

# WOMEN'S VU

A publication for and about women  
at Vanderbilt University

September 1979

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## Human Sexuality Is Subject Of Film

A feature film, "Sexuality and Communication," will be shown on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. in 114 Furman. Following the film will be a general question-and-answer period, after which the audience will be invited to divide into small groups for general discussion of the film and aspects of human sexuality. The program is open to the entire community. There is no admission charge.

The film deals with biological and social elements of sexual relationships. The narrators, a married couple who are both doctors, use a variety of didactic techniques (including role-playing) to present their material. It is an informative, thought-provoking film which focuses on sexual relations in the broader context of human relations.

A workshop on self-defense for women will be held at 118 Sarratt, Thursday, September 20, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All women are welcome. Information, demonstrations, explanations about protection and medical and legal procedures.

## WOMEN'S RACE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 23

The Bonne Bell 10,000 Meter Run will be held on Sunday, September 23. The race starts at 8:00 a.m. at the side entrance of the state capitol on Charlotte Avenue. It is open to women and girls, age 14 and older. Call the Women's Center for more information.

## Women In Science Workshop Planned For October 27

Why are there so few professional women scientists? The National Science Foundation may not know the answer, but it is doing its best to remedy the situation. This year there will be twenty-eight one and two day workshops nationwide, including one at Vanderbilt.

The workshop will be held all day Saturday, October 27, 1979, at the Divinity School. Molly Fritz Miller, Assistant Professor of Geology, is project director, and Nancy Ransom, Director of the Women's Center, is in charge of arrangements. Although the workshop will be on the Vanderbilt campus, it is not restricted to Vanderbilt students. All sophomore, junior and senior women at institutions throughout Middle Tennessee are eligible to attend. The workshop (including banquet) will be free to the 150 student participants who will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis within each category: 1) physical-engineering sciences, 2) biological (excluding clinical medical) sciences, and 3) social sciences.

**Registration.** Registration forms and programs will be available at science departments on Middle Tennessee campuses by mid-September, and must be returned to Nancy Ransom (Box 1513, Sta. B) by October 21st. For sophomore, junior and senior women there is a registration fee of \$5. *This fee is only to insure that all places are filled. It will be returned at the registration desk.* Other interested persons are welcome, but there is an \$8.00 fee to cover the cost of dinner. For more information, contact Molly Miller (x 2986, Box 6001, Sta. B) or Nancy Ransom (x 4843, Box 1513, Sta. B).

## Undergraduate Women's Series Starts In September

A series of programs "Especially for Women" will be offered for undergraduate students to explore some personal issues confronting educated women today. The first meeting will be on Thursday, September 20 from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Carmichael West, Room 208. Subsequent meetings will be held every Thursday at the same time and place through November 8.

The emphasis is on informal exchange of ideas. A speaker for each session will introduce the topic in a brief talk. Questions and general discussion will follow. Refreshments will be served from 4:15 and the program will start at 4:30.

At the first meeting Nancy Ransom, Director of the Women's Center will discuss the question "Why should there be special programs for undergraduate women?" Subsequent topics include relationships with peers at college and with authority figures such as parents and teachers; dealing with feelings such as anger and anxiety; practical matters for students, e.g. organizing one's time, preparing for exams, deciding on a major. The last three sessions will be devoted to planning for the future: surviving as a single woman and combining marriage with a career.

Each program is self-contained; participation does not depend upon attendance at the entire series. Some students may come only to those programs of immediate interest, while other students may want to attend regularly.

Continuation of the series in the Spring Semester will depend on students' response in the fall. Some topics can be repeated; some can be expanded. If there is enough interest, an undergraduate planning committee will be formed to work on future programs.

## TKALS Defend Women's Reproductive Freedom

Recent concern for women's reproductive freedom has prompted the formation of TKALS (Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe). Members believe that the morality of abortion is a private decision, and that the growing so-called "pro life" forces are a threat to that basic right. Restrictive legislation, such as the Hyde Amendment, is constantly being promoted and passed due to well organized efforts by "pro life" groups.

TKALS is a grass roots group dedicated to women's right to choose a safe abortion. Goals to activate the pro choice majority include: dispelling myths and increasing awareness of all sides of the abortion issue, supporting pro choice legislators, affiliating with NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League), and effective lobbying.

TKALS needs support to help preserve the 1973 Supreme Court decision. Membership is open to the public and brochures and newsletters are available. For more information please call 327-0233 or write to: TKALS, Box 120871, Nashville 37212. Look for the TKALS booth at the State Fair held Sept. 14-23.

—Andrea Kronenberg

## Planned Parenthood Needs Volunteers

Are you concerned about the high rate of unwanted pregnancies? If so contact Terri Bartlett, Coordinator of Volunteer Services for Planned Parenthood at 327-1097.

We need Volunteers to DO:

- Birth Control Counseling
- Pregnancy Test Counseling
- Beside Family Planning (General Hospital)
- Recovery Room/Exit Interviews
- Community Ed./Public Affairs
- Teen Services

We need your help to achieve our goal  
... Every Child a Wanted Child!

Molloy, John T. *The Woman's Dress for Success Book*. New York: Warner Books, 1977. \$3.95

reviewed by Emilie Murray

Molloy describes his second book on wardrobe engineering as a classic "how to" book designed to give every American woman a simple set of rules which will make her wardrobe work for her. He is not ashamed to say that his book is the most important book ever written about women's clothes because it is based on *research* and not opinion. If you can accept that authoritarian tone set in the opening, the rest of the book will be easy reading.

Basically Molloy contends that women dress for failure because they let fashion dictate their wardrobe choices, they let their socioeconomic background influence them, and they view *themselves* as sex objects (wonder where we got that idea?).

First of all Molloy describes his research methods and boasts of his data bank of information, but fails to give even one example of his work in chart or graph form. He contends that to publish all of the results would be too costly, but surely we should be allowed to see how he has come to these unbiased conclusions. Instead, throughout the text Molloy proclaims some items as testing *best*, others, *well*, and, usually, something you have always liked as testing *poorly*. Since Molloy is a prep-school teacher turned wardrobe engineer, one wonders if social scientists would find all his results valid. You won't be able to answer that question by reading this book.

Molloy begins by eliminating the confusion in women's wardrobes by settling on a success suit. Basically it is a simple blazer jacket and matching skirt with a hemline just below the knees. Molloy describes this as a man-tailored blazer suit. The blouse which tested best in his research is the equivalent of a man-tailored shirt with *one* button open.

In analyzing other components of a rising young female executive's wardrobe, the testing process always evaluates both the resemblance of the item to men's apparel and the reaction of male executives. This is not sexism according to Molloy. It is realism. Male executives

dominate the personnel selection and retention policies of most corporations, and thus it is simply practical to engineer their reactions to you by packaging yourself to their taste. In all fairness to Molloy, this is the same principle at work in his book on men's clothing. But the problem of dealing with many years of fashion and utility in women's clothing totally from a male point of view cannot be dismissed solely as a condition women must accept in order to gain employment.

Molloy argues that women will improve their professional status only when they adopt a uniform which speaks to the public as strongly as the man's business suit. Hence he suggests that all businesswomen band together and pledge to always wear a skirted suit to work and *never* to wear this outfit to a social occasion. He is so serious about this that he includes a sample pledge which can be printed up and signed within a corporation by all women executives and management trainees. One has a vision of a long line of corporate nuns worshipping at a shrine dedicated to promotions and transfers, all dressed in blues and greys, breasts concealed, feet sensibly shod, enough leg to show that they will never be just one of the fellows. In fact Molloy's insistence that pants suits will decrease your standing leads one to conclude that whether in a Vegas chorus-line or just doing the mid-management hustle, a woman's legs can always be used as capital assets.

Although it is fun to pick at Molloy, there are some issues here which all women must answer. Just what tactics are sensible in the battle to win a fair share of the ever-dwindling job market? How much of Molloy's advice might be worth using, at least for the interview circuit? All of us would like to believe that earning degrees, certificates and letters of recommendation will get us to the top. But if Molloy's research is even 50% correct in evaluating the mindset of the male executive, women must be prepared to work out solutions to this psychological form of discrimination, often unconscious but always deadly.



## *The History of Womankind Support Project*

About two years ago a women's bookstore, known as Womankind, opened in Nashville. Women soon came to the bookstore searching for much more than books. They came to find sources of good ob-gyn care, or for a referral to a feminist therapist, or to find out where they could hear women's music. The requests came so regularly that Carole Powell, one of the owners of the bookstore, decided to call a meeting of women from the community to discuss ways to improve their access to these services. She sent a letter to about 80 women inviting them to the first meeting of the WSP on October 28, 1978.

Thirty-five women showed up at the initial meeting. The meeting focused on establishing a women's clinic to provide physical and mental health services and legal advice. Over the next three months the WSP grew to include more than 100 women, many with interests beyond that of a clinic, which catalyzed the formation of interest groups in physical health, mental health, communications, advocacy, agenda planning, coffeehouse, and art.

The structure of the WSP included the various interest groups and a Coordinating Council formed from representatives of each interest group for the purpose of sharing information and facilitating cooperation among groups. The communications interest group aided this process by compiling a card file listing each project member with their interests, skills and resources for the use of the groups. The Coordinating Council averages a meeting once every six weeks.

The first major task that the WSP tackled was organizing a referral mechanism to identify existing services for women and to avoid needless duplication of efforts. Arrangements were made with the Council of Community Services, an agency already compiling lists of services for the community, for them to use information provided by the WSP on services in their referrals.

The interest groups took off in a variety of directions. The physical health group organized a series of educational programs on women's health issues to inform and outreach into the community.

Despite low attendance at these sessions, the group has moved ahead and begun serious organizational work for women's clinic in Nashville. Tentative plans involve a weekly evening clinic staffed by nurse practitioners, with physician back-up, that would offer ob-gyn care, health education and counseling. The mental health group organized a peer supervision group which meets bi-weekly. The group offers mental health practitioners the chance to jointly evaluate and support one another. The coffeehouse group began offering coffeehouses with women entertainers in April, with a coffeehouse held the last Friday of every month at the Unitarian Church. The coffeehouses have been a huge success, with attendance and profit increasing with each one.

What does the evolution, structure and directions of the WSP tell us about the women's movement today? The first key to its success is that it is locally based and anti-bureaucratic with the dual role of meeting immediate and long-term needs of women. Its strength lies in its essentially responsive and flexible nature which enables it to embrace visions and goals for change that lie outside the scope of traditional women's organizations. It is also a beacon for Nashville to listen to what women are thinking and doing on their own.

Most importantly, the project exists as a recognition that feminists must develop their own networks of support for both their personal and public lives. These networks are not luxuries; they are necessities if we wish to seriously challenge the sexist ways of society and survive emotionally and politically. Once created, these networks can channel the tremendous talents and energy of women to increase their personal autonomy and communal power. Thus, although it is just one project in one city, the actions of the WSP, if looked at carefully, teach us invaluable lessons about how women are perceiving and acting upon their needs. It also promises to add much of importance to the lives of women in Nashville.

—Andrea Levere



## **WOMEN FACULTY CONTINUE ACTIVITIES**

The Vanderbilt Women's Faculty Organization, founded in 1977, grew out of informal meetings of interested women who found that they shared many common interests and common problems. The purpose of the organization are: (1) promoting the welfare of faculty women at Vanderbilt, (2) attracting more women on the faculty of Vanderbilt and (3) assisting in the development of the Community of Women at Vanderbilt.

The officers for this year are President: Elaine Sanders-Bush, Associate Professor of Pharmacology; Vice-President: Roberta Smith, Associate Professor of Psychiatric Nursing; Treasurer: Linn Hammergren, Assistant Professor of Political Science; Secretary: Mary-Lynn Ogletree, Associate University Chaplain. An Executive Board is composed of these officers and ten members at large.

Membership is open to Vanderbilt faculty who hold appointments as: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Instructor, Lecturer, Research Professor, Research Associate and to all persons who are obliged by the University to join TIAA-CREF.

In the coming year, projects of special interest include a program to assist in the recruitment of outstanding women to the Vanderbilt faculty, monitoring possible faculty salary inequities at Vanderbilt and increased support for and interaction with graduate women.

The Women's Faculty Organization will hold a wine and cheese party on September 19, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in 123 Sarratt. All women faculty members are invited.

—Elaine Sanders-Bush

### WANTED:

Reliable student to exchange room and board in faculty home for regular light housework and small amount of child care (late afternoons and evenings). Must enjoy children; prefer own car but house is on bus line to Vanderbilt. Please call Ellen Perrin at ext. 2709 (days) or 297-2929 (evenings).

## NASHVILLE NOW

Nashville NOW (National Organization for Women) is a political non-profit organization that works actively to bring women into full partnership with men, exercising their full rights and responsibilities. NOW includes males and females on its roster. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, marital status, affectional preference, political affiliation, occupation, religion, or economic status. Membership is open to anyone who subscribes to NOW's purpose.

Nashville NOW meets every third Thursday of the month at Belmont United Methodist Church in Hillsboro Village. The *Nashville NOW Newsletter* is published each month with a circulation of between 200 and 600 in the Nashville area alone.

At the July meeting new officers and board were elected. They are: Pam Wright, president; Betty Littlepage, Vice President; Amanda Frater, Secretary; Rita Frazier, Treasurer. New board members are: Tom Baker, Verna Fausey, Linda Hastings, Karen Kovek, and Cris Tucker.

In the last year NOW has spearheaded a letter campaign to our Washington representatives demonstrating Nashville's support of the extension of the Equal Rights Amendment. NOW was also instrumental in the drive to prevent the Tennessee legislature from approving a proposed constitutional convention to make abortion a federal crime. Nashville NOW has also shown movies on such subjects as the history of the American women's movement, tracing the movement back to colonial times.

—Amanda Frater

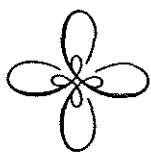
## Rape And Sexual Abuse Center Provides Services, Seeks Volunteers

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Center of Davidson County was established several years ago to assist victims of rape or sexual abuse through counseling and educational programs. Rebecca S. McCulloh is Director of the Center.

On Thursday evenings, from 5:00 to 10:00, at 2707 12th Avenue South, the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center operates a walk-in center for confidential counseling or information. Here you can learn about self-defense classes, uses of chemical weapons, and rape prevention. The Center holds victims discussion groups at this location. The self-defense classes, which are offered periodically, are taught by qualified instructors.

Speakers on rape, incest, and sexual abuse are provided by the Center on request.

Volunteers provide vital services at the Center. The next Volunteers Training Session will be held on the following days: Friday, September 14 (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.); Saturday, September 15 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.); Friday, September 21 (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon). For more information about the training session, stop by the 12th Avenue office on a Thursday evening or telephone the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center at 327-1110.



## Vanderbilt Athletic Programs For Women Increase

*Intercollegiate teams.* Opportunities for women to participate in athletic programs are greater than ever. This year volleyball will be added to the list of intercollegiate sports for undergraduate women, which includes basketball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and cross country.

Emily Harsh, Assistant Director of Athletics for Women, stated: "In just two years of intercollegiate competition, Vanderbilt Women's Athletics have gained acceptance and respectability."

*Intramurals and club sports.* Women employees and graduate students, as well as undergraduates, can participate in intramurals. A handbook about these activities is available at Memorial Gym, Recreational Offices. Many club sports are coed. Intramurals for women are swimming, volleyball, badminton, ping pong, basketball, racquetball, softball, track and field, tennis, and archery.

Staff women and graduate students who want to form women's intramural teams can get information from the Recreational Offices, extension 2870 or 2876, or from the Women's Athletic Board. New teams should contact the Women's Athletic Board to arrange schedules.



Many copies of this issue of *Women's VU* are being distributed without names and addresses. Subsequent issues, however, will be sent only to individuals who wish to receive this free publication.

If you want to be on the mailing list for *Women's VU*, please fill out the form below, cut out this section, fold it so the return address shows, and drop it in the campus mail. Please print clearly.

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Vanderbilt Women's Center  
E-2 West Side Row  
Box 1513, Station B  
322-4843

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c/o Women's Center  
Box 1513 Station B