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Womens

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 VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

The monthly newsletter of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

April 2009, Volume 31, Issue 7

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Defining Consent: A Guide to Vanderbilt's New Sexual Misconduct Policy

by Kacy Silverstein
co-director, Project Safe

If you were asked to define consent, what would you say? You may say that consent means giving someone permission to engage in an act. Do we give consent or is consent obtained? Is there a difference? Is there ever a situation in which consent can be assumed? Does silence mean consent is granted or consent is withheld? These are the questions that college campuses have been exploring for the past ten years when it comes to drafting sexual misconduct policies. While a majority of colleges today have consent-based conduct codes, many fail to actually define consent. Antioch College was among the first to provide a policy-based definition of consent in 1993 and was later criticized for a policy that seemed artificial and stilted. On the other hand, many universities have adopted policies that focus on the issue of force and gloss over the more important issue of consent. **This past year Vanderbilt University tackled the issue of consent on this campus and announced a new sexual misconduct policy.**

At the heart of the idea of consent is the belief that every person, man or woman, has the right to personal sovereignty. Consent can be broad or narrow, limited, and in some cases, completely revoked. Consent has a beginning and an expiration date. Consent can be given, but it also must be obtained. Consent matters and the situations in which it matters most are often the most critical and complex. Consent-based policies rely on the assumption that those individuals

bound to the policy have a somewhat educated understanding of consent. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

At the heart of the idea of consent is the belief that every person, man or woman, has the right to personal sovereignty.

Where does consent begin? Consent begins when two people decide together to do the same thing, at the same time, in the same way, with each other. Consent means you can't make assumptions about what your partner does or does not want.

How may consent be given? Consent may be given verbally or nonverbally, based on an active, informed, freely decided choice. Students are often concerned that the focus on obtaining verbal consent will take the spontaneity and romance out of sexual encounters. On the other hand, taking the time to obtain your partner's verbal consent shows that you are mutually engaged with the other person and actually respect their right to make decisions regarding their own sexual autonomy (dating tip for 2009).

Is consent required to escalate sexual activity? Yes. Consent to one form of sexual activity never can imply consent to other forms of sexual activity. The movie romance theme where kissing always leads to fondling, which always leads to some sort of sexual intercourse, should be left at the theater. In reality, kissing should only lead to more kissing,

unless both parties mutually decide to move on to fondling or intercourse.

Are there circumstances when consent is given, but is not valid? Consent would be invalid when forced, threatened, intimidated, coerced, when given by a mentally or physically incapacitated person, or when given by a minor. Let's talk about consent and alcohol, since this seems to be a topic that baffles many college students. If a person has consumed so much alcohol that they are incapacitated (can't walk without assistance, are in blackout or brownout, are slurring their words, can't stand on their own) then that person legally does not have the right or the ability to consent to sexual activity. In other words, the safe bet when your partner is "wasted," "smashed," "sloshed" or any other form of incapacitated is to not engage in sexual activity.

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Visit our website!
www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

Project Safe Receives Community Recognition

Project Safe co-directors, Vicky Basra and Kacy Silverstein, were honored as Distinguished Staff of the Game at the Vanderbilt Men's last regular season game. Vicky and Kacy were presented the award for the efforts in creating the Athletes Against Assault



Athletes Against Assault Task Force

Task Force. This Task Force, the first of its kind in the South Eastern Conference, includes one athlete from each of Vanderbilt's 15 varsity sports. These athletes are trained on issues of dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault and serve as allies and advocates both within athletics and across the Vanderbilt campus.

The task force is a joint venture between Vanderbilt Athletics and Project Safe. It was created in an effort to challenge cultural values that support violence against women and to hold accountable individuals who perpetrate these crimes. Whether they choose the status or not, athletes are viewed as leaders on Vanderbilt's campus. Project Safe knows athletes and students will listen to other athletes, which is why we believe it to be imperative that student-athletes be involved as allies in this movement. Through this task force, we hope to facilitate the creation of a campus that is safer for all students and one that helps victims/survivors of such violence to seek help and support.

For more info on the Athletes Against Assault Task Force, please visit: <http://vucommodores.cstv.com/sports/m-baskbl/spec-rel/042408aac.html>



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Deadline for newsletter: Submissions are due on the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Annual Margaret Cuninggim lecture presented by Dr. Kelly Oliver

The Margaret Cuninggim Lecture is an endowed lecture on women in culture and society given by a distinguished scholar each year. Lecturers are invited to address the broad topic from the perspective of their own discipline. Past lecturers have included Patricia Hill Collins, Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies at the University of Cincinnati; Peggy McIntosh, Associate Director of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women; Beverly Guy Sheftall of Spellman University; Dr. Sue Rosser, Dean of the Ivan College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Institute of Technology, among other distinguished scholars.



Dr. Kelly Oliver

The focus of this year's Cuninggim Lecture is on the outstanding academic women at Vanderbilt. We are honored to feature **Dr. Kelly Oliver**, W. Alton Jones Chair of Philosophy and Professor of Women's Studies at Vanderbilt University. She is also currently affiliated with African-American and Diaspora Studies, Women's Studies, and Film Studies at Vanderbilt.

Dr. Oliver has a distinguished career in academe and numerous articles and books to her credit. A few of her recently published books include: *Biting the Hand that Feeds You: Animal Pedagogy and the Science of Kinship*, 2009; *Women as Weapons of War: Iraq, Sex and the Media*, 2007; *The Colonization of Psychic Space: A Psychoanalytic Social Theory of Oppression*, 2004; and *Noir Anxiety: Race, Sex and Maternity in Film Noir*, 2002

Dr. Oliver earned her doctorate in philosophy from Northwestern University in 1987. Her focus of research includes: period and figures; subjectivity, language, ethics, social and political philosophy; feminism; theories of oppression; and film theory. Dr. Oliver's most current research will be the focus of her Cuninggim Lecture presentation. She will be presenting, ***Knock Me Up! Knock Me Down! A Philosophical Analysis of Recent Representations of Pregnancy in Pop Culture and Film***. Dr. Oliver asserts that from the nineteenth century until the late twentieth century, pregnancy was considered a medical condition and/or something to hide from public view. Recently, however, pregnant bodies regularly cover the most popular magazines, whose reporters are constantly on the lookout for the telltale "baby bump." In addition, a slate of films about pregnant girls and women has come out of Hollywood in the last couple of years (including *Children of Men*, *Knocked-Up*, *The Waitress*, *Saved!*, *Juno*, and *Baby Mama*). In this current book project, Dr. Oliver aims to provide an analysis of changing attitudes toward pregnancy and the pregnant body evidenced by these popular images. The focus on women's bodies in popular culture is nothing new, but the focus on pregnant bodies calls for philosophical interpretation. While manifesting vestiges of older notions of pregnant embodiment as shameful and/or pathological, pregnancy has also become imagined as romantic and liberating.

In addition to the featured presentation by Dr. Kelly Oliver, this year's Annual Cuninggim Lecture will also feature the presentation of the 2009 Mary Jane Werthan Award, Women's Center Mentoring Award, and recognition of our undergraduate Muliebrity Prize winners. Please join us on April 22nd to honor these and other women of Vanderbilt University.



Defining Consent: A Guide to Vanderbilt's New Sexual Misconduct Policy

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"If she doesn't want it, she will stop me, right?" Let's not even try playing this game, although this is the game many students have been playing for years. It is not her (or his) job to resist, but the initiator's job to ask for consent and respect the answer.

"No means No' but what does silence mean?" Contrary to popular belief, silence and passivity do not equal permission or consent. Silence does not mean go. Silence does not mean maybe. Silence simply means the absence of an answer. At this point I would advise asking for consent.*

This simple concept, this one little word can mean the difference between an enjoyable sexual experience and a criminal act. Vanderbilt's new sexual misconduct policy makes clear that consent must be obtained, must be freely given, and must include an expressed verbal or non-verbal cue. In summary, the next time you find yourself on the brink of a sexual encounter just remember: **Don't assume silence means yes. No really does mean no.** Don't wait for your partner to tell you they are uncomfortable. If your partner is incapacitated, stop what you are doing. Ask for consent and respect the answer.

To learn more about Vanderbilt's sexual misconduct policy, please visit: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/chapter3.html

* Koestner, K. & Sokolow, B. "Eliminating Force from Campus Sexual Misconduct Policies: The Rise of the Consent Construct." www.nchem.org



If you are interested in learning more about ending violence against women,

Join Peer Educators

Peer Educators are a group of students trained to facilitate discussions about sexual assault, intimate partner abuse, and stalking. Peer educators create seminars and discussion formats in order to encourage understanding of violence against women. They are available to travel to campus groups and residence halls to promote discussion. Trainings for Peer Educators are held in the fall and spring semesters. For more information on how you can join Peer Educators, please contact justine.e.chess@vanderbilt.edu or katy.adams@vanderbilt.edu



editorial

What we might learn from the Rihanna-Chris Brown controversy

Earlier this month, R&B star Chris Brown was accused of committing an act of domestic violence against his girlfriend the singer, Rihanna. While the Los Angeles Police Department investigated the crime and built a case against the singer, the world soaked up the news about these two celebrities. Rather than focus on the larger issue of violence against women, news reporters and talk show hosts discussed everything but domestic violence. Early stories focused on how the charges might impact Brown's endorsement deals. Celebrities jumped to Brown's defense telling us that "Chris is a great guy" and that the couple were "affectionate and adorable." There was an incredible amount of victim blaming, as outrageous comments about what Rihanna must have done to "deserve" the beating flooded the airwaves and Internet. Oprah and Dr. Phil scolded Rihanna for taking Brown back, while paparazzi stalked the singer for pictures of her battered face.

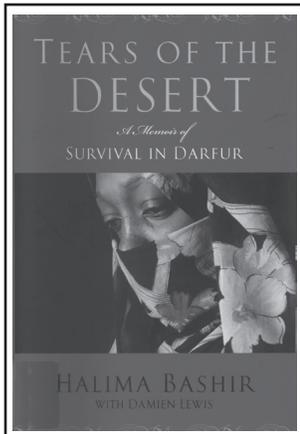
As horrifying as this media frenzy has been, there is much to be learned from it. What has been almost intentionally left out of the story is the fact that according to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control each year, **women in the U.S. experience 4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes.** While talk show hosts invited bloggers and magazine editors on to discuss the case, no one bothered to mention that nearly 80% of young women who have been physically abused in their intimate relationships, continue to date their abusers (Jaffe & Sudderman, et al). While Rihanna was blamed for returning to the relationship, in reality a woman will leave an abusive relationship multiple times before she leaves for good. This fact rarely, if ever, appeared in headlines or news feeds. While opinions abound on the story, I have yet to hear a domestic violence advocate or expert be asked how we end the cycle of violence.

In many ways, the reaction to this case of domestic violence says more about us than it does Rihanna or Brown. As a public, we were quick to blame Brown until Rihanna went back into the relationship. At that point, we focused on why she deserved the violence, how she was and is asking for it, how Brown is a good guy who just messed up. The truth of the matter is that we are a culture that relies on violence to solve many of our problems and we are obsessed with violence in our music videos and movies. We are quick to say violence is okay when it is entertainment and quick to blame the victim when it is not. Why is it so hard for us to acknowledge that violence is unacceptable, no matter the circumstances or the celebrities involved?

Jaffe P, Sudermann M, Reitzel D, Killip S. An evaluation of a secondary school primary prevention program on violence in intimate relationships. *Violence and Victims* 1992; 7: 129-146.

Kacy Silverstein is co-director of Project Safe.

Tears of the Desert: A Memoir of Survival in Darfur



Tears of the Desert: A Memoir of Survival in Darfur (One World Ballantine Books, 2008) is a chilling account of the atrocities still being perpetrated in the Darfur area of western Sudan. It is the first autobiography of a woman who endured the horrors of this genocide.

Halima Bashir, who wrote the book with Damien Lewis, was born in 1979 into the Zaghawa tribe in a small village in Darfur.

The Zaghawa, who are black, are Muslims who have long inhabited the Darfur area of Sudan as well as part of Chad. To the south and east of their area lived a number of semi-nomadic Arab tribes, who looked down on the black Africans.

Halima was the oldest child in her family and her father's favorite. He was wealthier than most other men in the village of mud huts and owned camels, cattle, sheep and goats. The family had the first vehicle in the village, as well as the first radio and television set (powered by their Land Rover's battery).

Halima's father wanted her to be well-educated and shortly after her traumatic circumcision at the age of eight, she was sent to a girls' school in the town of Hashma. Two older cousins attended the same school and she lived with their family, in a house owned by her father. Many of the pupils and teachers at the school were Arabs and there was considerable discrimination against the black students. Bashir discovered that most of the Arab families lived in nice houses in town and had black servants. Despite the obstacles placed in her way, Halima did very well at school and was accepted into the medical school of a university in Khartoum. There were no doctors in her village. By this time there was civil unrest in the country and power had been seized by Islamic extremists.

At medical school the writer came to realize that genital mutilation was a devastating and cruel betrayal. Her studies in Khartoum were interrupted when the university was shut down by a political emergency but she later completed her six years of study there. She was planning to help the women of her district by specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. Although it was still quiet in her area, Arabs had begun attacking Zaghawa villages, killing the inhabitants, burning the buildings and destroying everything.

Bashir was sent by the Health Ministry to work as a doctor in a remote village in northern Darfur. There she treated everyone, including Darfuri rebels in hiding. She was horrified one day to have to treat the devastating injuries of many small girls who had been gang-raped at school by Janjaweed rebels. About a week later they came back for the doctor, who was brutally gang-raped over

a period of several days. She returned to her distant village in a state of shock. During the following dark months she was married to her cousin, Sharif, who was not present at the celebration. He had fled to safety in England.

Five months after Bashir returned home, her village was attacked and destroyed by the Janjaweed. Her beloved father was among the many dead villagers. The attacks on the village changed Halima; for months she had thought of herself as a victim but then she became enraged and wanted to fight the Arabs. Shortly afterward when she was away from home soldiers came into the ruins of the village looking for her. Her mother and sister left immediately for a relative's home, leaving a message for Halima that she should leave with all the family's hidden gold. This she did and she set off alone on foot, heading south for the Nuba Mountains. On the way she met someone who said he could help her escape. Using all the gold that her family had saved, she was able to pay a mysterious agent, who arranged a flight to London so that she could request asylum. She arrived in 2005 and months later was reunited with her husband; they now have two young sons. She continues to speak out about the genocide in her homeland.

In May of last year Halima was granted refugee status for herself and her family. She has not been able to find out what happened to any of her family members in Darfur.

A DVD recently added to the library's collection is *Dreamworlds 3; Desire, Sex & Power in Music Video* which was written, narrated and edited by Sut Jhally. Among the new books are: *Feed Me!: Writers Dish About Food, Eating, Weight, and Body Image* edited by Harriet Brown; *Violence, Gender and Justice* by Maggie Wykes and Kirsty Welsh; and *Dating Jesus: A Story of Fundamentalism, Feminism, and the American Girl* by Susan Campbell.



The Women's Center Staff bids farewell to Barbara

It is with deep sadness that the Women's Center staff bids farewell to Barbara Clarke, our Center's very knowledgeable librarian. We wish to acknowledge and celebrate her 18 years of service to the Vanderbilt community. She is the fourth librarian to serve the Women's Center in its 30 year history. She has written a book review for Women's VU every month throughout her tenure here and she will be missed. Barbara has been our center's historian, voice of reason, resident proofreader, and esteemed colleague and friend. Her absence will leave a gaping hole here at the Women's Center and in our hearts.

Please join us for a farewell dessert reception for Barbara on Thursday, April 23rd from 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. here at the Women's Center.

In the Library



Barbara Clarke
Women's Center
Librarian

April 2009

 denotes Project Safe programming

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm	1	2 Vanderbilt Feminists, 7:30pm	3	4 Eating Disorders & Obesity: A National Crisis? 7am-4pm
5	6	Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm IMAGE, 4pm  Peer Ed, 8pm	8	9 Vandy Moms: 11:30am-12:30pm Vanderbilt Feminists, 7:30pm	10	11
12	13 Book Group, 5:15pm-6:15pm	14 Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm  Peer Ed, 8pm	15	16 Vanderbilt Feminists, 7:30pm	17	18
19	20	21 Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm  Peer Ed, 8pm	22 The Margaret Cuninggim Lecture, 11:30am, Student Life Center (Ballroom A)	23 Vandy Moms: 11:30am-12:30pm Vanderbilt Feminists, 7:30pm	24	25
26	27	28  Peer Ed, 8pm Pay Equity Day	29	30 Vanderbilt Feminists, 7:30pm		
				<p>For details and descriptions of each group, please refer to page 6. Unless specified, most groups meet at the Women's Center.</p>		

Show Your Support!

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS RIBBON CAMPAIGN

Wear a TEAL ribbon to show your support for ending sexual violence. Project Safe will place small boxes of ribbons around campus for you to wear. If your office or organization is interested in participating, please contact kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu for more details.

Date/Location: Month of April; various locations

PAY EQUITY DAY: WEAR RED ON APRIL 28th!

April 28th marks Equal Pay Day in this country. This is the day on which women's earnings will match men's earnings from the previous fiscal year. In other words, it takes women approximately four months longer to earn the same salary as their male counterparts. In 2005, the most recent year for which data is available, women continued to earn only 77 cents on

the dollar to their male counterparts. To match men's earnings for 2005, women have to work from January 2006 to April 2007—an extra four months! In Tennessee the wage gap is an average of \$0.75. And for women of color in the US, the wage gap increases (e.g. For African American/Black women is it \$0.67 and for Hispanic/Latina women, it is \$0.56). The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act will help women who choose to sue for discrimination/ inequity in wages. This is a great step forward. However, passage of this act does not eliminate the wage gap. Please help us to raise awareness about this unacceptable injustice and take the necessary steps to close the wage gap.

On April 28th, you can help by wearing red on April 28th to symbolize how far in the red women and minorities are in their pay. For more information, please contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

(Events listed chronologically and include events, programs, and series for which the Women's Center is solely responsible or for which we are a major sponsor or collaborator.)

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Wear a TEAL ribbon to show your support in ending violence against women.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS RIBBON CAMPAIGN

(Teal Ribbons)

Wear a teal ribbon to show your support for ending sexual violence. Project Safe will place small boxes of ribbons around campus for you to wear. If your office or organization is interested in participating, please contact kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu for more details.

Date/Location: Month of April; various locations

THE MARGARET CUNINGGIM LECTURE

***Knock Me Up! Know Me Down! A Philosophical Analysis of Recent Representations of Pregnancy in Popular Culture and Film* presented by Dr. Kelly Oliver**

This endowed lecture on women in culture and society is given by a distinguished scholar each year. Lecturers are invited to address the broad topic from the perspective of their own discipline. Past lecturers have included Patricia Hill Collins, the Charles Phelps Taft Professor of Sociology and Professor of African-American Studies at the University of Cincinnati; Peggy McIntosh, Associate Director of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women; and Beverly Guy Sheftall of Spellman University, among other distinguished scholars. Dr. Oliver is the W. Alton Jones Chair of Philosophy and Professor of Women's Studies at Vanderbilt University. She has many published articles and books, including her 2007 book, *Women as Weapons of War: Iraq, Sex and the Media*.

Date: April 22; 11:30 a.m. (Lunch will be provided)

Location: Student Life Center (Ballroom A); Vanderbilt University

Please RSVP to stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

PAY EQUITY DAY: WEAR RED ON APRIL 28th!

April 28th marks Equal Pay Day in this country. This is the day on which women's earnings will match men's earnings from the previous fiscal year. In other words, it takes women approximately four months longer to earn the same salary as their male counterparts. In 2005, the most recent year for which data is available, women continued to earn only 77 cents on the dollar to their male counterparts. To match men's earnings for 2005, women have to work from January 2006 to April 2007—an extra four months! In Tennessee the wage gap is an average of \$0.75. And for women of color in the US, the wage gap increases (e.g. For African American/Black women is it \$0.67 and for Hispanic/Latina women, it is \$0.56). The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act will help women who choose to sue for

discrimination/ inequity in wages. This is a great step forward. However, passage of this act does not eliminate the wage gap. Please help us to raise awareness about this unacceptable injustice and take the necessary steps to close the wage gap. You can help by wearing red on April 28th to symbolize how far in the red women and minorities are in their pay. You can also take time to learn more about the wage gap and its effects on women and families. Some helpful information can be found at: www.pay-equity.org; www.state.tn.us/sos/ecw/; www.vanderbilt.edu/register/articles?id=33844. You can also create awareness by letting your friends and family know about this issue through discussions or spread the word to your community through letters to the editor or emails to your e-lists.

Date: April 28

For more information, please contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

VANDERBILT OR COMMUNITY EVENTS, SERIES AND PROGRAMS

(Events listed by dates and are included here to help promote the events for our Vanderbilt and community partners. The Women's Center is not an official sponsor or collaborator for these events listed.)

EATING DISORDERS & OBESITY: A NATIONAL CRISIS?

Eating Disorders Coalition of Tennessee is proud to announce our 6th Annual Forum, ***Eating Disorders and Obesity: A National Crisis?*** Jointly sponsored by the Eating Disorders Coalition of Tennessee and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. This forum offers a vital perspective on helping clinicians effectively address the theoretical and empirical perspectives in the treatment of eating disorders and obesity. To this end, we offer eleven breakout sessions within which both theoretical and practical applications are discussed.

We are excited and honored to announce our keynote for 2009: Dr. Dianne Neumark-Sztainer, PhD, MPH, RD, Professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health at the University of Minnesota, is the author of *I'm, Like, SO Fat! Helping Your Teen Make Healthy Choices about Eating and Exercise in a Weight Obsessed World* (The Guilford Press). She received the 2006 Huddleston Award, Honorable Mention, for her co-written article: *Obesity, disordered eating, and eating disorders in a longitudinal study of adolescents: How do dieters fare five years later?* Dr. Neumark-Sztainer is also the recipient of the 2003 Lori Irving Award for Excellence in Eating Disorders Prevention and Awareness from the National Eating Disorders Association. **Register before March 6, 2009 and receive \$25 off of your registration.** CEUs available. Visit www.edct.net for more information.

Target Audience: Psychologists, Counselors, Social Workers, School Counselors, Registered Dietitians, Exercise Physiologists, Pediatricians, Internists, Psychiatrists, Public Policy professionals, and Public Health officials.

Date: Saturday, April 4; 7:00am-4:00pm

Location: The College of Pharmacy Lipscomb University; 1 University Park Drive, Nashville, TN

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Cost of registration:

- \$150 for EDCT Members/\$175 for Non-members (\$125 if you register before March 15th)
 - \$70 for EDCT Student Members/ \$95 for Non-Member Students (\$45 if you register before March 15th)
- To register, go to: <http://www.edct.net>

REGULAR GROUPS AND MEETINGS

(Groups are listed alphabetically and are all sponsored or co-sponsored by the Women's Center.)

BOOK GROUP

Meets the second Monday of each month; 5:15–6:15 p.m.

What/Who: The book group is open to new members at all times and is for anyone who loves to read.

April 13: *Loving Frank: A Novel* by Nancy Horan, led by Susanne Hicks

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center, Vanderbilt
For more information, contact Jane Du Bose at jdubose@bellsouth.net or Carmen Gherman at cggherman@yahoo.com.

CREATIVE LIFE PLANNING GROUP

Meets every Tuesday; 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

What/Who: A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Free and open to everyone and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90 years of age.

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center; Vanderbilt
For more information, call 322-4843.

IMAGE GROUP

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 4 p.m.

Who: Free and open to any students interested in these issues.

What: IMAGE is an organization dedicated to supporting positive body and self-image issues in the Vanderbilt community. It provides a forum for interested community members to advocate the adoption of healthy body-image concepts and the reduction of eating disorders.

Where: Sarratt 208; For more information, contact images@vanderbilt.edu.

L.I.F.E. (Lessons Inspiring Female Empowerment)

Please email us to get meeting dates and times.

Who/What: L.I.F.E. is group dedicated to mentoring young girls and women on a variety of issues important to them.

This group works with a group of teen girls in the Nashville community covering topics such as economic empowerment, girls' and women's health, self-esteem, leadership and more. Free and open to any students interested in these issues.

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center; Vanderbilt
For more information, contact ashley.n.walker@vanderbilt.edu or thelifeproject@vanderbilt.edu



EVERY 2 MINUTES (formerly Men Promoting a Solution)

Meets every other Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.

Who/What: A group of men dedicated to creating awareness about violent crimes against women and eliminating those crimes through social change.

Where: Sarratt 363; For more information, contact tom.rosen@vanderbilt.edu or bryan.adams@vanderbilt.edu

PEER EDUCATORS OF PROJECT SAFE

Meets every Tuesday, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Who/What: Peer Educators are students trained to facilitate workshops that promote discussion and encourage understanding of violence against women.

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center; Vanderbilt
For more information, contact justine.e.chess@vanderbilt.edu or katy.adams@vanderbilt.edu

VANDERBILT STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP

What: a weekly confidential support group for Vanderbilt undergraduate and graduate students who have been impacted by violence against women (dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault). Students are welcome to attend at their leisure. No commitment required.

When: 6-7:00 p.m.

Where: Confidential, on-campus location

For more information, contact kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu or call 322-3774.

VANDERBILT FACULTY & STAFF SUPPORT GROUP

What: A weekly confidential support group for female Vanderbilt faculty & staff members who have been impacted by violence against women (dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault). Faculty & staff are welcome to attend at their leisure. No commitment required.

When: 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Where: Confidential, on-campus location

For more information, contact vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu or call 322-1333.

VANDERBILT FEMINISTS

Meets every Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Who/What: A student group concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders. Open to all students of any gender.

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center; Vanderbilt
For more information, contact erica.d.santiago@vanderbilt.edu or amy.l.gillard@vanderbilt.edu

VANDY MOMS

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

What/Who: Open to all mothers of any age, partnered or single. This is a fun support network that provides advocacy for moms in the Vanderbilt and larger communities and provides programming to inform, empower and enrich.

Thursday, April 23: We'll host Susan Douglas and Anne Vincent from the new organization and website "No Mommy's Perfect."

Please contact misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu for more information.



Community Events and Volunteer Opportunities

NASHVILLE NOW (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN) meets the 4th Monday of the month at the First Unitarian Universalist Church located at 1808 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, 37215. Each meeting is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and features networking and refreshments. These meetings are open to members, friends and those seeking more information. For additional details, contact cynthianashnow@aol.com or 615-269-7141.

Nashville CABLE meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1p.m. For more information, contact nashvillecable.org

Join THE BIG STITCH April 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Join Middle Tennessee knitters and crocheters on Saturday, April 18th at FiftyForward Knowles to participate in the 2nd BIG STITCH, an event to support the current project of Knit and Crochet TN, a commitment to provide a handmade blanket to every one of the 2500 babies born at Nashville General Hospital at Meharry during the coming year.

This event is organized by Knit and Crochet TN, a group of needle workers who are dedicated to providing knitters and crocheters of Tennessee with information on area groups, special events, educational opportunities and charitable needs

in our community. The first BIG STITCH, held in January, was a tremendous success; almost 100 individuals attended and over 100 blankets were donated on that day. There will be knitting and crocheting all day and a break for lunch at noon. Participants are asked to bring their own needles and yarn (20 to 24 ounces is needed for a blanket) and a sack lunch; drinks will be provided. Door prizes will be given throughout the day, goody bags will be given to all participants and there will be a boutique open for yarn and patterns.

For those individuals who would like to learn to knit or crochet, there will be instruction available throughout the day. Instruction space is limited, so reservations need to be made by emailing info@knitandcrochettn.com or calling Deborah Stillwell at (615) 579-1857. **Reservations are needed only for those who desire instruction.** If you cannot attend, but want to participate in The Meharry Project, contact us. We have several drop-off points for completed blankets.

Date/Time: Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: FiftyForward Knowles, 174 Rains Avenue, Nashville, 37203

For additional details about the day, blanket requirements and patterns, visit www.knitandcrochettn.com.



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A paper copy of *Women's VU* is also available and sent free, by request, to all members of the Vanderbilt community.

Please send my free paper subscription to the address below.

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