

Margaret
Cunningim
Women's Center

Supreme Court gives wake-up call

Laura Milner, Community Services
Director, Planned Parenthood Associa-
tion of Nashville

Women are still free in Tennessee to decide if and when to become mothers, but barely.

One week after the July 3 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services, anti-choice leaders in Nashville announced plans to try to outlaw certain kinds of contraception. The July 9 Sunday Tennessean quoted the head of the Christian Action Council in Tennessee as saying: "Birth control controls who gets born, and that scares me." He was referring to the intrauterine device (IUD) and some forms of birth control pills.

This is the same man who stands outside Planned Parenthood on Saturdays, aiming his video camera at patients, families and staff entering the clinic. It appears that he and his colleagues think they have the right to control who gives birth and who gets born. It appears that they are unaware of the hundreds of unwanted children waiting to be adopted. It appears they haven't heard about the 700 new reports of child abuse and neglect in Nashville each month.

The battle is just beginning. Women's fundamental right to privacy remains at risk as the Supreme Court reconvenes this month to hear three new abortion cases. And women's rights may be at risk when the Tennessee Legislature is in session, as it will be again January 9, 1990.

Two of the Supreme Court cases scheduled for October challenge the state's right to require parental consent for minors seeking an abortion: Ohio v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health and Hodgson

v. Minnesota. Twenty-five states, including Tennessee, have similar laws which may be affected by the Court's ruling in Ohio and Minnesota.

Tennessee's parental consent law was ruled "unconstitutionally vague" by U.S. District Judge John Nixon in Nashville June 30 - just hours before the law would have gone into effect. The law would have required anyone under age 18 to obtain written permission for an abortion from both parents "in a reasonable time and manner." The state may appeal the case or the legislature may attempt to amend it during the next legislative session.

The third and most threatening case the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear this month is Turnock v. Ragsdale. This case challenges an Illinois law that says all abortions must be done in hospitals. By requiring outpatient clinics to meet hospital regulations, this law would put most abortion providers out of business and leave pregnant women no option but costly hospitalization.

With 90 percent of abortions being performed in the first twelve weeks of pregnancy, the majority of women seeking an abortion would suffer under this restrictive law. If the Court upholds the law in Ragsdale, it will be reversing its 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade, which said the state has no "compelling interest" in the mother's health or the life of the fetus during the first trimester.

The 1973 ruling was based in part on the Court's 1965 ruling in Griswold v. Connecticut, which said the state could not interfere in the privacy of marriage by prohibiting the use of contraceptives. Writing for the majority in Roe, Justice Blackmun said that the right to privacy established in Griswold



Good afternoon, sir. We're here to make some adjustments in your right to privacy.

includes a woman's right to terminate or carry her pregnancy to term.

The challenge, he said, was balancing the privacy right with the state's "compelling interest" in the mother's health and life of the fetus. In the Roe decision the court ruled that the state has no "compelling interest" in the first trimester, and limited interests thereafter.

In the Webster case July 3, the Court upheld a Missouri law which requires physicians to perform costly viability tests prior to performing abortions; prohibits public hospitals from performing abortions, and declares in its preamble that life begins at conception.

In Blackmun's dissent, he wrote that the Court's decision "discards a landmark case . . . and casts into darkness the hopes and visions of every woman in this country who had come to believe that the Constitution guaranteed her the right to exercise some control over her unique ability to bear children."

Eight days after the Webster decision, Gov. Ned Ray McWherter announced at a press conference: "I personally oppose abortion, but on the other hand, I respect the right of the women of this state and this nation to control their own destiny..."

(continued page three)

News quotes

West Point picks woman to lead cadet corps. More than a decade after the first woman was admitted to the United States Military Academy, the first woman was selected captain of the Corps of Cadets, the academy's highest cadet honor. She is Kristin M. Baker, a 5-foot-4-inch, 112-pound senior who describes herself as an "Army brat."

While West Point has accepted women into its turreted stronghold since 1976, they make up only 10 percent of the student body, and some women who are cadets say that despite their integration into academy life, there are vestiges of resentment.

Miss Baker said she perceived no special treatment, positive or negative, because she is a woman. "We're a minority, yes, and I hear people say, 'Oh, if you're a female, you have to try twice as hard,'" she said. "But the men here try twice as hard, too."

The New York Times
August 9, 1989

Women Move in Japanese Politics. The recent election of 126 members of Japan's upper parliamentary chamber has given fresh impetus not only to the Japanese socialist party, but also to Japanese women's entry into politics. Following closely upon the Tokyo municipal elections, the stunning defeat of the dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) may well signal a period of political fluidity offering unusual political opportunities for Japanese women.

This recent election increased the number of women in Japan's upper house from 23 to 33 (13 percent). However, women still hold less than 2 percent of the seats in the more powerful lower house. Socialists hope to force elections for the lower house in the near future (regularly scheduled elections are not until July 1990), and if they are successful no one is presently willing to rule out another defeat for the LDP and further gains for Japanese women.

In Japan, as in the United States, women voters outnumber men, and, as in the United States, are more likely to vote. LDP politicians fueled women's resentment over sex

scandals, corruption, and a new consumption tax with remarks such as: "Women are useless in politics," and "it is wrong for women to come to the forefront of politics."

Eleanor Smeal Report,
August 2, 1989

Medical Ads Often Sexist: Women are Whiny Sex Objects

Ads in U.S. medical journals typically portray women as stupid whiny sex objects, while portraying men as rational busy patients, according to a study by Boston College nursing professor Joellen Hawkins and her colleague, Cynthia Aber. Virtually all doctors in such ads are male, reports the study.

Hawkins and Aber analyzed all 209 ads in three recent issues of 32 mainstream medical publications. They found that: 7 out of 10 men are shown in work clothes or job scenarios vs. 1 in 5 women. Common depictions of women are as overweight frumps or young blondes poured into their clothes; ads for prescription drugs promote convenience for men, simplicity for women.

Media Report to Women
July/August 1989 ■

It's your health

*Edith Costanza, Consultant
Consultation & Training Services*

More women are entering the managerial ranks. They sometimes find themselves faced with the difficult employee problem of chemical dependency. An addiction to mood-altering substances such as alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine can drastically lower employee productivity.

An estimated seventy percent of the working population consume mood-altering chemicals. Alcoholism affects up to fifteen percent of the working population while drug dependency adds another five percent.

The following patterns of job performance deterioration repeated over a period of time may indicate a chemical dependency problem:

1. Absenteeism: unauthorized or excessive sick leave; Monday or Friday absences.
2. On-the-job absenteeism: contin-

ued absences from post more than job requires; frequent trips to water fountain or rest room; long coffee breaks; physical illness on the job.

3. High accident rate: accidents on the job; frequent trips for first aid; accidents off the job but affecting job performance.

4. Difficulty in concentration: work requires great effort; jobs take more time.

5. Confusion: difficulty in recalling instructions or details, in handling complex assignments, or in recalling own mistakes.

6. Spasmodic periods of very high and very low productivity.

7. Resistance to change in job duties (because control of present job may hide poor job performance).

8. Coming to work in an obviously abnormal condition.

9. Generally lowered job efficiency: misses deadlines; makes mistakes due to inattention or poor judgment; wastes material; makes improbable excuses for poor job performance.

10. Employee relations on the job: over-reacts to real or imagined criticism; wide swings in morale; borrows money from co-workers.

Confronting the troubled employee is a very difficult step for some supervisors to take. Use the following guidelines when confronting the employee:

1. Establish expectations in levels of work performance.

2. Record all absenteeism and examples of poor job performance.

3. Base the confrontation on job performance - not alcoholism, drug addiction or the dependency.

4. Be ready to cope with the employee's resistance.

5. Accept no excuse for prolonged impaired job performance.

6. Do not try to get the employee to tell you what his/her problem is, even if you know.

7. Do not be played against higher management or the union; you are not in the middle here.

8. Set up a plan for improvement, a progress slope, so that you can both know if he/she is making progress during evaluations.

9. Be specific about the behavior you are referring to when you point to his/her job performance.

*For reference information, contact
Edith Costanza at 298-3843.* ■

Speaking of women . . .

Camille Crenshaw, associate editor in Alumni Publications, interviews Paige Baker and Catherine Scallan, co-chairs of Vanderbilt's Students for Choice

"The right to choose whether, when, and with whom to have children is as fundamental as freedom of speech"

Gloria Steinem

Two Vanderbilt graduate students, Paige Baker and Catherine Scallan, who concur with Steinem's statement, are helping Vanderbilt women and men join forces to take action and assure that this freedom is not lost.

Last March, Baker and Scallan re-organized Vanderbilt's Students for Choice, an organization of students, faculty, and staff dedicated to the purpose of preserving American women's reproductive freedom. The group's objectives are to assure a climate in which all women have access to safe and legal abortion, to make certain that contraceptive use remains unrestricted, to encourage more comprehensive sexual education and counseling, and to remove unrealistic restrictions on the parental consent law.

The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Webster case has given states the right to regulate abortion much more extensively than they could under the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision. "Maybe we were wrong to count on the courts for so long, but so long as we had that protection, we didn't have to fight this battle all over again with every new election," says Baker.

Current Tennessee law prohibits the use of state funds for abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or danger to the life of the mother. This law is now subject to further restriction, though at present, most Tennessee legislators have made no commitment.

Because the *Right-to-Life* groups have three full-time state lobbyists compared to one part-time lobbyist for the pro-choice coalition, Baker and Scallan say that legislative work will be one of their group's major activities. They will help register voters on campus and will encourage registered voters who are pro-choice to make their stance known to their elected officials.

Students for Choice would also like to see a modification of the Tennessee law requiring written consent from both parents of women under eighteen who seek abortion. An Ohio and a Minnesota law concerning parental consent are pending before the Supreme Court. In one case written consent would be required from both parents even by a minor whose parents are physically abusive or whose pregnancy was the result of a rape by her father; in the other case, consent of both is required even if the parents are divorced, have never married or are barred by a protective order from visiting the minor. The significance of these upcoming rulings is emphasized by these facts: today, one in ten American teenagers gets pregnant every year, 80 percent of these pregnancies are unplanned, 80 percent of these pregnant teens drop out of school, and fewer than 10 percent of teenage mothers increase their annual earnings after age sixteen.

Justice Blackmun is not the only one who feels a chill wind in the air. As Baker says, "If we don't speak out now, what else are they going to take away from us?"

In looking at long-term objectives, both Baker and Scallan are optimistic. "We hope for the day that there is no longer any need for abortion; we're *not* a pro-abortion group," Scallan says. Baker concurs, and adds: "Until women have better choices in terms of contraceptives and until parents or schools start teaching young children about their sexuality and about the importance and the responsibility of controlling their reproduction, then abortion is a necessary choice for us to have."

The committee plans to be an education group and will eventually work with local schools. They will

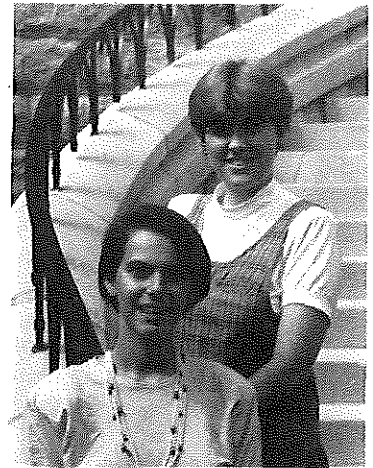


photo by Lesley Collins

Catherine Scallan and Paige Baker, co-chairs of Students for Choice

also train volunteers to provide escort service at Planned Parenthood, coordinate participation for the upcoming November march for women's rights in Washington, and eventually bring speakers to the campus.

Men and women from the faculty, staff, and student body may join Students for Choice. For further information call the co-chairs, Paige Baker at 383-5946, Catherine Scallan at 327-2581, or contact the women's center.

Supreme Court (from page one)

If I were a woman, I'd feel I had some rights and privileges to control the destiny of my life."

The real issue is freedom. The Supreme Court's decision opens the door to those who would restrict and regulate a woman's freedom to choose. Those forces are moving now. And those laws, like the Missouri law, will hit poor women, teens and minorities the hardest -- women who cannot afford to be hospitalized or travel to Europe for an abortion.

For the first time since 1973, women's personal freedom hangs in the balance. A woman's right to privacy -- her right to be educated, to use contraception, and if necessary, abortion -- can not be taken for granted. It could be taken away.

Many pro-choice advocates have been sleeping on this issue, lulled into complacency by the Supreme Court's protection. Not anymore. On July 3, the Supreme Court gave a loud and clear wake-up call.

"JUST SAY NO?!" ACQUAINTANCE RAPE AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

Maria S. Allen, MSSW
Crisis Intervention Specialist
Rape and Sexual Abuse Center

No woman wants it to happen. Acquaintance/date rape is a problem few of us even want to think about. Yet research indicates that one out of every four women in this country will be raped in their lifetime. Of these rapes, at least 65% of them are committed by someone the victim knows.

So how can women best protect themselves? One way is to be alert to the warning signs. Acquaintance rapists typically operate by wearing down a woman's resistance and then increasing their isolation to set the scene for the rape. In general, acquaintance rape follows *three* earlier *stages* which increase the rapist's control over his intended victim.

1. Intrusion, which occurs early in the relationship, is characterized by a series of invasions into a woman's physical space and personal life. The man may ask intimate questions and/or share intimate details about himself. He also may touch frequently or want to put himself in close proximity.

2. Desensitization, occurs soon after intrusion. This stage is characterized by an attempt to wear down the intended victim emotionally and ward off any protest encountered in the intrusion stage. The man may flatter the woman: "I just can't keep my hands off you, you look so good tonight." He may be apologetic: "I know that's a really personal question. I'm sorry, I'll change the subject." He may try to make her feel guilty: "What do you expect, you're wearing that sexy dress, how is a man supposed to resist it?" Basically, desensitization is the stage in which the scene is set for isolation.

3. Isolation, is the final stage before the rape. In this stage, the point is to get the woman to a place where the rape can occur. He may suggest: "Why don't we go for a drive?" When he has achieved isolation, the conditions for the acquaintance rape have been created.

How to avoid acquaintance rape. Be aware of intrusive, desensitizing behavior. Never isolate yourself with someone you don't know well. Allow a relationship to develop slowly and be alert to the warning signs. If you encounter someone who is displaying "warning" behavior, be assertive.

Respond directly and confidently. Use both physical and verbal responses: for example, "Don't touch me like that." Remove his hand. Stand your ground and respond assertively every time he makes an advance which is inappropriate. Once he realizes you are not a good target, he may leave you alone.

Resources on Date Rape

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Center offers counseling to women who have experienced rape. A crisis line operates 24 hours a day -- 327-1110. To hear more about their services, including programs on acquaintance rape, call the business office at 259-9055. Volunteers are needed! **Vanderbilt:**

· Pamphlet published by the Vanderbilt Police and Security entitled "Rape and Sexual Abuse: Prevention, Intervention, Resolution." Copies are available from the department and the women's center.

· Coalition for the Prevention of Sexual Assault and Coercion (CPSAC), an organization which includes students, staff, and faculty. For more information about membership, seminars, or speakers contact Darin Loftis at 421-6398 or Marlene Hall at 322-3509.

· Student Health Services at 322-3414

· Psychological & Counseling Center at 322-2571

· Dean or A.D., Residential & Judicial Affairs at 322-2591

· Office of University Ministries at 322-2457

· Opportunity Development Center at 322-4705

· Police and Security at 322-2745

· Women's Center at 322-4843 ■

Women's center events (from page 5)

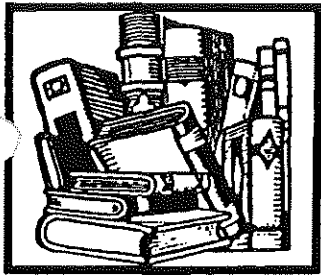
International Services Coffee on Friday October 20 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at McTyeire International House will be co-sponsored by the women's center and Opportunity Development Center. All are welcome to join international students for a light lunch and fellowship.

Lunchtime Book Review will be given by Erica Verrillo on Tuesday, October 24 at 12:15 p.m. in Sarratt 118 of *L... Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala* transcribed by Elizabeth Burgos. Rigoberta Menchu is a young Guatemalan Mayan peasant known as a leading voice in the Guatemalan opposition. Her story is told in the simple, yet moving words of a woman who has experienced the injustice and exploitation common to the lives of so many of the native peoples of Guatemala. The book is one of a few expressions of revolutionary Indigenist thought to reach occidental ears. The reviewer, Erica Verrillo, has lived and worked in Latin America for several years. She is currently the director of the Guatemalan Refugee Crafts Project, a non-profit aid organization.

Symposium for Undergraduate Women on Wednesday, October 25, will hear Rita Bennett, controller and chief financial officer of Third National Bank. Bennett is the highest ranking woman employee in the history of Third National Bank. She received her Masters in Business Administration from Owen Graduate School of Management. The event begins at 5:00 p.m. with a light supper, followed by Ms. Bennett's remarks and a discussion, and ends at 6:30 p.m. This program is open to all undergraduate women but reservations are required. Call 322-4843 by noon on October 23. ■

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

For information on planning an event contact Tennessee Task Force Against Domestic Violence at 242-8288.



In the library

Naomi E. Heiser
Women's center librarian

A quick tour of the library:

The Women's Center Library houses a small but substantial collection of materials about women's experience. A wide variety of areas are represented including history, psychology, literature, religion, international affairs, politics, health, and more. These various topics are documented in many forms including monographs, serials, government publications, newspaper clippings, and audio and video tapes. In addition, the library contains vertical files arranged by subject and includes special sections about women's centers/women's studies programs across the nation and about Vanderbilt women.

The library subscribes to thirty periodicals covering a wide range of subject matter from current events to working women to book reviews. Of special note are magazines such as *Lear's* ("for the woman who wasn't born yesterday"), *Eleanor Smeal Report*, a bi-weekly compendium of current women's issues from a woman on the forefront of the movement, and *off our backs*, a radical newsjournal. *Women's Times*, another bi-weekly newsletter, reports legislative and executive activities, voting records of representatives, and texts of congressional bills, among other news of national interest. Nationwide organizations such as National Women's Health Network, NOW, and The League of Women Voters print publications which we also receive.

Our reference section contains often requested information including statistics, bibliographies, national

directories of many types, and listings of available monetary resources. Subjects such as child care, abortion, and financial planning are discussed on audiotape by notable persons; we have an interesting set of twelve interviews with such women as Mary Daly and Jean Baker Miller. And if you missed any of the many news programs and televised debates spawned by the recent "Webster" decision, you are welcome to

view them on our video equipment. Students and other members of the community who are pursuing women's studies or who have related interests will find that this library is a helpful resource. We try not to duplicate holdings in the Central Library but do have extra copies of the most widely known members of the "canon". Please feel free to come explore the information available here. ■

Calendar of events

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

Book Group will meet on Monday, October 2, 5:15 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. at the women's center to discuss *The Small Room* by May Sarton. Discussion leader is Karen Munger. New members are welcome. Light refreshments.

New Employees Brown Bag Lunch will be held on Tuesday October 3 from noon until 1:00 p.m. at the women's center. All recently hired Vanderbilt employees are invited. Anyone who would like to know more about the women's center is welcome. Bring your lunch. Hot and cold drinks will be provided.

Issues for Graduate Women: Two Colloquia will focus on issues affecting graduate women. The first colloquium, on October 12 from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in Sarratt 205, will be presented by: Vivien Fryd, Assistant Professor, Fine Arts; Gayle McKeen, Assistant Professor, Political Science; and Lynn Matrisian, Assistant Professor, Cell Biology. This first panel will address issues facing first and second year graduate students.

On October 19 (same time and place) the following panelists will address issues for advanced women students who are pursuing the Ph.D. degree: Linda Barnes, Lecturer, English; Maureen Powers, Associate Professor, Psychology; and Linda Jo Van Eldik, Associate Professor, Pharmacology and Cell Biology.

Meeting the Challenges of Aging continues the topic of "women and aging," a theme that the women's center has addressed in recent years.

Two sessions will be offered on consecutive Monday nights, October 16 and 23, from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at The Vanderbilt Clinic 2703/04. Light refreshments will be served between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

On October 16 Beth Colvin Huff, RN, MSN, will speak on health matters for women over forty; Kathryn H. Anderson, Associate Professor Department of Economics, will discuss planning for retirement.

On October 23 Barbara L. Forbes, MSN, NP, will talk about wellness and health promotion for the mature woman; Maxine Schaefer, Clinical Social Worker, will discuss relationships and changing families. A question period will follow each evening's presentations.

The program is co-sponsored by the Department of Social Work and the women's center. Parking for off-campus registrants is available for a fee at the hospital parking garage, corner of Pierce and 22nd Avenues. Reservations are required by October 12 and 19 (no refunds after those dates) and can be made by calling the women's center at 322-4843. Fee is \$10 for both sessions or \$6 for one.

Reproductive Technology: Legal and Moral Implications is the topic of a lunchtime seminar led by Ellen Wright Clayton, Assistant Professor of Law and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, on Tuesday, October 17, at 12:15 p.m. in Sarratt 118. Professor Clayton will discuss moral and legal consequences of scientific advances in treatment of fetuses and pregnant women.

(continued page four)

Announcements et cetera

Equal Employment Opportunity: Making a Difference for the Future seminar cosponsored by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Vanderbilt University will be held on October 26-27 at the Maxwell House Hotel. Seminar topics include: age discrimination, sexual harassment, EEOC and the laws it enforces, race discrimination, alternative methods of dispute, disability issues (law and reality), employment (discrimination and immigration), and valuing diversity.

Fee \$75. Registration forms available from Opportunity Development Center at 322-4705.

Vanderbilt Theatre presents *Quilters* November 3-5 and 9-11 at 8:00 P.M. each night in Neely Auditorium. Based on the award-winning book: *The Quilters, Women and Domestic Art* by Patricia Cooper and Norma Bradley Allen, the play uses folk music, dance, and drama to explore the lives of American pioneer women. Like a quilt this musical tribute offers comfort, beauty, and a celebration of family.

Tickets are available from the box office at 322-2404. With an I.D. they are free for undergraduates and \$2.50 for graduate students. General admission is \$4.00.

"Women's Studies: Selected List of Acquisitions Received During the Month By the Central Library" (including some titles received in other campus libraries) is issued by Marillyn Craig, Central Library women's studies bibliographer, in cooperation with the Vanderbilt Women's Studies Committee.

To be placed on the mailing list, send name and campus mailing address to Marillyn Craig at the Central Library or call 322-6285.

WANTED: Voice of America, the United States Information Agency, and Radio Marti have been found guilty by a U.S. court of having discriminated against thousands of women who applied for jobs with them and ordered to seek out the thousands of victims of sexual discrimination who applied for jobs with them between 8 October 1987 and 16 November 1984, inclusive.

All of these women have the right to file for damages. The women involved were information specialists, radio announcers, and MCs (in 44 languages), technicians, etc.

If you are one of these women, please make yourself known to the law firm of: Webster & Frederickson, 1819 H Street N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006, telephone (202)659-8515.

Women of Europe, April/May 1989

Graduate School and Fellowships is the topic for two sessions on October 10 at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in 203 Alumni Hall. The 4:00 p.m. program is directed toward undergraduates, followed by light refreshments, and the 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Workshop.

Another graduate school event is **Graduate Student Research Day** on October 26 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. in Sarratt Student Center. Abstracts must be submitted by October 2.

For more information on both of these events call Kay Hancock at 322-2651. ■

"Marginalia"

A reader at Harvard spotted this sign on the door of the University Central Copy Service:

DUE TO MACHINE MALEFUNCTIONS
CENTRAL COPY SERVICE
CLOSED AT 8:00 P.M.

Sexism!

The Chronicle of Higher Education,
September 6, 1989

Edited by JUDITH T. HELFER

To receive each issue of *Women's VU* (published monthly except July and August), return the form below or call the Women's Center, 322-4843. Newsletters are sent free upon request to all students. Faculty and staff subscriptions are free to a campus address.

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Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

Vanderbilt University
Franklin Bldg., West Side Row
Box 1513, Station B
Nashville, TN 37235

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