

Women's VU

V A N D E R B I L T U N I V E R S I T Y

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SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES:

A new look at how society shapes gender

by **LINDA MANNING**
WOMEN'S CENTER DIRECTOR

Lucia Albino Gilbert, who will deliver the 1998 Margaret Cuninggim Lecture, has focused her work as a teacher and scholar on understanding how changing perceptions of gender affect the lives of men and women. A professor of educational psychology and director of the Center for Women's Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Gilbert is an award-winning scholar of the psychology of women and is much sought-after as a speaker for professional and lay audiences on topics related to her research.

During her long and prolific career, she has examined the effects of gender on counseling and psychotherapy, role conflict and coping, women's career development, parenting and adolescent development, and the functioning of dual-career families.

Emerging gender perspectives frame her present work. This includes a comprehensive chapter on gender and counseling psychology for the *Handbook of*

Counseling Psychology, her latest book, *Gender and Sex in Counseling and Psychotherapy*, and her current studies on active gender processes in marital and dating relationships.

It is a special pleasure for me to bring Dr. Gilbert to Vanderbilt. During my years in graduate school, I took several courses from her and worked as her research assistant for four years. She is a significant mentor and friend who strongly influenced the direction of my professional life.

In a recent interview, Dr. Gilbert spoke about her new book, her current research, and the upcoming Margaret Cuninggim Lecture.

Manning: Gender and changing conceptions of gender seem to be the thread that ties all of your research together.

Gilbert: That's right. The ways in which social science views gender and the ways in which the public uses the word are very different. I view gender as something located in the culture, something that happens every day. I look at how we participate in constructing the

same old stereotypes over and over again. If we are conscious of this, that's one thing, but if we are unconscious, how can we change it? I am looking at how language, for example, limits what we see and how we express ourselves. I have been studying this forever. Early in my career, I studied women's career development. I looked at the external barriers to women at a time when



LUCIA A. GILBERT

1998 Margaret Cuninggim Lecturer

everyone else was examining internal barriers like low self-esteem or lack of self-confidence. But these developed in a context. There was a concept of women out there in the workplace. The workplace was saying, "We don't want you to participate; we think you are not capable." Women internalized this. I am interested in the ways we still construct gender day to day.

Manning: Tell me about your current research.

Gilbert: We are looking at the dominant discourses about sexuality and dating and how those dominant discourses can be interrupted. We are studying 15- to 21-year-olds. There is a lack of a female discourse of desire; women remain the objects of desire. We ask young women, "Would you be willing

continued on page 2

*Please join us
Thursday, November 5
for the*

Margaret Cuninggim Lecture

Dr. Lucia Gilbert

**Shifting Perspectives:
Locating Gender in Context**

7:30 p.m. • Wilson Hall, Room 126

Shifting perspectives of gender *continued from page 1*

to pay your own way on a date?" And they say "Absolutely not!" We ask if they would ask men out on a date and they say "Absolutely not!" We have set up analogue studies using a series of role plays. Young women and men are at a party and one asks another out. There are two conditions: In one the man initiates and in the other the woman initiates.

Then, in a second role play, the woman tries to move the relationship toward more intimacy.

It is intriguing how they define this for themselves. In the last scene, the man says

that he is not ready to be more intimate. The role plays are followed by focus group discussions with the participants. The first time that we did this, we simply listened to the discussion. The second time we asked, "What about this, what about that?" "How would you feel in this situation?" And we followed up a month later to see if the dominant discourse had changed. I should have some of the data analyzed by November and will include some of the findings in the lecture.

Manning: I understand that your new book, *Gender and Sex in Counseling and Psychotherapy*, has just been published by Allyn & Bacon. Can you tell me a little about it?

Gilbert: It is the only one like it. I wrote the book with Murray Scher, who is the editor of the *Handbook for Coun-*

"I view gender as something located in the culture, something that happens every day."

seling Men. It is written as a textbook for graduate courses in counseling, social work or psychology. It helps counselors to look at all they thought they knew about gender and why we can't just substitute the word gender for the word sex. The first two chapters review the research on sex differences. Basically, the only true sex differences are that women produce eggs and men produce sperm. If you look at anything else, there is tremendous overlap.

Manning: I understand that you were recently awarded the Carolyn Wood Sherif Award by the Division of the Psychology of Women of the American Psychological Association. This award is the highest honor given for research and teaching in the Psychology of Women. What was the topic of your Carolyn Wood Sherif lecture at APA?

Gilbert: Yes, that presentation was

special. I wanted to do something different, not just talk about my research. So I did it as a dialogue, with my daughter Melissa, on the dilemmas of being a feminist educator. We examined praxis, how we put our beliefs into practice, in terms of being a parent and in terms of being a teacher. Melissa is in her second year of teaching middle school. I went to her school and interviewed her students. She has always been a big part of my work.

Manning: Yes, I can remember when I took a class with you in graduate school and we all brought our children to class. We watched them interact with one another and interviewed them about their career goals. We were looking at the effects of gender even then, almost 20 years ago.

In your new book you write, "Gender is far more than a role assigned to women and men. Gender becomes involved in the defining of women's and men's desired characteristics and behaviors and is enacted and reenacted millions of times a day verbally and nonverbally, in everyday and legal language, in institutional policies and practices, and in societal norms and standards." Is this what you will be talking about in the Margaret Cuninggim Lecture?

Gilbert: Yes, my talk is titled "Shifting Perspectives: Locating Gender in Context." I want to talk about gender and contemporary meanings of gender. I hope to relate to people's everyday lives. I want them to have a different view of things when they leave.



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THE MARGARET CUNINGGIM LECTURE is given annually on the theme of women in culture and society. This endowed lecture was launched in 1988, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Women's Center, and is named in honor of Margaret Cuninggim, who served as Vanderbilt's last Dean of Women and later as Dean of Student Services at the university. Funds for the endowment were contributed by the Vanderbilt Alumni Association, members of Dean Cuninggim's family, and a host of friends and other donors on campus and in the community.



MARGARET CUNINGGIM

Take Back the Night on Oct. 19

Members of the Vanderbilt and Belmont university communities will join together Monday, October 19 to "Take Back the Night" and raise their voices against sexual and domestic violence. The event includes a march, a speak-out, and an opportunity to get help and information from local service agencies.

Two Belmont students, Kelly Harris and Jackson Miller, have spearheaded the effort to organize the event and are being co-sponsored at Vanderbilt by the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center.

The night's activities will begin at 7 p.m. near the Belmont bell tower with an opening ceremony and remarks by several survivors of violence. Participants will receive penlights to carry during a march down 18th Avenue South and Edgehill Avenue to the Magnolia Circle area of the Peabody campus.

After the march, there will be an opportunity for a speak-out in which participants can share their own stories or comment on the issue of violence. Professional counselors will be available to talk with those who need help, and several service providers and educational groups, including the YWCA and the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, will have tables set up at Magnolia Circle.

Take Back the Night began in England in 1877 as a way for women to protest the violence they experienced walking in the streets at night. The first event in the United States was held in San Francisco 20 years ago, as women and men continued to protest violence against women, especially sexual assault. Kelly Harris of Belmont says she has a "personal interest in and passion about" domestic violence, which was heightened when she did a research paper on the subject. Jackson Miller had attended a Take Back the Night march in New Orleans and was interested in organizing such an event in Nashville.

If you would like to help organize the program or participate in the evening, contact Hilary Forbes at the Women's Center, 322-6518.



Every Fifteen Seconds

It's practically a popular-culture cliché...

"Every fifteen seconds a woman is hit."

*But I guess it's just a number
until it happens to you.*

*When you're seven years old
and you stand there, watching,*

*As your mother is choked until
her face turns purple*

*And she crumples to the floor
like a rose doused with pesticide.*

And what can you do?

Everyone is so...

tall.

*But I guess it's just a number
until it happens to you.*

— by Lesley Linder,
Divinity School graduate student

October is
Domestic Violence
Awareness Month

It Was 20 Years Ago Today . . .

In the 20 years since the founding of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, there has been remarkable change in some areas of life at Vanderbilt, and surprisingly little in others.

	1978	1998
Student enrollment — University total <i>(Until 1972, university policy dictated that only half as many women as men could be admitted to each freshman class. This limitation was gradually phased out during the 1970s.)</i>	Women 3,061 (42%) Men 4,312	Women 5,005 (49%) Men 5,105
Athletic scholarships	1 woman received a partial athletic scholarship	91 women received full or partial athletic scholarships
Women's Studies program	2 courses offered	13 courses, a minor, and an interdisciplinary major offered
Faculty		
Total (non-medical) faculty	Women 122 (22%) Men 440	Women 232 (28%) Men 607
Tenured (non-medical) faculty	Women 19 (6%) Men 304	Women 113* (20%) Men 445*

*Includes tenure and tenure track positions

'Our Bodies, Ourselves' author launches women's speakers series

Judy Norsigian, co-author of the ground-breaking women's health manual *Our Bodies, Ourselves* and the newly revised *Our Bodies, Ourselves for the New Century*, will speak at Vanderbilt Oct. 14.

Norsigian is slated to discuss "Hot Topics in Women's Health" during her 7 p.m. talk in Wilson Hall, Room 103. Her speech will be followed by a reception and book signing.

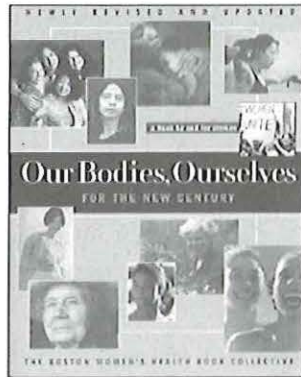
Norsigian speaks and writes on a variety of women's health topics, including reproductive health, contraceptive research, tobacco and women, and midwifery advocacy. She has appeared on such national television programs as "Oprah," "Today," and "NBC Nightly News." She is currently the program director of the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, which publishes *Our Bodies, Ourselves*.

Norsigian's appearance is part of a 1998-99 speakers series, "Celebrating the Struggle: 150 Years of Change." The

series commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, which launched the women's rights movement. Organization of the series is a collaborative effort of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, the Opportunity Development Center, and the Women's Studies Program.

Some of the other speakers in the series are:

- Sociologist Elizabeth Higginbotham, Nov. 11, "Black Professional Women: Race, Gender and Critical Work Issues."
- Mary Daly, Jan. 28, "Quintessence: Realizing the Archaic Future."
- Lindsay Kee, Feb. 11, "Weight Obsession Among Women at Vanderbilt and MTSU."
- Elizabeth Schneider, Feb. 25, "Domestic Violence, Political Reform and the Law."
- Emily Martin, March 9, "Flexible Bodies: Tracking Immunity in American Culture from the Days of Polio to the Age of AIDS."



Brumberg examines changes facing adolescent girls

Joan Jacobs Brumberg, a noted scholar and author whose work focuses on the changing historical experience of girls in adolescence, will speak at Vanderbilt Thursday, October 8.

"From Corsets to Body Piercing: How History and Culture Shape the Experiences of American Girls" is the title of Brumberg's 4 p.m. talk in Wilson Hall, Room 126. Her appearance is sponsored by Students for Women's Concerns.

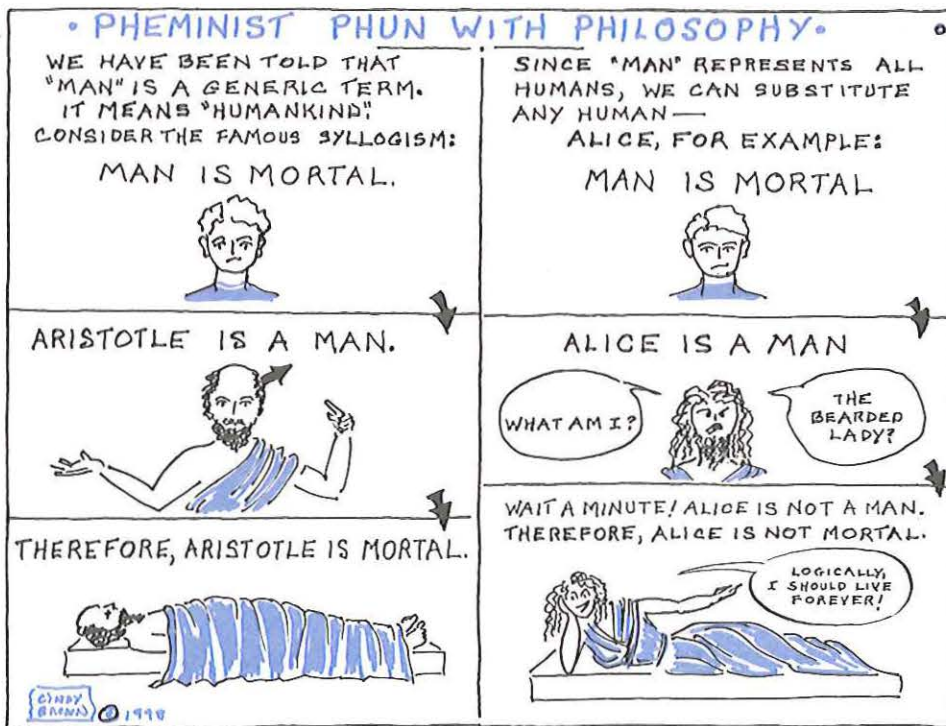


JOAN JACOBS BRUMBERG

Brumberg's most recent book is *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls*, in which she draws from the diaries of girls over the past 100 years. Brumberg explains "how the pressures on young women have accumulated, making girls at the close of the 20th century more anxious than ever before about their bodies, and, therefore, themselves."

Brumberg is a Stephen H. Weiss Professor at Cornell University, where she teaches in the fields of history, human development and women's studies.

A brown-bag lunch group for lesbian and bisexual staff, faculty and graduate students meets each month at the Women's Center. The group will gather from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: Oct. 14, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9. For more information, contact Melinda Brown at 322-6285.



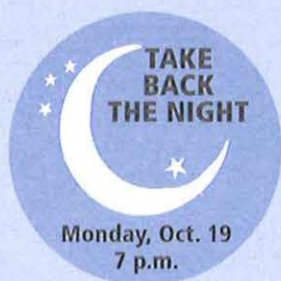
October 1998

M Margaret
Cunningham
Women's Center

Calendar of Events

PLEASE SAVE AND POST.

Unless otherwise stated, all programs are held at the Cunningham Center, Franklin Building, 316 West Side Row. For more information on the events listed, call 322-4843.



Thursday, October 1

Women and Investing Series. This monthly series begins with "Preparing for Financial Independence: A Woman's Guide to Prudent Investing," with Melanie Dean, of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

Creative Life Planning Group. Bonnie Brown leads "How to be a Highly Effective Woman," a seven-part series based on Stephen Covey's book, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. New members welcome. This group meets every Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m.

Women and HIV: Living with HIV. Two women (one white, one black) from the Nashville CARES "First Person" project talk about living with HIV. Co-sponsored by the Women's Center and the Black Cultural Center. 7 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to sign up for the AIDS Walk on Oct. 18. See also Oct. 13 entry and article, page 7.

Thursday, October 8

Managing Menopause. Nancy Anderson, from the Psychological and Counseling Center, leads a discussion on the emotional/psychological issues faced by women during menopause. Noon.

From Corsets to Body Piercing: How History and Culture Shape the Experiences of American Girls. Talk by Joan Jacobs Brumberg. 4 p.m. Wilson Hall, Room 126. See article, page 4.

Sunday, October 11

Anti-Sexual Assault Project (A.S.A.P.) training for students leaders, resident advisers, and peer counselors and educators. 3 p.m. SAE House. See article, page 7.

Monday, October 12

Book Group meets to discuss *Sleeping at the Starlite Motel and Other Adventures on the Way Back Home* by Bailey White. 5:15 p.m.

Journal Painting Workshop. Julie Russell repeats a popular program in which she shares the techniques for creating a painting journal. An artist and yoga instructor, Russell shows how such a journal can be used to explore perceptions, dreams, relationships, and the path toward wholeness. The three-part series will meet on Monday nights, beginning Oct. 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Community Partnership House annex. Cost for staff is \$25 for the entire series or \$15 for one session; for students, \$15 for the entire series or \$8 for one session. To register, call Hilary Forbes at 322-6518 or e-mail hilary.forbes@vanderbilt.edu.



Julie Russell

Tuesday, October 13

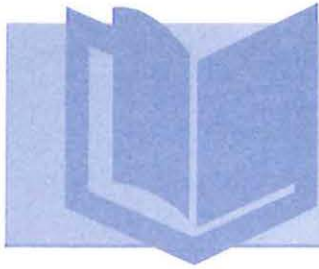
Women and HIV: What's New, What's Not. Learn what's new in preventing transmission of HIV in this program at the Black Cultural Center with Victoria Harris, from the AIDS Clinical Trial Center. 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 14

Our Bodies, Ourselves: Hot Topics in Women's Health with Judy Norsigian, co-author of *Our Bodies, Ourselves for the New Century*. 7 p.m. Wilson 103. See article, page 4.

Monday, October 19

Take Back the Night. A march and speak-out to protest violence against women. Belmont and Vanderbilt campuses. 7 p.m. See article, page 3.



IN THE LIBRARY...

BARBARA CLARKE
Women's Center librarian



In war and peace: reconsidering the roles of women

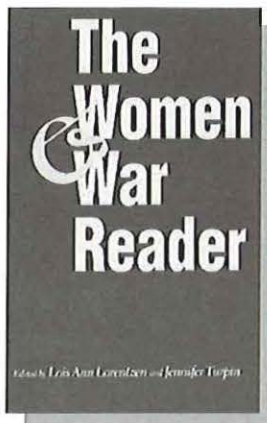
The Women and War Reader (New York University Press, 1998), edited by Lois Ann Lorentzen and Jennifer Turpin, explores the connection between gender and warfare. The volume's 37 chapters include one by each of the editors and give a comprehensive picture from a variety of perspectives.

It is commonly believed that men are naturally aggressive and prone to fight and that females are peace-loving. The researchers show how this notion is

incorrect and the situation is actually much more complex. The book also details the different ways in which war affects men and women. Once men were more likely to be casualties in

military operations; today soldiers are less likely to die than are female civilians. Women are also more likely to be war refugees and many of these become victims of rape and other violence.

Contributors discuss the connection between military culture and violence against females and between patriarchy and militarism. There are selections on military women; the differing views held by feminists on women and war; the intersection of class, gender, ethnicity and militarism; and how females have been affected by conflicts in many areas of the world. A number of chapters are devoted to motherhood and warfare and to women's roles in peace movements.



Billie Wright Dziech and Michael W. Hawkins aim their new volume, *Sexual Harassment in Higher Education: Reflections and New Perspectives* (Garland, 1998), particularly at college administrators and faculty members. Their advice on sexual harassment "explores some of the controversial and overlooked concerns that have emerged in educators' struggle to understand and cope with this elusive problem." Hawkins is a lawyer experienced in harassment cases while Dziech is an educator and the co-author of the well-known *The Lecherous Professor: Sexual Harassment on Campus*.

Among the topics detailed by the writers are the responsibilities and policies of academic institutions; legal rulings on sexual harassment since 1975; how to help women deal with harassment; consensual relationships between faculty members and students; and male students and harassment. An appendix lists many of the U.S. court

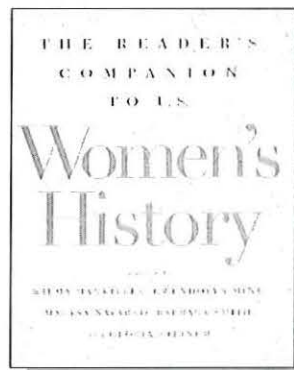
cases involving accusations of sexual harassment at universities and colleges.

A valuable contribution to women's studies is *The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History* (Houghton Mifflin, 1998), edited by Wilma Mankiller, Gwendolyn Mink, Marysa Navarro, Barbara Smith and Gloria Steinem. From the

beginning, the editors determined that the volume should reflect the experiences of all groups of women in this country; they excluded biographies due to space constraints.

Over 300 experts were commissioned to write more than 400 articles. Examples of the entries included are "Electoral Feminism" and "Marches" by Patricia Ireland;

"Women's Environment and Development Organization" by Bella Abzug; "Black Women's Colleges" by Johnnetta B. Cole; "Feminist Jurisprudence" and "Sexual Harassment" by Catharine A. MacKinnon"; and "Communism" by Angela Y. Davis.



Frances Clalin was one of hundreds of women who cross-dressed to serve in the Civil War.



"Throughout U.S. history women of all races have lived and worked as men for various reasons. For many it was a way of gaining access to the social, financial, and sexual privileges denied them as women. By the eighteenth century, Anglo-American balladry abounded with tales of women who swapped skirts for trousers to follow their true love to war. Newspaper reports reveal, however, that many more dressed as men to enter 'masculine' occupations."

— from *The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History*

Stories from the front

Two women with different experiences of the AIDS epidemic will share their personal stories in "Living with HIV," a program at the Women's Center, Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.

One of the speakers is a white woman; the other is African-American. One is HIV positive; the other lost a very close loved one to AIDS. Although their experiences are different, the two women have shared the same challenge of "watching people turn their backs," according to Bobbi Lee Wills, coordinator of the First Person program for Nashville CARES. First Person trains those affected by HIV/AIDS to tell their personal stories of struggle.

Wills notes that women are one of the fastest growing groups of people with HIV. At Nashville CARES, the number of women clients has doubled in each of the past two years. The problem has reached a crisis level among African-American women, in particular. Two-thirds of the women in Davidson County who have tested positive since 1993 are African-American. Nationally, a state of emergency was declared for African-American women after their infection rate for HIV *doubled* in one recent eight-month period. It is estimated that one in every 50 African-American women in the U.S. is now infected with HIV.

HIV in women is often linked to complex social and cultural issues, including domestic violence, substance abuse, and lack of power and self-esteem, Wills says. Her program aims to "put a face on" HIV and drive home the message that anyone can contract it. "If you are not worrying about the past practices of your sexual partners, and you don't think it can happen to you, then you are at risk," she argues.

Touring company trains peer educators

A national touring company of students from Brown, Yale and the University of Virginia will conduct a training session at Vanderbilt this month to facilitate peer education programs on subjects such as date rape, dating violence and alcohol use. The Anti-Sexual Abuse Project (A.S.A.P.) training is intended for students leaders, resident advisers and peer educators/counselors.

The Women's Center and the Office

of Alcohol and Other Drug Education are bringing the program to campus.

The training session will be held Sunday, Oct. 11 at 3 p.m. at the SAE House. The event is limited to 50 trainees. Cost is \$20 per participant; some scholarships funds are available from the Women's Center and Associate Provost Johan Madson. Contact Hilary Forbes at 322-6518 for more information.

A show-and-tell on safe sex

Cindy Young, assistant director for programs at the Black Cultural Center, is troubled by the overheard conversations and second-hand stories she hears involving young women and their attitudes toward sex.

"In this day and age, you would think everyone would be very careful, but that is not what's happening," Young says.

Young women talk about seeing an attractive new man on campus, and vow to pursue him without any concern about his background or past experiences. Many of the students believe that their carefree attitudes toward sex represent "a 90s kind of thing — I'm a free woman and I can do what I want."

Young said precautions about safe sex need to be voiced again and again because so many students seem to be ignoring

them. In the second of a two-part series, the Black Cultural Center will host a program Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. titled "Women and HIV: What's New, What's Not."

The program will be led by Victoria Harris, from the AIDS Clinical Trial Center at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Harris will conduct a "show-and-tell" of new and improved paraphernalia for safe sex — condoms, dental dams, gels and other products. She will discuss what the products are used for, how they are used and where they are available.

Young hopes the presentation of technical information about such products will lead to a broader dialogue and discussion about women and their attitudes toward sex.

Registration forms will be available at both programs for those interested in participating in the local AIDS Walk, to be held Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Bicentennial Mall.

women and HIV:

*A two-part program
co-sponsored by the Women's Center
and the Black Cultural Center*

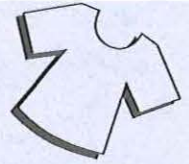
Child and family counseling

In a relatively new service, the Psychological and Counseling Center is offering child and family treatment to Vanderbilt staff, faculty and students. Individual, group and family treatment is available, as well as school liaison services. For more information, contact Dr. Rhonda Venable at 322-2571.

Announcements

- **Vanderbilt Students for Women's Concerns** meets every Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. in the Community Partnership House. All interested students are welcome to join the group in its efforts to raise awareness of women's issues on campus and in the larger community. SWC members will participate in several outreach and community service projects during the semester.
- **The Rape and Sexual Abuse Center** is looking for volunteers for its 24-hour crisis line. The center will offer intensive volunteer training later this month. For information, contact volunteer coordinator Dot Hatfield at 259-9055.
- **The National Women's Studies Association** will hold its 20th annual conference June 17-20, 1999 in Albuquerque. The conference for scholars, teachers, students and activists has three areas of focus: the interdisciplinarity of women's studies; feminism and post-colonialism; and life after graduation for women's studies students. Proposals for papers, panels, workshops and roundtables are due by Nov. 15. For more information, e-mail conference coordinator Beatrice Thompson at bthompson@ou.edu.

Create a winner



The Women's Center is offering a \$75 gift certificate to the person submitting the best design for a t-shirt to commemorate our 20th anniversary. Use your creativity, humor and great ideas to come up with a winner. The deadline to submit an entry is Oct. 16. Contact Hilary Forbes at 322-6518 for information.

- **The Belmont University Center for Entrepreneurship** will hold a forum for businesswomen Oct. 15 on credibility. Barbara Pagano, a business consultant, will advise attendees on how to maximize their credibility as business leaders. The 5 to 9 p.m. program includes small-group discussions. A registration fee of \$50 is due by Oct. 15; registration forms are available at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center.



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