

# WOMEN'S VU

April 1988

A publication of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Vanderbilt University

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## What can you get with a B.A.?

Charlotte Frankel

Here's a sizzling statistic University administrators love to cite: "Fifty percent of Vanderbilt graduates go on to professional or graduate school."

But how does the other half live? Is there an entry rung on the career ladder "out there" for the graduate with a bachelor's degree who shucks her cap and gown and hits the street running?

We're not writing about nurses, teachers and engineers whose major prepared them for specific fields. We're focusing on the Arts and Science candidate who emerges from the four-year college experience with broad interests and skills that boost performance but are not as readily apparent to potential employers: interpersonal, communication, analytical and research abilities.

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Tonnya Kennedy (BS 87) is a business writer at *The Nashville Banner*. Her biology major and chemistry minor "have nothing to do with what I am doing now," she says. Her goal is science or medical writing.

Through networking, last June she began a part-time internship at the paper on the neighborhood news section while finishing her course work at Vanderbilt. After graduating in August, she began writing about business full time.

Kennedy wrote for *The Hustler* and *Versus* during her senior year. Before that, she served a stint at the Medical School as clerical assistant to a physician editor of *The American Journal of Physiology*.

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*"Be flexible. Don't get one field or profession locked into your mind."*

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"Be flexible, she advises. "Don't get one field or profession locked into your mind. Be willing to do something you really don't want to do for a year or two until you can get into the job of your choice."

Mississippi native Susan Baird (BS 81) began her Vanderbilt career in 1976 as a pre-med in the School of Engineering with an emphasis on biomedical engineering. Over her father's protests, she changed her major to geology. "He was furious with me," she recalls. "He wanted a doctor. If he was going to send his daughter out of state to a private school it had to be for something special."

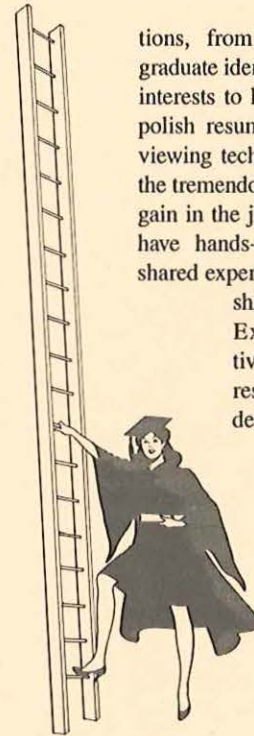
Today, she is an environmental consultant with ERG, a Houston-based division of Resources Engineering. Her position involves hazardous waste detection, conducting site investigation for soil, water, and air pollution by industries involved in dumping. Now, she says, she makes about \$20,000 a year more than her father. Last year she sent her parents to Europe. Her father has long since shed his original concern about her finding work as a geologist.

Baird's first job was driving an eighteen-wheeler for a cement company. "But I didn't go to Vanderbilt to drive a big rig," she laughs.

Next came a job as an oil geologist with City Service, which took her from Jackson to Tulsa to Houston. Her job vanished with the oil crunch. In 1982, an ad she saw on a University of Houston bulletin board led to her present employer. "I don't know if I've reached my peak yet, but I've had a lot of fun."

Beth Hall (BA 78) decided after three years in the School of Nursing that she was no future Nightingale. She switched her major to sociology and minored in music. She says her first "real job" after college was assisting the president of TV Channel 17. Her varied responsibilities included putting together the FCC license renewal agreement. Next, she went to work for Vanderbilt as a staff writer on the original *Register* staff. Three years later, she joined First American Bank, where she moved up the ladder in marketing, becoming director of public relations at the Nashville bank before leaving last year to start a family. (Her son Justin is 10 months old.) She now juggles family life and career—producing for Pat Patrick Productions and working for her husband's public relations consulting firm.

Linda Bird, assistant director of the Career Planning and Placement Service, advises students to think about careers while they are still in college. She stresses the importance of contacting her office early, preferably in the freshman year. Career counselors perform a wide range of func-



tions, from helping the undergraduate identify her strengths and interests to holding workshops to polish resume writing and interviewing techniques. Bird stresses the tremendous advantage students gain in the job market when they have hands-on training through shared experience options, internships, and summer jobs.

Extra-curricular activities also beef up a resume. For some students a minor in business impresses a prospective employer. The best piece of advice Bird can give is "start early and actively explore all your options."

An alumna of Vanderbilt University, Charlotte Frankel is a freelance writer.

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American Council of Education has developed fifteen guidelines to improve the status of women in their institutions. The 17-page report titled *The New Agenda of Women for Higher Education* which is actually the last chapter of the soon-to-be released book *Educating the Majority: Women Challenge Tradition in Higher Education* is available at the Women's Center Library.

Since the efforts of the early 1970's, the report says, there has been some progress made with respect to salary inequities and the previously low numbers of female faculty and administrators. Yet serious inequities remain in the hiring, promotion and tenure of women faculty, administrators and staff and some form of sex discrimination exists in all institutions. The report adds, "women are still second-class citizens on our college campuses - unrepresented in the curriculum, often put down in the classroom, and underrepresented in the major leadership roles in higher education."

—adapted from *Recruitment*, 3/1/88

## In the news

On March 3, 1988, Judge Walter J. Skinner issued a permanent injunction against the **Title X Family Planning** gag rule. The ruling is the result of a lawsuit filed in Massachusetts by the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA).

The new regulations under Title X, which forbid physicians or family planning counselors from mentioning abortion, are designed to promote childbirth and prevent women from exercising their constitutional right to abortion. Judge Skinner called the regulations "illegal and unconstitutional," and said that they violate the Congressional intent of Title X of the Public Health Service Act.

The government may decide to appeal Judge Skinner's decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Boston. For now, the Department of Health and Human Services can not enforce the new regulations. Furthermore, all NFPRHA members may continue to supply counseling to pregnant women regarding their medical options, including abortion.

**Equality of the sexes in sports administration.** She is soft-spoken and shy, but Charlotte West is a pioneer. As interim athletics director at Southern Illinois University, she is forging an identity in a domain traditionally dominated by men.

Women administrators, customarily excluded from the upper ranks, decreased in number from 1972 to 1986 in spite of a fivefold jump in the number of female, college athletes. West, however, is proof that job performance—and not one's sex—determines success in athletic administration as in other occupations.

The first female member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, she supervises SIU's twenty men's and women's sports and is faced with the task of integrating the two departments. And now she has the opportunity to further approach her zenith.

Last month the university began its search for a permanent director, and with her present experience, West is a prime candidate. Her supporters contend that the only impediment to her achieving the position may be sex discrimination. Despite reportedly being more qualified, West was overlooked for the permanent position in 1985, as the finalists were five white males.

Nevertheless, there is no stopping this professional. She wants the job. The position would incorporate "overseeing financial aid, travel, and housing for 450 athletes, keeping up the latest NCAA regulations, and promoting Southern Illinois sports."

Peers assert that by hiring her, SIU will make a "symbolic move forward for women." And if selected, West will be the only woman athletics director at a university which plays Division I

football, the NCAA's highest competitive level. "Women's VU" will be following her progress.  
—adapted from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 1/13/88

### Sports Hotline

Up-to-the minute information about exercise, sports and fitness for women is now as close as your telephone. The Women's Sports Foundation's free call-in service answers questions about anything from the safety of your aerobics class to career opportunities for women in sports. The service is available from eight a.m. to four p.m. CST, Monday through Friday. Call 1-800-227-3988.

*Working Mother*, February 1988

## Professional Secretaries Week, April 24-30

The first Secretaries Week (then called National Secretaries Week) was proclaimed by United States Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer for the week of June 1 through 7, 1952. In 1955, the last full week in April became the permanent date of the observance of Secretaries Week, with Wednesday of that week (April 17 this year) designated as Secretaries Day.

When the name of the National Secretaries Association (International) was changed to Professional Secretaries International in March, 1981, the word "Professional" was added to the name Secretaries International continues to be the sole sponsor of the special week and day.

Education, training, and professionalism are the primary purposes of Professional Secretaries Week. For that reason, PSI suggests recognition for a secretary take the form of fees paid to attend a seminar, symposium, or convention, dues paid to belong to a professional association, or subscription purchased to a professional journal.

### It's your health, continued from column 3

has a history of condyloma be under a physician's regular care. Men and women should be encouraged to examine themselves for any evidence of condyloma and receive treatment if discovered. Condoms will protect against the spread of the virus during sexual activity.

Warts can be an embarrassing and frustrating problem but patience and persistence will eventually win out. ■

## It's your health

*Beth Colvin, RN, MSN*

Warts. If you have been diagnosed with genital or venereal warts you may be confused about this condition and what the health implications are. The medical name for these warts is *condyloma* and it is now considered one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases in the United States.

Condyloma are part of a family of skin viruses and are generally found in the lower reproductive tract. In women they are found externally on the vulva and rectum and internally on the cervix and vagina. They are not found in the upper reproductive tract which includes the uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries. In men, condyloma may be found on the penis, scrotum and rectum or in the urethra. There are two usual types of appearances—one is raised, typical "wart" appearance with a cauliflower look to it. The other type is softer and flatter and is less obvious as a wart. These may occur singly or as clusters. Some women will have itching or irritation associated with the condyloma but most will have no symptoms.

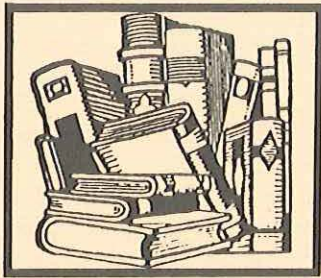
Sexual contact is considered the major mode of transmission. However, there have been cases where sexual contact with an infected partner has been denied. Woman may have the flat condyloma inside the vagina for many years before they are detected so it is sometimes difficult to say when the exposure to the virus actually occurred.

Detection of condyloma is easy when the warts are on the outside of the vagina, but more difficult inside the vagina. The flat warts are more likely to occur inside and they are not as easily seen. Many times, a Pap smear will show evidence of the viral infection before the examiner notices the condyloma. They are best visualized by the use a magnifying lens called a colposcope. Any woman who has the external warts should be examined with colposcope to determine if they extend into the vagina.

Treatment is aimed at getting rid of all condylomatous lesions. Because the virus can remain in nearby healthy looking tissue, it is very important to treat recurrent warts as soon as they form. It can be frustrating to require multiple treatments, but persistence does pay off and the condyloma will eventually disappear. Treatment methods are generally accomplished in the office. Acids can be painted on the warts to destroy them if they are fairly small. Larger areas may require cryotherapy (freezing) or laser therapy. On rare occasions, the areas may need to be surgically removed.

Because the condyloma virus is associated with the development of dysplasia (abnormal Pap smears) and possibly cervical, vaginal or vulvar cancer, it is very important that a woman who

*continued in column 2*



## In the library

A recent acquisition of the Women's Center Library, *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets* by Barbara G. Walker (Harper & Row) \$29.00 cloth \$19.95 paper

Caution: you will get hooked on this book. It will nourish your mind, your fantasies, your confidence, your conversation. Its "secrets" will shock and amaze you, perhaps challenge cherished beliefs or change your life.

Some of the information in the *Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets* is gleaned from recent work in anthropology, linguistics, mythology, history, and archaeology, but most of the material has always been known as a few scholars, although hidden away from the rest of us in far-flung libraries. One discovers with dismay how often through the centuries historical facts have been deliberately distorted or suppressed for religious/sexist reasons.

This huge, remarkable volume brings together many of these little-known or selected-out facts about the history of our species—taking a giant step toward reclaiming the contributions of women and their former status in society. Each essay is concise and clearly written—the whole covering a vast scope of knowledge with unity of vision, purpose, intelligence and skill.

"Is that really true?" one asks over and over, but the heavy scholarly documentation (over 350 books in the bibliography) vouches for each item.

It has been said that things have been no better under a woman ruler in modern times than under a man, but the dream of things being better includes the female ruler's bringing a different, more ancient way of looking at certain things. This book gives us an idea of some of the ways in which things used to be better and how they could be in the future by our harkening backwards in selected ways.

(reprinted from *New Directions for Women*, March/April, 1984)

### Women's Center Librarian

The position of librarian for the Women's Center is open. Qualified candidates should apply through Vanderbilt Personnel Services. For further information call the Women's Center, 322-4843.

# Women's Center programs

Call 322-4843 for further information on the programs listed below.

**"What Can You Get With A Bachelor's Degree?"** A panel of women Vanderbilt graduates with some unique careers for women will share how they got there and offer some advice to undergraduates. The panelists include Trish Barrows, one of few women accepted into flight school; Katy Sheesley, a project manager in commercial construction; Detective Marlene Hall, who works in the Criminal Investigation Division of Vanderbilt's Department of Police and Security; and Sarah Hume, Vice President of Dalcon Computer Systems. Linda Bird, assistant director of the Career Planning and Placement Service will moderate the panel discussion on Tuesday, April 5, 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. in Gillette Recreation Room, Peabody Campus. Light refreshments will be served. This program is cosponsored by Interhall and Career Planning and Placement Service.

**Dessertation Writers Group** will meet with Nancy Ransom, Thursday, April 7, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Women's Center. Women of all schools and disciplines are invited to attend.

**Book Group** will hold its monthly discussion on Monday, April 11, 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at the Women's Center. Discussion of *West With The Night*, by Beryl Markham, will be led by Jane DuBose. New members are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

### Farewell to Katy Ginanni

The Women's Center librarian, Katy Ginanni, leaves this month to return to her alma mater, Auburn University, as serials acquisitions librarian. She has been with the Women's Center since last fall, and will be greatly missed.

Katy was awarded the Master of Library Science from Peabody College in December. She has worked at the Central Library before embarking on graduate study. When the announcement to end the degree program in library science was made last spring, Katy resigned her position with the Heard Library and concentrated on completing her courses. She joined the Women's Center staff in September on a part-time basis while she finished her degree.

During her months with the Women's Center, Katy has established new record-keeping systems and extended cataloguing unbound materials to conform with Library of Congress subject headings. She is revising the library manual so that her successor can continue with her good work. We bid her farewell and good luck in this new venture.

A **Noontime Seminar** April 14 will be given by Professor Cassandra Laity on Hilda Doolittle or H.D. as many know this feminist poet. Laity, Assistant Professor of English and Women's Studies, will present her research from the book she is writing, *H.D. and the Turn-of-the-Century: Gender, Modernism, and Romantic Influence*. Thursday, April 14, 12:30 p.m. at the Women's Center. Bring your lunch. Drinks will be provided.

**Women and the Constitution: A Bicentennial Perspective** will offer a forum for the participants of this February conference in Atlanta to share significant information they gained from attending. The symposium convened by four former first ladies was sponsored by the Carter Center of Emory University, Georgia State University and the Jimmy Carter Library. The forum participants on April 19, 12:30 p.m. in Sarratt 118 will be Nancy Ransom, moderator; Professor Elizabeth Perry, Claudia Deane, Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey, Nancy Tirrill and Helen Tanner panelists. Bring your lunch. Soft drinks will be provided.

Nancy Ransom, Director of the Women's Center, will again present a **Self-Esteem Workshop**. The two-part workshop on April 19 and 20 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. will be held at the Women's Center. The first session will deal with definitions and self-testing. On the second evening participants will work through a self-esteem maintenance log to develop strategies for maintaining a realistic and positive self-image. Registration will be limited. Call 322-4843 for a reservation. Fee \$5.00. Light refreshments.

**New Employees Brown Bag Lunch** will be held on Friday, April 22 from noon until 1:30 p.m. All recently hired VU employees are invited. Anyone who would like to learn more about the services available at the Women's Center and meet new employees is welcome. Bring your lunch. Hot and cold drinks will be provided.

**Lunch With Community Leaders** will have as their speaker for April, Marilyn Edwards, Associate Director of General Services Plant Operations. If you've wondered how the housekeeping for an institution the size of Vanderbilt is organized, come hear the very capable woman who is in charge. Edwards will also share some slides of recent renovations around the campus. It's spring and we're all looking at ways of making our own surroundings more beautiful. Thursday, April 28 from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m., Sarratt 118. ■

# Announcements et cetera

The YWCA continues to offer excellent programs for women in April. For more information and registration call 269-YWCA.

"What Secrets Are Told?" will highlight historic women of Nashville and Middle Tennessee who lived in four historic plantation homes. Join historians from Belle Meade Mansion, Belmont, The Hermitage, and Traveller's Rest for two delightful and informative evenings. Then continue the study with a day trip to Columbia and a tour of James K. Polk's home. April 7 and 14, 6:30 until 8:30 p.m., day trip April 16. Limited enrollment. Fee \$35.

"Creating Your Own Financial Plan" will include gathering of financial data, identifying goals, a written course of action to achieve those goals, and help implementing the recommendations. The instructor, Jean Johnson, is a financial consultant who has been in the financial planning business for seven years. Two Tuesdays beginning April 5, 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. Fee \$20.

"Lotus Made Easy". Find out why Lotus is the #1 selling software package for the personal computer. You will learn how to create format, graph, and print plus custom designed spreadsheets. The instruction will include individual practice. April 27 and 28 from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. Fee \$90.

**International Week** will be celebrated at Vanderbilt April 4-10, 1988. Some of the Activities include a concert by the cajun and xydeco band Beausoleil, Vassily Aksyonov, professor and Soviet writer of *Uncensored Almanac*, international films in Sarratt and an International Week Mini-Fair in McTyeire Courtyard on Sunday, April 10 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. For more information call the office of International Services at 322-2753.

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Center is looking for volunteers for its 24-hour crisis line. Especially needed are daytime workers; training is available. Call Missy Bradley at 367-0660. Also offered on a sliding scale fee is counseling for adult survivors of child sexual abuse, rape victims, children, offenders, and non-offending parents.

*"Character contributes to beauty. It fortifies a woman as her youth fades. A mode of conduct, a standard of courage, discipline, fortitude and integrity can do a great deal to make a woman beautiful."*

—Jacqueline Bisset

The Susan Bryant Solo Exhibition, featuring hand-colored photographs, will focus upon the subtle intrigues of naturally lit interiors. The artist is currently an assistant professor of art at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. Sarratt Gallery, April 10 until May 15. A reception will be held on opening day, Sunday, April 10 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the gallery.

In conjunction with this exhibit will be a workshop on hand coloring black and white photos, April 23-24, from 10 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Fee. Call 322-2471 for further information.

**Planned Parenthood Association** of Nashville offers in April:

"Stork Stories Are For The Birds," sexuality education for child care giver, counselor, or kindergarten to third grade teacher, April 28 and May 5, 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Instructor, Sandra Millikin. Cost, \$25.

"Teaching Self Esteem," training for professionals wishing an overview of resources and activities for enhancing self-esteem in teens and preteens. April 7, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Instructor, Edie Rice-Sauer. Cost \$35.

"Men and Sexuality," April 5, 12, 19 and 25, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Instructor, Jim Taylor.

**Gender reservations**

By Elizabeth A. Ward  
Dentist  
Grain Valley, Missouri

After an American Dental Association conference, I found myself with several free hours before my scheduled flight home. I decided to call the airline to see what my chances were of getting on an earlier flight. Unfortunately, the airline agent couldn't seem to find Elizabeth Ward on her list. "Try E. Ward," I suggested, and again received a negative response.

Desperate, I pulled out my ticket to make sure I had the right date. I glanced at my name and offered, "How about Dr. E. Ward?"

"Oh, yes," came the immediate answer. "Tell him we can book him on flights at 11:00, 1:00, or 3:00 p.m."

Savvy, January 1986

*Edited by Judith T. Helfer*

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Monthly newsletters, excluding July and August, are sent upon request 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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