

WOMEN'S VU

March 1980

A publication for and about women
at Vanderbilt University

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WOMEN'S CONCERNS TASK FORCE FORMS

One result of the work of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women at Vanderbilt was the formation of a group called the Women's Concerns Committee. The women and men in this group were partially responsible for the establishment of the Women's Center, and since its inception, the Committee has disbanded.

This group is being reconstituted as the Advocacy Task Force of the Women's Center, and the new group met for the first time on February 6th. Although the group was small, there was no lack of topics for discussion. Women representing the concerns of students, staff and faculty attended.

Students expressed their concern
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LINDA FLETCHER,
RHODES SCHOLAR

(story inside)

Women's Week: March 16 - 22

Women's Week, 1980, begins on March 16 with an opening address by Chaplain Mary-Lynn Ogletree. As advisor to Women's Week since its inauguration in 1977, Chaplain Ogletree has made an invaluable contribution to the growing success of Women's Week. She has also been active in areas of women's concerns as a Chaplain in the Office of University Ministry. This event starts at 7:00 p.m. in room 118 Sarratt, with a reception following in 123 Sarratt. All are welcome.

The Southeastern Women's Studies Association will hold its annual meeting at Vanderbilt on Saturday and Sunday, March 22 and 23, as part of Women's Week. Students can register for \$5.00; for non-students the fee is \$10.00. (Students may register free in exchange for help with registration and other arrangements). The conference includes practical "how-to" workshops as well as panel sessions on scholarly investigations.

We look forward to a week of workshops and speeches. On Monday, March 17, Rebecca McCulloh, Director of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, will speak about the myths and the facts surrounding rape. Her discussion will begin at 10:30 a.m. in Sarratt Center. Also on Monday will be a repeat of the popular workshop, "Passages," with women of different ages discussing what being a women in their generation means to them. "Passages" will take place at 4 p.m. at Sarratt.

On Tuesday, Peg Neuhauser of the YWCA Women's Resource Center will lead a discussion on "Women Supporting Women." On Wednesday, personnel from the Career Planning and Placement Service and the Psychological and Counseling Center will conduct a workshop on

"Self-Assessment Skills." Donna Wood, Professor of Women's Studies, has agreed to open her class on "Women and Public Policy" on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during Women's Week.

Other activities that will be included in Women's Week focus on women's music, women's health, women and company benefits, lesbianism, and domestic violence. Two videotapes, "Women Like Us," will be shown at the Learning Resource Center, Room 222 Garland Hall, on Tuesday, March 18. An informal discussion of the tapes will be held at the Women's Center on the following day. Other articles in this issue give more detailed information on some of the events.

For specific times and dates for all of the activities, look for the Women's Week brochures that will be available at the Sarratt main desk, the Women's Center, and in the dorms. For more information, call Phyllis Pittman at 298-1589 or the Women's Center, 322-4843.

-Phyllis Pittman

Women Engineers Plan Workshops

The Society of Women Engineers will conduct two workshops during Women's Week. One event will be the slide-tape presentation of "The Tale of O" on March 19. This is a clever account of the problems of being different. The other activity will be an informative session about company benefit programs for employees.

"The Tale of O" is based on the
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Women Engineers

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chapter on the dynamics of tokenism in Rosabeth Moss Kanter's book, *Men and Women of the Corporation*. The chapter was transformed into a fable which became the basis for a cartoon slide-tape narrated by Kanter and other members of her staff. The stage is set when an O is deposited into a room full of Xs. The O is different because it is the only one of its kind; gossip about its novelty inevitably begins. Patty Harrelson of the Procter & Gamble Company will lead a discussion after showing "The Tale of O."

Company benefit plans are an important consideration when one is job-hunting. A small panel of people who specialize in designing company benefit programs will be available to answer questions pertaining to insurance plans, profit-sharing, pension plans, and other employee benefits at a brown-bag meeting at lunch time. Check your Women's Week schedule for date, time, and location.

—Margee Campbell



The Interuniversity Psychological and Counseling Center will sponsor an Assertiveness Workshop for Women after Spring break. Preregistration is essential. For more information or for registration, please call the Counseling Center at 322-2571.

The Planned Parenthood Association of Nashville will sponsor a training program on adolescent sexuality for educators, administrators, counselors, nurses, clergy and other professionals who work with adolescents. The program will begin March 24 and run for four consecutive Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 at Planned Parenthood. The registration fee is \$70 for non-students and \$50 for students. Deadline for registration is March 14. For more information, call Planned Parenthood at 327-1097 or 327-0108.

LINDA FLETCHER WINS RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Prior to an Act of Parliament in 1977, women were not eligible for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. Now Vanderbilt has its second female Rhodes scholar. Linda L. Fletcher was awarded one of eight Rhodes Scholarships given to women, out of a total of thirty-two such awards made this year.

Fletcher has wanted to be a physician since childhood. Under Oxford's tutorial system, she will spend two years studying physiological sciences under the minimal supervision of a tutor. Upon returning from England, she will enter medical school with advanced standing. To date, seven medical schools, including Vanderbilt, have accepted her.

She describes herself as a "perfectionist" and as being frequently "worn out." This description is validated by a listing of her accomplishments: She is a chemistry and molecular biology major with a 3.0 grade point average, holds membership in two freshman honoraries and an honorary in Romance languages, is the president of the classics honorary, and national vice-president of the National Senior Classical League.

The youngest of four children, Fletcher has always received encouragement from her family and her teachers. As a child, she looked up to television's "Dr. Kildare" as a role model. She points out the lack of female scientists and doctors to serve as such models for young women, but she feels that her male professors are adequate models for her.

Fletcher does not think herself unique in her desire to excel. "My friends are just as ambitious as I am. They are just not as blatant about it," she says. Her goal? "To be the best doctor I can be."

—Debbie Ray



TASK FORCE

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about the appalling lack of female faculty members - few women come here, and those who do often choose not to re-... and discussed ways in which this situation might be changed. Students are also concerned about the apparent polarity between social and academic life, which leads to isolation and apathy for many of them. There seem to be few social opportunities for non-Greeks, and those that there are, are not publicized. For the most part, students are not encouraged to be involved in activities outside the realm of sorority/fraternity life. They are concerned, too, about the limited contact they have with faculty on an informal and relaxed basis, reflecting the attitude that learning takes place only in the classroom.

The women's athletic situation has improved greatly in the past few years, but it still leaves a lot to be desired. Title IX provides for scholarships and funding for Varsity sports, but there is a lack of opportunities for women who are not interested in Varsity-level competition. It is still difficult to decipher the rules and regulations concerning women's use of McGugin facilities, and the areas provided for women at Memorial Gym are far from satisfactory.

All present agreed that security is an issue of concern to all women at the University. This issue has been discussed for years, but improvements in lighting and other safety measures still need to be made. The possibility of theft and molestation or rape would be lessened by better escort services and more effectively-placed lighting.

Staff women, often ignored in the University, have some real concerns of their own. Job security, opportunities for career advancement, and provisions for child care were common concerns. Staff women reported subtle mistreatment on the job, including the sexist attitudes of their superiors.

In the past few years, women's issues have supposedly been "up front" in the minds of many in the University community, yet we are still trying to solve many of the same problems as in the beginning. Those of you who share our concern, please join us in our efforts to become a task FORCE of the Women's Center.

—Pamela G. Johnson

WOMEN'S WEEK INCLUDES SEMINAR CONFERENCE

SEMINAR: WOMEN IN CRISIS

On March 20th, and 21st, 1980, a seminar entitled "Women in Crisis" will be offered in Godchaux Annex as part of Women's Week.

The purpose of this seminar is to present information to members of the community who are involved in the care of women and who would be expected to help the woman deal with a crisis as it occurs in her life.

The events that have been identified as crisis areas for seminar purposes are: the onset of menses and the establishment of sex role identification, career conflicts, surgical alteration of body image, menopause, loss of a family member, and chronic or terminal illness. Each of these areas is potentially common to all women and may well qualify as life crises.

Because health care personnel are likely to be present during many of these events and are expected to intervene therapeutically, we have gathered together speakers who are experts in their area and can give other health care personnel the information needed to serve as consultants for women. Information will be provided in counseling on both a short-term and long-term basis with information for appropriate follow-up as well. Ample time is allowed during each session for discussion and for questions as they arise.

We hope to present similar seminars in years to follow dealing with areas of concern in the lives of women.

—Mary Haire

CONFERENCE: SOUTH- EASTERN WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The Southeastern Women's Studies Association will hold its annual conference in Nashville, hosted by the Nashville University Center Women's Studies Consortium. The dates for this year's meeting are March 21--23. The conference will open Friday evening with a wine-and-cheese reception for the registered participants. Saturday meetings will begin at 8 a.m. and will include a variety of sessions and workshops. For example, the preliminary program lists sessions on a wide range of topics including Mothers and Daughters in Literature; Women in the Church; Market Work, Household Work,

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Noted Economist Speaks

Men simply are not fulfilling their share of the financial responsibility of child rearing in America today, according to Dr. Barbara Bergman, Professor of Economics at the University of Maryland. In her February 8th lecture, "Sex Roles and the Economic Support of Children," Bergman discussed the nature of the child support problem in America, and possible policy measures to see that both parents share the financial burden.

Bergman surveyed the various models of child rearing found in the animal world. These range from neither parent being responsible (such as turtles, who lay their eggs in the sand and leave them) to both parents sharing responsibility (as is the case with some birds). Among animals, when only one parent is responsible for the welfare of the young, this is made possible by "lushness of the environment," that is, an environment in which one parent's work is adequate to support the offspring.

The growth of single parent families in America today can also be attributed to the "lushness of the environment," Bergman argued. Women's incomes today are comparable to those of men in the 1950's, and that income level allows women to support children by themselves. Thus, Bergman concludes, men no longer feel responsible for child support, and when marriages break up, women bear the major responsibility for the continuing economic welfare of the children. As the number of single parent families grows, this problem becomes increasingly important.

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Students interested in helping with registration and other miscellaneous jobs for the Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference March 21-23 in exchange for free registration, please call the Women's Center, 322-4843 to sign up.

March 2 - 8 Marked Women's History Week

When citing those individuals who have shaped our nation's history, historians have often overlooked the important contributions made by women. The recent advent of college courses on Women in History and Literature indicates an increased awareness of women's roles in history and the arts. Yet too often these courses fail to explore the important contributions being made by women now.

In an effort to emphasize the importance of women past and present, the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women, along with other women's organizations throughout the United States, have proclaimed March 2-8 as Women's History Week.

Although each participating organization can observe Women's History Week as it sees fit, the Commission suggests that Sunday, March 2, be a day of religious celebration honoring those women who have worked through religious groups for the improvement of society. The rest of the week can be used for educational events. Women are urged to make history come alive now by speaking about their vocations and experiences in classrooms. Libraries and universities are encouraged to acquire books on women's history.

Women's history is not all in the past, either. Women's accomplishments are making history *now*. Do you know... Dr. Katherine Burr Blodgett, developer of a non-reflective film used on virtually all optical lenses? Mary Leakey, an archeologist who has helped to rewrite the history of ancient peoples and animals? Emily Warner, the first woman to fly as a pilot for a scheduled United States airline? Dr. May Edward Chinn, the first Black woman to graduate from Bellvue Hospital Medical College, the first Black intern at Harlem Hospital, and who for years was the only Black woman physician in Harlem? Rebecca Thomas, Davidson County's first female judge in the Second Circuit Court? Betsy Ancker-Johnson, the first woman to serve as Vice-President of

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WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK

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General Motors? Dr. Joanna Lovell Linn, associate professor at Vanderbilt Medical School, who is President of the American Medical Women's Association? Mary Baffi, New York City's first female dockworker? Alice Paul, who drafted the first version of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923? Sally Preisand, the first woman rabbi? or Lynn Enterline and Linda Fletcher, Vanderbilt's two female Rhodes scholars?

Women's progress did not end with Susan B. Anthony. The establishment of a nationwide Women's History Week would not only enable Americans to better understand women's role in history, but might help us all more aware of women's continuing accomplishments.

—Carol Applegate

The Jeanette Rankin Foundation will award \$500 to a woman aged 35 or older who is planning to enter or reenter the workplace and who needs to pursue a formal program of education, training, or retraining to meet her goals. The deadline for application is May 15, 1980. For information and application forms, write: Jeanette Rankin Foundation, P.O. Box 4045, Athens, GA 30602.

S.E.W.S.A. CONFERENCE

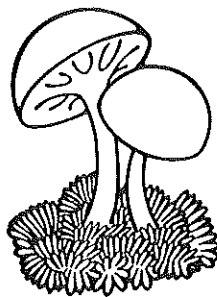
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and the Economic Status of Women; Women in History; Patriarchy in the South; Feminists and Fairy Tales. There will be workshops in such areas as Career Planning and Decision Making, Leadership, and Sex-Role Stereotyping.

Saturday's activities will conclude with a concert by Judy Eron. The conference will end Sunday morning after a plenary session of the Southeastern Women's Studies Association. The conference program this year will also include some time-out for exercise as well as two regular sessions with movement activities.

All sessions will be held at the Vanderbilt University Divinity School Quadrangle. Registration will begin Friday, March 21 at 4 p.m.; the fee is \$10 for those who are employed and \$5 for students and unemployed persons. This registration fee includes admission to the Saturday night concert. All interested persons are welcome and encouraged to attend.

—Elizabeth Langland



Responsibility to yourself means refusing to let others do your thinking, talking, and naming for you; it means learning to respect and use your own brains and instincts; hence, grappling with hard work. It means that you do not treat your body as a commodity with which to purchase superficial intimacy or economic security; for our bodies and minds are inseparable in this life, and when we allow our bodies to be treated as objects, our minds are in mortal danger.

—Adrienne Rich

Economist,

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Dr. Bergman's solution to this problem is two-fold. On the one hand, she argues that child support payments should be for the child only, not for the support of the mother. This would reduce the burden on the father. Nevertheless, the father must pay his share of the child support, and she proposes utilizing the Internal Revenue Service for this purpose.

Dr. Bergman's visit was paid for with monies from the Ethel Mae Wilson Fund. The seminar was sponsored by the Department of Economics and Business Administration. Following her lecture, Bergman met for dinner with women graduate students in the department and Nancy Ransom, Director of the Women's Center.

—M. Louise Fox

Women's VU is edited by Julia Kinschner

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