

# WOMEN'S VU

September, 1986

A publication of Vanderbilt University Women's Center

IX:1



Jan Bushing and Beth Halteman, Democratic and Republican candidates, respectively, for Representative from the 56th District to the Tennessee State Legislature.

## Political Statements

Silvine Hudson

Office of University Relations

"In politics women. . . type the letters, lick the stamps, distribute the pamphlets and get out the vote. Men get elected."

— Clare Boothe Luce  
*The Quotable Woman*  
Originally quoted in  
*Saturday Review/World*  
September 15, 1974

Dateline 1986: A woman candidate for Governor of Tennessee, 39 women running for state legislative seats, and an unknown number running in local elections this fall all add up to potentially significant change in the makeup of governing bodies in Tennessee. The women candidates are Republican, Democratic, black, white, rural, urban, incumbent and neophyte.

Why should women run for office? For the same reasons as men: to provide the electorate a choice in leadership. But beyond that, women tend to place priority on issues that are sometimes discounted or ignored as not being "the real problems": education, family, health care, and peace. Although women are 52 percent of Tennessee's registered voters, only 16 percent of city and county officials are women, only one percent of trial and appellate judges are women, and only 9 percent of state legislators are women, according to the Tennessee Women's Political Caucus (TWPC).

Still, this is a far cry from 1974 when women were too often confined to licking stamps and being political cheerleaders. Going back in history to 1919, after a 70-year struggle to gain women the right to vote, the

19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed.

The League of Women Voters was founded in the wake of that victory in realization of the need to educate 20 million women in how to exercise their new political rights and responsibilities. So began the effort that continues today to promote the active and informed participation of citizens in government by registering and voting, studying public issues, learning how government works and understanding how to influence public policy.

A non-partisan organization, the League encourages its individual members to be active in support of the political parties and the candidates of their choice.

From their roles as behind-the-scenes workers, women have emerged to take their places as candidates on the ballot. A sign of the political vigor of women candidates across the nation today, according to the *New York Times*, is that today's candidates are women with experience, building political careers. "The ones you see now have the credibility and the constituency to mount races for high level office," said Ruth B. Mandel, director of the Center for the American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Fund raising continues to be a problem for many women in politics, but it may be easing as increasingly experienced candidates emerge. Also, the increased number of women in the workforce means larger numbers of women have the financial independence to contribute to candidates.

In the belief that women throughout Tennessee will strengthen and increase their numbers in the political arena by sharing and networking, the TWPC will sponsor a conference entitled, "Running to Win," September 13 at the Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel (see article below).\*

Women working together, pooling their knowledge and experience and sharing information will hasten the day when women officeholders are noteworthy only for their accomplishments and not their sex. Until that day arrives, gatherings such as this conference will serve a great purpose in strengthening the effort by women to be full participants in the political process — from the voting booth to the halls of power.

\* Conference registration, \$50, is Friday, September 12, at 5 p.m. The luncheon with a nationally known speaker is an additional \$12.50, 300 spaces available. Or write TWPC, P.O. Box 25211, Nashville 37202. ■

## Make Your Own Political Statement

The Women's Center will award five scholarships to undergraduate and graduate women who wish to attend a conference sponsored by the Tennessee Women's Political Caucus (TWPC). It will be held at the Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel September 13. The conference, "Running to Win," will benefit students interested in campus politics and politics in general.

"Running to Win" is designed for Tennessee women but is applicable to the political process anywhere. Challenging speeches, workshops, informal sessions and receptions will be geared to showing women how to maximize their political potential.

The keynote address, "Running to Win—Politics, Women and Power," will be given by Irene Natividad, president of the national Women's Political Caucus. Sessions include a film, "Not One of the Boys," produced by the Center for the American Women and Politics; a gubernatorial candidate forum; "What it Takes to Get a

Woman Elected in Tennessee," featuring women elected officials from across the state who will discuss what's happening in Tennessee and the nation; "Skills and Strategies for the Woman Lobbyist;" and "Nuts and Bolts of a Campaign," including how to become a candidate, write speeches, run a campaign, and handle the press.

An impressive list of professional people in and outside of Tennessee will be presenters and will be available for discussion. The list includes speechwriters, judges, and state representatives.

To apply: Send a one-page resume and a one-paragraph statement on why you want to attend the conference to The Women's Center, Box 1513, Station B. If you do not have a resume, contact the Career Planning & Placement Service for a resume form to fill out.

For further information about the scholarships, call 322-4843. Application deadline is noon, September 8. ■



Barbara Strudler Wallston

## Research Award

Barbara Strudler Wallston, Professor of Psychology at Peabody, is the 1987 recipient of the third annual Carolyn Wood Sherif Memorial Lectureship for excellence in research. The award will be presented by the American Psychological Assn., Division of Psychology of Women, at its annual conference, the end of August, in Washington, D.C.

## Thinking About Words

In each pair to follow, which term carries more respect? *bachelor-spinster*, *master-mistress*, *sir-madam*, *poet-poetess*, *major-majorette*, *governor-governess*.

Clearly the first word in each twosome carries more prestige than the second. Let's start with *spinster*, a word that began its life meaning simply "a person (usually a woman) who spins." Today *spinster* suggests a rejected, dried-up "old maid," so much so that some single women are driven to adopt the ludicrous term *bachelor girl* to describe their status.

What about *master* and *mistress*, both formed from the same root? We can see the power and respect accorded *master* in such expressions as *master craftsman*, *Master-Card*, and *master of my fate*. *Mistress*, on the other hand, has taken on so much illicit sexual meaning that we often avoid using the word altogether.

And the situation is much the same with *sir* and *madam*: *sir* is unfailingly a term of respect, while *madam* has acquired the whiff of the brothel manager. As feminist Gloria Steinem has pointed out, how would a man feel if he were graduated with a "spinster of arts degree"—or a "mistress of arts degree," for that matter?

The other masculine forms also carry an added degree of power and excellence. *Poetess* suggests a diminutive, quaint, drawing-room version of a poet. A *majorette* is a mere twirler of batons (certainly not a major activity), and a *governess* governs only the romper room. In her successful bid for the Connecticut governorship, the late Ella Grasso had to contend with the opposition's slogan "Connecticut Doesn't Need a Governess."

— Verbatim  
Summer, 1984 ■

## WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES Fall 1986

WS 150/Hum 156

IMAGES OF WOMEN

TB

TR 9:35-10:50

An introduction to the study of images and roles of women in Western society as reflected primarily in literature and art. Readings and discussions will concentrate on modern works that draw for background on Greek and Roman mythology, the Bible, medieval and renaissance materials. No prerequisite.

WS 286 WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA, COLONIAL TIMES TO 1870 E. Perry

TR 1:10-2:25

Colonial Times to the Civil War. Women's status in law, politics, and the economy; witchcraft trials and religious deviance; education and domesticity; women's social service and reform projects; early industrial and frontier experiences; the emergence of the women's rights movement. (Also listed as History 286).

WS 295 UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR: WOMEN IN AMERICAN POLITICS E. Perry

Mon 3:10-5:00

Seminars or lecture courses devoted to topics in areas of competence of individual instructors.

\*\*NURSING 242

ISSUES IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

Jones

R 3:00-6:00

This course is designed to explore health problems and issues confronting today's woman. Content may be presented from three perspectives: 1) life cycle changes, 2) variations in health, and 3) social issues affecting health. Topics include common gyn problems, health maintenance, fertility, child bearing and parenting, menopause/divorce/widowhood, sexual development and lesbianism, mental health, violence against women, and images of women (advertising and pornography).

\*\*This course is offered through the School of Nursing and is not cross listed under Women's Studies.

## How to Reduce Work Stress

1) Don't confuse lack of experience with incompetence; 2) don't take an associate's rudeness personally; 3) don't think everything has to be done immediately; 4) don't assume the blame for uncontrollable failures, and 5) don't stay in a job or profession unsuited for your personality.

— Boardroom Reports  
November 15, 1985 ■

## Does It Pay to Use Store Brands?

The average consumer can save \$300 a year by using store-brand products instead of nationally advertised ones. They are usually of comparable quality but cost less because of savings on packaging, advertising, and distribution. For a guide to good store brands send 25¢ with a SASE to Savings Through Storebrands leaflet, CFA, 1424 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

— Changing Times  
June, 1986 ■

## News Briefs

Anti-abortion questions are on statewide ballots in November in Oregon, Arkansas, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The Rhode Island amendment would give constitutional permanence to the existing policy of no state medicaid funding of abortion. It protects the fertilized egg from the moment of conception.

— The Eleanor Smeal Report  
July 21, 1986

California Chief Justice Rose Bird has ordered a study of sex bias in the California court system. This is in response to a New York State study of N.Y. courts which found that some judges blamed the victim in domestic violence cases; judges were uninformed about the costs of raising children and employment problems of divorced women; others treated women's attempts to enforce child support orders as vindictive or unimportant. Studies are also underway in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

— Ibid.

The Women's Media Project of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund reports virtually no women were interviewed as experts in the T.V. coverage of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. In monitoring the coverage, the Project recorded that ABC, CBS, NBC, and CNN "failed to use a

single woman on their news or talk shows to discuss the implications of the disaster."

In releasing a preliminary report comparing percentages of women and men reporting for the network news shows, the Media Project demonstrated "little progress from more than a decade ago." In March, 1986, women reporters filed only 14.9 percent of the news stories at the three major networks. ABC led with 26 percent of the news stories reported on World News Tonight filed by women reporters.

— Ibid.  
May 31, 1986

Personal and professional stress have a greater effect on female faculty members than on males, and the greatest effect on married women, according to a study of 1,920 faculty members reported in the April 30 issue of *The Chronical of Higher Education*. The researchers expected unmarried women to report greater stress because they had no husbands to give them support at home. It turned out that the jobs of married women were generally perceived as being secondary to their husbands' jobs, a fact that contributed to their increased stress, according to Walter Gmelch of Washington State University. The study showed that, compared with male faculty members, women "perceived significantly greater levels of stress" from their jobs and daily lives, particularly in "research and service functions." No significant differences in stress were attributed to teaching.

— *University Women*  
May, 1986

An increasing number of adults—mostly women in their 30's—are becoming step-parents without any basic training in the role, catapulting these second wives into a world of new pressures.

It is likely that children will resent a new stepmother, becoming hostile and uncontrollable. Meanwhile, the husband is anticipating miracles, that the new wife should be a "new and improved version of the old one," a perfect mother, even if she has no ideas what she is doing. She actually contributes considerable time, energy and possibly even dollars; he gets the children's affection.

Help for new stepmothers can come from talking with other instant parents, insisting that the father become more involved in daily child-rearing, and calling more often upon other members of the father's family for help—aunts, grandparents, cousins. They can rethink their role, not try immediately to be a parent, but "treasured counselor." Claire Berman, author of *Making It as a Stepparent*, says "The kids don't want another parent—and you won't be trying to do the impossible."

— *New York Times*  
August 4, 1986 ■

## Campus Resource for Personal Questions

Throughout the year people call the Women's Center with questions such as, "I have a friend with a problem . . . Do you know of anyone who . . .?" "I am a new student/staff/faculty, and I need a job/doctor/housing/child care . . . Can you help?"

The answer is often yes. The Women's Center provides information on a variety of subjects including how to find lawyers with

sliding-scale fees for women, feminist counselors, what to do about sexual harrasment, pregnancy and other women's health issues, spouse abuse, etc.

If the question concerns women, or if a woman is asking the question, the the Women's Center will help. When we are unable to answer a question or provide information, we will try our best to find someone who can.

The Women's Center staff are Nancy Ransom, director; Joan Anderson, activities coordinator; and Kathy Thornton, secretary. Call us anytime at 322-4843. ■

## Women's Center Programs

**Dissertation Writers Group:** For A.B.D. women who would like to participate in an eight-month, task-oriented group dedicated to helping members successfully complete the dissertation process. Monthly meetings serve as check points, encouragements, and problem-solving sessions. First meeting Friday, September 19, 4:30 p.m. at the Women's Center.



Pocahontas (1595-1617) painted while she was in London.

(*Smithsonian Institution, National Anthropological Archives*)

"The De-Indianization of Pocahontas in Nineteenth Century American Art," A Lunchtime Seminar by Vivian Green Fryd, Asst. Professor of Fine Arts, will be the first in our fall series of seminars on Women and Art. Tuesday, September 23, 12:20-1:20 p.m. at the Women's Center. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages provided.

Rosamond C. Gabrielson, Assoc. Hospital Director and Dir. for Nursing at Vanderbilt will be the first speaker for the **Dutch Treat Breakfast Club** this year. She will speak on the newest economic impact on hospitals, changes in traditional health care, transfer of patient care to community health care systems, H.M.O.s, P.P.O.s, insurance costs, health structures and systems, and how all this relates to Vanderbilt and you. Thursday, September 18, Divinity School Private Dining Room at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast, 8:00 a.m. speech with question and answer opportunity.

**Eleventh Annual Women's Week** organizational meeting for undergraduates will be Thursday, September 25, at the Women's Center, E-2 West Side Row. Women's Week is a celebration of women's achievements and an opportunity to explore women's evolving roles in society. It is coordinated by students for the whole campus and community, and it includes music, speakers, workshops, theater, sports, and art.

Undergraduates interested in working on this project, which will take place in March, pick up applications forms at the Sarratt main desk or the Women's Center, or call 322-4843.

The **Graduate Students Group** will meet monthly this year beginning Friday, September 26, 4:30 p.m., at the Women's Center. There will be a combined happy hour and program on topics of interest to the group, such as publishing, working with faculty, etc. Participants will select the topics, and the Women's Center will make the arrangements. Open to all women graduate students. Organizational meeting Friday, September 26, 4:30 p.m., at the Women's Center to select topics. ■

# ANNOUNCEMENTS ET CETERA

October 4 is the voter registration deadline for the November 4 general election. You can register by mail; pick up a mail-in form at any public library or regular post office. Or you can register in person at any local participating McDonald's restaurant during a voter registration drive on Saturday, September 20, between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

YWCA classes and seminars for September include **Assertiveness Training** and **Journal Writing**. For fees and information on these and other classes, call 269-9922.

**Middle Tennessee Women's Studies Assn. (MTWSA)** will meet Saturday, September 20, 9:30-12:30 p.m., at the VIPPS library. MTWSA is an association of scholars interested in all aspects of women's studies. Faculty, graduate students, and general public are invited to join. Fees are \$10 per year, \$5 for students. For information, call Elizabeth Perry, 322-3388.

Family & Children's Services offers the following programs:

- **Stepmothers' Coffee** (support group) on the third Saturday of each month,
- **Divorce Adjustment Group**, six Wednesdays starting September 3,
- **Dimensions of Divorce**, six Tuesdays starting October 7.

For times and fees call 832-9220.

"Women's Week '86" is a first annual city-wide celebration of women to be held September 21-28 in Nashville. The YWCA has organized this in cooperation with a number of women's organizations in town. Speakers for the week will include Nora Ephron, author of *Heartburn*, and Elisabeth Perry, Department of History at Vanderbilt. On Saturday there will be a celebration of women's achievements featuring booths, entertainment, and food. Check the newspapers for events, times, and locations. Or call 269-9922.

*For more information on the announcements listed below, call the Women's Center, 322-4843.*

**Southern Humanities Conference annual meeting** for 1986, sponsored by Belmont College, will be February 26-28. Call for papers on the theme "The Humanities: The Possibility of a Renaissance." Prospectus or abstract due by October 10.

**1986 Tennessee Assn. of Mental Health Centers annual meeting** will be in Memphis, November 5-7. Call for papers from both students and mental health center staff for a special session November 5. Cash prizes of up to \$100. Deadline: October 3.

**Frontiers**, a Journal of Women Studies, is soliciting scholarly articles, personal essays,

short fiction, poetry, photography and other art on the topic "Women in the American South." Deadline: October 31.

---

## Major Decisions

From *Daughters of Sarah*

"The Magazine for Christian Feminists"  
March/April 1986

The Hyles-Anderson College, located in downtown Crown Point, Indiana, offers a major in marriage and motherhood for their women students. "This course of study," says the 1985-86 catalog, "is to train ladies to be wives and mothers." (One wonders if an internship is required.) Sixty-one semester hours are devoted to courses such as "Women Used of God"—the men take "Biographies of Great Men" (used of God or not)—"Christian Womanhood," "Wardrobe Coordination and Grooming," "Beginning Sewing," "Christian Wife," "Understanding Your husband," "Canning and Freezing," "Sewing Drapes and Household Items," and on and on.

It's great fun to fantasize about a parallel major in marriage and fatherhood for men, including course like "How to Wear the Pants in the Family," "Understanding and Loving Your Wife as Christ does the Church," "Beginning Yard Work and Car Repair," "Fixing Appliances and Other Household Items," "Apparel and Grooming for Gentlemen," "Bringing Home the Bacon," and on and on.

*Edited by Joan Anderson*

TO RECEIVE YOUR OWN LABELED COPY OF WOMEN'S VU return the form below or call the Women's Center, 322-4843, to place your name on the mailing list.

Monthly newsletters, excluding July and August, are sent to all students free. Newsletters to faculty and staff at campus addresses are free. For non-student, off-campus addresses there is a \$3.00 fee for one year. Please make checks payable to Vanderbilt University Women's Center.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Vanderbilt Women's Center  
E-2 West Side Row  
Box 1513, Station B  
Nashville, TN 37235

Address Correction Requested  
Include mailing label

CAMPUS  
MAIL