

WOMEN'S VU

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IX:6

Black presence at Vanderbilt

Gale Pinkston
Opportunity Development Center

I am a lawyer, a wife, and a mother. My primary responsibilities at Vanderbilt as assistant director at Opportunity Development Center concern affirmative action and equal opportunity. If an issue arises regarding discrimination on the basis of age, religion, handicap, national origin, sex, color, or race, our office provides assistance to resolve the problem.

As a professional black woman at Vanderbilt, I welcome opportunities and occasions which spotlight contributions made by minorities throughout history. January 19 marked the second annual national observance of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and February is Black History Month across the nation. These observances are times for reminiscence, deliberation, recognition, and education.

In the early 1960s, Vanderbilt was not unlike other institutions of higher education throughout the country regarding integration. Although blacks were not completely excluded from Vanderbilt, university policy prohibited the entrance of blacks if they could receive an equal education at another Nashville university.

Since then, Vanderbilt has made some strides and significant efforts toward diversification of its student body, faculty, and administration. The university now has a Committee on the Status of Women and Minorities, an Association of Black Faculty and Administrators, a Black Student Weekend as a part of the recruitment process, and the Chancellor's Scholarships, six of which became available for top ranking minority students last year. Vanderbilt also sponsors the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture Series annually. The series features speakers of national contribution and acclaim.

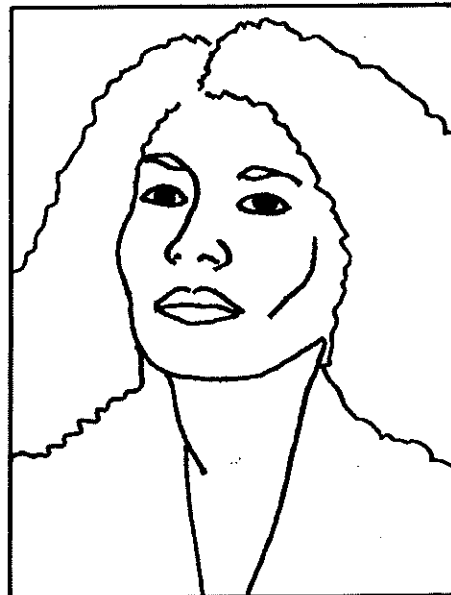
Resources available to students, faculty and staff members, and administrators on campus include the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center and the Opportunity Development Center which, in addition to addressing matters of discrimination, serves as a resource in recruiting minority and female staff and faculty members.

Still, less than 3 percent of the Vanderbilt student body is black. An even smaller percentage of the faculty is black. What are the roadblocks to increasing racial and cultural diversity on campus? More than anything, it is *attitudes* that resist change. For example, during a review of university publications, I came upon a booklet titled

Black Students at Vanderbilt: Telling It Like It Is. A black first year engineering student was quoted as saying, "I didn't think twice about coming to Vanderbilt. It doesn't bother me that there aren't more black students here . . . all the schools I went to from the first grade through the twelfth grade were like this," (meaning overwhelmingly white). I found the student's statement both touching and disturbing. Maybe individually blacks are used to being a token minority in a white environment, but they — we — should not be complacent. What of other women or minorities who are qualified to be in the environment and who have historically been under represented? Diversity is invaluable. It adds depth to our understanding of life's possibilities to which we would not otherwise be exposed.

Education is more than the accumulation of knowledge; it is also a holistic development process, a catalyst in the modification of one's attitude and efforts toward improvement of society. In the case of the student quoted above, I hope that personal and intellectual growth will raise his level of racial consciousness and affect his feeling of responsibility and commitment in that regard toward society.

Black History Month and the recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday are observances during which emphasis is placed upon what black Americans before us have experienced and accomplished for the betterment of our world. They are celebrations of life and freedom, and on the Vanderbilt campus, they are opportunities for building bridges and for personal growth in us all.



In the Women's Center library

An early childhood memory:

me: sitting in the kitchen
holding down onto my chair
shoulders hunching
toes curling in my sneakers.

my mother: standing behind me
bracing herself against the stove
greasing the edges of my scalp
and the roots of my hair violently
heating the straightening comb alternately
and asking between jerking and pulling:

'why couldn't you have *good* hair?'

by the time mother finished pressing my
virgin wool to patent leather,
I was asking why I had to have hair at all.

(the first time I heard a straightening iron
crackle through my greased kitchen, I
thought a rattlesnake had got loose in the
room.)

so much pain to be black, heterosexual, and
female . . .

—From "hair: a narrative,"
found in *NARRATIVES: poems in the
tradition of black women*
by Cheryl Clarke ■

News Briefs

Joyce Kemp Laben, a registered nurse and professor of psychiatric nursing at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, was among the 18 inductees recently admitted into the American Academy of Nursing.

The American Academy of Nursing represents distinguished registered nurse leaders who have been recognized by the profession for their contributions to nursing and health care.

— *Banner*
January 15, 1987

University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School says the average starting salary reported by its female MBS graduates in 1986 topped those reported by male graduates by 1.3%.

— *The Wall Street Journal*
December 16, 1986

(continued)

Gender equality by state

Recent research reveals just how far U.S. women have to go to reach equality as reported by researchers Murray Straus (sociologist, U of NH) and David Sugarman (psychologist, RI College): "Even in the state with the highest score (Oregon), women have achieved only 60% parity with men. The medians show that in a typical state, women have achieved only 54% of what is necessary for economic equality, only 12% of what is needed for political equality, and only 55% of the statutory protections which will enable further progress toward gender equality. Combining all three spheres, the median score of 42 on the overall index shows that, in the typical American state, women have achieved less than half of what is needed for equal status with men."

Economic Equality: Eight indicators such as employment, median income, number and size of SBA loans, households above the poverty level.

Political Equality: Indicators used include number of women who are judges, mayors, state legislators and members of governing boards and of Congress.

Legal Equality: Fifteen laws which a community enacts regarding the rights of women were used to determine the protection of women's legal rights. For a description of the laws, check with the Women's Center.

Women and minorities are more likely to become judges when the positions are filled by appointment rather than election. Studies cited by the *National Law Journal (NLJ)* indicated that the number of women who are state court judges has increased dramatically since 1980—from some 600 then to more than 1,300 now.

About 17 percent of the 761 federal judges (all appointed) are women or minorities.

The *NLJ* also notes a rise in women's leadership of the United States' 250 largest law firms which employ some 42,000 lawyers: 17 percent of new partners were female. Now, six percent of all partners are female and 30.5 percent of associates are women.

— *Career Opportunities News*
September 1986

% Achieved toward Equality With Men

| State | Overall | Economic | Political | Legal | Income |
|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-------|--------|
| OR | 59.9 | 63.7 | 23.8 | 92.3 | 58.5 |
| MI | 56.1 | 51.6 | 24.4 | 92.3 | 56.7 |
| AL | 55.5 | 66.0 | 16.0 | 84.6 | 63.9 |
| ME | 54.7 | 53.0 | 18.9 | 92.3 | 63.5 |
| MD | 53.9 | 61.3 | 15.9 | 84.6 | 61.9 |
| MN | 52.5 | 53.7 | 11.5 | 92.3 | 58.4 |
| CA | 51.8 | 55.9 | 14.9 | 84.6 | 61.2 |
| CT | 51.6 | 54.0 | 24.0 | 76.9 | 59.0 |
| HI | 51.3 | 60.4 | 24.2 | 69.2 | 69.2 |
| MA | 50.6 | 53.5 | 13.8 | 84.6 | 62.5 |
| NY | 49.7 | 53.9 | 10.7 | 84.6 | 64.3 |
| NH | 49.4 | 55.9 | 23.1 | 69.2 | 59.3 |
| MT | 49.1 | 57.2 | 13.2 | 76.9 | 55.7 |
| OH | 48.9 | 55.8 | 6.3 | 84.6 | 56.5 |
| WA | 48.4 | 55.5 | 20.4 | 69.2 | 57.3 |
| ID | 47.8 | 67.1 | 14.9 | 61.5 | 58.9 |
| CO | 46.1 | 53.7 | 23.1 | 61.5 | 60.1 |
| KY | 45.9 | 57.2 | 11.4 | 69.2 | 57.1 |
| AZ | 45.8 | 61.4 | 22.3 | 53.8 | 58.8 |
| IA | 44.6 | 55.0 | 9.7 | 69.2 | 58.5 |
| NE | 44.3 | 52.2 | 11.4 | 69.2 | 58.6 |
| KS | 43.3 | 64.0 | 12.0 | 53.8 | 58.9 |
| MI | 42.8 | 58.6 | 8.3 | 61.5 | 57.6 |
| RI | 42.6 | 54.5 | 11.9 | 61.5 | 59.5 |
| FL | 42.3 | 55.0 | 18.2 | 53.8 | 60.5 |
| NJ | 42.1 | 54.1 | 10.6 | 61.5 | 57.5 |
| NV | 40.6 | 58.8 | 9.3 | 53.8 | 61.6 |
| PA | 40.4 | 55.8 | 3.7 | 61.5 | 58.3 |
| DE | 39.8 | 60.6 | 20.4 | 38.4 | 58.3 |
| IL | 39.4 | 52.9 | 11.6 | 53.8 | 56.6 |
| IN | 39.0 | 52.4 | 11.0 | 53.8 | 55.6 |
| WI | 38.4 | 57.5 | 11.8 | 46.1 | 58.6 |
| GA | 38.1 | 54.6 | 5.9 | 53.8 | 62.0 |
| WV | 37.4 | 53.1 | 13.0 | 46.1 | 51.4 |
| SD | 37.0 | 53.7 | 11.3 | 46.1 | 61.7 |
| UT | 35.6 | 52.2 | 8.6 | 46.1 | 54.2 |
| NC | 35.1 | 54.2 | 12.7 | 38.4 | 66.0 |
| VA | 34.7 | 56.0 | 9.7 | 38.4 | 62.2 |
| TN (#39) | 34.5 | 51.7 | 5.6 | 46.1 | 59.3 |
| NM | 34.4 | 51.5 | 13.4 | 38.4 | 58.3 |
| ND | 34.1 | 53.9 | 9.9 | 38.4 | 57.0 |
| WY | 33.5 | 55.2 | 22.2 | 23.0 | 50.2 |
| OK | 32.7 | 59.0 | 8.2 | 30.7 | 58.4 |
| LA | 31.2 | 50.3 | 4.8 | 38.4 | 53.2 |
| TX | 30.5 | 53.3 | 7.6 | 30.7 | 57.7 |
| VT | 29.7 | 53.4 | 12.7 | 23.0 | 64.4 |
| AK | 27.6 | 52.9 | 6.9 | 23.0 | 61.6 |
| SC | 24.0 | 56.3 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 64.6 |
| AL | 20.1 | 52.8 | 7.6 | 0.0 | 56.8 |
| MS | 19.2 | 52.1 | 5.6 | 0.0 | 60.1 |
| DC | | | | | 79.1 |

On November 6, 1986, one year after the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.J. Res. 36, President Reagan signed into law an amended version of the resolution authorizing "the . . . establishment of a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States."

— *Minerva: Quarterly Report on Women and the Military*
Winter 1986 ■



Remembering a friend

Dr. Barbara Strudler Wallston, professor of psychology at Peabody since 1972, died unexpectedly Saturday, January 3, 1987. To the Women's Center she was a sound example of a woman of achievement and character, a staunch supporter of progress for women at Vanderbilt, and a good friend. We remember her with respect and affection. ■

— *pr reporter*,
September 29, 1986.

On Capitol Hill in 1987, women will function as press secretaries for both the Senate majority leader and the Speaker of the House. In nearly 200 years of Congressional history . . . neither

of these leaders has ever employed a woman in this capacity, and now both of them will.

— *New York Times*
December 22, 1986

Looking for a job ?

The Association for Women in Science publishes a *Job Bulletin* monthly. In it are listed jobs in a variety of academic and other settings in the U.S. and abroad. Listing categories include administration, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, engineering, environment/ecology, geology, health services/nursing/medicine, mathematics, physics/astronomy, psychology/counseling, sociology/social work, and others. Available in the Women's Center library, or write Association for Women in Science, 2401 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 303, Washington, D.C. 20037. ■

It's your health

Lois J. Wagner, R.N., C., M.S.N.
Occupational Health Service

This is the second of two articles focusing on women and AIDS.

As of November 1986, 1,806 American women had been diagnosed with AIDS. By December 22, 125 new cases were reported, raising the total to 1,931. Who are these women and how did they contract the AIDS virus?

Women between 20 and 49 years of age account for 88 percent of all women with AIDS. The women are 52 percent Black, 27 percent white, and 20 percent Hispanic. Six out of every 10 cases have been reported in Florida, New Jersey, or New York. To date, there have been six cases of AIDS among women in Tennessee.

Fifty-one percent of these women have a history of IV drug abuse. Heterosexual transmission has been traced in 28 percent of cases, usually via contact with male IV drug users and less frequently with bisexual men. Women are at greater risk than men for contracting AIDS heterosexually, and they account for four out of five of all cases of AIDS due to heterosexual contact. About 10 percent of infected women received blood transfusions prior to spring of 1985 when testing began for the AIDS antibody on all donated blood.

How can a woman protect herself against AIDS? Avoid multiple sexual partners and become knowledgeable of your partner's usual sexual patterns and drug use history *before* becoming sexually involved. Condom use can prevent the spread of many sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS and should be used consistently. Don't feel nervous about this; 40 percent of all condom purchases are made by women. Avoid oral sex if you have sores in your mouth and anal sex which is the riskiest of all. If you are using IV drugs, stop, and don't share needles. Women who are infected with AIDS can transmit the disease to their offspring. Any infected woman who is pregnant or is contemplating pregnancy should seek counseling with a health care provider knowledgeable in this area.

There are many misconceptions about AIDS which are based on irrational fears and lack of knowledge. You may have questions or would like to talk with someone about AIDS. The Occupational Health Service and Student Health

Service can offer advice and counseling. Another good resource is Nashville Cares which offers education to individuals and groups and provides support services to people with AIDS. They can be reached at 321-0118. ■

Women's Center programs

Part 2 and 3 of "Friends and Lovers: Beginning, Sustaining, and Ending Relationships," are panels with 3-4 couples each night telling what their relationships have been like: "Sustaining Relationships" is Tuesday, February 3, and "Ending Relationships" is Tuesday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., Carmichael Towers East Formal Lounge. Issues involve commitment and adjusting to each other within the context of family and society. Cosponsored by the Women's Center, Office of University Ministries, and Inter-hall.

The Single Mothers Support Group will meet on Tuesday, February 3 and 17. The topic for the first meeting will be finding babysitters. For the second meeting, we will have a financial advisor come and answer questions posed by group members. The group is free and meets at the Vanderbilt Child Care Center from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. Child care is provided on site for a small fee.

The Book Group will meet Monday, February 9, at 5:15 p.m. at the Women's Center. A discussion of *In the Last Analysis*, by Amanda Cross, will be led by Joyce Laben. If you have not read the book and are interested in listening to the discussion, feel free to attend. Those present on February 9 will make the reading selection for the March meeting.

A Pre-Law Panel for undergraduate women will feature four Vanderbilt women law students telling what law school and working in the profession is like, what options there are following graduation, etc. There will be a question and answer period. An annual program, this panel will be informal, *informative*, and fun. It is open to any female student considering law as a career, interested in the broader applications of law, or curious about professional school. The panel will be Wednesday, February 11, 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the Women's Center. Light refreshments will be provided.

A Pre-Med Panel for undergraduate women will feature four Vanderbilt women medical students speaking in a similar format to the program above. In past years, questions from undergraduates have included dating, marriage, and family considerations as well as questions about the application procedure, finances, med school climate for women, and career options. Wednesday, February 18, 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the Women's Center. Light refreshments.

Tara Armistead, landscape architect for Campus Planning and Construction, will be the guest speaker for the Dutch Treat Breakfast Club on Thursday, February 19. She will discuss her work on campus and plans for future improvements. A slide series with before and after site development shots will accompany the speech. Open to faculty and staff women, the group meets in the Divinity School Private Dining Room at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast (go through the food line), speech at 8:00 a.m., and questions and answers at 8:30 a.m. Women come and go as their schedules require. Coffee is available free.

The Dissertation Writers Support Group will meet on Friday, February 20, 4:30 p.m. at the Women's Center. This is for A.B.D. women who participate in a task-oriented group dedicated to helping members successfully complete the dissertation process. Monthly meetings serve as check points, encouragements, and problem-solving sessions.

By request, the Women's Center is offering a second Self-Esteem Workshop on February 23 and 24, 5:15-6:45 p.m., at the Women's Center. Nancy Ransom, director of the Women's Center who has conducted self-esteem workshops for other groups, will lead participants through an overview of self-esteem and some guided exercises designed for individuals to explore their own self-esteem and ways to improve it. Call 322-4843 to register. Fee: \$5.

Lorraine Greene, lecturer in Psychology and Human Development, will give a Luncheon Seminar on cultural aspects of Black women in the United States, Thursday, February 26, 12:15-1:15 p.m., at the Women's Center. Dr. Green received her Ed.D. from Peabody in spring 1986. Her dissertation topic was aspirations of Black women in the U.S. Dr. Greene will be speaking about research results from the dissertation and current related research.

The Women Graduate Students Group will feature Lynn Jacobs, a first year Vanderbilt assistant professor in fine arts and Andrew W. Mellon fellow, who will speak to the group about how she got to Vanderbilt, what it is like to be a first year professor, etc. She will begin speaking promptly at 4:35 p.m. and will entertain questions following her presentation. Afterward, graduate students may enjoy happy hour with conversation. The program ends at 6:00 p.m. Friday, February 27. Light refreshments. ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS ET CETERA

The Lady Commodores basketball team has had a good season this year with 13 wins and 2 losses as of this writing. Home games in Memorial Gym are great fun for friends and family of all ages. The cost is \$4 for non-student adults and \$1 for all students. Remaining home games this season are:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Feb. 1 - LSU | 2:00 pm |
| Feb. 4 — Tennessee | 7:00 pm |
| Feb. 9 — TSU | 7:00 pm |
| Feb. 12 — Creighton Univ. | 7:00 pm |
| Feb. 22 — IndianaU/Purdue | 3:00 pm |

The YWCA Shelter and Domestic Violence Program urgently needs volunteers to work with children from violent homes and to provide phone crisis counseling for battered women. A 15 hour training program is scheduled to begin Tuesday, March 10. You can choose either morning or evening training sessions.

The Y Shelter exists to help alleviate the problem of domestic violence. Call Karen Franklin at 297-8833 if you would like to volunteer or for additional information.

A My Name Is Alice is back at the Alternate Circle Theater for four more performances February 18-22, 8 p.m. This is a delightful musical review. The cast just won first place in the Festival of American Community Theater state competition and will soon be on their way to regional competition in Virginia. A great evening's entertainment evoking both laughter and tears. Call 327-4048.

The Psychological and Counseling Center announces spring group offerings including Stress Management, Psychological/Theological Issues, Vocational Self-Assessment, Would You Be a Good Parent?, Assertiveness Training, Sex-Role Stereotypes, Eating Related Problems, and Sexual Awareness Programs. Call 322-2571 for information.

February programs at the YWCA include Writing Your Will (\$5); Looking Back: Your Childhood and Family (\$45); Women, The Emerging Investor: February, ABC's of Investment Terminology (\$5). Coming up in March are Keeping the Mother-Daughter Lines Open (March 4, \$10), and Women, The Emerging Investor: Reviewing Your Taxes Before April 15 (\$5). For information on these and other courses, call 269-9922.

The Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College offers fellowships designed to support women who wish to pursue independent study in academic and professional fields, in creative writing, the visual and performing arts, dance, and music. Applications are judged on the significance and quality of the project proposal.

The 1987 Peace Fellowship is open to all women, and it awards a stipend of \$16,000 plus travel and research expenses for one year. The 1987 Berkshire Summer Fellowship is open to women post-doctoral historians, and it has an award of \$2,500. Deadline is March 16. Write Fellowship Program, The Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College, 10 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

The Project on Equal Education Rights (PEER) is seeking a part-time Study Director for its new research and policy development program on the role of education in preventing poverty among women. Funded by the Ford Foundation, this one-year research program will explore PEER's theme, "Equal Education for Girls is Poverty Prevention for Women."

The Study Director will plan a research seminar with invited papers to be held at her/his home institution or at PEER. The director will reside at least two weeks in Washington, D.C., and at her/his home institution until the project is completed (June, 1988). Support services are available from PEER. Stipend: \$5,000. Deadline: February 27. To apply, submit a curriculum vitae to Dr. Leslie R. Wolfe, Director of PEER, 1413 K Street, NW, 9th floor, Washington, D.C. 20005. For more information call the Women's Center, 322-4843, or Leslie Wolfe at (202) 322-7337. ■

Wanna bet?

*Nancy W. Olson
Taylor, Wisconsin*

I had been putting off telling my boss that I was pregnant, so my sudden attack of morning sickness one Monday had him mystified.

I had already shared my happy secret with the other women in the office, however, so they had a hard time keeping their faces straight when our dignified employer complained the next day of not feeling well, and said, "I'll bet I have the same thing Nancy had yesterday."

—Savvy

December 1986 ■

Edited by Joan Anderson

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