

Frances Ferguson recommended that an expert in Harrison's field from another campus be appointed to the review process—but that step was never taken. Forestry professor Sally Fairfax, who replaced Ferguson in 1986 as part of the normal rotation in the position of chancellor's assistant, cited sex discrimination and recommended that the chancellor overturn the departmental decision and grant Harrison tenure—but that too came to naught.

Inevitably, word of the decision spread into the international math community. Harrison's colleagues "ganged up on her and cheated on her," says Christopher Zeeman, one of the most influential mathematicians in England. Zeeman, who thinks Harrison is "clearly of Berkeley quality," says he has taken a particular interest in her case because he advised Harrison in the early part of her graduate work at Warwick. "The unfairness of the assessment of Jenny Harrison at Berkeley is well known in the international community," Zeeman claims.

Somewhere between the extreme positions is Stephen Smale, a mathematician at Berkeley and a winner of the Fields prize (math's equivalent of the Nobel prize). Smale thinks Harrison was a "borderline" candidate for tenure. Although he says her case was "not very strong," he thinks she was better than at least one man who was tenured and that her relative merits with others were "arguable." Smale adds that he isn't sure whether improper procedures occurred in the tenure decision, but "the fact that she is a woman brings out all sorts of emotions and partisanship. Weaknesses get magnified—that's where sexism plays a role. Other people support her because she is a woman."

Sorting out this tangle of opinion and fact could soon be the job of a jury. In the meantime, Harrison, who is \$50,000 in debt from legal fees, faces the choice given her by Grunbaum: Reapply to the Berkeley math department for a tenured position (Grunbaum says her third "major result" may change the minds of some faculty about

whether Harrison deserves tenure) or spurn the offer and play hardball in the courts. She says other schools have expressed an interest in hiring her, but she's not ready for that option: "If I felt I was the only one harmed, I might consider leaving, but I saw a pattern involving other women. I feel morally obliged to do something. I'm not walking away from this thing until it's settled."

Eventually Harrison's case will be settled. By itself, of course, it won't resolve the problems faced by women in academic mathematics. But the lessons of the case will be instructive for more than one department of mathematics. And if Harrison does accept Grunbaum's offer and wins tenure the second time around, her struggle will have raised the total number of women tenured in the top ten mathematics departments by 25 percent: from four to five.

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Funding Cutoff Threatens Thai Science

Hong Kong—On 23 February, when the attention of the world was firmly fixed on the Persian Gulf, a bloodless coup d'état in Thailand brought down the government of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan. The little-noticed coup, carried out by commander of the armed forces General Sundhara Kongsompong ostensibly to stamp out government corruption, drew an immediate condemnation from the United States, followed by suspension of economic aid to its longtime Asian ally. The cutoff—which is mandated by U.S. law when a democratically elected government is overthrown—has wreaked havoc with bilateral scientific programs worth some \$3 million in funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) this year, to the dismay of both U.S. and Thai scientists.

Typical of the damage caused by the suspension of aid is the disruption suffered by a 5-year joint venture involving the University of Rhode Island (URI) and the Prince of Songkla University (PSU) in Hat Yai, in southern Thailand. The aim of the project was to establish a Coastal Resources Institute, known as CORIN, that would offer a master's degree program to train a cadre of coastal zone managers, initially for Thailand and eventually for all of Southeast Asia.

"After 3 years of hard work in setting up what has widely been viewed as a model for a university-based center of excellence in coastal resources management, the United States will lose its initiative and influence," complains a frustrated Stephen Olsen, the director of URI's Coastal Resources Management Project. Industrial development, tourism, and aquaculture are booming in Thailand, notes Olsen, and expertise in coastal resources management is desperately needed. Already, he says, unplanned industrial growth has spoiled some coastal resorts, such as Pattaya.

The cutoff has tested the traditional patience of the Thais. The U.S.-educated president of the Prince of Songkla University, Phasook Kullavanij, is bitter: "The aid programs are important because they encourage the Thai government to support more

research in our country," he says. "Due to the suspension of U.S. aid, many of PSU's R&D programs have had to be stopped or scaled down drastically." The result is that after months of planning and convincing Thai scientists to join the CORIN project, there is no money to pay salaries. Says CORIN director Somsak Boromthananat, "CORIN staff have lost their morale and are looking for other jobs."

The cutoff has also cost the URI group, which runs programs in several countries, 15% of its total budget and threatened the jobs of at least nine U.S. scientists working on the CORIN project. Moreover, URI officials have had the sad duty of informing five Thai PhD students who had just been admitted to U.S. universities following a grueling application process that they could not come unless they can find their own money. Other Thai students have been cut loose by other U.S.-funded programs. In all, USAID estimates that 30 Thai students are in a similar bind. As a result, top-notch Thai students are now looking to Dutch, Australian, and Canadian scholarship programs for assistance.

Some Thai scientists are now saying that dealing with USAID is too much trouble. They point out that the United States is the only nation that suspended economic aid following the coup—indeed, Japan announced that it would continue its close relations with Thailand, providing \$614 million in economic aid in 1991. But the U.S. government's hands are tied: According to U.S. law, aid cannot be restored until there is a new election in Thailand. Thus, despite the lifting of martial law on 2 May, the lack of any overt civil discontent, and a pledge by the ruling military council to hold elections early next year, Washington has directed the USAID office in Bangkok to close down by 23 October.

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