



A lesson in the gender gap: Male teachers make more

By JAMES MCGINNIS
STAFF WRITER

Editor's Note: Equal Pay Day is Tuesday. It was created in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity to raise awareness about the gender gap in pay.

After 13 years in the Palisades School District, athletics director Rebecca George earned \$78,655 in 2016, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Employment records show seven other public school athletics directors — all men — have less on-the-job experience and bigger paychecks.

Among them, the athletics director for the Abington School District also had 13 years of experience. Yet he earned \$44,845 more than his female counterpart at Palisades last year, state records show.

Gender pay inequity can be seen in countless professions throughout the United States. But it's very easy to spot in Pennsylvania's public schools, since the state Department of Education publishes the name, position and salary of every public school employee annually.

Barrier\$ to Betterment

That data shows many women make thousands of dollars less than men in a wide range of positions in public schools. Some point to factors such as experience, duties, degrees and district size, while others argue those factors don't account for the disparity in salary.

For example, the athletics directors in Abington and Palisades each have a master's degree, according to the state. However, Abington has four times more students.

Contacted by this news organization, George expressed no shock about her pay and the salaries of other athletics directors.

"I'm a female in what could be considered a man's world," she said. "It's frustrating. But I love doing what I do. I believe in what high school sports does for this

community and I'm very passionate about it."

Statewide, women outnumber men nearly 3-to-1 in all public school jobs. Yet, the average woman working in a Pennsylvania public school earned \$3,681 less than the average man in 2016, state records show.

In Bucks and Montgomery counties, the average man working in public schools took home \$88,823, state data shows. The average female worker earned

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Phillies win on Opening Day



GARY LANDERS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Phillies' Maikel Franco slides into home past Cincinnati Reds catcher Tucker Barnhart on Monday in Cincinnati. The Phils scored early and hung on for a 4-3 season opening win. **Full coverage, Sports B1**

Contingent from Bucks joining protest at Capitol

Many are upset with Gov. Tom Wolf's plan to merge the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs with other departments.

By PEG QUANN
STAFF WRITER

Protesters will rally at the state Capitol on Wednesday against Gov. Tom Wolf's plan to merge the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs with other departments into an expanded Department of Health and Human Services.

State Rep. Gene DiGirolamo, of Bensalem, has garnered support for a caravan that will meet at 7:15 a.m. at his office and travel to the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission office, 600 Louis

Drive, Warminster, before heading to Harrisburg.

"All are welcome. Carpooling will be arranged," said Jay Kurko, founder of the Lower Bucks Addiction Task Force, which is coordinating the trip to Harrisburg. He could not estimate how many people will participate.

In Harrisburg, the group will meet at 10:30 a.m. at River Street Garage, 218 N. Second St., before heading to the Capitol Rotunda for the rally at 11 a.m.

DiGirolamo questioned why the governor would want to "collapse" the department, which is doing a lot to combat the opioid abuse epidemic, and "bury it in a

large bureaucracy," he said.

"In my 22 years in the Legislature, this is the worst idea I've ever heard," DiGirolamo said.



DiGirolamo

In a letter he sent to House colleagues in February, the Republican representative of the 18th Legislative District said he was "utterly baffled" by Wolf's proposal. "We established the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs by near unanimous votes of the House and Senate with

the express purpose of bringing laser focus and muscular leadership to this problem so devastating to our families and to our communities," DiGirolamo said.

"We're in the middle of an

epidemic, and they're going to suppress and change the leadership," asked Deb Beck, president of the Drug and Alcohol Service Providers of Pennsylvania, which is coordinating the rally in Harrisburg. "It doesn't make sense."

He said that by putting the department under the Health Department, it would lose secretary status and direct access to the governor.

J.J. Abbott, Wolf's press secretary, said that the director of the drug and alcohol programs still would be a member of the governor's inner circle of advisers. "The plan would preserve a cabinet-level position," he said.

No one is a bigger advocate for those suffering from addiction than the governor, said Abbott.

Wolf announced a plan earlier this year to merge four departments — Aging, Health, Drug and Alcohol Programs and Human Services — into one to save money and coordinate overlapping services. The change might save money in services and prescription coverage for seniors, but there would be no cost savings for drug and alcohol services, Beck said.

The governor believes that combining the departments would provide better service to those afflicted by drug or alcohol addiction because many receive treatment through Medicaid, which is funded through the Department of Human Services. That department set up Centers of Excellence

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Dems' path on Gorsuch could change Washington

By STEVEN T. DENNIS and LAURA LITVAN
BLOOMBERG

Senate Democrats set the stage for a confrontation this week that likely will change how Washington works as they assembled more than enough votes to block President Donald Trump's first Supreme Court nominee under the current rules.

Chris Coons of Delaware and Maryland's Ben Cardin on Monday became the 41st and 42nd Democrats to say they would vote against advancing the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch. Shortly afterward, John McCain, R-Arizona, said he was giving up his effort to forge a

compromise.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, has made clear Gorsuch will be confirmed one way or the other — even if that means further eroding decades of Senate traditions that have forced the majority to compromise.

To deliver on his promise, McConnell is likely to invoke what's known as the "nuclear option" — changing Senate rules to eliminate the 60-vote threshold and end filibusters on high court nominees. McCain said he will vote for the rule change.

"I guarantee you, just as the Democrats regretted what Harry

Reid did, we will regret doing this," McCain of Arizona told reporters. He was referring to then-Democratic leader Harry Reid's decision in 2013 to end the filibuster for lower-court and executive-branch nominees.

Asked why he would support a rule change he finds so objectionable, McCain said, "I have no choice. I have no choice. Because we need to confirm Gorsuch."

The move is called the nuclear option for a reason — it would destroy one of the few restraints that still distinguishes the Senate from the more raucous, majority-rule House. The Senate is often referred

to as the world's greatest deliberative body, and the power the filibuster gives to the minority is what forces that deliberation. Eliminating it would create a ripple effect across Washington, deepening the partisanship.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted Monday to advance Gorsuch's nomination on a party-line vote. McConnell has said the full Senate will vote on the nomination Friday, but the real showdown is expected Thursday, when the Senate would hold the procedural vote that could prompt Republicans to change the chamber's rules.

68° Morning rain
47° then showers.A9

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What's wrong with everyone getting a championship ring?

Commentary

J.D. Mullane



In a surprise announcement, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said that beginning with the 2018 Super Bowl, both teams will be awarded the Vince Lombardi Trophy, and players on both teams will receive diamond championship rings.

Goodell added that in post-game interviews, the losing team will be called the "co-participant in winning" by on-air staff employed by the broadcaster that has the rights to game day coverage.

Local network affiliates will be discouraged from airing gripes from fans, especially those who say the losing coach "stinks," "choked" or "should be fired."

"After much deliberation, the team owners and I have decided to modernize the most iconic bowl game in American sports," Goodell said at a press conference Monday in the Snowflake Room at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Manhattan.

"A consensus of scientists agrees that, after head injuries, hurt feelings from being labeled 'loser' stands as the top threat to a player's well-being," Goodell said. "This is not my opinion. It's science. Ask the scientists, who know this science-y stuff."

"Calling a coach 'loser' creates feelings of insecurity within a coach and among his staff, too," Goodell said. "It is especially harsh in Philadelphia, where fans

call losing coaches names that cannot be mentioned in public, especially here in the Snowflake Room.

"Our broadcast partners will be advised not to give these bullying epithets any airtime. Put yourself in the shoes of a Super Bowl coach who, after four quarters of play, must undergo public shaming merely because the numbers on the board aren't in his favor.

"And there you are, your driver taking you post-game to the airport for a flight to some posh tropical resort for a month of rest and relaxation, and all you hear on sports talk radio is how you are a lousy so-and-so or a crummy this-and-that. Sure, you are a millionaire many times over. But how can you enjoy yourself lounging on a beach, sipping adult beverages, knowing that fans can be so judgmental?"

The commissioner said the sweeping changes were a year in the making.

"We surveyed a diverse range of experts, from NPR sports commentators, to protesting college students, to soft-hearted team moms who represent peewee football teams around the country. What we found is that there is a consensus that the crude labels 'winner' and 'loser' are remnants of 20th-century toxic masculinity.

"Points on a stadium scoreboard don't tell the whole story. Those cold, hard numbers lack nuance," Goodell said.

"We have a slavish devotion to this idea that because one team excels over all others, that they are 'winners.' Why should a receiver who catches the ball at a crucial moment in a game, causing thunderous cheers in

the stadium and cries of joy from fans in sports bars, be considered better than an opposing butter fingers with a case of the drospies? Did butter fingers not make it to this vaunted league? Did butter fingers not want to wear a Super Bowl ring, too? Surely he did. But we give no credit for these good intentions. Such crude triumphalism is over now.

"Beginning next year," Goodell said, "everyone is a winner in the NFL."

Sources within Major League Baseball said they are impressed with the "courageous" stand Goodell and the NFL are taking, and may consider doing the same with the World Series, though "not anytime soon."

"The average age of a Major League Baseball fan is about 60," one source said. "Those guys tend to be old school about who's a winner and who's not, so everybody's-a-winner for baseball is a no-go — for now. Our bigger problem is attracting young people to a game they consider incredibly boring."

Several MLB sources, who spoke provided they were granted anonymity, said there are plans to make baseball more exciting, such as exploding bases, and a moat with starving crocodiles set between third and home plate, over which players must leap to score a run.

"After we spice things up and bring in younger people, then we'll award every team a championship trophy," the source said. "In baseball today it's not whether you win or lose, it's how you pretend to win or lose the game."

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One person hurt in Upper Southampton crash

One person was injured in a two-car crash near Churchville and Street roads in Upper Southampton at about 7 p.m. Monday, police said. One car flipped onto its roof while the other sustained heavy damage to the rear portion of the driver's side. It is unclear which occupant suffered injuries, but police said they were minor and the person was taken to St. Mary Medical Center in Middletown. The cause of the crash is under investigation.



CHRISTIAN MENNO / STAFF

Police investigating motorcycle crash

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP — Bristol Township police are investigating a crash between a motorcycle and a truck Saturday.

According to police, a 2004 Ford pickup truck collided with a 2000 Suzuki motorcycle at Edgely and Mill Creek roads at about 8:26 p.m. The driver of the motorcycle was taken to St. Mary Medical Center in

Middletown by the Pennel-Middletown Rescue Squad with unspecified injuries. The driver of the truck was not injured.

Anyone with information about the crash should call 267-812-3026.

Rally

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to distribute the funding for addiction treatment.

The Bucks County Centers of Excellence are the Penn Foundation in West Rockhill and the Family Service Association in Middletown. Both offer drug treatment programs for those who have some type of insurance, including Medicaid. These centers receive their Medicaid funding through the Department of Human Services, Abbott said.

However, the Department of Drug and Alcohol program has a different agency dealing with its addiction treatment and prevention services in each county. While the single-county authorities coordinate with the Centers of Excellence, one of their main purposes is to provide treatment for those without insurance, including Medicaid.

The Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission — a private, nonprofit agency

— is a single county authority or lead agency coordinating addiction treatment and prevention services for people living here, said Diane Rosati, commission executive director. "We are really the safety net for people who do not have other coverage.... This issue is so important because we're in the midst of an overdose epidemic," she said.

DiGirolamo, who is chairman of the House Human Services Committee, said he was the primary sponsor when a separate department for drug and alcohol programs was proposed in 2010 and that the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs has been in operation since 2012. Its accomplishments, he said, include the distribution of naloxone to police departments to reverse overdoses and the take-back of 50 tons of prescription medicines that otherwise would be disposed of improperly or get into the hands of a potential addict. It also has distributed guidelines to physicians treating people with addictive medications and has allocated \$100 million to help people get treatment

for addiction.

An outline of Wolf's proposed budget indicates the Centers of Excellence around the state would receive expanded funding and the state would provide \$10 million in funding for distribution of naloxone to counteract drug overdoses. The drug would be given to first responders and police departments. The current state budget does not provide for naloxone, but the state distributes the drug through grants from pharmaceutical companies, Abbott said. Wolf also proposes \$3.4 million to expand drug courts throughout the state.

The House of Representatives will have a hearing on the proposed departmental mergers before the rally Wednesday. Beck urged those going to Harrisburg and others to contact their representatives to voice support for keeping Drug and Alcohol Programs as a separate Cabinet-level department.

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