

# WOMEN'S VU

October 1983

A publication of the Vanderbilt University Women's Center

V:2

## SWE HOSTS EVENING WITH INDUSTRY

On Thursday evening, October 28, at 5:30 p.m., the Society of Women Engineers will sponsor their "Evening With Industry" in the University Club. The events of the evening will permit Vanderbilt's engineers to establish valuable contacts with members of the industrial community. As the evening was so successful last year, SWE has decided to open it to the entire engineering school.

During the informal wine and cheese party, students will be free to circulate among the informational booths set up by various companies. A banquet featuring a guest speaker representing industry will conclude the evening's events.

## Teach-In October 9

**Humane Alternatives to Reaganomics: Jobs, Peace and Equality** - On October 9, this one-day teach-in will include speakers, workshops, and discussion groups (even some entertainment). Several workshops will focus on particular concerns of women, such as "Women's Equality: the ERA Campaign", "The Choice Issue"; 3rd World Women and the Women's Movement". The teach-in is sponsored by The Committee for Humane Alternatives to Reaganomics. For more information and to register, call Pat Sharkey, 322-5330 or 297-0187 (p.m.); or Michael D'Andrea, 327-6961 or 298-2555 (p.m.)

## WARDROBING SEMINAR

"From Preppy to Professional: Dressing to Enter the Job Market" is the title of a wardrobing seminar which Donna Cheek, proprietor of Portfolio, Inc., will present on Tuesday, October 12, at 7:30 p.m., in the Branscomb Rec. Room. A model will illustrate Ms. Cheek's presentation, which will be followed by a question period.

The seminar deals with images women project through their style of dressing. According to Ms. Cheek, "Professional and business women have to dress for a man's world but they need not sacrifice their femininity." The well-dressed business-woman or young professional projects her self-confidence through simple, neat clothing which is comfortable as well as stylish.

Employed women must plan a wardrobe that allows them to move from their workplace to a social occasion without changing. For Ms. Cheek, "a woman's complete wardrobe should fit all occasions." It may take some time for a young woman to build this kind of wardrobe, and the seminar will offer suggestions for investing in clothes that have lasting value and are appropriate for different occasions.

Another focus of the seminar is to show students how to adapt their present clothes to the job, without having to suddenly purchase an entirely new wardrobe.

Students who are preparing for job interviews this year will find this seminar invaluable. The program is open to all interested women.

## OCTOBER PROGRAMS

Oct. 5 - **MONEY MANAGEMENT/ FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR WOMEN** First of a series of four classes meeting at the Women's Center from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Preregistration with a fee of \$10.00 is necessary.

Oct. 12 - "**FROM PREPPY TO PROFESSIONAL: DRESSING TO ENTER THE JOB MARKET**" 7:30 p.m. in the Branscomb Rec Room.

Oct. 14 - "**GENDER ACCORDING TO GARP**" Professors Vereen Bell and Gay Welch discuss John Irving's perspectives on sex roles through his book *The World According to Garp*. 5:00 p.m. at the Women's Center. Everyone is welcome.

Oct. 21 - **VANDERBILT PROFESSIONAL WOMEN** dutch-treat breakfast, 7:30 a.m. in Rand Hall private dining room. Speaker will be Thomas Duane, Director of Personnel Services.

Oct. 28 - **EVENING WITH INDUSTRY**, sponsored by the Society of Women Engineers. 5:30 p.m. at the University Club.

**GROUPS** meeting at the Women's Center include:

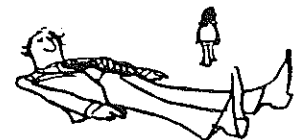
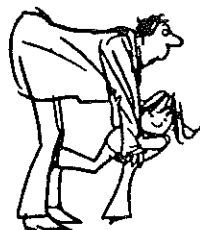
**Women's Week** - every Monday 5-6 p.m.

**Students for Choice** - Thursday, October 7, 5:00 p.m.

**Vanderbilt Feminists** - call for October meeting dates, 322-4843.



"What did you learn  
in school today?"



## Vu Professor Reports Research in Progress

by Cosette Kies, Associate Professor  
*Dept. of Library and Information Science*  
*George Peabody College for Teachers*

One of my current research interests centers on some of the more subtle aspects of sexual discrimination, particularly in the academic world. Specifically, I am interested as it relates to library education, which ironically provides training for a field composed of 80% women to 20% men, with leadership positions and higher salaries generally going to men. Within the narrower specialty of library education, men predominate.

Salary and position studies have been carried out, both in the library practitioners' realm and within library education. These studies show that at almost all levels, men in library education are paid higher salaries than women. However, it would seem that other ways may exist to determine further sexual discrimination. For example, there are certain duties in any academic department which must be carried out by various faculty members, including field work supervision. Unlike most other professional fields, this field work (practicum) in library education is usually an elective and taken only by students without any previous experience in library work. This particular "specialty," curiously enough, is not included in the annual listing of specialties of library educators in the annual directory published by *The Journal of Education for Librarianship*.

I entered into a study of field work supervision with my co-researcher, Professor Jane Anne Hannigan of Columbia University's School of Library Service, about a year ago. The hypotheses for the study are:

1. That supervisors of field work study in accredited library schools are most likely female.
2. That field work supervisors consider field work supervision to be a low status/low reward activity.
3. That the supervision of field work is a low status/low reward activity within library education.

A professionally printed questionnaire instrument was sent to the field work supervisors in the 70 library schools accredited by the American Library Association in the U.S. and Canada. The questions dealt with statistical information (including rank, tenure status, and sex), field work supervision practices within each school (such as separate budget lines for field work supervision, possible reduction of teaching load for the field work supervisor) and attitudes about the

assignment in the view of the field work supervisor (including opinions of self and estimates of colleagues and administrators).

The 47-question instrument was sent out in the spring of 1982 and returns have come in over the summer. At this point we have about 90% response. We are still in the process of manipulating the data, but even eye-balling the results have given us a few interesting things to think about, such as the reluctance of some respondents to answer the attitude questions.

Some of the results, based on raw data will be presented at an interdisciplinary national conference on "Feminist Research in the Eighties," sponsored by Northern Illinois University in late September. Additional presentations and article(s) will follow when refined data is available.

We cannot say at this point whether or not the hypotheses were proven, but the study should reveal some very interesting facts regarding the operations and practices in library education regarding one type of activity in which discrimination may exist.



### "... After the Gravy Train has Left the Station"

Some data on women's employment in professional occupations appear encouraging: e.g. the proportion of women lawyers and judges rose from 3.5 in 1960 to 9.5% in 1977; during the same time span, the proportion of law degrees earned by women jumped from 2.5 to 19.3%. Such statistics, however, are misleading, note the authors of "Women's Recent Progress in the Professions or, Women Get a Ticket To Ride After the Gravy Train Has Left the Station." Arguing that: "there is a rapidly developing split in professional work between prestige jobs with good pay, autonomy, and opportunities for growth and development and a new class of more routinized, poorly paid jobs with little autonomy and which are unconnected by promotion ladders to prestige jobs in the professions," and that "it is precisely in the newer, more routinized sector of professional employment that women's employment will be overwhelmingly concentrated."

Michael J. and Susan B. Carter explore the ramifications of these ideas in university teaching, law, medicine, and other health professions. Their article appeared in the Fall 1981 issue of *Feminist Studies*, Vol 7, No. 3.

-from *On Campus With Women*, Vol. 12, No.1, Summer 1982

## Office Work May Be Dangerous to Your Health

-excerpted from *Network News*,  
the newsletter of the National Women's  
Health Network, July/August 1982

### Working 9 to 5: Hazards of Office Work by Liz Nelson

Everyone has heard of "executive stress," but what about "clerical coronaries"? *Office Hazards: How Your Job Can Make You Sick* abounds with accounts of occupational ill health, ranging from insomnia (resulting from machine-paced speed-ups) to tranquilizer abuse (to quell headaches from day-long typing). In a survey conducted by Working Women, serious "job stress" was reported by 72.5% of the respondents.

These findings are strongly supported by a range of current research: 1) the 1980 *Framingham Heart Study* reports that women clerical workers developed coronary disease at almost twice the rate of other women workers; 2) The *National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health* (NIOSH) reports that clerical workers are second among 130 occupations in the incidence of stress-related diseases; 3) Another NIOSH Study concluded that video display terminal operators surpassed even air traffic controllers in stress experience.

Other health hazards in the office include work overload, unsympathetic bosses, "time and motion" efficiency pressures, blocked mobility, and sexual harassment.

The physical environment of the office can make work both uncomfortable and possibly unhealthy - poorly designed chairs can lead to back pain, poor lighting contributes to eyestrain, headaches, and fatigue, faulty ventilation systems and airborne toxics and contaminants produce poor air quality, exposure to fungus in air conditioner systems, exposure to cancer-causing asbestos, lung inflammation, and disorders from photocopier emissions, and skin problems from fiberglass contact. Video display terminal work (VDT) is linked to eyestrain, irritability, and swollen muscles and joints. One researcher reports that VDT's may pose a low-level radiation hazard which some believe may cause cataracts.

According to Joan Gibson of Cornell University's Clerical Organizing Committee, the greatest danger is being kept uninformed: "Lots of clerical workers work in and around the labs and they are given no information about the hazards, including low-level radioactivity."

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The YWCA lists these October programs, among others. Pre-registration is necessary for all of them. Call 385-3852 to register or for more information.

**BASIC FINANCIAL PLANNING:** offers guidelines to assist you in establishing an overall financial plan. Topics include budgeting, taxes, computing net worth, retirement and estate planning, and the ABC's of investing. Saturday, October 16, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. YWCA, 1608 Woodmont Blvd. (Bring a sack lunch) Instructor: Carol Baxter, Account Executive, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. Fee: \$35 includes financial handbook.

**BASIC QUILTING:** Patternmaking, piecing methods, quilting stitch, assembly of quilt. Basic kit furnished. Mondays, October 18 to November 22. 7:00-9:00 p.m. YWCA, 1608 Woodmont Blvd. Instructor: Maxine Nichols. Fee: \$60.00

**MANAGING A BUSINESS OFFICE:** Two day workshop designed to help office manager, secretaries, supervisors, and volunteers understand office administration and practices. Time management, procedure writing, performance measurement and latest management techniques. Saturday, October 23 and 30, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. YWCA, 1608 Woodmont Blvd. Instructor: John R. Williams. Fee: \$35.00.

**TRANSITIONS—A JOB READINESS WORKSHOP:** Learn how to market YOU through a one week job-readiness workshop designed for women who through divorce, widowhood, separation or disability of the spouse must become the primary wage earner. Develop your individual job search through vocational assessment, interview techniques, occupational research and group support. October 18 through 22, November 15 through 19, December 13 through 17. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. YWCA, 1608 Woodmont Blvd. Fee: \$30.00

A NEW DAY CARE CENTER has been opened by FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH downtown. Henrietta Powell, Director of the new center, described its services for 2, 3, and 4 year olds. The center is licensed for 77 children and will be open all day from 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The center will provide a snack in the morning and afternoon and milk at lunchtime; the children will be asked to bring a sack lunch. The fee for one child is \$37.50 per week. First Baptist Church is located at 108 7th Avenue South, on the corner of Broadway and 7th Avenue South. For more information call 242-5534.

Planned Parenthood has a need for Volunteers in the following areas:

- Community Affair Department - filing, library, etc. Maybe some light typing.
- Counseling in the clinic 2 hours per week.
- Phone counselors Monday 1-4 or Tuesday 12:30-4:30
- Medical Records - needs someone to tabulate lab reports and place in the patient charts.
- General office work - typing, filing, light bookkeeping, etc.

If you are interested, please contact Lynn Cox, Volunteer Coordinator at 327-1097.

Parents . . . Yes You Can

- Learn how and when to talk with your children about sexuality.
- Share with your children the family values that are important to you.
- Increase your family communication skills.

Classes will provide parents an opportunity to gain valuable information, share experiences and practice being sex educators of their children. These classes are sponsored by the Family and Children's Service and Planned Parenthood. They are for parent with children of all ages. Call for dates, fees, and registration information: Harriet Elder 327-1097, Planned Parenthood, or Marsanne Eyre 327-0833, Family and Children's Service.

## BENEFIT OCT. 29 WITH HOLLY NEAR

Rarely does the music we hear these days do anything to reinforce our feelings about the real problems that we face in this mad and toxic world. Radio stations and record companies usually administer doses of music as a placebo for numerous social ailments. Keep the body jumping and the brain numb.

Such is not the case with the music of artists Holly Near and Afrikan Dreamland, who maintain their own independent alternative record companies, Redwood Records and AYO Records, respectively. By maintaining independence from the morass of commercial record companies and producers, they have developed their own new sound - which is at once surprising and appealing.

Both Near and Afrikan Dreamland share a commitment to a new world vision which they express and promote vividly in their music and the very production of it. The lyrics deal with the real social and global

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## PRISON PROJECT

Did you know . . .

THERE ARE 314 WOMEN WITHOUT FREEDOM IN NASHVILLE and they are asking for "free world" involvement at the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

Campus groups can participate in activities that range from volleyball to special interest workshops. Get your organization to spend a recreational and educational evening at the Women's Prison this semester.

Individuals have the option of volunteering as tutors, counselors, or visitors to women who have requested help. Don't worry, you'll have plenty to talk about and are only asked to spend an hour a week at the prison. Training and transportation are provided.

For further information, please call Peter Rotskoff 322-2306 or Michelle Allen 321-6089.

## McGILL READING GROUP

The McGill reading group will meet in September and October to discuss the meaning of feminism. A selection from Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* will be read for the first meeting, and used to focus discussion. Other readings may be selected for further discussion, if the group decides that this will be useful. Interested persons should contact Chuck Burghard at 321-6153 for details.

WOMANKIND HEALTH CENTER continues its discussion group programs on Wednesday nights from 8:00-10:00 p.m. with these topics. Each program has a fee of \$2.00. Womankind Health Center is located at 1727 Church Street in Nashville (329-3817).

October 6: Running, Physical Fitness, and Women's Self-Image - getting more in touch with your body. Led by Dr. Joyce Isaacs.  
October 13: Do Your Beliefs Determine Your Reality? Discussion of New Age Ideas, led by Carole Powell.

October 20: Learn Simple Massage Techniques you can share with special people in your life. Led by Diane LaPenna, Massage Therapist.

October 27: Creating Prosperity in Our Lives by looking at our beliefs and removing blocks/limits that we set. Led by Jane Cantrell.

BENEFIT, cont. from p. 3

problems of human rights, nuclear proliferation, justice, peace and love. Even though the subject matter is intense and thought provoking, it never detracts from the music, which stands on its own.

How these two groups (one a feminist activist from California and the other, a blues-reggae trio from Nashville) managed to connect their messages in this fragmented world is a story; but it is also a blessing. Having played together in San Francisco and New York City, and having enjoyed tremendous success on both coasts, Near and Afrikan Dreamland have decided to bring the DANCE AND SURVIVE Show to Nashville. One west coast reviewer termed their performance together as "the type of spontaneous galvanizing experiment that creates new audiences and transcends the limitations of any form of music." So, on October 29, 1982, Holly Near will join Nashville's Afrikan Dreamland at the Sheraton-Nashville Grand Ballroom to present us with a musical experience that has already pleased and enlightened thousands. The combination of feminist spirituality and Rastafarian religious essence is a rare event and a delight to behold. Near and AD are true professionals in the entertainment field and their performances are dynamic.

The event, two nights before Halloween, is billed as an anti-nuke costume ball and prizes will be awarded to the best dressed. As an added feature, the event will be signed for the hearing impaired. Advance tickets for \$8 are available at Goodies' Main Street Cafe, Sunshine Grocery, Cat's West End and Cat's Rivergate. Proceeds from the dance will go to help Nashville Clergy and Laity Concerned continue their work on issues of peace and justice.

Who Represents Women's Interests in Tennessee?

The Women's Political Times, published by the bi-partisan Women's Political Caucus, reported in July the voting records of senators and legislators on key political issues for women. Scores were based on 15 Senate votes and 11 House votes. 100 represents a perfect voting record on behalf of women's interests, according to the Caucus.

Senator Jim Sasser earned a moderate 53, with one absence. Senator Howard Baker's score was 40, also with one absence.

Robin Beard, who is challenging Sasser for the Senate seat this fall, scored only 18. His votes reflect 1 favoring women and 4 absences on the 11 roll-calls.

Representative Boner's score was 55 with 2 absences; Representative Gore scored a high 73, with no absences.

The prize goes to Harold Ford, however, who was one of the few Representatives earning 100% for votes on women's issues.

The bills include domestic violence, abortion, budgets, social security, infant formula, and the Koop nomination in the Senate; and infant formula, budget cuts, sexual assault law reform, and voting rights extension in the House. For a full list of the bills and voting records, consult the Women's Political Times (July 1982) at the Women's Center.



Also, both Holly Near and Afrikan Dreamland have just released new albums - "Speed of Light" and "Dance and Survive", respectively. These albums are a good indication of the strength of their music as individuals. Combined, they are a powerhouse!

For more information about the dance, please call Edna Kung, 322-4178.

-Kristina Katkus

AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER LIBRARY . . .

Recent acquisitions at the Women's Center resource library include a timely study on the Impact on Women of the Administrations' Proposed Budget by the Women's Research and Education Institute for the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

Women's Lives: New Theory, Research and Policy, edited by Dorothy McGuigan, is an anthology of articles on life cycle and development theories, especially as these theories relate to women and public policy.

From the United Nations Mid-Decade for Women Conference in Copenhagen in June 1980 comes The Exchange Report: Women in the Third World. Included are interviews with women of various countries and reports of panels and discussions that took place at the conference.

Karen Heldmeyer, professor of psychology, has given the library three new books: The Three Marias: New Portuguese Letters (1973); Sisters: Love and Rivalry Inside the Family and Beyond by Elizabeth Fishel (1979); and Women of Crisis: Lives of Struggle and Hope by Robert Coles and Jane Hallowell Coles (1978).

Older Women: The Economics of Aging was written by the Women's Studies Program and Policy Center at George Washington University in conjunction with The Women's Research and Education Institute of the Congresswomen's Caucus.

Books may be checked out for two weeks.

Periodicals and Journals . . . Over the summer the women's Center began subscribing to Response, a national newsletter on domestic violence and violence against women. The Women's Center is also a member of the National Women's Health Network and receives their newsletter, as well as the Women's Health Roundtable Report.

-Linda Karwedsky

Edited by Linda Karwedsky

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

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



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