

WOMEN'S VU

March 1984

A publication of Vanderbilt University Women's Center

VI.5

Women's Week 1984 March 25 - March 31

Women's Week is an annual event devoted to lectures and activities of special interest to women. This will be the eighth year that undergraduate women have coordinated this week.

"Opportunities and Advances: Personal Awareness for Social Gain", the central theme for this year's activities, focuses on women's opportunities, women's achievements, and women's future roles in society.

For the second year, the Vanderbilt faculty will participate in Women's Week by offering lectures during regularly scheduled class times that will focus on women's contributions in the different academic areas.

Consumer Law

Mary Gardiner Jones, President and founder of Consumer Interest Research Institute in Washington D.C., will speak on "Being an Educated Consumer". Jones is a distinguished lawyer and a prolific contributor to consumer law and business periodicals. She will speak at 7:30 in Furman 114, Wednesday, March 28.

Literature

A dramatic presentation entitled "An Informative Journey Through the *Journal des Dames*" will be given by Terry Smiley Dock, Assistant Professor of French at the University of Georgia. Originally published in 1759, the *Journal des Dames* was a controversial monthly publication that lasted intermittently for twenty years. "The presentation provides a sampling of what the *Journal des Dames* was through the eyes of three women: a twentieth-century reader, one of the eighteenth-century editors of the *Journal*, and an eighteenth-century reader", said Dock. The presentation will be given from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Sarratt 203, Friday, March 30.

Nigerian women, the "gender gap", and women writers are a few of the other topics that will be discussed. The diversity of programs indicates that Women's Week is not just for the female population. A program on dual career marriages offered by the Career Planning and Placement Service will benefit both sexes. Women's Week is an inspiring experience for all members of the Vanderbilt and Nashville communities.

-Anne Lennan,
Women's Week Coordinator



photo by David Philpo

Ingeborg Mauksch Women's Week Keynote Speaker

Ingeborg Mauksch, a former Valere Potter Distinguished Service Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt, returns to campus to deliver the keynote address of Women's Week 1984. Focusing on this year's theme *Opportunities and Advances: Personal Awareness for Social Gain*, Mauksch will speak on the present status of women, the real gains made in some areas and the lagging progress of other areas. Drawing on the perspectives of a wide range of students in her Women's Studies course this fall and her own experience, she will offer her vision of the future of the women's movement and women in our society. The keynote address begins at 7:30 p.m. at Underwood Auditorium.

Ingeborg Mauksch is currently Distinguished Lecturer at the University of South Florida at Fort Myers, where she introduced Women's Studies into the curriculum. She is the 1983-84 Sorrel Distinguished Professor of Nursing at Troy State University.

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Benefit for Domestic Violence Program will be March 17

Special guest entertainers and a silent auction will be on the agenda Saturday, March 17, in a program benefitting the Shelter/Domestic Violence Program of the YWCA, a United Way Agency.

Singer Gail Davies, singer, songwriter Rick Bereford, The Scratch Band, and Tommy Goldsmith and The Diesel Boys will be featured performers at this, the third-annual benefit for the Women's Emergency Shelter, a place where women and children can go to escape domestic violence. The benefit will be held at the Women's Building, Tennessee State Fairgrounds, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

On the auction block will be a number of items and services donated by members of the Nashville community, including over 300 pieces of art (photographs, paintings and crafts), and such services as haircuts, landscaping, and tennis lessons. Refreshments will be available.

"Our benefit last year brought in over \$12,000" said committee co-chair Bill Welch. "Our goal this year is \$15,000 which is about one-tenth of the operating budget for 1984."

Tickets for the benefit are \$10 each. For more information call the YWCA at 385-3952.

Women's Week Run

The third Women's Week Run will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday March 31. The 5 kilometer cross-campus run starts and finishes at the track. A \$5.00 registration fee is required and no pre-registration is necessary. T-shirts will be given to all competitors and the first three male and female finishers will receive certificates or athletic equipment.

A brochure listing all scheduled events will be available at the Women's Center, E-2 West Side Row, and other places on campus.

Women Changing Lives, Changing Society

Women's Week 1984 has chosen its slogan with both questions in mind: "Opportunities and Advances: Personal Awareness for Social Change". The entire week of celebration, including analyses, advice, informative programs, and plain entertainment, will cause women, individually and in groups, to think about these questions.

So to begin, these thoughts are offered in the spirit of the season:

The Feminist Mystique

"... the central dilemmas of the "Feminist Mystique" are yet to be resolved: namely, how to be free without mimicking men; how to nurture femininity without relinquishing equality; how to participate fully in a society that remains in terms of its values and its orientation, male. It is, in my view, precisely these unresolved dilemmas, with a fair amount of political naivete thrown in, that characterizes many young women who might be described, or who might describe themselves, as "post-feminist."

-Shelia Tobias, former assistant provost, Wesleyan University; author of *Overcoming Math Anxiety* (1978), and *What Kinds of Guns are They Buying for Your Butter: A Beginner's Guide to Defense, Weaponry and Military Spending* (1982)

"If, indeed young women are not as interested in feminism as their predecessors were 10 or 15 years earlier (a notion which, to my knowledge, has not been documented empirically), perhaps this is merely a reflection of the fact that feminism has gained a wider - not lesser - level of acceptance. . . . Instead of dropping the ball, today's young women are carrying it, quietly, into the inner reaches of corporate America, bringing forth an affirmation of the female values and culture."

-Wanda Urbanska, former reporter for the *Los Angeles Herald*, currently under contract to Doubleday to write a book on young people in the 1980's.

Young Women

"Women have always been the only group which grows more radical with age. Men, in general, rebel when they are younger and become steadily more conservative . . . because their power grows greater, and it accrues. Women are the opposite . . . when we are young, we are the most powerful, we are treated with the most equality. Women, when we are younger, have simply not yet had a chance to experience what problems are. We have not yet discovered the wage

differentials, and the promotion differentials, and the pink collar ghetto. We have not yet been married and discovered that it is still not a system designed for two whole people, rather than a person-and-a-half. We have not yet had children and discovered that women have an unfair responsibility for children. We have not yet aged - still a greater penalty for women than for men. Consequently, we have not gone through the four great activating experiences of a woman's life, and we are less likely, therefore, to be active."

Gloria Steinem to the National Women's Political Caucus, Summer 1983, *University Women*, December, 1983

On Education

"Today, women are saying that our side of the truth must be told. For women, education has traditionally meant learning to enter a world of intellectual constructs made by men, learning to think like men, and aspiring to a professionalism formed by men. Today, educated women and students are challenging this process and demanding the right to be at the center of the human enterprise - the right to define, the right to decide."

-Gerda Lerner, Robinson-Edwards Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and President of the Organization of American Historians.

in *Comment*, October 1983

Finally

"Prescription for today's women: Rejoice in your options for choice. Don't be paralyzed by them. Decide what you will do. Move ahead in your life, assuming responsibility for your decisions, knowing that unlike previous generations you have more opportunities to decide what you will do, whom you will be. That is a great gift."

-Patricia Albjerg Graham, Dean of the Graduate School of Education, Harvard University
in *Comment*, October 1983

The next issue of Women's VU will be distributed April 20, 1984.

Deadline for copy is

March 23, 1984.

Students Attend Conference at Duke, Harvard

Valerie Paris, A&S 85, and Allison Fine, A&S 86, attended a conference last fall on "Common Differences: Comparing the Lives of Black and White Women" in North Carolina. More recently, Sheryll Cashin, A&S 84, and Marva Overton, A&S 85, attended the National Student Conference on Voter Registration at Harvard. These trips were sponsored by the Office of the Associate Provost, the Chancellor, the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Paulette Thompson, and the Women's Center.

"Common Differences" was a project of the Duke-UNC Women's Studies Research Center and Departments of History and English at NCCU. The conference was held on the campus of North Carolina Central, a historically black university. The central theme of this conference was to reexamine similarities and differences between black women and white women, to understand the limits of race and sex. Workshops on *Organizing for Social Change*, *Transforming History*, *The Church and Women's Lives*, and *Transforming Literature and the Arts*, dealt with change in academic programs as well as in society as a whole. Keynote speaker Bonnie Dill, the director of Memphis State University's Center for Research on Women, spoke compellingly on women's need to rise above differences of race and class in order to gain social and political equality. Paris and Fine report that participants included many women who are involved in community projects on sex and race equality.

The Women's Center and Office of Student Affairs arranged a special meeting in January at which 50 women from various student organizations heard a report from Valerie Paris and Allison Fine on the conference, and discussed the black-white relations among Vanderbilt women. The meeting was held at the Black Cultural Center. Chaplain Honora Werner served as chair. There was a broad consensus among the participants that future activities should be designed to encourage black and white students to examine the interface of race and sex.

Sheryll Cashin and Marva Overton report enthusiastically about their participation in the National Student Conference on Voter Registration that they attended in February. They gathered valuable information about structuring on-campus student registration. They enjoyed meeting students from other colleges and exchanging views on the hows and whys of student voting patterns. They also learned about key issues for 1984, including the nuclear freeze, education, and employment.

Cashin and Overton are planning a student voter registration drive on campuses across the city next fall. They seek support from Vanderbilt student organizations to help register students here.

Child Care

Diane Neighbors, the Director of the new Vanderbilt Child Care Center, will be the speaker at the next Vanderbilt Professional Women's dutch-treat breakfast, March 29, 1984.

Vanderbilt opened its Child Care Center in August, 1983 with space for 65 2-5 year olds. Vanderbilt joins 40% of all two and four-year campuses in providing child care facilities, according to the National Coalition for Campus Child Care.

In February the Center was serving 43 children of faculty, staff, and students; 16 two year olds and 27 three to five year olds.

"We have a little money left for financial aid. Our main need now is for fundraising to increase the scholarship fund so that we can serve more families."

-Diane Neighbors, Director

To date ten scholarships have been awarded in which tuition has been reduced 5-20%. In December the Parents' Group held a Baby Yard Sale to raise money, 50% of which went to the scholarship fund and 50% went to buying "extras" for the Center.

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Service Professor of Nursing from 1976 until her resignation in 1982. During that time she was the senior program consultant of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Fellowships in Primary Care Program.

During her exemplary career in nursing and nursing education she has received many honors. She was elected to the American Academy of Nursing in 1975. She was elected an honorary member of Alpha Tau Delta, National Nursing Fraternity in 1975 and in 1980 she received the American Nurses' Association Honorary Membership Award.

She was the only nurse appointed to an advisory committee on national health insurance by Joseph Califano, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, in 1977. Later she testified before the U.S. Senate subcommittee chaired by Edward Kennedy on his proposal of a national health insurance.

Her activities in support of human rights led President Jimmy Carter to appoint her to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council in 1980.

Mauksch received a diploma in nursing from the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in 1943; in 1947, a B.S.N. from Teachers College of Columbia University in New York City. She received an A.M. in Nursing Education in 1957 and her Ph.D. in Educational Administration in 1969, both from the University of Chicago.

Science, Women and History

Perspectives on Women in Science, the series continues on Wednesday, March 28, with a discussion led by Lynn Joy, Assistant Professor in the Department of History. The topic is the history of women in science and will include a review of the recently published *Women Scientists in America: Struggles and Strategies to 1940*, written by Margaret Rossiter.

The program will begin at 7:00 at the Women's Center, E-2 West Side Row.



Women Scientists in America: Struggles and Strategies to 1940 recounts the story of women scientists' efforts to be accepted within the scientific community. During the 19th century the opportunity for higher education was extended to middle-class women; opportunities to use their specialized knowledge were increasingly denied them.

As Margaret Rossiter writes in her Introduction, ". . . women's historically subordinate 'place' in science was not a coincidence and was not due to any lack of merit on their part; it was due to the camouflage intentionally placed over their presence in science in the late nineteenth century." She proceeds throughout her book to document the activities of women scientists in higher education, in government and industrial work, and in professional associations.

Alongside the recovered history of women scientists, Rossiter reveals the nineteenth century movement to bureaucratize and 'professionalize' scientific occupations in which male scientists moved effectively to close ranks against hiring women in any but the most subordinate positions.

Margaret Rossiter's book is available for circulation at the Women's Center Library, E-2 West Side Row.

Math Anxiety

One of the most common barriers to entry into careers today is the phenomenon known as "math anxiety." "Math anxiety" describes the mental helplessness and panic that arises in some people when they are confronted with a mathematical problem.

Paula Sloan will lead a seminar and discussion on "Math Anxiety: Problems and Solutions" 4:00 p.m. March 28, in 203 Sarratt. Sloan has been involved in the problem and its solutions as mathematics teacher of Vanderbilt undergraduates and graduate MBA students. She presently teaches the popular "Math for Managers" at the Owen School. Executive MBA students have been able to re-enter academic life with much less "math anxiety" after working through the Math Review Program which she developed.

Last fall, she organized a Math Skills Seminar for secretaries who deal with highly quantitative material.

The concept of "math anxiety" was popularized in 1976 by Sheila Tobias, who was attempting to explain math avoidance in college women at Berkeley. The report showed that in 1972 57% of first year male students had taken 4 years of high school math while only 8% of first year female students were so well prepared. Those students with less mathematics had locked themselves out of exactly half of the majors at Berkeley. Tobias argued for the establishment of math clinics at the postsecondary level to attract more women to mathematical study.

Since then, many studies have centered on whether there are indeed sex-related differences in mathematical abilities. Educators have tried to understand the societal influences on learners, especially adolescents. Some researchers have studied successful "styles" in learning mathematics.

While this research was (and is) progressing, another group of educators was setting up new programs for "math anxiety victims," "returning women," and other math avoiders.

The program generally uses a combination on anxiety-reduction techniques, confidence-building techniques, and development of math skills.

Academic Women in Mid-Life Transition:

a study of professional and personal development of married academic women

Barbara E. Brown, Ed.D., R.N., will discuss the findings of her study at noon on Thursday, March 29, in Room 123 Sarratt.

The following questions will be explored:

- Do women follow the same development patterns as men?
- Do women have "a dream?"
- Do women have mentors?
- Do women have a separate identity from the identity of their husbands?
- What are some of the major stresses of married academic women?

Program Announcements

WOMEN'S CENTER REPEATS CLASS BECAUSE OF POPULAR DEMAND!!

Women and Work, a Workshop on Overcoming Barriers for the Professional Woman, will be offered again by the Women's Center on Tuesday, April 3, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

This one evening program will be led by Linda Stere, MSSW, Clinical Specialist in Women's Development Issues.

Success in any field of work requires learning the "rules of the game" which govern the social and interpersonal aspects of each work setting. Competence in one's field must be complemented by the knowledge of how to communicate, deal with power issues, and resolve conflicts with coworkers.

This class was offered in January to such response that it is being offered once more in the same format. Preregistration is required; there is a \$10.00 fee. For further information please call the Women's Center, 322-4843.

PPAN

Sexuality and the Mentally Retarded will be offered as a two day workshop for professionals who deal with mentally retarded clients. The workshop will focus on skills and program development will take place on Thursday and Friday, March 15th and 16th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee for the workshop is \$70.00 per person.

These programs will be offered at Planned Parenthood of Nashville, 112 21st Avenue South, 2nd floor, University Plaza Building, Nashville. For more information or to register contact Mary Berlin, 327-1097.

"LEARN WITH LEAGUE" MEETING ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Friday, March 23, 1984. A discussion on the issue of truancy presented by the juvenile justice committee of the League of Women Voters of Nashville.

12 noon to 1 PM. Belmont United Methodist Church (2nd floor, enter 20th Ave. S. door). Bring lunch. Beverage provided.

This is one of a group of meetings on the subject to be held during the week of Mar. 19 through 23. For further information call the League office at 297-7134.

WHET Plans Spring Workshop

Women in Higher Education in Tennessee will hold a statewide workshop on April 28, 1984, in Jackson, Tennessee.

Mary Frances Lyle, partner in the Nashville law firm of Powers, Venick and Lyle and lobbyist for the Tennessee Women's Political Caucus, will be the keynote speaker. Her topic is "Lobbying for Women's Issues."

Joan Williams, Commissioner with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), will speak in the morning on "What's Happening in the HEC that Affects Women."

The program will begin with a breakfast buffet at 9:30 a.m. and proceed until 1:00 p.m. A business meeting is planned from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Please make plans to join us. Registration material will be mailed out in March. If you want to receive the material contact Pat Pierce, P.O. Box 1809, Station B, Nashville, TN 37235.

YWCA's Life Skills Education Program Expands

The YWCA offers a program of enrichment for women and girls in the Nashville community through classes, lectures, and seminars that seek to expand and enhance awareness as well as provide new skills and growth for its participants. This program is seeking to broaden its base of experienced instructors who have expertise in areas which would appeal to women and girls that focus on such areas as self-development and improvement, social skills, health and well-being, current issues, and trends, crafts, hobbies and homemaking skills. Those persons interested in teaching a weekly one-to-two hour course for four-to-six weeks or a one-day seminar or lecture, please submit a class objective and outline to LSE Program, YWCA, 1608 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37215.

YWCA

Assertiveness as a Lifestyle: Learn about the positive changes that will occur in your life as you become more assertive, and how to project a better image. Group discussion and exercises. Mondays, April 9-May 7, 7:00-8:30 p.m. YWCA Building. Fee: \$55.00. Instructor: Peg Allen.

Women and Wellness: Evaluate your life style and develop your own wellness plan. Discussion of holistic health and effect on women's movement. Saturday, April 14, 10:00-4:30 p.m., YWCA Building. Fee: \$45.00. Instructor: Betsy Brach.

Edited by Linda Karwedsky

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