



Women's VU

The monthly newsletter of the Margaret Cunliff Women's Center

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

January 2006, Volume 28, Issue 6

Don't Miss It!

Voices of Men

*an educational comedy
by Ben Atherton-Zeman*

This multi-media play uses humor to examine issues of violence against women from a male perspective.

Thursday, January 19th
7:00pm
Ben Schulman Center
for Jewish Life



The performance includes scenes depicting violence against women. Attendees should use self-care in deciding whether or not to attend.

Stalking Awareness: What It Is and What You Can Do

Across the nation the number of individuals being stalked is growing. We know that approximately 1,376,000 men and women are stalked annually in the United States. Stalking laws across the country are less than a decade old. Most experts recognize that our knowledge of this crime is minimal. Our communities and criminal justice systems are still in the process of learning how to effectively respond: Most communities are not equipped to handle stalking situations. When thinking of stalking we still think of the individual who is obsessed with someone famous and has a scrapbook filled with pictures and articles about the famous individual, but the reality is that there are many forms of stalking.

So what is stalking? In the most basic terms, stalking is unwanted pursuit, following, or harassment. The crime of stalking involves much more than predatory behavior, although that is typically one element of criminal stalking. The motivations for the stalking, including obsessional causes, are not at all relevant to defining the crime of stalking. Instead, most state penal codes define stalking as involving the following three elements:

- A pattern of willful or intentional harassing or annoying/alarming conduct, such as repeated messages, following, vandalism, and other unwanted behaviors.
- Infliction of credible explicit or implicit threats against a victim's safety or that of her family.
- Actual and reasonable victim fear of the

stalker resulting from that behavior.

The above points can be simplified into three key prosecutorial elements that present the greatest difficulties of proof. First, the defendant's multiple acts were willful or intentional. Second, threats were expressed by those acts and third, that the victim became fearful as a result of the threats and acts.

There are four main types of stalkers. The first is the **Erotomaniac** who holds a delusional belief (paranoid disorder) that they are loved by their target. The target is usually a well-known person such as a student leader, celebrity, acclaimed athlete, etc. These are the famous stalking cases we hear about in the news. The second is the **Love Obsessional Stalker** who has no previous relationship with their victim. They want to live out their fantasy with their victim. In most cases the victim is unaware of the stalker's intentions until the stalker makes them aware of the situation. The third and most common type of stalker is the **Simple Obsession Stalker** who has a previous or current personal or romantic relationship and includes the stalking cases that are connected with domestic/dating violence. This form of stalking is usually triggered by rejection and results in the perpetrator using threats and violence as a means of control. The fourth type, which is becoming more and more common, is **Cyberstalking**. Stalkers will disguise themselves by adopting false identities. They will harass their target through unsolicited e-mails, distributing private or public messages on bulletin boards or in chat rooms, and

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For more info, please see our website: www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

January is Stalking Awareness Month

Seeking Nominations!

The Muliebrity Award

The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center is currently accepting nominations for the Muliebrity Prize given annually to recognize achievements by and in support of women at Vanderbilt University.

The Muliebrity Prize honors an undergraduate student who demonstrates leadership in activities that contribute to the achievements, interests and goals of women and girls, or that promote equity. Self-nominations are encouraged, as well as nominations by faculty, staff, advisors, friends and peers. The award will be announced on April 5th, 2006 at the annual Magnolia Awards (formerly Kudos) Dinner, where the honoree will be presented with a cash award of \$100 and an honorary certificate.

Deadline: If you know someone who is deserving of this recognition, please submit your nomination by **Friday, February 10, 2006.** (Nominees will then fill out a form that is due by Friday, February 17, 2006.) Nominations may be submitted in the following ways: in person to the Women's Center in the Franklin Building at 316 West Side Row; by campus mail at Station B Box #351513; by US Mail at Station B Box #351513, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville TN 37235-1513; or by email at womenctr@vanderbilt.edu.

Women's VU is published monthly August through May at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

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Mailing address: 2301 Vanderbilt Place
Box 351513, Station B
Nashville, TN 37235-1513

Phone: (615) 322-4843; **Fax:** (615) 343-0940.

E-mail address: womenctr@vanderbilt.edu

Visit our website at: www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

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Address changes: Please contact our office manager at robin.l.van.arman@vanderbilt.edu

Deadline for newsletter: Submissions are due on the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Stalking: *What to Do If You Suspect You are Being Stalked*

communiqués of actual harm. They may also pose as the victim on revenge sites to incite others to harass and threaten the victim.

So what can you do if you or someone you know is being stalked? We know that even though there is no victim type, the majority of victims are women. There is nothing you have said or done to cause this to happen. Many victims will try to minimize the experience and the effects of the stalking. It is important to believe them and support them. Remind them that this is real and to trust their gut. The first thing to remember is that stalking is against the law and that you should call the police if you suspect you are in danger. Listed below are things you can do that will prepare you for future incidents. It is important to remember that this list will not prevent you from being stalked.

- Keep a journal of every time the stalker tries to follow, harm, or intimidate you.
- Keep copies of all legal proceedings in a file for future reference.
- Ask the telephone company for help in tracing calls.
- Invest in a caller ID system, answering machine, or other recording devices.
- Inform the people in your life such as neighbors, friends, roommates, employers. The more people who know, the safer you are.
- Keep a camera handy so that if the stalker comes near you, you can take a picture which will serve as proof that he/she was in your vicinity. Remember, your safety comes first so only take the picture if you are a safe distance away.
- Do not keep secrets about the stalker or his/her activities. Report every encounter to someone immediately.
- Seek support from people who understand. Avoid people who minimize the problem and tell you that you are over-reacting.
- Try to have someone with you at all times. This will provide a witness if the stalker approaches you.

Other resources available are:

www.haltabuse.org

www.gmu.edu/sexual/university.html#stalking

www.ncvc.org

www.spamcop.net

www.soshelp.org

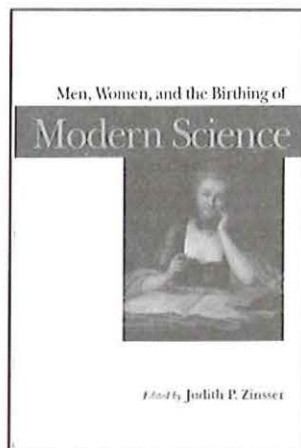
www.lovememot.org

www.vanderbilt.edu/ProjectSafe

—submitted by Vicky Basra, Director of Project Safe. She can be reached by calling 322-1333.



Women and the Birth of Modern Science and a Look at Title IX Thirty Years Later



It is often assumed that until recent decades few women were involved in science. However, *Men, Women, and the Birthing of Modern Science* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2005) illustrates that science was not almost exclusively a male field in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The editor, Judith P. Zinsser, a professor of history at Miami University in Ohio, shows how science evolved over the centuries and became almost closed to women for a long period.

In early modern Europe educated women participated freely in philosophical and scientific discussions, when science was known as natural philosophy and encompassed a much broader field than it did in later eras. It included a substantial amount of what would eventually be broken down into philosophy and religion. Gradually, beginning during the later part of the eighteenth century and continuing for about a century, the definition of science narrowed, as natural philosophy split into the fields now known as philosophy and science. Science grew to require a certain amount of training and particular methods involving mathematics and experimentation. These fields were more associated with masculine activities and men's "natural" abilities and interests. Science, along with the new learned journals and scholarly societies, had become gendered and masculine. Zinsser remarks that "Neither science nor philosophy, as these fields became demarcated and their study and practice formalized, would be considered appropriate endeavors for women. The regendering of learning had been achieved.

The articles, some of which were contributed by academics from Western Europe, are arranged in three sections. The first section details the accomplishments of some of the early women natural philosophers, including Margaret Cavendish of England, Queen Christina of Sweden and the French Marquise Du Châtelet. In the second part are contributions illustrating how women's roles in science changed as the field evolved. The third section shows how scientists came to minimize or mock women's contributions to the subject; women by their very nature were considered unsuitable to be either philosophers or scientists. The articles discuss some of the talented women who persisted in science despite the discrimination they encountered and even though their research and writings were often credited to men.

In June 1972 President Nixon signed into law Title IX of the Education Amendments, which barred sex discrimination in any school or college that received federal funding. This was to have a profound impact on the participation of girls and women in sports. In June 2002 a federal advisory panel, the Secretary's Commission on Opportunities in Athletics, was established to study Title IX. After a year-long review it was decided to leave the Title IX regulations as they stood.

Rita J. Simon is the editor of *Sporting Equality: Title IX Thirty Years Later* (Transaction Publishers, 2005), which focuses on the 2002 hearings and on the current state of female participation in school and college athletics. About half of the volume is devoted to the hearings and to the testimony presented at them. Six chapters examine the strengths and weaknesses of Title IX and not all of the contributors are in favor of this law as it now stands.

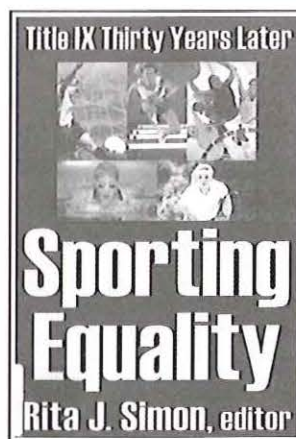
Opportunities for participating in athletics must be proportionate to the ratio of males to females enrolled at the institution.

One of the controversial chapters is by Leo Kocher, the head wrestling coach at the University of Chicago. Kocher is upset that at some schools men's teams have been cut or eliminated in order to obtain the proportionality that is required by Title IX. He argues that more men than women are interested in sports and that Title IX is a quota system that is unfair to male athletes. Ellen J. Staurowsky, a professor in the Department of Sport Management and Media at Ithaca College, argues just as fervently that Title IX does not go far enough and has not been enforced rigorously enough. Despite the fact that the participation of girls and women in sports has increased tremendously (for example, between 1971 and the present there has been an 847 percent increase in the number of girls participating in high school athletics), female athletes still do not have the same opportunities that are available to their male counterparts.

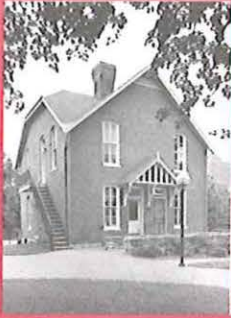
Other new acquisitions include: *Fixing Families: Parents, Power and the Child Welfare System* by Jennifer A. Reich and *Lot's Daughters: Sex, Redemption, and Women's Quest for Authority* by Robert M. Polhemus.



Barbara Clarke
Women's Center
Librarian



January 2006 Calendar



Unless otherwise indicated, all groups and events are open to the public and are held at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center at 316 West Side Row on Vanderbilt University's campus.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Community-Wide Book Event!

Wednesday, January 25, 7:00pm in Wilson Hall, Room 126

The Vanderbilt and Nashville Communities are invited to participate in collectively reading *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. The book will be discussed at an open meeting, facilitated by Women's and Gender Studies Director, Dr. Monica J. Casper near the 33rd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, which is January 22, 2006. Who: This event is free and open to everyone. Co-sponsored with Women's

and Gender Studies, Medical Students for Choice, N.O.W. and Vandy Fems. For more information, contact monica.casper@vanderbilt.edu

Learn to Knit!

Thursday, January 12, 11:30am–12:30pm at the Women's Center

What: Come be a part of the knitting craze that's sweeping the nation! Knitting expert *Kitty Norton Jones* will be here to teach the basics to beginning knitters. Limited numbers of extra needles and scraps of yarn will be available for those who just want to learn. For those who want to bring their own project to complete, here are the recommendations of the expert:

"It is best to start with a yarn that is 75% to 100% wool in a light color. If you read the label on the yarn band, it will recommend your needle size. You can use either straight needles (seen in most knitting movies) or circular (my personal favorite). You can find yarn and needles at Michaels. Angel Hair Yarn Co. is pricey, but they carry a brand called Plymouth Encore. It comes in a lot of colors and it costs about \$6.00 for a skein. Other sources are Haus of Yarn, and Threaded Bliss. I DO NOT recommend 100% petroleum yarn."

Who: This program is for anyone who wants to learn! Co-sponsored with Vandy Moms.

For more information, contact jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu

Core Freedom or Eviscerated Right? Considering the Future of Roe v. Wade in the Roberts Court

Monday, January 23, 4:10pm in Wilson Hall, Room 126

What: Stefanie Lindquist, Associate Professor of Political Science and Law will be speaking on how the recent Supreme Court nominations will affect a woman's right to choose in this country.

Who: This event is free and open to everyone. Co-sponsored with Women's and Gender Studies, Medical Students for Choice,

N.O.W. and Vandy Fems. For more information, please contact monica.casper@vanderbilt.edu

Feminist-informed Action Research: Who Cares Anyway? with Patricia Maguire

Thursday, January 26, 4:15pm–5:15pm, Calhoun Hall, Room 117

What: "Teaching and Conducting Community-based Participatory Research: Interdisciplinary Colloquium Series" presents a presentation on feminist-informed action research, addressing questions such as Who cares? Why do it? If you wanted to do it, what might it look like? Can non-feminist identified people do feminist-informed action research?

Who: This event is free and open to everyone.

For more information, contact darcy.a.freedman@vanderbilt.edu

REGULAR GROUPS/ MEETINGS

Sistahs Reading Sistahs

Usually meets the 1st Wednesday of the month, 12:30pm–1:30pm will NOT meet in January, but will resume in February

What: A book group for everyone interested in reading African-American women authors. Come and enjoy a lunch sponsored by the Women's Center.

Who: This group is free and open to everyone!

For more info, please contact regina.snell@vanderbilt.edu

Creative Life Planning Group

Tuesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 11:30am–1:00 pm (Meets every Tuesday).

What/Who: A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Free and open to everyone and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90 years of age.

For more information, call 322-4843.

Creative Writing Group

Tuesday, January 10, 5:30pm–7pm (Meets the 2nd Tuesday)

What: The Creative Writing Group is open to new members! We look forward to hearing your piece. No writing experience necessary. You can bring a piece or create one at the group.

Who: This group is free and open to everyone. It is led by Anna Sir who will be doing some writing instruction as well as facilitation of the group. For more information, or to RSVP to the group, contact annasir@bellsouth.net

Vandy Moms

Thursday, January 12 and 26 (Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays)

What/Who: Moms of any age! Women who juggle! Superheroes! Open to all

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January 2006 Calendar Listings

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mothers, partnered or single. This is a support network that provides advocacy for moms in the Vanderbilt and larger communities. It also provides programming to inform, empower and enrich. The January 12 meeting will be about learning to knit! (See above for more info.)

To RSVP, contact misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu or call 343-4367.

Book Group

Monday, January 9, 5:15pm-6:15pm (Meets the second Monday)

What/Who: The book group is open to new members at all times and is for anyone who loves to read. The book group will read *The Birth of Venus* by Sarah Dunant

For more information, contact Jane Du Bose at jdubose@bell-south.net or Carmen Gherman at cggherman@yahoo.com.

Vanderbilt Feminists (Vandy Fems)

Wednesdays, January 11, 18 and 25, 5pm-6pm (meets every Wednesday.)

Who: Open to all students of any gender.

What: A student group concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders.

Contact emily.c.baunach@vanderbilt.edu or katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu Or just come to a meeting!



Peer Educators of Project Safe

Meets Sunday nights, 6pm.

What/Who: Peer Educators are students trained to facilitate workshops that promote discussion and encourage understanding of violence against women.

For more information, contact katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu or kasie.r.luttrell@vanderbilt.edu



Men Promoting a Solution (MPAS)

Meets Monday nights, 6pm in Sarratt 363

What/Who: A group of men dedicated to creating awareness about violent crimes against women and eliminating those crimes through social change. New members are always welcome!

For more information, contact steve.frooman@vanderbilt.edu



Support Group

What/Who: A support group for women who are survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. This group meets weekly at a confidential time and location; all information shared is kept confidential. For more information, please contact kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu or 322-1333.



Save the Dates!



2006 Vagina Monologues

Don't miss being a part of Vanderbilt University's 2006 College Campaign of the *Vagina Monologues*. It is tentatively scheduled between February 10-15. Details will be announced on our website as soon as the time is set. This all student-run program has sold out the last *two* years! If you are interested in being part of the production team for this outstanding program, please contact vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu

Hand in Hand Training

The next training session is scheduled for **January 27-29, Friday-Sunday**. Hand in Hand is an intensive training on how to respond to violence against women. Since its creation in 1999, Hand in Hand has trained over 200 students, staff and faculty.

The Hand in Hand training introduces participants to local service providers, law enforcement departments, university officials and survivors of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence and stalking. The purpose of the training is to provide volunteers with an intimate knowledge of the institutional responses to violence against women. We introduce participants to the various campus offices as well as the various community agencies that specialize in or respond to dating/domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The training works to raise the level of empathy and advocacy for victims and survivors.

If you are interested in participating in this training, please contact kathryn.w.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu for more information.

Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center Project Safe Position Announcement

Project Safe is recruiting a graduate assistant for the Spring semester of this academic year. Project Safe, a program of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, is a coordinated campus-wide effort aimed at education, prevention and responses services for Vanderbilt students, faculty, and staff affected by sexual assault, intimate partner abuse, and stalking. The graduate assistant would work ten hours a week and focus primarily on providing administrative and advisory support to the group (MPAS) Men Promoting a Solution. The position would also include providing administrative support to the Project Safe Director and Associate Director.

Job duties would include: Coordinate MPAS Meetings and Events; Provide Targeted Outreach to Men and Underserved Populations; Provide support to Project Safe team; Develop recruitment plan; Meet Weekly with Project Safe Team and Women's Center Staff

Please contact Kacy Silverstein at 322-3774 or by email at kathryn.w.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu for more information about the position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NASHVILLE NOW (National Organization for Women) will have their next meeting **Monday, January 23**, from 7:00pm to 8:30, at the Nashville Peace and Justice Center, 1016 18th Avenue South. Our agenda will include actions around the Senate hearings for Alito nomination to Supreme Court and TN NOW's action plan for the TN Legislative session. Members and friends are welcome. Call 615-269-7141 or email tennesseehow@comcast.net for more information or directions.

WE WON'T GO BACK! (AN APPEAL FOR ACTION)

Dear Campus Activists,

In 1964, thousands of students from across the country traveled to Mississippi and other Southern states to register and mobilize African American voters in unprecedented numbers. It was the famous 1964 Freedom Summer of the Civil Rights Movement that focused the nation's attention on the injustices of racial bigotry and hatred.

Now with the threat to turn back the clock on Title IX, access to abortion, birth control, affirmative action, the Civil Rights Acts, voting rights, and other gains for women and people of color, it is time to once again to mobilize a massive student campaign—this time to save women's rights and civil rights.

On January 9, 2006, Judge Samuel Alito's Supreme Court confirmation hearings to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor begin. Judge

Alito has been very clear in his writings that he does not support "racial and ethnic quotas" which is code language for being against affirmative action. He also believes that the Constitution does not protect a right to abortion, and he opposes other Court decisions such as "one person, one vote" reappointment ruling. Make no mistake; Justice O'Connor has been the fifth vote to preserve affirmative action and the right to abortion. The appointment of any right wing extremist, like Judge Alito, to her seat will shift the balance of the Court away from women's rights and civil rights.

The Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) and the **National Organization for Women (NOW)** student activists are organizing Freedom Winter '06 because the future of civil rights and women's equality are on the line. We are recruiting volunteers to come to Washington DC and join **FREEDOM WINTER '06** from January 3–20, 2006. We will help arrange local housing; we just need activists dedicated to leading the fight to Save Women's Rights and Civil Rights. Commit a week or more of your winter vacation to call activists, visit Senators' offices, plan educational events, and raise public awareness.

Be a part of history and join Freedom Activists from around the country.

For equality,

Eleanor Smeal, President, Feminist Majority Foundation
Kim Gandy, President, National Organization for Women



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Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action

Women's VU mailing list

Women's VU is sent free, on request, to all Vanderbilt students and to faculty and staff at a campus address. Subscriptions are available to off-campus readers for a suggested donation of \$10 per year. Please include your check, payable to Vanderbilt University, with your subscription.

- Please send my free subscription to a campus address. (Student subscriptions are free to *any* address.)
- Please send my subscription to an off-campus address. Donation is enclosed.
- Please correct my name on your mailing list.
- Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Name _____

Address _____

Student (specify school & year) _____

Staff Faculty Administrator Other

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