

WOMEN'S VU

March 1987

A publication of Vanderbilt University Women's Center

IX:7

A few good women

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A&S Senior

Every March for the past 11 years, Vanderbilt University has celebrated Women's Week. You've all seen the posters, read the ads and, if you were conscientious enough, attended the lectures. But have you ever stopped to wonder who tacked up the posters, designed the ads, or contacted the speakers? Probably not.

During Women's Week much will be written about the events and speakers scheduled. But just this once, I think it would be interesting to find out about the people who coordinate Women's Week, an enormous task.

Regular as clockwork, in the fall of each year, an invitation is sent out to all students to participate in the planning of Women's Week: "We're looking for a few good women." And as predictable as the invitation, a handful of undergraduate women respond.

Some of the women join the group to enhance their education, and others come with friends. Last year I joined with a friend, and this year

I brought a friend. Regardless of how they get involved, students all come with one purpose in mind. Contrary to popular belief it is not to beef up a resume or a graduate school application, although participation couldn't hurt. Our purpose is to sensitize the community to women's issues and to encourage the community to acknowledge women's accomplishments as significant.

With this goal in mind, we embark upon what promises to be one of the most educational and rewarding experiences of our undergraduate lives. Once acquainted with strangers, group members soon to be friends, we begin the process of creating a program that will meet both our needs, as women, and the community's needs. Questions that we ask ourselves during the planning process are: "What is most important to us as women?" and "How can we relate our experiences to the past and incorporate them into the future?"

"HERizons" was chosen as our theme this year, after much deliberation. "HERizons" enabled us to encompass our many different interests because it lent itself to many thematic interpretations.

For the next few months, the members of the group work closely preparing for Women's

Week and develop a sense of comradery. Faculty, potential sponsors, and speakers are contacted and arrangements are made for a variety of special lectures and events. As Women's Week draws nearer the program begins to fit together like pieces of a puzzle. Faculty responses to lecture requests trickle in, and urgent phone calls are returned. Finally, when the week's program is firm, the pressure and uncertainty of the past few months gives way to relief.

Once the last speech has been spoken, the last dance danced, and the last painting has come down, we reflect upon our contribution to the community and the impact we had in our corner of the world.

Although most of the credit for such a successful celebration can be given to the Women's Week group, we gladly acknowledge the support and cooperation of the sponsors and participants. This year we also acknowledge the support given by the Women's Center staff, Joan Anderson and Kathy Thornton. But we reserve special thanks for Nancy Ransom who lent her experience and time in directing us. Through the support of these people we were given the opportunity to participate intensely in our heritage as women and to enlighten our "HERizons."



Linda Ellerbee, host of ABC TV's "Our World" and author of the critically acclaimed, best-selling book *And So It Goes* about her experiences in the broadcast field. A former Vanderbilt student, Ms. Ellerbee will be speaking during Women's Week on Friday, March 27 (see below).

Schedule of events

A brochure with a complete listing of Women's Week events will be available at the Women's Center and other campus locations. Below are some highlights from the week's activities. Unless otherwise specified, all events are free and open to the community.

23 Monday

12:00 m. — Faculty lunch: Jean Bethke Elstain, "Reflections on Political Torture and Murder: The Courage of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo," Divinity School Private Dining Room.
3:00-5:00 p.m. — Reception for "Femmes: A Photo Essay on 30 Notable Contemporary French Women," an exhibit which opens in McTyeire International House lounge during Women's Week. The Indigo Girls will perform.
4:00 p.m. — "Las Nicas" videotape about Nicaraguan women, with discussion, Garland Hall room 220.

7:00 p.m. — Lecture with slides by Thordis Simonsen, author of *You May Plow Here: An Oral History of Sara Brooks*. Reception following. Bishop Johnson Black Cultural Center.

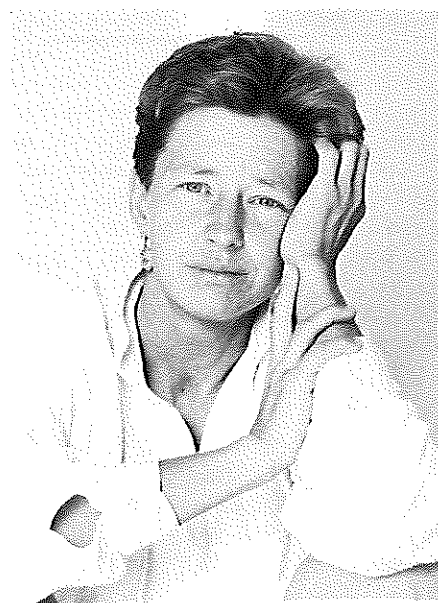
24 Tuesday

5:00 p.m. — "Women in Prison," a panel

discussion with residents of Dismas House, a halfway house for ex-prisoners. Sarratt room 118.

7:30 p.m. — Sarratt film: "Enormous Changes" (continued on next page)

Thordis Simonsen



at the Last Minute," Sarratt Cinema.

9:30 p.m. — Discussion of the film above to be led by Elisabeth Perry, Associate Professor of History. Sarratt room 123.

25 Wednesday

10:10 a.m. — Worship service with Toinette Eugene, Antoinette Brown Lecturer, preaching. Benton Chapel.

3:10 p.m. — Panel discussion: The U.S. Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on "Women in Church and Society." Divinity School room G-30.

4:00-6:00 p.m. — Reception for opening of student art exhibit in Sarratt Lobby.

8:00 p.m. — Antoinette Brown Lecture by Toinette M. Eugene, Associate Professor of Education, Society, and Black Church Studies at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, "Ain't I A Woman?: Feminist Truth and Moral Values." Benton Chapel.

26 Thursday

11:30 a.m. — Lunchtime Seminar by Jean Bethke Elshtain, Visiting Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt, "Studying Women and War," at the Women's Center.



Paula Giddings

7:30 p.m. — Paula Giddings will lecture. Author of *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*. A graduate of Howard University, Giddings worked at Random House before becoming an editor at Howard University Press. Later she was Paris bureau chief for Encore American and Worldwide News. Her articles have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Jeune Afrique*, *Amistad* 2, and elsewhere. Sarratt room 118.

7:30 p.m. — Sarratt film: "Men," Sarratt Cinema.

9:30 p.m. — Discussion of the film above to be led by Phyllis Frus, Assistant Professor of English. Sarratt room 123.

27 Friday

2:00 p.m. — Linda Ellerbee, author of *And So It Goes*, will speak in Sarratt Cinema. Reception to follow in Sarratt room 118.

10:00 p.m. — Women's Week Dance: parents are welcome. Dance until 2:00 a.m. Social Religious Building. ■

Women's History Month

A Congressional Resolution designating the month of March as "Women's History Month" is in subcommittee and may be voted on in May. Meanwhile, Women's History Month 1987 is being recognized nationwide by many groups and individuals. The text of the congressional resolution follows:

Whereas American women of every race, class and ethnic background helped found the Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways as servants, slaves, nurses, nuns, homemakers, industrial workers, teachers, reformers, soldiers and pioneers;

Whereas American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural and social role in every sphere of our Nation's life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working in and outside of the home;

Whereas American women have played a unique role throughout our history by providing the majority of the Nation's volunteer labor force and have been particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic and cultural institutions in the country;

Whereas American women of every race, class and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement, not only to secure their own right of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor union movement and the modern civil rights movement; and

Whereas despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the body of American history;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the month of March, 1987, is designated as "Women's History Month," and the President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate ceremonies and activities. ■

Women speaking about women

Linda Kerber, May Brodbeck Professor of Liberal Arts, University of Iowa, gave a Vander-

bilt lecture, "History will do it no justice: Women and the reinterpretation of the American Revolution," in January. Her comment on women's studies and women in history: "You can't add women like you sprinkle tarragon on at the end."

Jan Bushing, Representative to the Tennessee State Legislature, said in February at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture Series, "Tonight . . . I represent a majority and a minority: Women are a majority of people in the United States, but we are treated like a minority." ■

SEWSA Conference at Vanderbilt

The Southeast Women's Studies Association's (SEWSA) 1987 conference, "Making Connections: Women's Strengths and Women's Challenges," promises to challenge everyone who comes to the Vanderbilt campus on March 20-22.

Major features of the conference include a working luncheon on Saturday, a panel of representatives from the four major research centers on women in the region, and a keynote address by Jean Bethke Elshtain, Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Visiting Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt this spring.

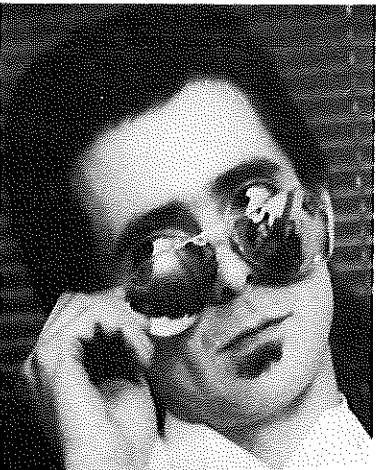
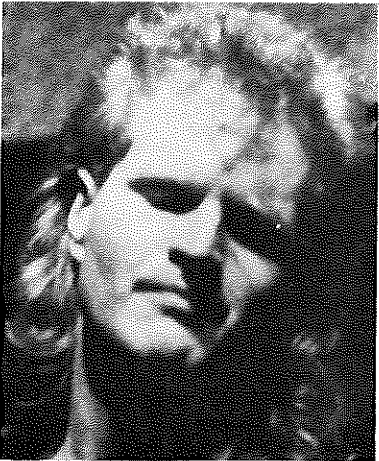
Jean Bethke Elshtain is a distinguished political theorist, whose most recent book, *Women and War* (Basic Books, 1987), will provide material for her SEWSA lecture, "Women, War, and Politics." She is also the author of *Public Man, Private Women: Women in Social and Political Thought* (Princeton, 1981) which was selected by *Choice* as one of the top academic books of 1981-1982. She edited *The Family in Political Thought* (University of Massachusetts, 1982) and published *Meditations on Modern Political Thought* in 1986. Her long list of journal articles and chapters in edited books reflects her versatility and interest in political theory, the history of political thought, contemporary social theory, moral philosophy, and women's studies.

On Saturday noon conference participants will enjoy a working lunch at the University Club. Each registrant will be seated at a pre-selected table to discuss the connection between women's studies and another discipline. At each table a recorder will moderate the discussion and report to the whole group. During the last half hour, a panel consisting of Jean Bethke Elshtain and the Sunday panelists will respond and comment on the reports.

Sunday morning will feature a worship service option and a concluding panel on women's studies research and public policy. Panelists are Bonnie Dill, Director of the Center for Research on Women at Memphis State; Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Director of the Center for Research on Women at Spelman College; Carol Stack of the

Duke-UNC Center for Research on Women; and Beth Willinger, Director of the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women.

Conference fees are \$45 for a regular registration, \$25 for non-Vanderbilt students, free for Vanderbilt students. If you have not yet received an application form, you can obtain information about registration by calling the Women's Center, 322-4843. ■



Good News Good News Good News Good News Good News

Jonell Mosser, Andrew Commiskey, and Dana Belser, three members of Good News, the band playing at the Women's Week Dance Friday, March 27 (see Schedule of Events). Style, versatility, energy. ■

News Brief

In May 1986 a federal district court ordered Ortho Pharmaceutical—a subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson—to pay Mary Maifer \$4.7 million. Maifer had sued Ortho charging that her use of Ortho-Gynol contraceptive jelly while pregnant caused her daughter Katie to be born with a blind eye, a cleft palate, a deformed right arm and no left arm. Ortho, ruled the judge, knew of the risk of birth defects and should have written a more specific warning on its product.

Now the company's "Recruiting and Selection Standards" are being examined. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is seeking to join a sex-discrimination lawsuit against Ortho filed by a Texas woman who claims to

have been wrongly fired for getting pregnant. The company's policy, as stated in a July 1980 letter to divisional managers, is that women have "inferiority complexes" and should not be hired if they have "executive potential" or are "attractive." Some excerpts from the letter: "On Understanding Women—Women are more sensitive than men. They shame easier. They cry more often. Women have more social problems that create business problems. Profile of a Female Worker—She's not 'pretty,' she's not sexy, she should be neat, clean and without frills. She should have the look of someone who might clean her bathroom or kitchen on her hands and knees. She went to a state college, not a private university, and not recently."

A recent issue of
—In These Times ■

Women's Center programs

For more information on the programs listed below, call the Women's Center office, 322-4843.

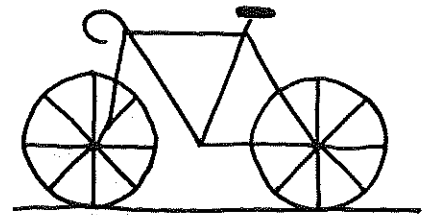
The Single Mothers Group will meet on the first and third Tuesdays, March 3 and 17. Topics will be co-dependency relationships and "women who love too much." The group is open to any woman who defines herself as a single mother. Meetings are free and are held at the Vanderbilt Child Care Center from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. Child care is provided on sight for a small fee.

Amy Hartlyn, Executive Director of PEACE, will speak at the Dutch Treat Breakfast Club on Thursday, March 12. She will discuss men who batter women and a relatively new approach to stopping the violence, one used by PEACE which involves coordination of community service agencies (police, courts, etc.) and the active participation of the batterer to effect change. Open to faculty and staff women, the group meets in the Divinity School Private Dining Room at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast, speech at 8:00 a.m., and questions and answers at 8:20 a.m. Women come and go as their schedules require. Coffee is available free.

Dissertation Writers Group for A.B.D. women, a task-oriented group dedicated to helping members successfully complete the dissertation process. Monthly meetings serve as check points, encouragements, and problem-solving sessions. Friday, March 13, 4:30 p.m. at the Women's Center.

Jean Auel's book *Clain of the Cave Bear* is the March selection for the Book Group which will meet Monday, March 16, at 5:15 p.m. at the Women's Center. Linda Warmack will lead the discussion. If you have not read the book and are interested in listening to the discussion, feel free to attend. Light refreshments.

Thinking ahead to April: the selection for next month is *Family Linen* by Lee Smith.



"Cycling for Women" is the title of a bicycle selection and maintenance program by David Herren, Director of the Language Lab and longtime bicycle sportsone. Wednesday, March 25, 4:30 p.m. at the Women's Center. Just in time to open the spring session on two wheels that are comfortable, reliable, and enjoyable.

In lieu of a Graduate Students Group meeting this month, the Women's Center encourages all graduate students to attend the Southeast Women's Studies Association's (SEWSA) 1987 conference, "Making Connections: Women's Strengths and Women's Challenges" (see article above). Students may register and attend all functions free except the box lunch on Sunday. This is an opportunity to meet other women in the southeast who are involved in your discipline. Pre-register so that you will receive a packet and name tag. Call 322-4843 for registration forms.

"Studying Women and War" is the title of a Lunchtime Seminar by Jean Bethke Elstain, Visiting Professor of Political Science this spring. Dr. Elstain will explain how she went about doing the research and thinking that ushered into her book, *Women and War*, which will be published this month. The seminar will be Thursday, March 26, 11:30-12:30 p.m. at the Women's Center. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages provided. ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS ET CETERA

March classes at the YWCA include "Uniquely You!" (color analysis, \$5), "Co-Dependency" (relationship interaction, \$5), "Faith and Feminism: Allies or Antagonists?" (\$25 for 4 Thursdays), "Sexuality" (a Saturday workshop for mothers and daughters, \$10 per family), and "Career Planning" (6 Mondays).

Coming up April 16, "Fix Your Car" (6 Thursdays, \$35). For more information, call 269-9922.

Second annual Nashville Women's Health Conference, "Take A Day For Yourself," is Friday, March 27, at Opryland Hotel. Sponsored by Tennessee Christian Medical Center, Rivergate Mall, and WLAC-FM, the conference offers 12 workshops from which you may choose three to attend. Topics include raising children, relating to men, money, time management, and AIDS and others. Fee is \$35. Write Nashville Women's Health Conference, 320 Hospital Drive, Madison, TN 37115.

Sexual Attitude Reassessment program Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22 for professionals and others to learn about a wide range of human sexuality from nationally recognized experts in the field. Significant others are encouraged to attend. C.E.U.'s available. Fees: \$85 per person. Students, \$45. Application Deadline: March 13. Call 297-8685 for information.

A crossword puzzle for Women's History Month is available. Call 322-4843 for your copy.

Womenflight announces "Women on Spiritual Quest," a workshop series on feminist theology. The March 28 workshop, second in the series, is "The New Reformation." It will examine women's involvement for change in traditional Judeo-Christian religious institutions. Fee: \$20. Scholarships available. Call 255-1225.

The Mid-Atlantic Center for Sex Equity publishes eight-page "report cards" on the following subjects:

- #2 — "Sex Bias in Colleges and Universities"
- #3 — "Sex Bias in Mathematics, Computer Science and Technology"
- #4 — "Sex Bias in Educational Administration"
- #5 — "Education and the Teenage Pregnancy Puzzle"
- #6 — "Gifted Girls: The Disappearing Act"

All are available in the Women's Center library.

The walk-in time for employees to be seen in the Occupational Health Service (OHS) has been changed to 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. No appointment is necessary; first come first served.

OHS is now offering the Recombivax HB vaccine at no charge to employees in certain high risk jobs. For more information, call 322-2692.

Family and Children's Service offers a Divorce Adjustment Group, Children Facing Divorce (a program for children of divorce and their parents), a stepmothers group, and other Families in Transition programs. Call Jean Strecker, 832-9220, for more information.

For women and men who feel their eating patterns are out of control, the Psychological and Counseling Center offers an Eating Disorders Program which provides information-sharing for students, staff, and faculty on eating-related problems. Presentations are brief and informal. Call 322-2571 to schedule.

For off-campus assistance, Overeaters Anonymous is a 12 step program (like AA) with meetings Monday-Saturday on a drop in basis, free. Call 833-5402 for more information.

Women's Places, A Guide to Organizations and Services for Vanderbilt Women, has been recently revised and is available at the Women's Center. If you have not yet received one, drop by and pick one up or call 322-4843 for campus mail delivery. ■

No pun intended

Vicki Felice

A few years ago, I worked in sales for an automobile dealer, in the pre-owned and antique classic department. When a new internal phone list was passed out, giving everyone's extension and department, my entry read:

Vicki Felice: Used & Exotic.

— Savvy

March 1987 ■

Edited by Joan Anderson

TO RECEIVE YOUR OWN LABELED COPY OF WOMEN'S VU return the form below or call the Women's Center, 322-4843, to place your name on the mailing list.

Monthly newsletters, excluding July and August, are sent to all students free. Newsletters to faculty and staff at campus addresses are free. For non-student, off-campus addresses there is a \$3.00 fee for one year. Please make checks payable to Vanderbilt University Women's Center.

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