

WOMEN'S VU

March 1982

A publication of Vanderbilt University Women's Center

IV:5

SATURDAY RUN A WOMEN'S WEEK FIRST

On Saturday, March 27th, Women's Week will host its first women's run. Beginning and ending at the Vanderbilt track, the 3.1 mile course winds through the campus. We encourage runners of all ages to come out and join the fun. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 women finishers, top Vanderbilt student, top faculty member, as well as best times in the following age groups: under 20, 20's, 30's, 40's, and over 50. The best time for a team of three women will also receive a prize. All runners will receive a Women's Week Run T-shirt.

Dr. John Bruno III, orthopedic surgeon in sports medicine, will talk on women in sports on Friday, March 26, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. in room 118 Sarratt Student Center.

The Women's Week Run is co-sponsored by the Vanderbilt Track, Converse, Athlete's House and Grace's Shop for Ladies.

Applications are available at the Sarratt Desk, the Women's Center, Memorial Gym, and local YMCA's. A \$5.00 entry fee will be charged.

-Kathy Eggar,
Coordinator

-Women's Week 1982

ANTOINETTE BROWN LECTURER AFFIRMS SISTERHOOD

The 1981-82 Antoinette Brown Lecture will be given on Monday, March 29, at 8:00 p.m. in Benton Chapel. This year's lecturer is Sister Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, of the Women's Ordination Conference. The title of her lecture will be, "Sisterhood: Core of a Liberating Struggle."

When asked to describe herself, Ada Maria responded, "I always ask that three things be said of me: I am Cuban and I value my Hispanicness (it is not inconsequential!); my main concern is the building of sisterhood - the bonding of women; I am an organic theologian - I theologize as part of the struggle for liberation of women. My theologizing is not about the struggle, but part of the struggle."

Born in Havana, Cuba in 1943, Ada Maria left Cuba in 1960. Since then, she has

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER for Women's Week



Dave Walvoord, East Texas State University

Caroline Bird

Women's Week '82 will feature Caroline Bird, author, as its keynote speaker. Ms. Bird will address this year's theme, "Options Unlimited," by examining one of the lifestyles that men and women are choosing more and more often; the dual career couple. She will focus on the pleasures and problems of juggling home and work and the changes that will have to be made in the work world to accommodate two income families. Ms. Bird is currently speaking widely on "The Future of the Family," "Balancing Home and Work," "The Future of Work," and similar subjects.

The *Two Paycheck Marriage*, her latest book, explores the effects of working women on marriage, the family and economics and society in general. Among her earlier books are *Enterprising Women* (1976), sponsored for the Bicentennial by the Business and Professional Women's Foundation, *The Case Against College* (1975), *Everything A Woman Needs to Know To Get Paid What She's Worth* (1973) and *Born Female. The Invisible Scar: The Great Depression and What It Did to American Life from Then to Now* was listed by the American Library Association as one of the most important books published in 1966. It has become a history text.

Ms. Bird was the official historian for the National Women's Conference in Houston and chief writer for the Report of the National

Spring Health Classes Focus on Sex

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLASSES will resume on March 15 with a series of five Monday morning meetings on the topic, "Sexual Issues." Each class begins at 11:00 a.m. The schedule, with instructors, is as follows:

March 14, "Sexual Response", Ginger Manley, RN, MSN, Occupational Health Service

March 22 "Overcoming Myths and Misconceptions about Sex", Linda Stere, ACSW, Clinical Social Worker

March 29 "Pleasuring", Sara Hampshire, BSN, MSN, Associate Professor, Vanderbilt School of Nursing; and Peter Hampshire, PhD, Clinical Psychologist

April 5 "Problems with Sex", Lynn Walker, PhD, Psychologist, Student Health Service

April 12 "Responsibility in Committed and Casual Sexual Relationships", Donna Behler, BSN, MSN, Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt School of Nursing, and Nurse Coordinator, Student Health Service

These classes are open to all women in the University and off-campus. They meet at the Women's Center, E-2 West Side Row. Classes begin with a 30-minute informal lecture which is followed by 30 minutes of questions and discussion. The instructors have agreed to remain for an additional half hour, from 12:00 noon to 12:30, if participants wish to continue the discussion longer.

Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year. She has served on the editorial staffs of *Fortune*, *Newsweek* and the *New York Journal of Commerce* and has contributed many articles on economic and sociological subjects to various publications, including *Ms.*, *Esquire* and *Cosmopolitan*. A native of New York City, Ms. Bird has studied at Vassar College and has a B.A. in American History and a M.A. in Comparative Literature.

-Basia Holub, Coordinator
Women's Week 1982

Women at Vanderbilt: A Historical Perspective

The research seminar which I directed last term on the History of Women at Vanderbilt was a unique and highly enlightening experience for myself and the fourteen undergraduate women who participated in it. Through background readings, numerous interviews, and analysis of specific documents, periodicals and other materials available in the University Archives, we gradually pieced together the history of women as students, faculty and administrators at Vanderbilt.

The topics researched and discussed by the students included, among others, women in the Schools of Law and Medicine, the history of the Dean of Women's Office, the founding of sororities at Vanderbilt, women and athletics, social restrictions for women, patterns of academic study and achievement, women on the faculty, black women at Vanderbilt and the changing role of women on campus during the 'sixties. Despite their widely varying themes and perspectives, virtually every one of these research papers demonstrated that, for most of the university's history, women have enjoyed only second-class status. Moreover, changing that status has proved to be a slow and difficult process.

Such a situation is by no means peculiar to Vanderbilt. "Liberal" Cornell University, a pioneer in the field of coeducation, subjected women to a distinct set of regulations and restrictions, and barred them from many university facilities. Vanderbilt is unusual, however, in the particular treatment it accorded women on campus during the first five decades of its existence. Even though women

were attending classes almost from the moment the university opened its doors—Kate Lupton graduated with an M.A. in 1879—the administration tended to regard the female presence as a slight embarrassment. A small but steady stream of women, mainly professors' daughters, continued to attend classes and achieve academic excellence throughout the 1880s and '90s; yet only in 1895 did the administration allow these women to matriculate on a normal basis, stating that the university was strapped for funds and needed the matriculation fees. Underlining the university's ambivalence in this matter, a top administrator from that era remarked that Vanderbilt had "a mild case of coeducation".

This attempt to ignore or minimize the role of women on campus continued into the new century: university catalogues from the 1910s and '20s refer to "Vanderbilt gentlemen" only, and no efforts were made to recruit women either as students or faculty. Indeed, many female students felt that they occupied a precarious position on campus and feared that the university might decide to abandon coeducation altogether if the women made any trouble. Such fears receded in 1925 with the appointment of Ada Belle Stapleton as Dean of Women and the first female faculty member, but it should be noted that the university created Dean Stapleton's position only after considerable pressure and financial contributions from alumnae.

The number of women on campus increased substantially during the 1930s, and this growing presence prompted the administration to make two important decisions. First, the university finally resolved to provide living quarters for women on campus; Mc-Tyeire Hall, the first women's dorm, opened

its doors in 1940. At the same time, the Board of Trust made it eminently clear that women were not being granted an equal place at Vanderbilt, approving a quota system whereby women could not constitute more than one-third of the undergraduate student body. And this reluctance on the part of the administration to acknowledge women as full-fledged members of the university community persisted despite the fact that the women's academic achievements consistently out-distanced those of the men on campus.

As was the case at many other American universities, the position of women at Vanderbilt altered little during the immediate post-war years, but by the late 1960s women undergraduates were witnessing a significant improvement in their status. Largely as a result of their own organization efforts, undergraduate women during those years were released from the restrictive dress codes and social regulations that had been in force for decades. Furthermore, the sex-based quota was eventually abolished, allowing the 1982 entering class to become the first in Vanderbilt's history (with the exception of the war years) to include more women than men.

In contrast, the position of women on the faculty and in the administration has improved very slowly and unevenly. Due to affirmative action laws and the increased availability of female Ph.D.'s, women now form a significant percentage of the assistant professors in several departments. However, the number of women among the tenured faculty and upper-level administrators is still miniscule. Vanderbilt women who see this situation as a cause for concern might take a lesson from their predecessors. Judging from the results of the various seminar papers, it seems that major changes in the status of women at

They say a good woman is hard to find

72%	of the staff don't think so. They're women.
51%	of the undergraduate students in A & S don't think so. They're women.
40%	of the graduate and professional students don't think so. They're women.
40%	of the alums don't think so. They're women.
10.7%	of the A & S faculty don't think so. They're women.
8%	of the Board of Trust don't think so. They're women.

But only 3% of the tenured A & S faculty are women and only 8% of the top level central administrators are women. And there's never been a woman president of the Alumni Association or chair of the Board of Trust. What do our students have to look forward to? Because of what we're doing, a lot.

JOIN US

Students for Women's Equity
Box 703 B

or

WEAV

P.O. Box 121326
Nashville, TN 37212

7615 campus women (and a good many good men) say,

AU CONTRAIRE

Vanderbilt have occurred, not because of active sympathy or cooperation from the administration, but because of outside pressures or organization among the women themselves. Fortunately, the position of women at Vanderbilt is now secure enough in quarters that we can afford to act in our own behalf.

-Barbara Weinstein
Asst. Professor, History



Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz

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lived in the U.S.A., Peru, and Spain. She holds a B.A. in European history and an M.A. in Social and Institutional Medieval History, as well as minors in Philosophy and Theology. She has also studied for three years at the Pontifical University in Lima, Peru. At present Ada Maria is completing a Master of Divinity degree and serves as a consultant on Regional Development for the Women's Ordination Conference of the Catholic Church. She is also on the editorial staff of the W.O.C.'s newspaper, *New Women/New Church*, and has published several articles in other publications.

Ada Maria first came to the attention of the women of Vanderbilt Divinity School/Graduate Department of Religion (VDS/GDR) when she spoke at the Women's Interseminary Conference last year in New York. Those members of the VDS/GDR community who attended returned inspired by her vision of sisterhood and her concept of "organic" theology. "I attempt to gather the analysis and understandings of the struggling community," she said, "in order to systematize it and develop an everchanging dynamic methodology/process." In her Antoinette Brown Lecture she will focus her talk on sisterhood; she writes, "I am trying to work on an analysis of what are the methodologies and modes of operation which are life-giving and can help create and sustain sisterhood."

On the day following her lecture, Ada Maria will give a Forum on the ordination of women in the Catholic Church. The Forum will be held in the Commons Room of the Divinity School at 10 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

The Antoinette Brown Lecture is an annual lectureship of the Divinity School. 1981-82 is the 8th year of the lecture series which is sponsored by Sylvia Kelly of Atlanta, Georgia, and the Office of Women's Concerns of the Divinity School to honor the Rev. Antoinette Brown, the first woman ordained in the United States.

-Ann Millin, Coordinator
Office of Women's Concerns
Vanderbilt Divinity School/
Graduate Department of Religion

HIGHLIGHTS OF WOMEN'S WEEK

Wednesday, March 24

8:00 p.m. - Caroline Bird, Keynote Speaker

Thursday, March 25

4:00 p.m. - "... And The Rib" A forum on how religious attitudes and beliefs color views of women's roles, sponsored by the Office of University Ministry.

Friday, March 26

12:00 - Dr. John Bruno III will speak on health and medical issues of women in sports.

Saturday, March 27

10:00 a.m. - Women's Week 5 kilometer women's run.

Sunday, March 28

2:00 p.m. - Selected readings from *Tatterhood and Other Tales*, a collection of extraordinary folk and fairy tales from all over the world featuring heroic girls and women.

8:00 p.m. - Writer's Night, a coffeehouse featuring campus talent.

Monday, March 29

2:00 p.m. - "Men and Women: Myths and Stereotypes" a multi-media presentation and discussion of historical and present-day myths and stereotypes and their influences, sponsored by Psychological and Counseling Center.

4:00 p.m. - "Women Faculty: Who Cares?" - a panel of faculty will answer questions of three students about the value of having women as well as men on a university faculty.

8:00 p.m. - The annual Antoinette Brown lecture, sponsored by the Divinity School, featuring Sister Ada Maria Isasi Diaz.

Tuesday, March 30

4:00 p.m. - Elizabeth Kuznesov, from the University of Kansas, will speak on the history of the family in Latin America. Sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies.

7:00 p.m. - "Career Options for Women, New Horizons" A panel of women Vanderbilt graduates will share their experience in male dominated professions, sponsored by Mortar Board.

Wednesday, March 31

5:00 p.m. - Students for Choice presents a forum on "Religious Ethics of Pro-Choice."

Parents Weekend Presents Varied Activities

Parents Weekend is an annual event in the Spring. When the dogwoods begin to bloom you know that it is time for the arrival of the parents of Vanderbilt students.

This year, Parents Weekend is being held March 26, 27, and 28, and if the past years are a sound recommendation it should be a fun and interesting weekend for parents and students alike.

The activities begin Friday afternoon with the pre-professional and special program seminars. This year President and Mrs. Fields will be hosting the reception for the administration, faculty, students, and their parents at the University Club. This is followed by the annual Parents Weekend Buffet Dinner at Branscomb Dining Room. This year the parents will have several events to choose from as an ending to their day. The Original Cast, a student produced musical troupe, will be performing in Langford Auditorium. The Blair School of Music will be presenting the Windstrum Trio. As an addition to this years program, the parents and all Vanderbilt students are invited to attend a

Big Band Party featuring the Louis Brown Orchestra at the Hill Auditorium in the Peabody Social Religious Building.

Saturday morning brings the popular Mini-University. Six of Vanderbilt's favorite professors present talks on topics in their field, or a special interest of their own. Chosen from each school, this year's professors have selected topics from art to anti-Reaganomics. This event is always a favorite with parents and students.

Saturday afternoon is filled with a variety of events featuring open houses, the Sophomore Nurses Capping, and the initiation of honorary candidates. Another Parents Weekend highlight is the annual Athenian Sing on Saturday night. This friendly competition among campus groups is very entertaining.

Sunday afternoon will spotlight the Concert Choir's performance and a story hour of fairy-tales from a feminist perspective. These events round off what looks like a wonderful weekend for Vanderbilt parents and students.

-Jenny Osment, Chair
Parents Weekend Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHEE news . . .

Women in Higher Education in Tennessee will hold their annual Spring conference April 24, 1982 from 9:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Tennessee State Downtown campus. The conference theme is "Assessing Ourselves - Asserting Our Future". Workshop speakers will be announced at a later date. This is a crucial time for women in higher education. Please join us to discuss where we are now and where we hope to go in the future. Call Pat Pierce at 322-4705 for further information.

VANDERBILT PROFESSIONAL WOMEN are invited to participate in "A Dialogue with Caroline Bird" at the next dutch-treat breakfast, Thursday, March 25. Caroline Bird, keynote speaker of Women's Week 1982, will discuss themes from her book *Everything A Woman Needs to Know to get Paid What She's Worth* (1973).

VANDERBILT FEMINISTS will meet for a social hour at the Overcup Oak Wednesday, March 24. The final meeting of the semester will be Thursday, April 15. 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the large back booth in the Overcup Oak. Come and bring a friend!

THE JEANETTE RANKIN FOUNDATION will award \$500.00 to a woman aged 35 or older who is planning to enter or reenter the workplace and who needs to pursue a formal program of education, training, or retraining to meet her goals.

For information and application forms, write: Jeanette Rankin Foundation, P.O. Box 4045, Athens, GA 30602.

Deadline for postmark of application is May 1, 1982. Awards will be announced on or about June 1, 1982.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: A Report

by Barbara Strudler Wallston,
Assoc. Professor, GPC,
Psychology/Human Development

From December 26 to January 1, I attended the First International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women held at the University of Haifa, Israel. The intensive five day congress was attended by six hundred scholars from 35 countries and was chaired by Marilyn Safir, University of Haifa, and co-chaired by Martha Mednick, Howard University, Washington DC, and Dafna Izraeli, Tel Aviv. Although more than half of the participants were from the United States, there was definitely an international flavor to the event. The Second Congress will be held in 1984 in Europe.

American Sociologist, Jessie Bernard, keynoted the event with a plea for an examination of the "female world."

A number of sessions were devoted to the victimization of women through violence and exploitation. Professor John Court (Australia) reported that liberalization of pornography legislation is related to increases in violent crimes against women.

An address by Knesset member Shulamit Aloni stressed the devastating effects of lack of separation of Church and State on women's lives in Israel. Divorce and other laws reflect the Old Testament views of women as property. I saw many parallels with some of the current "moral majority" efforts in the United States. However, our formal recognition of the separation of church and state, even if sometimes breached in practice, helps in our fights against these efforts.

While discussions with scholars from other countries was helpful in assessing the parallels in women's issues, my overriding impression was that, with the exception of Sweden, the United States has made the most progress in terms of women's rights and equality. Given the current uncertain status of the ERA and the backlash and erosion of many of our hard-won gains, this was a rather sobering comparison and realization. However, women living under military dictatorship, who reported the possibility of imprisonment if they discussed the issue of abortion, provided an important context for our current struggle in the U.S.

Following the Congress, I toured Israel for 3½ days with other conference participants. A kibbutz tour was particularly enlightening. Although many kibbutzim were founded on principles of equality for women and men, this tour emphasized for me some of the erosion of these ideals. As children live at home rather than at children's houses, there has been a reversion to more traditional division of labor. I believe this has happened, in part, because women's roles were expanded but men's roles have not changed. Thus, women have been the primary caretakers of children and the cooks from the early kibbutz days, although women also worked in the fields. Similar patterns in the U.S. highlight for me the importance of men's expanding family roles if we are to achieve true equality.

My trip was exciting and enlightening. I appreciate the partial funding from Vanderbilt for this experience. I have abstracts of congress presentations which I would be happy to share. It is expected that several volumes of partial congress proceedings will also be published.

WOMEN'S HISTORY IS WOMAN'S RIGHT

WOMEN'S VU is edited by Linda Karwedsky.

If you are not receiving a labeled copy of WOMEN'S VU, please return the form below or call the Women's Center, 322-4843, to get your name on the list.

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

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