

# WOMEN'S VU

January 1981

A publication for and about women  
at Vanderbilt University

III:4

## Student Book Group Starts in February

The Women's Studies Book Group will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in February and March. All interested students are invited to sign up for any of the meetings. If possible, books to be discussed will be available at the bookstore.

Started last year by Professor Susan Wiltshire and senior A&S student Dugan Wiess, the Women's Studies Book Group has been revitalized under the leadership of Professor Barbara Weinstein, Department of History, and four undergraduate women, Diane Biernot, Mary Duncan, Madeleine Duva, and Ebbie Stewart, with Women's Center Director Nancy Ransom also helping.

Following the format of last year, each meeting of the Women's Studies Book Group will be devoted to a single book or a topic such as poetry, images of women in art, or women artists. A list of dates and topics, with names of the faculty members responsible for each session, will be distributed to student organizations and posted around the campus.

All meetings will be held in Tillett Lounge of the Divinity School at 6:30 p.m. on either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. Look for sign-up sheets on the Sarratt desk or the Peabody Post Office shelf, or call the Women's Center to obtain a copy. Women and men are welcome to participate.



## BLACK ARTS WEEK, February 9-15

"Where Do We Go From Here? Blacks in the 80's" is the week-long theme of various activities taking place during Black Arts Week. In addition to several symposiums and lectures, a black arts exhibit will run all week at the Afro House, with a special lecture on Tuesday, "Roots Revisited".

Wednesday is designated as Black Greek Day; a concert is planned for Friday night and Valentine's Day Ball Saturday night.

Further details of time and place will be announced.

APPALACHIAN WEEK, January 26-31, will include a lecture by Pat Beaver, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. Dr. Beaver's topic is "Women in Appalachia: Changing Lifestyles as seen through Appalachian Literature."

Dr. Beaver is engaged in research on social change in the lives of residents of a western North Carolina county. She has team-taught a course about Appalachian women.

The lecture is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 29.

## Pre-law Pre-management Panels Scheduled

Panel discussions on law school and management school for undergraduate women will be held at the Women's Center in February. The first, scheduled for February 4, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., will be presented by members of the Women Law Students Association, who will discuss selection of a law school, law school as an educational experience, specialization in law, and the job market, with special emphasis on issues of concern to women.

Women in the Owen School of Management will present a panel discussion on the MBA program. They will consider the same type of questions addressed by the women law students, but pertaining to business school.

Each panel will be followed by a question period and a social hour with refreshments when the discussion can be continued informally.

Notices of these meetings are being distributed and posted. The meetings are open and all undergraduate women are welcome. Please call the Women's Center if you plan to come, ext. 4843.

## EPSTEIN NEXT IN WOMEN'S STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

How would social knowledge be changed if women had a greater input in determining that knowledge? This issue will be addressed by Cynthia Fuchs Epstein in the 8th lecture of the Women's Studies Lecture Series to be given February 5, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 101 Garland.

Dr. Epstein brings to her subject an impressive background. She is currently professor of sociology, Queens College and Graduate Center, City College of New York and Co-Director of the Program in Sex Roles and Social Change, Center for the Social Sciences, Columbia University. She has done extensive research, largely of a social and cultural nature, on the role of women in the professions. This research has ranged from specific topics such as the woman lawyer and the changing context of the legal profession, black women in elite occupations, women in decision-making positions; to broader issues: women's changing economic and social roles, women vs. success, sex roles and social change.

The author of several books on women in modern society, Dr. Epstein is perhaps best known for her award-winning book, *Women's Place: Options and Limits in Professional Careers* (1970). She has had numerous articles and book reviews published on the status of women in general, of black women and women in the professions. She is much in demand as a speaker at colleges and universities.

Her talk on the impact of women and women's studies on sociology and social knowledge is bound to be as informed as it is exciting; as thoughtful as it is provocative.

-Helen Townsend

## BREAST CANCER: BE AWARE!

At some point in her lifespan, one of every eleven women will develop breast cancer. The most common site of malignancy in the female, it causes the death of approximately 36,000 women each year. Even with the enormous amount of research being done, the cause of cancer has not yet been found. It follows, then, that the only way to change those dreadful death statistics is early detection.

Within the past decade, giant strides have been made in changing the methods of diagnosis and treatment. Public awareness has been heightened by several renowned women having the courage to speak out. Shirley Temple Black, Happy Rockefeller, Betty Ford and Marvella Bayh have all helped to open discussion on breast cancer. Improved diagnostic tools are helping to detect the cancer in an earlier, more curable stage. When the cancer is confined to the breast, with no involvement of the lymph nodes, the cure rate is more than 85%. Research has identified factors which help isolate those women who are at higher risk of getting the disease so that they might be watched more closely.

Specifically, what can a woman do to improve her chances of survival? (a) The value of breast self-examination cannot be overstated. The important point of BSE is to get to know one's self and report any changes to a physician. A thickening, lump, nipple discharge or skin dimpling should be immediately examined by a professional. (b) Learn about the diagnostic tools available. Mammography is still the only proven way to detect a malignancy before it can be felt. Improved images and lower radiation has enhanced mammography's appeal. A mammogram at age 35, and once every five years thereafter until age fifty, is recommended. After age fifty, when the incidence of breast cancer rises dramatically, annual mammograms are advised. If a physical symptom becomes evident, the mammograms can be repeated and compared with previous studies. If no change has occurred on the mammogram, the physician can be reasonably certain that the condition is benign.

Ultrasound is now being used to differentiate between solid and cystic masses. Not yet in use for early detection, it has much promise for the future.

(c) Be aware of the risk factors. A personal or family history of breast cancer greatly increases a woman's chance of having the disease. Early menarche or first birth after

age thirty are also thought to be of importance. (d) Know the available treatments. Choose a physician interested in breast disease, then get a second opinion. Cystic masses can sometimes be aspirated, a simple procedure done on an out-patient basis. If biopsy is advised, insist on two-stage surgery. This entails having only the biopsy then deciding on further treatment *after* the tissue has been examined by the pathologist.

Although more than 80% of breast masses are benign, the possibility of malignancy must be considered. A diagnosis of cancer does not necessarily mean deformity nor loss of life. Tylectomy (removal of a portion of the breast) plus radiation or chemotherapy is a possibility for early malignancies. Mastectomies now performed are not as drastic as they once were and reconstruction is sometimes possible. Although reconstruction will not recreate a perfect replica of the lost breast, it can make possible the wearing of a normal bra or bikini.

The moral of this story is that one should be attuned to any changes in the breasts and seek professional help immediately. The woman should, however, be aware of the options available so that she is not led blindly along a path which might later be found to be undesirable.

The warning signals should not be ignored; neither should one be ready to follow the Pied Piper to the sea. Rather, one should take advantage of the tools now available and have enough knowledge to make an intelligent decision about such an important part of her body.

*-Jo Ann Blankenship  
Center for Breast Disease  
Diagnosis*



The YWCA sponsors an exercise and support group for post-mastectomy patients, ENCORE. Meeting every Tuesday from 11-12:00, the group divides its time between exercises designed to strengthen muscles so that full use of the arm and chest can be restored and sharing experiences and working out difficulties. Discussion includes the kinds of prostheses available and what kind of clothes look and feel good. For more information call the YWCA, 385-3952.

## DIVORCED/DIVORCING SUPPORT GROUP

Starting February 18, 1981, the Psychological and Counseling Center will be run as a support group for divorcing and divorced women. The focus will be on life transitions, developing a support system, discovering and understanding one's own needs and how to meet them, values clarification, life planning, and other issues that arise. Staff members from the Center will lead the group(s) through April. We hope that at that time the group will be able to function independently. The group leaders will continue to be available for consultation.

If you are interested in being a part of this group, please call either Ilene Peiser or Cathy Yarbrough at 322-2571. Group size will be limited to 12 women so please register early. This group is sponsored by the Psychological and Counseling Center and is free to students, faculty and staff of Vanderbilt University.

*-Ilene Peiser*

## March Conference Slated for Southern Scholars

"A FABRIC OF OUR OWN MAKING"  
Southern Scholars on Women, March 4-7, 1981, Georgia State University, Atlanta

This conference will bring together in an academic forum scholars/teachers, artists, students, and administrators who are concerned with educational equity for women in higher education. At the same time and in the same place, the Southeastern Women's Studies Association will meet and an art exhibit of painting, sculpture, and ceramics by women in the South will be on display.

New and diverse knowledge of and about women is being developed through the efforts of southern scholars. Scholars/teachers and administrators and students need to communicate the results of their thought and research not only with each other, but also with educators at primary and secondary levels and the general public. Therefore, all those affiliated with various educational, political, and social organizations are cordially invited to register for the conference. Registrants will be able to select at no extra cost a certain number of conference papers and slides of artwork to take back to their institutions or organizations.

Presented through interdisciplinary models, our new knowledge of and about women can gender-balance the liberal arts curriculum

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# DIVINITY WOMEN HOLD WORKSHOP ON SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

The Office of Women's Concerns in Vanderbilt Divinity School is involved in a year-long project on sexual harassment. As part of their efforts to help women and men deal with this problem, a workshop will be held in the Divinity School on Monday, March 9.

Dr. Mary Fuller of Oakland, California, will lead the workshop. Dr. Fuller has been a training officer for the federal government, business, and public education. She wrote "Guidelines for Appropriate and Inappropriate Behaviors Between Men and Women at Work" and *Sexual Harassment: How to recognize and deal with it*. She has managed organization effectiveness programs for the Navy and Air Force, taught leadership skills and management problem solving at the graduate level, and has held many offices in the American Society for Training and Development and Federally Employed Women.



The workshop is organized into three sessions:

- 8:30-11:30      Movie: "Work Place Hustle", followed by discussion of the movie and Dr. Fuller's book *Sexual Harassment*. Questions of participants will be encouraged.
- 1:00-2:30      General public will be invited to a showing of the movie: "Work Place Hustle", followed by discussion.
- 7:30-9:30      Lecture: "Building Harassment—Free Relationships Between Men and Women at Work"  
Movie: "Work Place Hustle".  
The general public is invited to attend.

A special training session will be held in the afternoon for those persons interested in leading workshops on sexual harassment. Dr. Fuller will teach the session based on her new manual. There will be a small fee to cover the cost of materials and trainees will be expected to attend all three of the day's sessions. If you have any questions please contact the Office of Women's Concerns, Divinity School, at ext. 2619.

-Tracey Harris DeVol, Coordinator  
Office of Women's Concerns

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT: A Report on the Sexual Harassment of Students**, finds that sexual harassment of postsecondary students is an increasingly visible problem which must be viewed as a form of illegal sex-based discrimination. The report by the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs addresses the unique consequence of sexual harassment in higher education: "... there is an underlying ethical obligation implicit in education to provide *unconstrained academic interchange*. The use of the classroom for social or sexual interchange cannot be allowed to diminish the learning experience." A copy of this report is at the Women's Center.

## Women's Week Begins March 22

The Vanderbilt Women's Week Group is excited to be announcing its preparations for Women's Week '81, to be held March 22 through March 27.

This year's theme, "Whither Women?", inspires a comprehensive view of the past, present, and future of women; the struggles and progress toward equality through the years; the issues confronting women today; and the ever-increasing need to define goals and pursue them.

The coordinators of Women's Week '81 invite all students who are interested to help in the development and sponsorship of seminars and/or workshops which will compose the schedule. Meetings will be held in the Women's Center starting on Thursday, January 22 at 5:30 p.m. to schedule specific programs. Students who want to organize workshops and other Women's Week events should attend these meetings to be sure of getting on the program.

Among the speakers already scheduled for Women's Week are Alexis Herman, who was the Director of the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, during the Carter Administration. She will speak on Sunday evening, March 22, on employment prospects for college graduates.

The Antoinette Brown Lecture will be given by Carter Heyward, Assistant Professor of Theology, Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dr. Heyward's topic is "Feminism: Re-examining the Vision." This lecture is scheduled for Monday, March 23. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday the Women Divinity Students will hold worship services, workshops, and informal discussions.

Films and the art exhibit at Sarratt are planned to also reflect the Women's Week theme.

The groundwork has been set for an exciting 1981 Women's Week. We do encourage everyone interested to participate.

-Rhonda Trace



Chicago Lawyer Michael Minton set a legal precedent by citing the monetary value of a homemaker in a divorce case. Minton's charts carry a line-by-line breakdown of his estimate that the replacement cost for the varied jobs performed by women would total \$793.79 a week, or \$41,277.08 a year!

## Community Courses are co-sponsored by YWCA, Women's Center

Two courses will be cosponsored by the Women's Center and the YWCA this spring semester. Both courses will be held in six-week sessions on Wednesday mornings at the YWCA, 1608 Woodmont Blvd.

Should psychotherapy help women to conform to the role or roles society has assigned them? "Images of Women in Psychotherapy", taught by Dr. Jeanette Norden, Assistant Professor of Anatomy at Vanderbilt University, will start January 21 and run through February 25. Dr. Norden will examine the handling of women's emotional problems in psychoanalysis, behavior modification, and transactional analysis. A discussion of the movement toward a feminist psychology that would incorporate the best of traditional therapies in dealing with women's specific emotional needs will conclude the course.

The second course "Artistic Centers of Antiquity" will be taught by Dr. Ljubica Popovich, Professor of Fine Arts at Vanderbilt University, March 18-April 22. The course will present examples of period art, splendid works executed by the great masters, as well as the various ways language, nationality, and religion found expression.

For further information or to register, call the Women's Center, 322-4843, or the YWCA, 385-3952.

*Notice:* The series on Affirmative Action at Vanderbilt will continue in the next issue with an article on faculty by Kenneth U. Jordan, Director of the Opportunity Development Center.

## FACTS from Women's Equity Action League

Women have restricted access to higher paying jobs.

- 20 years ago, 52% of all women were employed in just four occupations: clerk, waitress, saleswoman, and hairdresser. In 1978, 47% of all working women could be found in these same categories.
- 20 years ago, 12% of working women were professional and technical workers—over half of these teachers and nurses. Today, only 16% of women work in professional and technical positions, and still over half of these are teachers and nurses.
- 20 years ago, 5% of working women were managers; today, only 6% of working women are managers.
- Today, less than 10% of all working women earn over \$15,000; less than 1% of all working women earn over \$25,000.

## EPSTEIN

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and can provide a means of complementing women's studies offerings. For the teacher and administrator, there will be materials for developing courses and enriching the curriculum, ideas for faculty development and improvement of instruction. Students will gain ideas for expanding learning experiences.

## Vanderbilt Professional Women Meet

A Dutch-treat breakfast of Vanderbilt professional women employees will be held at Rand on Friday, February 20, between 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Go through the line in the main diningroom and bring your tray to the Faculty Room where coffee will be provided, courtesy of the Women's Center.

Reservations are requested. Please call the Women's Center.

## YWCA COURSES

The YWCA is offering several seminars and courses this winter.

**MONEY AND ME:** A course designed to assist women in improving personal money management as they examine their own needs and wants and develop a plan suited to their individual situation. Sessions will focus on both the external facts of the market place and on the internal feelings and actions which influence a women's use of money today. This course meets Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m., January 22-February 26.

**ADVANCED ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING** will begin March 3 and run through March 24.

**COPING WITH AGING RELATIVES** begins March 7. For more information about these courses call the YWCA, 385-3852.

*Edited by Linda Karwedsky*

If you have not returned a form this year, but continue to receive WOMEN'S VU, it indicates that your name has been held over from last year's list. We shall continue to mail the newsletter to you unless you ask to have your name taken off the list.

If you are not receiving a labeled copy of WOMEN'S VU, please return the form below or call the Women's Center, ext. 4843, to get your name on the list.

We regret that newsletters will be sent to off-campus addresses only for a \$2.00 fee. Please make checks out to the Vanderbilt Women's Center.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_ (please give class and school)



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