

WOMEN'S VU

June, 1986

A publication of Vanderbilt University Women's Center

VIII:10

Southern Feminist(s) Creating Community

Joan Anderson
Women's Center

"When we create community we are also recreating ourselves."

--Vanderbilt professor

"Feminist (n.): a person who believes that women should have political, economic and social rights equal to those of men."

The definition above appears in each issue of Southern Feminist, a quarterly newspaper published in Athens, Georgia. In the current issue of this first-rate publication, editor Sharron Hannon tells the two-year history of the newspaper. Apparently it has been long on creative effort and short on money. The paper needs ads to survive.

Hannon says, "I've always had a hard time asking for two things: money and help." That statement could have been my own. I was curious to know if this asking--the backbone of successful operations as unrelated as United Way, IBM, and your local politician--is universally difficult for women. And if this were true, what would be the implications for women as performers?

So I called a Vanderbilt professor friend who said that she had had a related "life-changing experience" through her involvement with WEAV (Women's Equity at Vanderbilt). That while it is easy to ask for money/help for apartheid in South Africa or hunger in north Nashville, it is difficult to "wage battle on my own territory." Through WEAV she learned to talk

openly about controversial, personal issues and to ask for money and help.

But she did it in community. There were other people who banded together and said "This is the issue and we stand together on it." They had a passionate purpose and a community of support. And that community created a climate of change. And once you have created a climate of change, you have succeeded, even if you fail to win a particular issue. The changed climate brings with it the possibility for a new order.

Creating community around our purposes, then, is one key to success--in business, politics, or family.

Susan Lindsay and Sharron Hannon of Southern Feminist are asking through their newspaper for money and help. They need ads, subscribers, ideas, and writers. To me there is no stigma of failure or weakness attached to this. Instead, it is a straightforward approach to keeping their publication--their purpose, their cause--alive and well. And I wish them well; I wish their community.

I think also of the women who are running for office in our city and state elections, women in business, women as heads of families, women at Vanderbilt, women everywhere who are working on passionate purposes. I wish them all strength through community.

(For information on Southern Feminist, visit the Women's Center library or write Southern Feminist, P.O. Box 1846, Athens, GA 30603.)

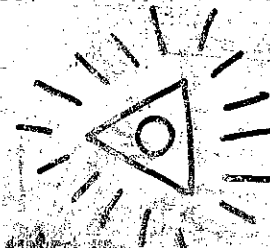
News Briefs

SNIFFLY CENTERS FOR KIDS: Day care centers especially for kids with colds, flu, and minor injuries have begun to open in cities throughout the country. The centers are less expensive than hiring a nurse or missing a day of work if you're a working parent. Rumor is that some folks in Nashville are looking into setting up such a center soon. An announcement will be made in local papers and Women's VU.

STUDENT LOANS: Proposed more stringent rules on government guaranteed student loans make it advisable to file a student loan application as soon as possible since rule changes won't affect loans already granted.

MEDIAN WEEKLY EARNINGS among all full-time wage and salaried workers for first quarter 1985 showed that men of all races fared better than all women. Hispanic men earned \$255; Black men \$269 and white men \$351. Hispanic women earned the least: \$224 per week. Both white and Black women earned \$248 (median weekly). Statistics are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

(News Briefs sources: The Moneypaper, May 1986; On Campus with Women, winter 1986.



Women's VU returns in September, 1986.
Have a great summer!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

9 TO 5, A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKING WOMEN, began in 1973 by a small group of office workers who wanted rights and respect on the job. It captured national attention and inspired the hit comedy, "NINE TO FIVE," according to the organization. It works to help women office workers win higher pay, promotions, and better working conditions.

The Women's Center has copies of a job opinion survey from 9 TO 5 covering topics including job descriptions, pay, promotions and training, child care and the effects of office automation. The organization will gather the data and make a report. If you are a female office worker and would like to fill out this confidential questionnaire, call 322-4843 for your copy.

For information on the organization, call Penny Campbell, student intern, at 322-2776.

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF YWCA SUMMER ACTIVITIES, and to register, call 269-9922. Included in the Y's class offerings this summer are

- EXPRESSING HEALTHY ANGER,

for those who have difficulty expressing anger directly as do women who have been socialized to repress angry feelings. Workshop offers ways to express anger constructively. Mondays, July 14-28, 6:30-8:30pm. \$40.

- TENNIS, beginners' class. Four sessions day or evening in June. \$40 by June 9.
- AUTO MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR that you can do yourself: Quick fixes, identifying minor problems, and what to do in emergencies. Thursdays, July 10-31, 6:30-9:00pm. \$32.

SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY. Planned Parenthood Assn. of Nashville (PPAN) believes that the religious community is an ideal place to provide information and values clarification regarding sexuality. The Education Department of PPAN has three staff members, one an ordained minister, available to provide sexuality education programs for area churches and synagogues including topics of self esteem, decision making, adolescent development, peer pressure, communication skills and teenage pregnancy. Call 327-1097 for information.

SUMMER TEEN FILM FESTIVALS for parents and 9- to 16-year-olds on June 14 or July 12, 10am to 1pm. The program for 9- to 11-year-olds will focus on adolescent development and communication with parents and peers. The program for 12- to 16-year-olds will provide information on adolescent development, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases, and effects of peer pressure and self esteem on decision making.

Call 327-1097 for information.

THE WOMEN'S CENTER WILL BE HIRING A SECRETARY (II) in the next few weeks. The job has not yet been posted with Personnel Services. You can call 322-4843 to find out when the job will be posted.

Woman to Women

"Never look for a man do to it for you. Nobody else will ever have your ambition, will ever hand your success to you, so you had better go out and achieve it yourself."

--Joan Rivers in her autobiography Enter Talking

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. 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 (school & class) _____
Staff _____ Faculty _____ Other _____

Note: April, May, and June issues will be only two pages of copy due to increases in printing charges during this academic year. In Sept. we will go back to a four-page format.

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

Address Correction Requested
Include mailing label.

CAMPUS
MAIL