that most of the comments are directed toward women, too. When men are too heavy, it is overlooked, even when the overweight state of the individual may be 100 pounds or more.

I don't blame this segment of society (which is hardly a minority) for forming an organization to protect their rights and to stand up to be heard. Today, it seems, unless you band together in great numbers, your voice and concerns are lost in myriad other voices and other concerns.

I DO NOT advocate that because you are

overweight you should stay that way or make no effort to diet. In most cases, it is clearly unhealthy. But somewhere along the way allowances must be made for the individual who is more comfortable psychologically to be heavy even if that is not in line with standard thinking.

I strongly object to the rhetorical question made by individuals, "My gosh, look at that fat person. How could she let herself get that way?" You never know what circumstances led this person to their present condition and moral judgments are inappropriate.

An alcoholic may be able to hide his drinking, a kleptomaniac may get away with stealing, and the effects of smoking on a smoker may not be visible. An overeater can't hide the effects of overeating, but it doesn't make his habit any worse than the others.

During the holiday season it is traditional to examine attitudes and contemplate the changes you are going to make in your own lifestyle. It is also traditional to make a New Year's resolution. This may be a very good time for the overeaters to examine the reasons why they overeat and try a little harder to help themselves. And it also might be a good time for the rest of us to examine our attitudes and refrain from passing judgment on a not-so-small minority.

Law school scholarship competition is under way

Entries now are being accepted for the second annual Thomas M. Cooley Law School collegiate oratory competition with \$20,000 worth of full or partial scholarships to the Lansing law school as awards.

"The competition," said Cooley Law School President Thomas E. Brennan, "is a response to a charge by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren E. Burger that advocacy skills among today's attorneys is on the decline. We endeavor to develop those skills here at Cooley and feel that, as a law school, it is our charge to do so."

The competition is open to undergraduate students in any four-year col-

lege or university who file entries by Dec. 31.

Brennan said that the overall winner in the oratory finals April 3 will receive a full tuition scholarship to the Cooley Law School, while two semi-finalists will win \$500 tuition grants.

A panel of Michigan Supreme Court justices will judge the final competition.

Orators must prepare and deliver a memorized 10-minute speech on one of five questions: "Crowded Prisons: What to do?", "Euthanasia: Mercy or Murder?", "E.R.A.: In or Out of the Federal Constitution?", "The Jury System: Is it working?", and "Choosing Judges: Elect or Appoint?"

Entrants must submit manuscripts by Jan. 31, 1981, and those selected will be auditioned between Feb. 9 and 27. Nine semi-finalists will be chosen from quarter-final competition, and they will compete April 2 before a panel of Michigan court judges.

The three best semi-finalists will appear before the Supreme Court panel in the final competition April 3.

The overall winner will be announced that evening at an honorary dinner sponsored by the Cooley Law School.

Information may be obtained from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School Collegiate Oratory Competition, 217 S. Capitol, P.O. Box 13038, Lansing 48901.

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