

WOMEN'S VU

October 1979

A publication for and about women
at Vanderbilt University

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ADVISORY BOARD SHAPES POLICY FOR WOMEN'S CENTER

When the Women's Concerns Committee submitted a proposal to the President two years ago, following the Chancellor's approval of the Women's Center, it became the primary document guiding the establishment of the Center. An Advisory Board, representing various campus constituencies and appointed by President Fields, was authorized to (1) facilitate communication and cooperation, (2) advise the Director in establishing program, and (3) evaluate the program of the Center, presenting to the President a preliminary assessment of the Center's progress, on-going function, staff and space needs, and long-range budget.

The Center began mid-year in 1978-79 and thus encountered special problems with budget, space, and activities of the Advisory Board. Despite these handicaps,

there has been an impressive commitment of individual time and energy to aid in establishing the Women's Center at Vanderbilt. Special thanks go to Rhoni Adams, Dorothy Goodson, Kathryn Smith, Paulette Thompson, Elizabeth Langland, Don Doyle, Elaine Sanders-Bush, Louise Fox, Cathy Hinko, Susan Baird and Ken Jordan.

The Board, composed of 15 representatives from student organizations, faculty, administration, and staff, has met nine times (monthly) since its appointment is December, 1978. Subcommittees were formed for budget, program, community relations, and the survey conducted last Spring. The Women's Concerns Committee dissolved itself and was reconstituted as a task force on advocacy issues.

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Science Workshop Speakers Announced

As reported in the last issue of *Women's VU*, Vanderbilt will sponsor a NSF-supported Careers in Science for Women Workshop on October 27, 1979. The all-day workshop, including banquet, is free for sophomore, junior, and senior women majoring in biological, engineering, or social sciences, although there is a \$5.00 registration fee that will be returned to each participant at the workshop. All other students and non-students are invited to attend; the fee is \$8.00 for the banquet. Persons from all Middle Tennessee institutions are cordially invited.

Brochures and registration forms are available on posters in classroom buildings and science department offices.

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Meeting of Women's Center Advisory Board

RUN FOR SHELTER

The Shelter Task Force is a coalition of 24 agencies and organizations working to establish an emergency shelter for women alone and with children in Nashville. There are only 18 beds available for women with children who find it necessary to seek emergency shelter. Funds are needed to open a shelter, so join the Run for Shelter!

There will be a 1 mile funrun beginning at 9:00 a.m. and a 10k Run beginning at 9:30. Where: Cedar Hill Park (I-65 North to Old Hickory Blvd., left 1/2 mile). When: October 13, 1979. Entry fee is \$5.00. For more information, please call 385-3952.

MEET BETTY NIXON - METRO COUNCILWOMAN FOR THE 26TH DISTRICT

by Betty Nixon

I welcome this opportunity to 'talk' to you about how I got here, what I believe in, how things have changed in four years and what we can do to help more women get elected to public office.

It never occurred to me as I was walking across the platform in my white formal to collect my diploma from Harpeth Hall School in 1954, that 20 years later I would spend my days trying to get pot holes fixed, dogs caught and garbage picked-up . . . not to mention the problem of the budget and talking 20 other members of the Council into voting for my bills. Neither in 1954 nor in 1958 when I graduated from SMU, were most young women thinking about careers or holding public office, and certainly there was little encouragement to do so.

The turning point for me probably came when I didn't get married while in college or right afterwards like most young women of my generation. I was forced to face the question of what to do with my life and how to care for myself. The search for an answer led to two years of graduate study at Vanderbilt and Peabody and marriage to a man who found a woman who openly sought to think and learn attractive.

My husband John had a degree in government from Harvard and was a lawyer. With shared interests in history and politics and shared commitment to an open, honest and fair political system, we began the journey that has brought us to 1979.

The special issue that motivated me to run for the Council was the preservation of older neighborhoods in the University Area. My district, the 26th, encompasses Peabody, Vanderbilt, Belmont, Scarritt, Music Row, Hillsboro Village and the adjacent residential areas including many wonderful old houses and apartments. I believe that the maintenance and improvement of these neighborhoods as safe and comfortable places to live is vitally important to the future of Nashville. Not a day goes by that my belief is not strengthened. Such things as energy shortages, inflated building costs, rising costs for building new roads, water/sewer lines, etc. convinces me of the wisdom of using wisely what we have.

My concern for the quality of life in the city has led me to support the highest priority for housing rehabilitation in the Community Development Program; to advocate opening school buildings for community use (Community Education) for such things as day care, evening classes, recreation and community services; to support the improvement of the Metro Transit System; to assist citizens in joining into cooperative efforts with police officers to improve neighborhood security; to defend public health clinics for women and children; to advocate measures to improve pedestrian safety; to urge the maintenance and development of public facilities such as schools and parks in older neighborhoods and to respect the judgment of professionals in land use planning.

I have been fortunate in my committee assignments and presently serve on the Budget and Finance Committee, the Schools Committee and chair the Special Committee on Community Development.

Certainly things have changed in four years. In 1975 when my family and a few friends put together my campaign, there was little assistance outside our circle of friends. In 1979, I am pleased to find many people and especially many women who are willing to help. There are also more women talking seriously about seeking elected office, and there are more men saying we need more women in public life.

As a closing plea, I would like to encourage us to look on every woman as a resource for good in our society. Because so much power is held by men, there is a tendency to fall into the trap of playing the game their way: for example, looking only to the successful business and professional woman as a possible candidate for public service. But career success on today's market carries a big price. It frequently requires a total commitment of time and energy. There are many women who are intelligent and well educated, who have accepted responsibility for major civic endeavors and who have the time to seek public office. They too should be encouraged.

RALLY ORGANIZED TO PROTEST RAPE

A "Take Back the Night" march for women is scheduled for November () Nashville, in connection with a national march taking place in New York City on October 20. Take Back the Night originated through the November, 1978, national conference of Women Against Violence in Pornography and Media (WAVPM) held in San Francisco. It is a march to protest violence against women: rape, pornography, involuntary sterilization, imprisonment, institutionalization, etc. It is a march to give visibility to the anger, frustration, and overwhelming concern women feel with the continuation of violence against women. It is a march to Take Back the Night.

Come . . . Participate . . . Help spread the word. For more information, contact Ellen Haddigan (297-0640) or Anne Marie Alderman (292-1597).

The Ethnic Woman is a quarterly magazine that informs and unites women of African, Latin, Asian, and American Indian backgrounds. Annual subscriptions are available at \$8.00 from *The Ethnic Woman*, P.O. Box 459, Cooper Union Station, New York, N.Y. 10003. Manuscripts should be submitted to *The Ethnic Woman*, P.O. Box 903, FDR Station, New York, N.Y. 10022.

ADVISORY BOARD

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Two committees began meeting this summer, one to begin the evaluation of the Center and the other to reassess the Board's composition. Recommendation to the President on new appointments to the Board will be made in September and the evaluation (made after one year of the Center's operation) will be given to him in December.

As we begin our second semester of functioning, we are eager to include a broader representation of voices, especially staff, in establishing the continued effectiveness of our new Women's Center.

--Mary-Lynn Oglé
Chairperson

Financial Aid Available For Vanderbilt Women

The Financial Aid Office in Kirkland Hall is responsible for financial aid at Vanderbilt which is based upon need, with no distinction made between women and men. However, Dr. Karen Heldmeyer, Assistant Professor of Psychology, has been collecting information on general programs of fellowship and research support to generate assistance for female graduate students in psychology.

Dr. Heldmeyer has been favorably impressed with the efforts made by her department to actively recruit women and minority students. She noted that psychology is often an attractive field of study for women who wish to resume their formal education several years after college graduation.

Dr. Heldmeyer has found many programs that fund training or retraining to qualify "older women" for employment or to improve their professional opportunities. Thus, scholarships, fellowships, or low-interest loans may be available for many programs ranging from vocational education to a PhD or professional degree.

An excellent reference for women in all fields, available at the Central Library, is the *Directory of Financial Aid for Women (1978)*. This book describes general programs as well as those that target residents of a certain state, members of particular religious faiths, sororities, specific groups such as secretaries, and so on. Checking the index for any categories which may pertain to you may reveal a program especially geared to your needs.

The Clairol Loving Care Scholarship program distributes a brochure describing its own programs and those managed by Sears-Roebuck, Kelly Services, the Council of Southern Universities (of which VU is a member), and the American Association of University Women.

This year, Vanderbilt's Office of Sponsored Research obtained funds for nine graduate students in Law, Economics, and Engineering from the U.S. Office of Education's Graduate and Professional Opportunity Program (GPOP) for women and minorities.

—Lenore Kelly

Women's Science Workshop

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Purpose. Within the framework of encouraging women to pursue careers in science, the workshop will focus on two interrelated themes: 1) identifying career options and various ways of combining active and satisfying personal and professional lives, and 2) setting and achieving realistic and appropriate professional goals.

Students are often so immersed in academic life that they learn little about careers in government and industry. At the workshop, professional scientists with varying educational and employment backgrounds will be available to talk with students about non-academic (as well as academic) careers in science. There will also be programs on such topics as choosing graduate schools, obtaining research experience, evaluating one's employment potential, and choosing the right job, as well as a session on varieties of lifestyles compatible with careers in science.

Throughout the day, emphasis will be placed on options available to the woman scientist. In addition, there will be over twenty-five professional participants, each of whom has developed a unique style as a woman scientist and each of whom will be eager to talk with students about career options and setting and achieving career goals. From such a diversity of professionals, each student should be able to discuss careers with a woman with similar interests.

Continuing program: It is important that the workshop experience be extended beyond one day. To that end, Kathryn Smith of the Career Planning and Placement Service and assistants Anita Guy and Evon Batey Lee are compiling lists of job opportunities in Middle Tennessee for science majors and interviewing women scientists willing to serve as resources for women students interested in careers in science. Resulting information will be distributed at the workshop and participants encouraged to call upon the resource personnel. The lists will also be disseminated to career placement offices in other institutions in the area. In addition, participants will be urged to maintain contact with those at the workshop with whom they share common interests.

VU WOMAN'S CLUB ANNOUNCES PLANS

Bringing women together to further their intellectual and social interests has been a goal of the Vanderbilt Woman's Club since it began 87 years ago. This feeling is prominently demonstrated at the monthly meeting of the book discussion group; one of several interest groups and programs available to members.

Beginning in September, members review selected titles for each month according to a syllabus set up the previous spring. Evening meetings are held at members' homes on the second Tuesday of each month.

This year's topic is French Literature from the 17th to 20th century. Instead of the usual study of novels or non-fiction the format is a discussion of novels, plays, poetry and short stories. In addition, a separate introduction to the century or writing period will be given before actual comments on the specific works.

Vanderbilt Woman's Club and book group are open to women faculty and faculty wives. For information concerning books and meetings a call Katharine Jacobson 298-1195 or Carol Stiles 269-5746.

Andrea Kronenberg



Two professional participants will be coming to the workshop from the Department of Energy in Washington. Dr. Helen McCammon administers a large research project on the impact of the handling of energy resources on marine ecosystems. Dr. Maxine Savitz is in charge of community system and building design. Both Dr. McCammon and Dr. Savitz will also lead seminars at Vanderbilt on Friday, October 26. In addition, there will be many professionals from the Middle Tennessee area.

For more information, see the printed brochure, or contact Molly Miller, Geology, ext. 2986, or Nancy Ransom, Women's Center, ext. 4843.

TICKETS FOR WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAMES GO ON SALE

Season tickets for the Lady Commodores 1979-80 basketball games will be offered for the first time by the Vanderbilt Women's Athletic Department.

"We are real excited about offering season tickets this year," said Coach Joe Pepper.

"We are looking for a good response since our schedule features some of the top teams from this area."

A season ticket, which sells for \$18, is good for 10 games. The UT-Chattanooga on January 16 is not included since it is the first part of a doubleheader to be played at 5:15 prior to the Vanderbilt-Ole Miss men's game.

The cost of each single game ticket is \$2 with the exception of Tennessee on November 21 and Florida on January 23 which sell for \$3. This is a savings of \$4 for a season ticket holder.

A ticket application for the women's games will be included in the mailout for the Vanderbilt men's basketball season tickets this year. They may also be obtained at the Women's Athletic offices in Memorial Gymnasium or at McGugin Center. For further information, call 322-2888.

NOTED THEOLOGIAN SPEAKS

The Sixth Annual Antionette Brown Lecture will be held on Wednesday, October 31, 1979, at 8:00 p.m. in Benton Chapel. The speaker is Dr. Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza, Associate Professor of Theology at Notre Dame and author of *Ministries of Women in the Church* as well as other books and articles.

A repeat workshop of self-defense for women will be held on Monday, October 15, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in 118 Sarratt. All women are welcome.

WOMEN'S ATHLETIC BOARD HELPS PLAN TEAM SPORTS

The Women's Athletic Board is organizing intramural sports. All interested members of the Vanderbilt University community--undergraduate, graduate and professional students, staff and faculty--are welcome to participate. Groups which wish to organize a team, or persons wishing to be on a team, are asked to call Emily Harsh, extension 2888, for more information.



WOMEN ENGINEERS MEET OCTOBER 9

The Society of Women Engineers will hold a meeting October 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dyer Room. Ms. Marty Badger of Proctor & Gamble Manufacturing Company in Lexington, Kentucky will give a slide presentation on Manufacturing Management. Ms. Badger is a '77 graduate of Vanderbilt in Engineering Science. Any interested persons are invited to attend.

SURVEY RESULTS

A survey was conducted last year by the Women's Center to ascertain the topics and types of programs which are of the most interest to the university community. The sample included both women and men, and was comprised of undergraduate, graduate and professional students, staff, and faculty/administrators.

In the responses of the women polled, several themes reappear in different formats as the most appealing: matters of physical fitness, diet, and nutrition; employment issues and women's legal rights; career and marriage; and life-planning with respect to jobs, marriage and the management of one's affairs.

The result of the survey are being used to plan programs and activities to be sponsored by the Women's Center. A more complete report on the survey has been prepared and is available at the Center.

If you did not return the form in the last issue of *Women's VU* and want to be on the mailing list--or know someone who does--please complete the form below and return it to the Women's Center.

Name _____

Campus Address _____

Please check: Student Staff Faculty

Vanderbilt Women's Center
E-2 West Side Row
Box 1513, Station B