

Margaret
Cuninggim
Women's Center

Let's face it: women's history is political

Elisabeth I. Perry,
Associate Professor of History

Historians of women often hear it said: "Oh women's history, that's just politics!" The point of the remark is this: because women's history is so closely linked to feminism, it is too "biased" to be taken seriously.

Women's history *is* political. It came into being because of the women's movement. But just as other fields, such as black history or labor history, have established their scholarly legitimacy, so has women's history.

How did women's history get started? The women's movement affected historians in two ways, one inside their profession, the other outside it.

Women had always felt marginalized inside their profession. Only a tiny number had ever held leadership positions in history associations; few women taught in research institutions; and the profession tended to ignore the work of women historians. Women had often protested such conditions. But, until the modern women's movement occurred, their male colleagues had tended to ignore the complaints.

As women historians began to win redress for their grievances about

discrimination, they also gained attention for a field that most men seldom gave credit to -- the history of women. At first, they defined this area primarily as social, economic, or family history. Later, as they began to discover how many women had influenced intellectual, cultural, or political change, their sense of the field's potential grew.

Outside the profession, the women's movement created an audience for their discoveries. An historical consciousness is essential to any group trying to define and liberate itself. Women active in the movement wanted to understand the tradition that lay behind their actions in the present; they also wanted role models. Historians of women were eager to serve both of these ends.

How has women's history developed since? The field soon transcended these narrow political ends and established its scholarly credentials.

The field has done this by creating a large body of documented, confirmed knowledge that no historian can afford to ignore. This knowledge proves that men's and women's experiences are not always the same, and that men's experiences are not equivalent to universal experience. It also proves that neither gender functions in isolation from the other.

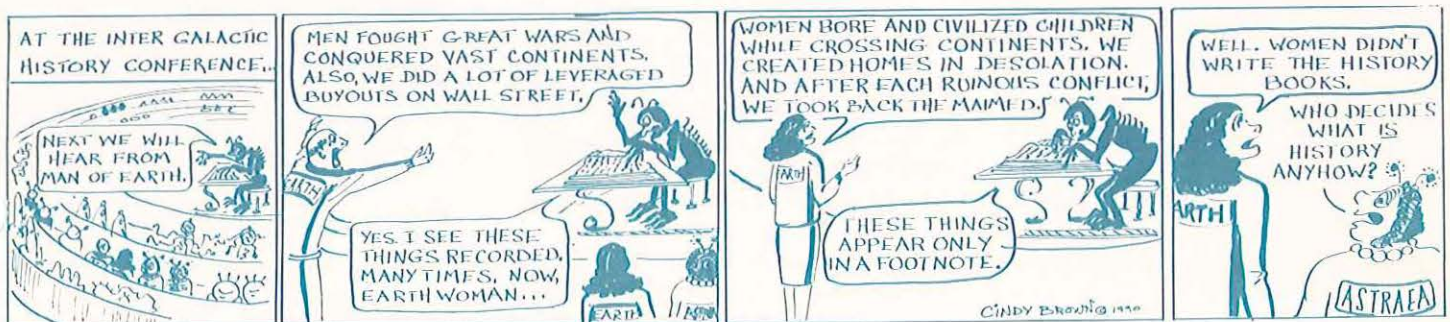
As the knowledge changes or refines much received historical wisdom, even our harshest critics cannot wish it away.

The size of the work in American women's history alone is impressive. In 1960 there were but 13 books in American women's history; over the next twenty-seven years, more than 100 new books appeared.¹ This figure does not include articles, works appearing in European or other women's history, research aids such as encyclopedias and guides, microfilm publishing of primary sources, or the over 300 unpublished Ph.D. dissertations that have been written.

Much work in women's history has been ground-breaking. More than a dozen of its writers have won titled or endowed chairs in major research institutions. Sixty universities train graduate students in U.S. women's history, thus assuring that the body of knowledge now established will be passed on to future generations. National and regional institutions, such as the Berkshire Conference on Women's History, which attracts over 2,000 conferees, have developed to assist in this training. And two new journals publish only women's history: the *Journal of Women's History* in the U.S., and *Gender & History* in Britain.

Future political challenges for women's history. Women's history has thus legitimized itself. Still, political issues continue to rage in the field, and probably always will. I will mention here only a few.

(continued page two)



Women's history (from page one)

Resistance to women's history.

Despite the validity of women's history, the field still faces resistance. Many historians refuse to accept the centrality of women to history. They refuse to believe either that women comprise a separate category, or that what women do and think is as important as what men do and think. Thus, despite a human population which is over half female, most history departments are content with one historian of women, if that, even though that person's research is limited to one chronological or regional area.

A second problem is that, despite our intentions to make our scholarship transcend politics, politics still intrudes. In our early years, many writers tended toward a "sisterhood is all" view that criticized or ignored women who did not act like feminist heroines. Ideals of feminist solidarity continue to play a role in our field, sometimes making it difficult for opposing viewpoints to coexist. Historians of women must continue to eschew political tests of other women, either in the past or present.

A third problem lies in the issue of inclusiveness. Historians of women believe that a gender analysis is central. But is it enough? No one would claim that all men are the same, or have the same problems, needs, or goals; but many of us too easily accept the validity of an abstract collectivity called "women." Historians of women are now trying to be as inclusive as possible, applying other categories of "difference" such as those of class, race, religion, age, ethnicity, and sexual preference. Doing so is difficult, but politically important to the many groups who feel left out of the "mainstream."

Women's history will probably remain politically controversial. But is this a reason to dismiss it? Women's history has put gender into the human historical narrative. No matter how it will resolve its controversies, this achievement will endure.

Endnote:

¹ See Gerda Lerner, "Priorities and Challenges in Women's History Research," *Perspectives*, Newsletter of the American Historical Association, April 1988, 17-20. ■

Page 2, *Women's VU*, March 1990

March 14. On this date in 1794, a patent was awarded to Eli Whitney for the invention of the cotton gin.

Historical evidence indicates, however, that in actuality an American woman, Catherine Greene, developed the plan for the cotton gin, and that under her direction, Eli Whitney, who was her employee, constructed the machine. Apparently fearful of public scorn, she did not apply for the patent herself, and Whitney was consequently credited with the the invention for many years.

(*AWIS newsletter*,
March/April 1989)

Clyda Rent new MUW President

Clyda Stokes Rent is the 12th president, and first woman president of Mississippi University of Women. From the opening fanfare of trumpets to the closing anthem, the inaugural day was one of celebration for Rent and women in general.

"Through the University's history, it is as if the voices of some of the world's greatest women 'whispered' their wisdom to the historical institution and their wisdom has been 'judiciously heeded'." But Rent added that on the MUW campus, like so many, the words carved in stone are those of great men -- not women.

So it was only fitting that a new inscription read: "For all serious daring starts from within." These are the words of Eudora Welty, Pulitzer Prize winning MUW alumna. (*Material drawn from Footnotes (American Sociology Assn., January 1990)* ■

It's your health

Beth Colvin Huff, RN, MSN
Department of OB/GYN

Breast implant surgery

It is estimated that over two million women in the United States have had breast implant surgery. About one-fourth of these women have had the surgery for reconstructive purposes after mastectomy; most were done for cosmetic breast enlargement. If you have considered

cosmetic breast augmentation, it is important to examine the risks and benefits of this procedure.

The most obvious benefit is a psychological one. Some women simply feel less feminine with very small breasts. Our society places a high value on breasts as physical and emotional nurturing symbols. Because breasts are the very visible physical characteristic that help define our gender, self-esteem and identity may be affected by how we feel about our breasts. Psychological reasons for breast augmentation should be carefully examined before deciding to undergo surgery. Larger breasts will not solve relationship problems nor will they make you someone you are not. For some women, however, breast augmentation may increase feelings of well-being and self-confidence.

Potential risks

There are potential risks. Infection can occur, sometimes necessitating removal of the implant. Capsular contracture is a fibrous hardening that causes the breast to become quite firm and hard. Compressing the breast manually may soften the tissues but slightly increases the risk of rupturing the implant. Silicone can leak through the implant capsule and may travel to other areas of the body where foreign-body reactions can occur. There is no evidence of any increase in breast cancer after augmentation, but early detection by mammography will be more difficult.

Perhaps the greatest risk a woman exposes herself to when facing any type of cosmetic surgery is the aggressive advertising and marketing by inadequately trained professionals. To cut through the hype and make a more informed decision, check the credentials of the physician you plan to see by calling the local medical society. Board certification in plastic surgery insures higher quality training and standards. Get a second opinion - *always* a good idea whenever surgery is contemplated. Seek information on implant devices available from the FDA. Talk to other women knowledgeable about breast implantation (Command-Trust Network, (606) 331-0055). ■

More information on breast surgery is available in the women's center library including a February, 1990 article in the *Harvard Medical School Health Letter*, "Breast Removal and Reconstruction."

Speaking of women . . .

Joanne Lamphere Beckham, assistant director, alumni and development communications, interviews Kathleen Hoover-Dempsey, associate professor of psychology and education.

Kathleen Hoover-Dempsey has been a member of the faculty at Peabody since 1973. An outstanding teacher, she received the Ellen Gregg Ingalls Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching in 1988. Her research interests in the family and parent-teacher interaction grew out of her experience with Head Start and teaching in inner-city schools during the 1960s.

A political science major at Berkeley during the civil rights movement, Hoover-Dempsey subsequently earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in educational psychology/child development at Michigan State. We spoke with her recently about her most recent work on emotion in the workplace, as well as the changes she has seen in women's status at Peabody and Vanderbilt over the years, and what she hopes for the future.

Women's VU: You and your co-author Jeanne Plas created quite a media stir with your book, *Working up a Storm: Anger, Anxiety, Joy, and Tears on the Job*. You've been featured in many newspapers and magazines, including *USA Today*, *Working Woman*, *Glamour*, and *Working Mother*, and have appeared on *This Morning* and *Nightline*. Were you surprised by anything you found during your research for this book?

Hoover-Dempsey: We were surprised at the intense amount of interest in the initial work we did with Barbara Wallston, which was published in *Psychology of Women Quarterly*.

We were also surprised at the differences we found in how males and females deal with emotions: Many women have trouble dealing with men's anger and many men, with women's tears. When asked anonymously if they had ever cried on the job at some point during their working life, 50 percent of the men and 80 percent of the women said "yes." In face-to-face interviews, however, only about 10 percent of the men admitted to crying on the

job. However, when we rephrased the question to ask "Have you ever 'choked-up' or cried on the job," the percentage of men responding in the affirmative rose to 50 percent.

Our interviews and surveys also led us to believe that it's a myth that women cry on the job to manipulate others. People try so hard not to cry, some will even hurt themselves to distract themselves. The major reaction people have to someone crying is a feeling of awkwardness or helplessness. Most people want to get out of the situation and go on as if nothing happened.

Women's VU: Are emotions at work a positive or negative phenomenon?

Hoover-Dempsey: Tears and anger on the job are not a problem in and of themselves. They can help get the job done if one expresses emotions and the reason for being emotional in the first place. The problem comes when those who shed tears and those who see them stop the action, leave the task at hand, and shift the focus away from productive, effective work. It's important to discuss what brought on the emotion in the first place. Rather than being a sign of weakness, tears at work are often a sign of strength. People don't usually cry unless they care strongly about something.

We found that the most common cause of crying for both men and women is grief. The second most common cause for women is anger. For men, it's being moved by a positive emotion, joy or gratitude, for instance.

Women's VU: What is the value of your research for women?

Hoover-Dempsey: It raises to a level of public discussion an issue of concern for many women that hasn't been discussed openly before. It's important for women to know that having tears on the job does not negate their professionalism. Many highly productive, competent women have experienced them.

Women's VU: In looking at the workplace, what would you say has changed for women at Peabody and Vanderbilt during the past 17 years?

Hoover-Dempsey: There are more women here now, and I go to fewer

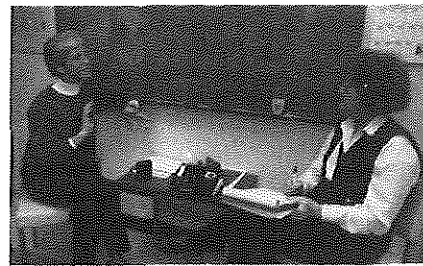


photo by Lesley Collins

Joanne Beckham interviews Kathleen Hoover-Dempsey

meetings where I'm the only woman. Another change I've seen is that issues traditionally important to women--family, the education of children, care of dependent people--are seen as legitimate subjects of inquiry and research. I believe that's one of Peabody's contributions to Vanderbilt. Also, I think many of our male colleagues are much more aware of some of the subtle forms of racism and sexism than they were several years ago. For example, when I was interviewed, I was asked when I was going to have children and how that would affect my job. It was a sign of the times. I was offended but I answered the question. I don't think this happens now.

Women's VU: What would you like to see happen for women at Vanderbilt in the future?

Hoover-Dempsey: I'd like to see more of us get out of lower ranks and into higher ranks--for example, move from the ranks of highly-valued, tenured, associate professors into full professorships. The problem for many of us is that if we're equally committed to teaching, research and service--those things that make a university what it is--it's hard to mount full-court press for national renown fame in the area of research without sacrificing in the other areas. I would never want to give up research, but I feel that teaching is equally critical to the university community.

We're seeing an increasing number of women, and men, in the non-tenured ranks. I believe we're running the serious risk of creating a group of second-class citizens responsible for heavy teaching and supervision of students.

Finally, I'd really like to see us continue to move together in addressing the issues of minorities and women on campus, making ours a genuinely more diverse university. ■

News quotes

The National Collegiate Athletic Association's decision to award its "distinguished citizen" award to former President Reagan has sparked protests by advocates of women's sports, who remember Mr. Reagan's opposition to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Carol Mann of the Women's Sports Foundation, who belongs to the N.C.A.A.'s Honors Committee, which selects the recipients of some of the association's awards, quit the panel to protest its decision to give Mr. Reagan the 1989 Theodore Roosevelt Award at next week's N.C.A.A. meeting.

Several college athletics administrators protested in letters to Richard D. Schultz, the N.C.A.A.'s executive director.

They said the Reagan Administration had consistently opposed Title IX, which barred sex discrimination in institutions receiving federal aid. Specifically, they cited the administration's support of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Grove City v. Bell*, which undermined Title IX, and President Reagan's veto of the Civil Rights Restoration Act in 1988. Congress restored Title IX to full strength by overriding the veto.

The Roosevelt award is given each year to someone who lettered in a sport in college, has remained interested in collegiate sports, and exemplifies the ideals and purposes to which college athletic programs are dedicated.

The Chronicle of Higher Education,
January 3, 1990

Female engineering students describe a lack of support

Robin Wilson, New York

Many universities are taking steps to lure more women to their engineering schools. But in a new survey, female students describe their high-school counselors as un-supportive of their decisions to study engineering and complain that they have few

female role models in college.

The survey of 1,945 female undergraduates who are members of the Society of Women Engineers was completed last spring by the Cooper Union, an institution with schools of engineering, art, and architecture.

Only 43 percent of the women said their high-school counselors had applauded their decisions to pursue engineering. Although 87 percent of the students described their college environment as supportive or somewhat supportive, just 18 percent said they knew a sympathetic engineering faculty member with whom they could talk about a problem.

About 80 percent of the students said they wished more of their college professors were females. But only 6 percent of the undergraduate women said they planned to pursue academic careers themselves.

The Chronicle of Higher Education,
November 29, 1989

Role-related stress may contribute to poorer health in women.

Dissatisfaction and stress may be partially to blame for the higher rate of poor health in women, researchers at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor have found. Although women in general live longer than men, they are disproportionately plagued by non-fatal health conditions such as arthritis, chronic sinusitis, and digestive problems.

In contrast, men suffer more potentially fatal disorders, including heart disease, emphysema, and a particular form of arteriosclerosis. One reason for the difference could be that while men have more acquired health risks such as smoking and alcohol consumption, women suffer more from psychosocial factors that cause high levels of stress and unhappiness. Among these stress-inducing factors are low-paying jobs, feelings of greater susceptibility to illness, and a more sedentary lifestyle.

Journal of Health and Social Behavior
September 1989, Vol. 30, No. 3



Hotline gives women workers legal advice

Is being fired because of pregnancy illegal when the boss herself is pregnant? May an employer require secretaries to do grocery shopping and car washing? Is it legal for female employees to be required to wear bikinis on a company boat? Working women can get answers to these questions by calling the "9 to 5 Survival Hotline." 9 to 5, which is part of the National Association of Working Women, is a membership organization for office workers. The hotline was established in mid-1988 to help office workers with job related problems.

Callers have used the hotline to seek advice on issues such as sex discrimination, raises, pregnancy and maternity leave, child care, health and safety, stress and computer monitoring. "From the thousands of calls we get, it's clear that working women are still having big problems," says Karen Nussbaum, president of 9 to 5.

The hotline may be called between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (E.S.T.) on weekdays. The toll free number is 800-245-9to5. Counseling is done confidentially.

Labor Law Reports,
Commerce Clearing House, Inc.
January 15, 1990

Three Fulbright Awards in women's studies

It is noteworthy that three of the 1989-90 list of Fulbright Awards have been awarded in women's studies. The graduate women named are Nancy Forrest, University of Oregon, Sharon Lapp (no institution listed), and Lisa Woll, George Washington University. The women will be studying in India, the United Kingdom, and Australia, respectively. The awards are sponsored by the United States Information Agency and administered by the Institute of International Education.

Material drawn from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 17, 1990

Women's History Month



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National Women's History Month has roots that extend back through the nineteenth century, although Congress first proclaimed March as Women's History Month in 1987 and then passed Public Law 100-9 designating March of every year as National Women's History Month.

The programs listed below are sponsored by the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center. For more information call 322-4843. Listed on page 6 are additional programs to celebrate National Women's History Month.

March 12 [Monday] 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

Women's Center Book Group: Beth Matter facilitates discussion of *The Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Anne Burns. New members welcome, light refreshments.

March 15 [Thursday] 12:15 p.m. Sarratt 205

Elaine Goleski reviews *The Thinking Reed* by Rebecca West at **Lunchtime Book Review**. Published in 1936, the book takes its title from one of *Pascal's Pensées*: "Man is but a reed, the most feeble thing in nature; but he is a thinking reed." West said she wrote the novel "to find out why [rich people] seemed to me as dangerous as wild boars and pythons."

March 18 [Sunday] 7:00 p.m. Unitarian Church (1808 Woodmont Blvd.)

"The Perfect 36" with Candace Anderson: a live radio theater presentation of the award winning documentary on the campaign in Tennessee for ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment which granted women the right to vote.

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, Vanderbilt Students for Women's Concerns, and the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center. Tickets at the door: \$3.00.

For more information contact Ophelia Paine at 259-5027.

March 20 [Tuesday] 7:30 p.m. Psychology Building, room 126

Carol Cohn lecture, **"Truth-Telling, Lying, and Gender: Reflections on American Nuclear Policy,"** co-sponsored by Project Dialogue, University Lectures Committee, and Women's Studies.

Carol Cohn is Senior Research Scholar, Center for Psychological Studies in the Nuclear Age where she is Director of the Nuclear Discourse Project. She is also Research Associate, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.

March 27 [Tuesday] 4:10 p.m. Furman 114

Barbara Haber lecture, **"Twenty Years of Women's History: Effects on Experience and Beliefs,"** co-sponsored by Students for Women's Concerns, Women's Studies, Department of History, and the University Lectures Committee.

Reception follows in Furman 109.

Barbara Haber is Curator of Printed Books at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe College.

Women's History Month

Below are additional events to celebrate National Women's History Month.

March 13 [Tuesday] 9:30 p.m. Sarratt 118

Discussion of Sarratt film, "A Dry White Season" (1989) Director, Euzhan Palcy. Sponsored by Students for Women's Concerns and Project Dialogue.

March 17 [Saturday] 10:00 a.m. Law School 117

Martha Minow (Harvard Law School) speaks on "Words Are the Door To the Land of Change: Law, Language, and Family Violence," a session on domestic violence that is part of a two-day conference sponsored by the Vanderbilt Law School and the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities entitled "Law, Literature, and Social Change."

Response: James Epstein, Department of History, fellow of the Humanities Center.

March 19 [Monday] 10:10 a.m. Commons Room, Divinity School

Informal presentation and discussion with Sheila Briggs, Antoinette Brown Lecturer

12:00 noon Commons Room, Divinity School
Lunch and conversation with Professor Briggs
Sponsored by Students for Women's Concerns

5:30-7:30 p.m. Divinity Refectory
Buffet dinner for Professor Briggs [reservations may be made with Barbara Simpson, 102 Divinity]

8:00 p.m. Benton Chapel

Antoinette Brown Lecture: Sheila Briggs, Assistant Professor of Theology, University of Southern California, "What Should Feminist Theology be Saying about Social Class?"

Reception following lecture, Tillett Lounge

March 26 [Monday] 12:15 p.m. Humanities Center

Barbara Haber, Curator, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College. Informal colloquium: "Talking about feminism as a social and cultural construct," sponsored by Beverly Asbury, University Chaplain.

4:30 p.m. Sarratt 118
"Asian Women In Politics," sponsored by Vanderbilt

Women in Religion, International Student Services, and Students for Women's Concerns.

March 26 [Monday] 7:00 p.m. West Hall

"Domestic Violence: What Is It and What Can I Do?," sponsored by Students for Women's Concerns and Residential and Judicial Affairs.

Speakers: Detective Marlene Hall and a volunteer from Nashville Women's Shelter

March 27 [Tuesday] 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sarratt 118

"Tough Decisions: Issues of Abortion," sponsored by Students for Choice and Students for Women's Concerns.

Speakers: Beth Halteman, Tennessee State Representative
Michael Hodges, Professor of Philosophy

March 28 [Wednesday] 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sarratt 118

"Tough Decisions: Issues of Abortion," sponsored by Students for Choice and Students for Women's Concerns.

Speakers: Ellen Wright Clayton, Assistant Professor of Law and Pediatrics
Richard Zaner, Professor of Medical Ethics and Philosophy

7:30 p.m. Furman 114

"Truths of Feminism" panel and discussion sponsored by Students for Women's Concerns and Project Dialogue.

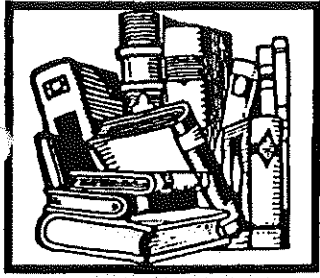
Speakers: Nancy A. Walker, Dir. of Women's Studies; Lynne Cushing, President, Nashville NOW; Sherre Dryden, Lambda; Alma Clayton-Pedersen, Asst. to Dean of Student Affairs; Susan Wiltshire, Professor of Classics; and Gary Jensen, Chair of Sociology Department.

March 29 [Thursday] 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sarratt 118

"Tough Decisions: Issues of Abortion," sponsored by Students for Choice and Students for Women's Concerns.

Speakers: Beverly Asbury, University Chaplain
Nancy Ransom, Director, Women's Center

The Humanities Center has scheduled a series of seminars on the European witch craze of 1450-1700 for three consecutive Fridays at noon, March 16, 23, and 30. These are open to faculty members and staff. Because of the size of the room, attendance is limited and reservations are requested. Call Mona Frederick at the Humanities Center, 3-6060.



In the library

Naomi E. Heiser
Women's center librarian

The women's center library regularly receives a number of scholarly journals dedicated to women and gender issues. This is the second in a series of examples of articles published in recent editions.

"Tootsie Syndrome, or 'We Have Met the Enemy and They are Us,'" by Kathleen L. Barry (in *Women's Studies International Forum*, Vol. 12, No. 5, 1989) is a satirical article by a feminist sociologist detailing the findings of a "participant-observation study" made over the course of her career in "the corridors of academia."

Barry describes a "certain kind of profeminist liberal male" sociologist (this can be generalized to other disciplines as well) whom she finds particularly disturbing because of self-congratulatory attitudes about their own personal, intellectual, and political progress in relation to feminism.

She dubs their constellation of behaviors "The Tootsie Syndrome" after the movie *Tootsie*, which demonstrated that "a man could be nominated for Academy Awards for playing the role of acting as a woman, which was established as much harder and more demanding a role to act than that of those of the species who merely are women through no effort of their own."

Barry finds that her sample of Tootsie males have appropriated for themselves the role of "authority" in the realm of feminist theory based on the justification that they have had to "go the extra mile...going far beyond what a woman has to do to be a woman." This being the case, they are "astute in being able to detect 'Rhetoric' in merely-only-women feminist theorists, who it is clear speak from their bias and not from

real feminist truths."

According to Barry, it is the Tootsie males whom we must thank for the promotion of "touching and feeling," ideas "ungratefully" frustrated by laws against sexual harassment. In addition, with their celebration of "mothering", Tootsie men have "reestablished the validity of the family, something those hard, cold, *only-women* feminists insisted was an institutional base for sexism."

Treatment for the Tootsie Syndrome is a difficult matter. Barry suggests Lacanian therapy because it is "centered around the phallus." In any event, she exhorts Tootsies to "again go the extra mile, take this problem in hand and *Deconstruct*." ■

For the Man Under 30 Where is the Woman?

Social myth: There are not enough young men for all the young women looking for boyfriends or husbands.

Social reality: Single men in their 20's outnumber single women of the same age by more than a 6-to-5 ratio. For an entire generation born after the baby boom's peak in 1957, it is the *men*, not the women, who face a shortage of spouses. The Census Bureau estimates there are about 2.3 million more unmarried men in their 20's than women the same age in the United States.

The strong tendency toward relationships between an older man and a younger woman presents young single men and older single women with a common problem. Demographers have written volumes on the shortage of boyfriends and husbands for single women over the age of 30. The less studied mirror image of this problem is the plight of the man in his early or mid-20's.

Although instances of men who marry older women have increased, a survey in 1985 by the National Center for Health Statistics found the bridegroom was older in two-thirds of all marriages. The average age difference was 5.3 years. "Men in their 20's simply may not have many women available who are younger," said William Beer, the deputy chairman of the sociology department at Brooklyn College. "Older men are poaching."

The ratio of single men to women is 128 to 100 among young whites,

while the number of single young black men and women is evenly balanced. Sociologists say this may be a reflection of undercounting and higher mortality among young black men. The more severe problem, they add, is that high rates of unemployment and imprisonment among young black men reduce the marriage prospects for educated black women.

The New York Times
January 17, 1990

Nominations sought for Women's Center Advisory Board

The Women's Center Advisory Board is seeking interested persons to serve as at-large members beginning in the fall of 1990 for a two-year term. (At-large members may serve for two consecutive two-year terms.) Undergraduate and graduate or professional students, faculty members, staff, and administrators serve on the Advisory Board. Interested women and men should apply before March 21.

For more information about the Advisory Board call the women's center, 322-4843. Send personal applications and/or nominations to Mindy Dalgarn, Chair, Nominating Committee, Box 1677, Station B.

New officers are named for Women's Center Advisory Board

Don Welch, Associate Dean of the Law School and new Chair of the Women's Center Advisory Board, convened the first spring semester meeting of the Women's Center Advisory Board on January 31. Welch had been elected a year ago to the position of chair-elect during the term of Chair Christine Kreyling.

At the January 31 meeting, the Board unanimously accepted the Nominating Committee's recommendation to name Sherre Dryden chair-elect for the coming year. Dryden is a reference librarian in the Central Library.

Announcements et cetera

Additional class offered! Last month three classes of "Challenging Some Myths About Childbirth" were filled and a waiting list formed. Therefore on Monday, March 26 from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the women's center an additional class will be held with Penelope F. Wright, RN, MCN, Director, Perinatal Parent Education. Videotaped vignettes of actual births and discussion on aspects of childbirth will address sources of fear associated with childbirth. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 322-4843.

Body Image Problems Workshop
Why all the fighting with weight and hiding from our own bodies? Why do so many of us feel ashamed of our figures, when so few of us are significantly overweight? What can we do to restore or develop positive feelings about our bodies? These questions are the focus of a workshop sponsored by two members of the Department of Psychology. Betsy Sementilli, a graduate student in psychology and David Schlundt, assistant professor of psychology, will conduct a four session workshop on identifying, exploring, and overcoming body image problems. The first meeting will be held Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Psychology Building. Fee is \$10 for students and \$20 for others. Call the

Psychology Department at 322-3524 for more information and reservations.

YWCA Women's Book Group. A guided discussion group led by Gay Welch, Ph.D., will read a novel a week. The works, primarily by Southern writers, will be used as a lens through which to view participants' lives as wife, mother, and friend. Five Thursdays beginning March 15, 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., fee \$40. Call 269-9922 for further information.

Women Forging America's Future: In Recognition of Women's Contributions. A celebration of women's contributions to the American economy, as well as exposure to various programs designed for women. Monday, March 26, 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., Park Plaza, \$15 (includes lunch). Register by March 21 with Nashville Association of Women Business Owners, 331-7239.

Call for Papers: Fourth Annual Interdisciplinary Women's Studies Conference, Western Kentucky University. "Woman: A Different Voice" will be held in Bowling Green, Kentucky, September 26-28, 1990. Deadline for abstracts is April 20. Applications available at the women's center.

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A & S Junior

1990 All-American Candidate

Leadership for Today and Tomorrow: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders will be held at The George Washington University, Washington, DC, from May 31 until June 2. A number of women of distinction will be on the program. Workshops will include "Motivating Organization Members," "Coalition Building," "Superwoman: Myth or Reality?," "Strategic Personal Planning," and "Racism on Campus." Sponsored by The National Association for Women Deans, Administrators and Counselors. More information is available at the women's center.

Edited by JUDITH T. HELFER

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