



Empowering women for 30 years!

Womens u

October 2008, Volume 31, Issue 2

The monthly newsletter of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center



An Invitation to March

By Anonymous

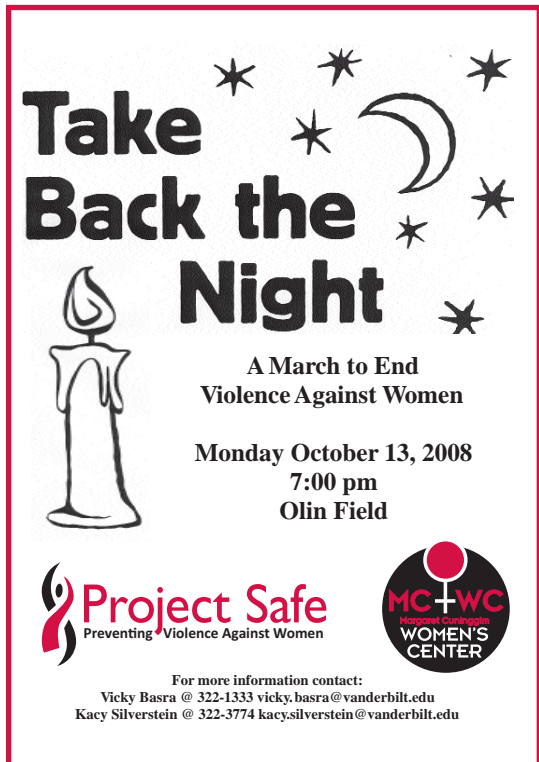
I hear October 13th is this year's *Take Back the Night* and quickly mark it on my calendar. I have been invited to a dinner on that night so I call my friend to tell her that I need to reschedule. She sounds disappointed and mentions that I went to last year's event, so why do I need to go again this year? I tell her that I have been to *Take Back the Night* every year and that I will continue to go until they stop having them. She asks why I keep going, since the violence happened so many years ago. She thinks that I should move on and get over it. She continues to state that the reason I cannot move past the experience is because I keep going to things like *Take Back the Night*. On some level she may be right; not a day goes by when I am not reminded or impacted by the violence I have experienced. Everything I do and every response that I have is somehow connected to the violence. At times I wonder what my life would be like if the violence had not happened. I probably would not attend *Take Back the Night* every year. I would walk by the posters and not even take a second look. It would not even be on my radar. So I decided to write an article to share why I attend each year with the hope that those of you who are thinking about attending will and those of you who come every year will continue to come.

I march every year because it gives me a place where I can express my feelings and not be told that I get angry too quickly or that I should not be angry any more. During the march I am surrounded by others who share my righteous anger and help lift my voice to end violence against

women, children, and men. I participate so that maybe, just maybe, tomorrow someone will not have to endure the violence I have endured. Even though my mind knows the violence was not my fault, my heart at times still tries to figure out what I did wrong or what about me caused the violence. On that one October night it helps to have a group of people to remind me that it was not my fault no matter what I was wearing, whom I was dating, or what I was doing. What makes this one night even more important is that it gives me hope—hope not only for myself, but for everyone who has experienced violence and the victim-blaming that comes with it.

I see how people respond when they hear someone has been raped. They ask why she had so much to drink and analyze everything she did that night, hoping that by analyzing her experience, it will stop it from happening to them. I hear the conversations that ask why she just does not leave the relationship and that they would never stay with someone who was violent toward them. I am here to tell you it is hard, very hard. A good friend of mine always says that if a guy came to her front door on the first date and punched her in the face, she could guarantee that she would never go out with him, but if the violence did not escalate until later in the relationship, she is not sure if she would be able to leave. On the evening of *Take Back the Night*, you will see the Silent Witness Exhibit representing all of the women who have been murdered; the clothesline project displaying t-shirts made by caring people who want to end violence against women, children, and men; the white sheets of handprints on which people have promised *continued on page 3*

You just don't "move past" or "get over" being raped. It stays with you for a very long time—how you felt, how scared you were, how dangerous the night is.



Take Back the Night

A March to End Violence Against Women

Monday October 13, 2008
7:00 pm
Olin Field

Project Safe
Preventing Violence Against Women

MC+WC
Margaret Cuninggim
WOMEN'S CENTER

For more information contact:
Vicky Basra @ 322-1333 vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu
Kacy Silverstein @ 322-3774 kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu

Voter Registration Deadline in TN is October 6th; forms must be postmarked by Oct. 3rd!!



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Visit our website!
vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

Celebrate “Love Your Body” Day with Vanderbilt’s IMAGE group

How many of us wake up first thing in the morning thinking how beautiful we are or appreciating the fact that our bodies are capable of taking us through the day? Very few, unfortunately. Most of us constantly question our size and features, conflating superficial characteristics with our inner self-worth. This ideology of beauty has become a norm in our culture today, supported by fad diets, anti-cellulite creams, beauty pageants, and fashion magazines. But just because that is the norm, should women accept it? IMAGE—Vanderbilt University’s only organization to promote healthy body image—rejects this convention and strives to challenge the status quo through its insightful programming and outreach.

IMAGE was created in response to the unsettling trends of poor body image and eating disorders that have escalated in recent years. This organization is student-led and student-focused in order to change current perceptions of what is beautiful and to reveal the dangers behind obsessing over weight and body image. IMAGE does not attempt to act as a support group for students with eating disorders, but it does offer a safe zone where issues of weight, image, and eating disorders are discussed without judgments cast on the students involved. Starting last year, IMAGE’s board held office hours on the third floor of Sarratt so students could have a more private space to address fears for themselves or their friends. The IMAGE board will also hold office hours this year in Sarratt 353 and have brochures and information available about how to recognize eating disorders and how to help a friend with an eating disorder.

IMAGE also holds meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. in Sarratt 208 (you may remember this as the old Office of Reservations room). Meetings are always thought-provoking and encourage open discussion about sensitive issues. This year, IMAGE is incorporating more activities into their meetings, such as a yoga session in order to emphasize the functionality of the body, rather than just its size or shape.

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

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

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

This organization is very necessary in today’s culture and its mission is to help others gain more awareness about body image and eating disorders. In addition, the IMAGE members make being part of the group a rewarding and stimulating experience. Come join us! If you have any more questions, visit our website at <http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/IMAGE/> or stop by Sarratt 353 during our office hours!

Submitted by Elizabeth Clayton, IMAGE president, Class of 2009.



Celebrate LOVE YOUR BODY DAY! October 15th

Do you love what you see when you look in the mirror? Hollywood and the fashion, cosmetics and diet industries work hard to make each of us believe that our bodies are unacceptable and need constant improvement. Print ads and television commercials reduce us to body parts — lips, legs, breasts — airbrushed and touched up to meet impossible standards. TV shows tell women and teenage girls that cosmetic surgery is good for self-esteem. Is it any wonder that 80% of U.S. women are dissatisfied with their appearance? Women and girls spend billions of dollars every year on cosmetics, fashion, magazines and diet aids. These industries can’t use negative images to sell their products without our assistance. Together we can fight back. Come visit the IMAGE student group and the Vandy Feminists on the Wall at Rand that day to learn more and help us celebrate our bodies!

Location: Pick up information from the IMAGE student group and the Vandy Feminists on the Wall at Rand.

For more information contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

Love Your Body Day Event

IMAGE presents Emily Rapp, author and activist, on Oct. 15

To celebrate “Love Your Body” day this fall, IMAGE is hosting **Emily Rapp**, who recently published a memoir, *Poster Child*, about her personal struggles with disability and body image. Born with a congenital defect, her left foot was amputated at age four, and she has worn a prosthetic limb ever since. In *Poster Child*, Rapp offers a fresh perspective on our cultural and societal obsession with physical perfection, especially the crushing expectations for women, and she explores these issues through her own struggles with body image and disability, giving the reader some insight into having a prosthesis and the challenges for those who depend on an artificial limb. A former Fulbright scholarship recipient, Rapp was educated at Harvard University, Saint Olaf College, Trinity College-Dublin, and the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a James A. Michener Fellow in Fiction and Poetry. She has received awards and recognition for her work. She is now a faculty member in the Creative Writing Program at Antioch University-Southern California. Gender Matters of the Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center is proud to be a co-sponsor of this event.

Date/location: October 15, 7 p.m., Buttrick 102, Vanderbilt
For more information contact elizabeth.a.clayton@vanderbilt.edu

For more information about the speaker and her book, visit <http://www.emilyrapp.com/index.html> For more information about the national “Love Your Body Day” event, visit the website: <http://loveyourbody.nowfoundation.org/>

An Invitation to March

continued from page 1

not to use their hands to hurt others; and you forget that we live in a world that blames victims for the violence they have experienced. You are reminded that we are a community and when one of us hurts, the rest of us will be there in solidarity and with support. This community stands in the face of strange looks from passersby or the marchers who have stayed long enough to be seen, but do not march.

Even though I have never shared my story at the speak-out portion of the rally, it is comforting to be with a group of people even for one night a year where I know that if I choose to get up and share my story, I will not be judged or ridiculed. Instead they would support me, embrace me, and remind me of how brave I am for sharing my

Take Back the Night is about taking back all nights and each year after the march, I know in my heart I have claimed a little more of the night for myself.

story. They would not ask why I have not moved past it, or why I still cry every time I tell my story. Instead they will remind me that I am not alone in my struggle to end violence against women. I will be surrounded by people who understand that not a day goes by when something in my life does not trigger the feelings that remind me of the violence. Many days I feel like I am the only one who has experienced the violence in such an intense way and it impacts every part of my being. *Take Back the Night* reminds me that violence impacts and holds onto the lives of many. Normally, the night terrifies me and I try not to be out alone. I am not afraid of being raped, but of the ways in which the night triggers my fears. You just don't "move past" or "get over" being raped. It stays with you for a very long time—how you felt, how scared you were, how dangerous the night is. On one night in October, I look up at the dark sky and remember that I am not alone any more; all of these people around me are looking up at the same sky and it unites us. *Take Back the Night* is about taking back **all** nights and each year after the march, I know in my heart I have claimed a little more of the night for myself.

This year I will march at *Take Back the Night* to remind myself that all human beings have the right to be free from violence, the right to be heard, and the right to reclaim those rights if they are violated. Maybe this year is the year that I will "finally get over it," but I doubt it. This year I invite you to march with me on October 13, listen to my story, and help me to end violence against women. See the hope and feelings of support in the eyes of those around you who may also be survivors of violence. Show us you care by coming out, marching with us, chanting with us, and listening to our stories because only as a community can we make sure no one lives in fear.



Looking for a few good sponsors... *Take Back the Night* Wish List

Take Back the Night is a collaboration of community, campus and other interested persons who are ready to take a stand against violence and make the night safe for everyone. We need the support and generosity of our community to sponsor this year's march. The *Take Back the Night* Committee is looking for individuals, offices, programs and corporations who may be interested in sponsoring an item from our wish list.

Your organization can sponsor *Take Back the Night* by providing a needed item or donating a specific dollar amount if you prefer. The names of all sponsors will be listed in the program, which is read by over 500 people.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Purple Ribbon Campaign

Wear a purple ribbon to show your support for ending domestic violence. Ribbons will be available throughout the month. For more information, please contact kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu.

Clothesline Project

Women and men impacted by violence (as survivors, family and/or allies) are encouraged to express their emotions by creating a shirt for the clothesline project.

Date: October 7, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center and the "Wall" at Rand. For more information contact katy.adams@vanderbilt.edu or justine.e.chess@vanderbilt.edu



These Hands Don't Hurt

A display where individuals can paint or trace their hands on a large canvas to signify a commitment to non-violence.

Date/location: October 9, The "Wall" at Rand.

For more information contact bryan.adams@vanderbilt.edu



Take Back the Night

Take part in this night of healing. Join Project Safe at the Vanderbilt University Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center in a community rally and march against domestic and sexual violence.

The event will feature displays of the "Clothesline Project," a keynote speaker, music, and an opportunity to join with others to stop violence against women.

Date: October 13, 7 p.m.

Location: Walk will originate on the Vandy campus on Olin Lawn and end at Centennial Park.

For more information contact vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu or kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu

Silent Witness Exhibit

A display of life-sized red wooden silhouettes representing women killed as a result of domestic violence in Davidson County. The exhibit will be displayed at various offices on campus.

Date: Runs from October 13–31, 2008

Location: Various offices on campus and agencies in the community.

For more information contact vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu

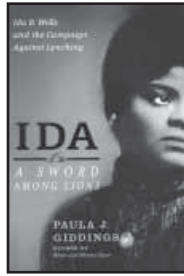
We also invite you to include information on your program, office or corporation in the *Take Back the Night* bags that will be handed out on the October 13th.

Sponsorship opportunities include: Shelter Rental (\$50); Vanderbilt Programs printing (\$250); Lights (\$500); Tent rental (\$250); Table & Chairs Rental (\$50); Purple Ribbon Campaign (\$150); Printing (\$500); White Roses (\$100); Bags (\$800); Clothesline Project (\$500); Penlights (\$500) *Please make check payable to Vanderbilt University

For additional information, please contact vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu or call (615) 322-1333.

Ida B. Wells and Bella Abzug: Two richly written biographies explore their remarkable lives and accomplishments

Over the years a number of biographies of Ida B. Wells have appeared but Paula J. Giddings' new volume is the first work with a particular emphasis on Wells' anti-lynching activities. **Ida: A Sword Among Lions:**



Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching (Amistad, 2008) is a thorough, well-researched and lengthy study of Wells and it includes a great deal of background historical information.

Giddings, a professor of African-American Studies at Smith College, had become fascinated by the life of Wells when doing research for an earlier work about black women's activism. Although Ida's accomplishments were remarkable, for many years she remained little-known to historians and she was not mentioned in some early works on anti-lynching. Wells began writing her autobiography in 1928 but it remained unfinished at her death three years later. In 1970 this autobiography, edited by Alfreda Duster, one of her daughters, was finally published. Giddings knew Duster and other Wells-Barnett family members and had access to family papers and photographs; she also did extensive archival research.

In July 1862 Ida Bell Wells, the oldest of eight children, was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi, to Elizabeth and James Wells. Her parents were slaves who were freed during Ida's early childhood. Her father established a carpentry business, the family was able to buy a small house, and the children were sent to school. However, tragedy struck the family when Ida was sixteen. Both of her parents and her youngest brother died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878. With much assistance from relatives, Ida helped raise the younger children.

Within four years Wells had become certified as a teacher in Memphis, where she hoped that a brighter future awaited her. She had become particularly horrified at the many brutal lynchings, mostly of black men, that were taking place in both southern and northern states. Wells had begun writing columns for local black newspapers and she eventually became part-owner and co-editor of the *Free Press*. Ida, who gained a reputation as a somewhat difficult woman with a confrontational style, gave many speeches on topics such as

lynching and the rights of black citizens.

In 1892 Ida was effectively exiled from Memphis and she moved to Brooklyn. There were violent reactions resulting from a strong editorial she wrote about lynching for the May 21 issue of *Free Press*. The offices of the newspaper were destroyed, and Wells, who had left for a speaking engagement before the editorial appeared, was warned not to return to the city. Shortly afterward she wrote a long article on lynching for *The New York Age* and this was later published as a pamphlet. The following year Wells moved to Chicago. By this time she was well-known as an activist, speaker and writer; she had also made two lecture tours of Great Britain.

In June 1895 Ida and Chicago lawyer Frederick Lee Barnett were married and eventually four children were born to them. Even while the children were young Ida continued to write and speak on lynching and remained active in civic and political affairs. She founded a women's club known as the Ida B. Wells Club and helped found the National Association of Colored Women. In 1910 Wells founded Chicago's Negro Fellowship League Reading Room and Social Center and three years later the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago. The same year she was part of a group that met with President Woodrow Wilson to protest against racism and segregation in the civil service.

Wells remained very active until her death at the age of 68. Giddings shows that "Despite all that she had seen, Ida Wells-Barnett, remarkably, never lost her faith in the nation's ability to reform, and she lived to see many victories."

Another remarkable woman was Bella Abzug, who was born more than fifty years after Wells.

Bella Abzug: How One Tough Broad from the Bronx Fought Jim Crow and Joe McCarthy, Pissed Off Jimmy Carter, Battled for the Rights of Women and Workers, Rallied Against War and for the Planet, and Shook Up Politics Along the Way (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007) is an oral history rather than a biography. The editors are Suzanne Braun Levine and Mary Thom, both well-known



writers and experts on women's issues. Both knew and worked with Abzug and wanted to "bring her persona to life." To do this they enlisted the help of many who knew her and they write that "The stories told by fellow politicians, family, friends, and enemies evoke one of the most colorful, controversial, effective, courageous—and very cantankerous—women of the twentieth century."

The editors had access to an unfinished memoir, as well as to oral histories taken at Columbia University. Each chapter contains details of Abzug's life and achievements during that period, and it includes relevant comments from Abzug as well as quotations from many contributors. Among them are Bella's two daughters and her older sister; President Carter; Gloria Steinem; Edward Kennedy; Jane Fonda; Shirley Chisholm; Betty Friedan; Hillary Clinton; Wangari Maathai; Eleanor Smeal; and Charles Rangel.

Abzug was born Bella Savitzky in New York in July 1920 to parents who were Jewish immigrants from Russia. Later that year American women were granted the right to vote. Abzug's political career began early: by the age of twelve she was already collecting money and advocating the creation of a State of Israel. In her final year of law school she married businessman Martin Abzug. Soon afterward she joined a New York law firm and specialized in civil rights, civil liberties and labor law.

Abzug was an activist and leader in every social movement of her lifetime, including the labor movement, the peace movement, the human rights movement, the civil rights movement and the women's rights movement. She was first elected to office in 1970, becoming the first Jewish woman in the U.S. House of Representatives. Even when she was in her late 70s and confined to a wheelchair she addressed the United Nations; the following day she was admitted to a hospital for the final time. At her death in 1998 she was still actively working for global human rights.

In the Library









Barbara Clarke
Women's Center
Librarian



October 2008

denotes Project Safe
programming

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Transforming Knowledge lecture, 3:15pm, Furman 109	4 <i>Walk as One</i> 9am, Centennial Park Transforming Know. workshop
5	6 Voter registration deadline in TN; must be postmarked by Oct. 3! “This is what women want” Speakout, 7 pm	7 <i>Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am–1:00pm</i> <i>IMAGE: yoga 4pm, Sarratt, 189</i>  <i>Clothesline Project 6-8pm, Wall at Rand</i> <i>Peer Ed, 8pm</i> <i>Presidential Debate Watch Party@ Village Real Estate</i>	8	9 <i>Vandy Moms: costume swap 11:30am–12:30pm</i> <i>Enemies of Happiness, Film viewing/ discussion, 7pm, Sarratt</i>  <i>These Hands Don't Hurt, Wall at Rand</i>	10 Cafe a la Pink, 7-9pm	11
12	13 <i>Book Group, 5:15pm–6:15pm</i>  <i>Take Back the Night</i> <i>Olin Lawn, 7 pm</i>	14 <i>Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am–1:00pm</i>  <i>Peer Ed, 8pm</i>	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 <i>Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am–1:00pm</i> <i>Peer Ed, 8pm</i>	22	23 <i>Vandy Moms: tweens and emotions, 11:30am–12:30pm</i>	24 <i>MCWC Homecoming/ Reunion, 2:30-3:30pm</i>	25
26 “Everyday Politics for Everyday Women” 12:30-4pm Marriott Hotel at the Airport, Nashville	27 <i>Economic Summit for Women, 7:30am-5:30pm, Marriott Hotel at the Airport, Nashville</i>	28 <i>Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am–1:00pm</i>  <i>Peer Ed, 8pm</i>	29	30	31 <i>Women in Academe 12:10-1:30pm, location TBD</i>	

For details and descriptions of each group, please refer to page 6. Unless specified, most groups meet at the Women's Center.

Save the Date!

For more detailed information on calendar events, please refer to our website: www.vanderbilt.edu/womenscenter

Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center Homecoming and Reunion Open House

Please join us in celebrating Homecoming and catch up with returning alumni during an open house on Friday, October 24th. Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you here! RSVPs are welcome but not required for attendance.

Date: October 24, 2008; 2:30-3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu or call 322-6518.

“Everyday Politics for Everyday Women”

In response to the most recent statistics about women and political participation, The Tennessee Economic Council on Women will host a special political participation workshop for women. The workshop will include two sessions: (1) “All Politics are Local;” and (2) “Speak Up and Speak Often: Women’s Voices in State Government.” Gender Matters of the Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center is a co-sponsor and collaborator for this workshop. If you would like to attend please contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu.

Date: October 26, 2008; 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Marriott Hotel at the Airport in Nashville

Ticket Cost: \$25 (financial assistance available for students through the Women’s Center)

For more info, you can also visit: www.tnwomenssummit.org

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

(Events listed chronologically and include events, programs, and series for which the Women's Center is solely responsible or for which we are a major sponsor or collaborator.)

Vanderbilt Women Vote

The Center for American Progress estimates that 65% of a college campus is not registered to vote where they go to school. Looking at Vanderbilt, this means that 7,701 (65% of the combined number of undergraduate and graduate students) could potentially be registered to vote in Tennessee.

The voter registration deadline in Tennessee is October 6th; postmarked October 3rd. Registration forms are available at the Office of Active Citizenship and Service.

For more info, please contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu



Transforming Knowledge Workshop

MCWC is co-sponsoring a workshop on October 3 & 4 with Dr. Elizabeth Minnich, a Senior Fellow at the Association of American Colleges and Universities. She has been a professor of philosophy and academic administrator at numerous schools including The New School (now Lang) College and Sarah Lawrence College.

Minnich's book, *Transforming Knowledge*, won the AACU Frederick W. Ness Award in its first edition in 1990 and was revised for a 2004 2nd edition.

Date: October 3, 3:15 p.m. in Furman 109

For more info, please contact sarah.tyson@vanderbilt.edu or carolyn.m.cusick@vanderbilt.edu or call (615) 686-3631.



WALK AS ONE (with Vanderbilt University)

An event sponsored by CommunityNashville to bring the community together to stand against prejudice and to stand for unity and tolerance.

Date/location: October 4; Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the walk begins at 9:00 a.m. at Centennial Park

For more info, contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

This Is What Women Want: A "Speak Out" on women's issues and views for the presidential campaign

MCWC is teaming up with the Center for New Words... Where Women's Words Matters on an election project called "This Is What Women Want," which involves speak outs across the country focused on amplifying the voices of real women to the candidates and the media. Please join us as women from Vanderbilt and the Nashville community speak out on the issues the night before the televised presidential debate. This is a non-partisan event.

Date/location: October 6, 7:00 p.m., location TBD

For more info, contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

Film viewing and discussion of *Enemies of Happiness*

This documentary recounts the final weeks of the candidacy of Malalai Joya, a courageous and controversial 27-year-old Afghani woman, while providing a snapshot of life and politics in war-torn Afghanistan. The film is presented by Gender Matters/MCWC in collaboration with the International Lens

Series through the Office of the Dean of Students.

Date/location: October 9th, 7:00 p.m., Sarratt Cinema, Vanderbilt
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Fifth Annual Economic Summit for Women

Hosted by The Tennessee Economic Council for Women and the TN Economic Council Foundation, the summit will feature breakout sessions on a variety of topics related to the economic status of women and girls in Tennessee. Keynote speakers and presenters include retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Date/location: October 27, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Marriott Nashville Airport Hotel

Cost: Student tickets are \$40. Other tickets range from \$40–\$80
For info on the summit, scholarships, costs and registration go to www.tnwomensmmit.org. MCWC is involved on the steering committee for this event. For more info, contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

Women in Academe Series: You are NOT alone!

This first meeting in a series of workshops, co-sponsored by MCWC, the BRET Office of Career Development, the School of Engineering and the Warren Center for the Humanities, explores issues pertinent to women in the academy and aims to foster dialogue between women in varying locations within the academy. Sessions are open to all Vanderbilt graduate students, Ph.D. candidates, professional students, and post-docs. This is a brown bag event. RSVPs are appreciated, but not required.

Date: Friday, October 31; 12:10–1:30 pm; location TBD

For more info, please contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu.

Election Alliance

Now is the time to get involved if you want to be a part of the political revolution at Vanderbilt! Politically inclined students can get involved with the election process by contacting lilly.m.massa@vanderbilt.edu in the Office of Active Citizenship and Service. See our website for a complete list of the fall programming calendar for the Election Alliance.

Presidential Debate Watch Party for Women

Join the Davidson County Democratic Women's organization in a presidential debate watch party for women on October 7th. Snacks may be provided. Parking is free.

Date/location: October 7, at Village Real Estate on 21st Avenue
For more info, contact colleen@innovativefunddevelopers.com

Cafe a la Pink: Stay Abreast!

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Mayfield 5 and Gender Matters/MCWC are co-hosting this event featuring readings, poems and personal testimonies on the impact of breast cancer on the lives of women and their families/allies, as well as promoting awareness about how breast cancer is relevant to individuals in the undergraduate age group; how to educate the community, and to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Date: October 10, 7 to 9 p.m.; location TBD

For more information, contact mayfld5@gmail.com or stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

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REGULAR GROUPS AND MEETINGS

(Groups listed alphabetically and are all sponsored or co-sponsored by the Women's Center. Unless specified, most groups meet at the Women's Center.)

BOOK GROUP

Meets the second Monday of each month; 5:15–6:15 p.m.

What/Who: The book group is open to new members at all times and is for anyone who loves to read.

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

CREATIVE LIFE PLANNING GROUP

Meets every Tuesday; 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

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.

IMAGE GROUP

Meets weekly on the first Tuesday of the month

Who/What: IMAGE is an organization dedicated to supporting positive body and self-image issues in the Vanderbilt community. It provides a forum for interested community members to advocate the adoption of healthy body-image concepts and the reduction of eating disorders.

Date/Location: Sarratt, Rm. 208

For more information, contact images@vanderbilt.edu.

L.I.F.E. (Lessons Inspiring Female Empowerment)

Please e-mail us to get meeting dates and times for the fall semester.

Who/What: L.I.F.E is group dedicated to mentoring young girls and women on a variety of issues important to them. This group will work with a group of teen girls in the Nashville community covering topics such as economic empowerment, girls' and women's health, self-esteem, leadership and more.

For more information, contact ashley.n.walker@vanderbilt.edu.

MEN PROMOTING A SOLUTION (MPAS)

Meets every other Tuesday, 8 p.m., Sarratt, Rm. 363

Who/What: A group of men dedicated to creating awareness about violent crimes against women and eliminating those crimes through social change. For more information, contact bryan.r.adams@vanderbilt.edu

PEER EDUCATORS OF PROJECT SAFE

Meets every Tuesday, from 8-9 p.m. at the Women's Center

Who/What: Peer Educators are students trained to facilitate workshops that promote discussion and encourage understanding of violence against women. For more info, contact justine.e.chess@vanderbilt.edu or kathleen.e.adams@vanderbilt.edu

SUPPORT GROUP

Meets weekly

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 location; all information shared is kept confidential. For more information, contact kacy. *continued on page 8*

A Wish List for Women Who Vote

This November 4th exercise your informed vote!

- *Our Voices to Be Heard (and counted equally)*
- *Equal Pay*
- *Accessible, Affordable and Quality Healthcare*
- *Equity in Education at all levels*
- *End Violence Against Women*
- *Affordable, Accessible and Quality Childcare*
- *Progressive Family Values*
- *Autonomy over our Bodies*
- *Protect the Environment*
- *Accessible and Affordable Contraception*
- *Peace*

Find out where the candidates stand on issues important to women. Vote what is best for you, your families, your children and your friends. Know where you stand and where the candidates stand. Make your voice heard and your vote count!

Here are some helpful websites to check out in finding out where the candidates stand on the issues important to you:

Barack Obama Campaign Website:
<http://www.barackobama.com/index.php>

John McCain Campaign Website:
<http://www.johnmccain.com/>

Search these websites for the issues and policy papers of the issues important to you:

Fact Check: <http://www.factcheck.org/>
(Monitors the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews, and news releases.)

Project Vote Smart: <http://www.votesmart.org/>
(You can search biographical info, voting records, policies, issues, etc.)

Democratic Party Website:
<http://www.democrats.org/agenda.html>
(Look at the party platform and agenda. Candidates of the 2 major parties accepted nominations from these parties and in doing so, said they would represent the party platform.)

Republican Party Website:
<http://www.gop.com/2008Platform/>
(Look at the party platform and agenda. Candidates of the 2 major parties accepted nominations from these parties and in doing so, said they would represent the party platform.)

All Presidential Candidates:
http://www.votesmart.org/election_president_search.php?type=alpha
(All presidential candidates are listed from any political party.)

Compiled by Stacy Nunnally, director, Gender Matters, a program of the Women's Center that promotes gender equity.

October calendar

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silverstein@vanderbilt.edu or call 322-3774.

VANDERBILT FEMINISTS

Meets every Thursday, from 6-7 p.m. at the Women's Center

Who/What: Open to all students of any gender concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders. For more information, please contact erica.d.santiago@vanderbilt.edu or amy.l.gillard@vanderbilt.edu

VANDY MOMS

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

What/Who: Vandy Moms is a support network for working moms in the Vanderbilt community dedicated to providing programs to inform, empower, and enrich the motherhood experience. Open to ALL moms in the Vanderbilt community, partnered or single.

October 9th: Costume swap! Bring your gently used kids costumes and dress-up clothes and swap for something great. **Please note special location:** Baker Building 8th floor Conference room.

October 23: A counselor from Vanderbilt's Psychological and Counseling Center will be speaking to us about 'tweens and emotions.

Location: Women's Center Gallery. For more info, contact misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu or call 343-4367.



Community Events and Volunteer Opportunities

NASHVILLE NOW (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN) meets the 4th Monday of the month at the First Unitarian Universalist Church located at 1808 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, 37215. Each meeting is from 6:30-8:30pm and features networking and refreshments. These meetings are open to members, friends and those seeking more information. For additional details, contact cynthianashnow@aol.com or 615-269-7141.

Nashville CABLE meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For more information, contact nashvillecable.org

Reproductive Justice Leadership

Choice USA is looking for students who are interested in issues of reproductive health/rights/justice to apply to our Southern Reproductive Justice Leadership Institute (RJLI). The RJLI is a weekend-long training that takes an in-depth look at issues that affect our reproductive freedom and connects those issues to the broader social justice movement. At the RJLI students will expand their knowledge of reproductive health, rights, and justice; hear from experts in the social justice movement, connect with others who share their passions and learn how to take action! All Expenses Paid.

Date/Location: October 17-19, 2008; Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Contact: Molly Dilworth: mdilworth@choiceusa.org or Joshua Truitt, Choice USA, 202-719-9450



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Women's VU is Going Green!

In an effort to save resources, *Women's VU* is now available for viewing on our website: www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

Go Green! If you are interested in receiving *Women's VU* by e-mail, please contact jeana.carlock@vanderbilt.edu.

A paper copy of *Women's VU* is also available and sent free, by request, to all members of the Vanderbilt community.

Please send my free paper subscription to the address below.

Name _____

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Staff (Dept.) _____

Student

Faculty

Administrator

Community

For all other mailing list changes, please contact jeana.carlock@vanderbilt.edu

Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

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