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### Don doesn't expect strict interpretation

## Will Title IX affect Ags?

By DEBORAH LACY  
Staff Sports Writer  
Will Title IX affect Texas A&M athletics?  
"It's a matter of how HEW interprets the guidelines. I have a feeling they're not going to be that strict," said Kay Don, associate athletic director in charge of women's athletics.

Everyone should be aware by now that Title IX, the sex discrimination law, is now official and on the collegiate level, opinions are given about the interpretation of the law almost everyday.

Should Title IX be interpreted strictly — where the women have to do everything the men have to do? If interpreted strictly, it means women's athletics would have to be treated equal to male athletics, in-

cluding money-makers like football and basketball.

"Interpreting Title IX strictly would probably cause more harm than good," she said. "I don't know that HEW is really interpreting their guidelines very strictly. I think they're leaving some openings in the guidelines that would allow for it not to be so strenuous."

As far as the situation at A&M goes, Don said that the women's program has taken a look at Title IX and as far as women and men's athletics go, the women's program feels pretty confident that they're providing a program that will not leave any room for questions concerning the handling of the program.

"We're offering partial scholarships for women for the first time this year and we will be able to offer financial aid for women in the eight sports we have," Don said.

Don said they're not really worrying about Title IX that much because, "We want to provide a good program for the women on our campus. We're not going to concern ourselves that much with Title IX because we think that if HEW came in to look at our program we wouldn't have any problem. We feel we're providing a good program for the women."

The women's athletic program here is three years old. It's still very young, but it's growing fast and making progress in the handling of the women's program.

"I believe that we understand that the men started a long time ago with their program and had to grow, and I think most of us feel the same way about our program — we're young and we have a long way to go. But we're offering an opportunity to grow and to develop a good and outstanding program in women's athletics," Don said.

Do most women want the Title IX interpreted strictly — and thereby wanting everything equal to their male counterparts in athletics? Don said, "I think the majority of women just want the opportunity to have a program and to be able to build a program. I don't really know that we're looking at Title IX as meaning to say you have to give everything to the women that the men have."

Don said that her interpretation is that you just have to provide an equal opportunity, not necessarily equal financing because the majority of women's sports don't need that large of a budget at the present time. "We know we have to put in a

little bit to get something, too, and the majority of women are willing to do this," Don said.

The financing of women's athletics has changed quite a bit since the program has come into existence. "In the first three years the program was a Sports Club and we collected money from the girls to use for our benefit," Don said.

"Last year was an in-between stage," Don said, "we got some money from the girls but not as much. This year the women's program is part of the Athletic Department and we didn't charge the girls anything."

Don said that because students buying tickets for the men's games were able to watch the women's games, there is really no way to evaluate the amount of money women's sports could have pulled in.

## Three Ags in prep star football tilt

Texas A&M will be represented by three of its incoming freshmen in this week's Texas High School Coaches Association All-Star football game.

Eddie Hardin of Houston Madison and George Woodard of Van Vleck will play for the South while Darrell Smith of Ft. Worth Wyatt will be on the North squad.

Hardin played fullback three years at Houston Madison High where he was all-district and all-city twice. He was on the all-state team and a member of the elite blue chip list in his senior year. He also competed in track and baseball.

Woodard played tight end, tailback and linebacker at Van Vleck. He also won all-district, all-state and all-American honors. Woodard participated in track and advanced to the state meet throwing the shot put.

Smith played tailback and safety two years at Wyatt High. He was all-district two years both ways. All-Tarrant County and offensive player of the year in his senior year. He was also all-district two years in basketball.

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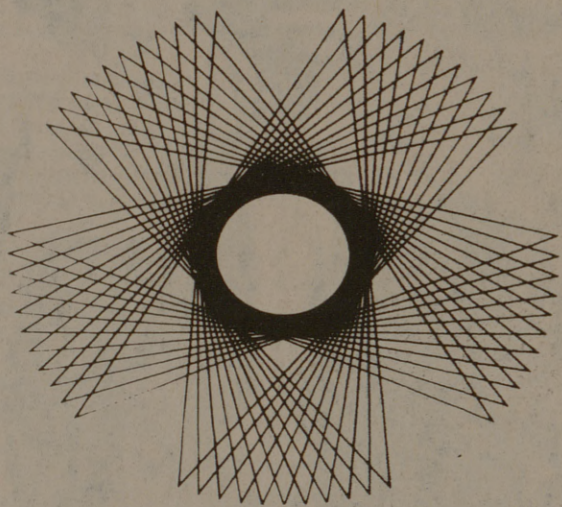
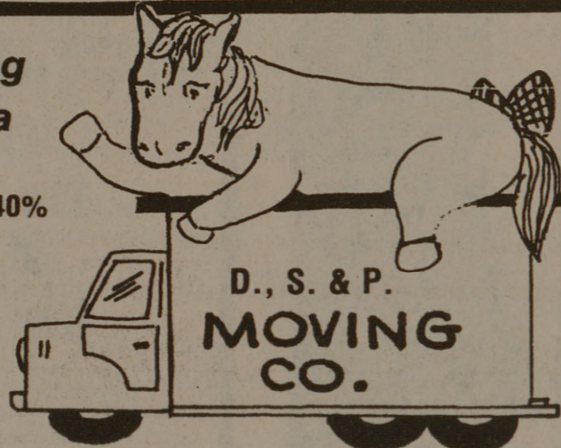
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