

## THE MANY FACES OF FEMINISM

*Celebrating women's differences as well as similarities*

*Nancy Walker, director of the Women's Studies Program and associate professor of English*

In 1913, British journalist and novelist Rebecca West wrote, "I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat."

Even before Dame West's witty remark, and certainly in the eighty years



since, exact definitions of feminism—or what it means to be a feminist—have been difficult to pin down. In the nineteenth century, American feminism was primarily identified as a political movement to win for women the right to vote, but even before female suffrage was achieved in 1920, people who identified themselves as feminists had diverse ideologies and supported various causes, including the abolition of slavery, temperance, clothing reform, and birth control.

While few people would expect all Democrats or all Republicans to hold precisely the same views or values, feminists are, curiously, expected to be homogeneous in their beliefs and goals,

so that disagreements among them are viewed with alarm, or taken as signs of weakness or disarray within the women's movement. This assumption was borne in on me forcefully not long ago when a male student in my "Images of Women" course expressed dismay at what he perceived as dissention within the largely female class. Pleased by the lively discussions in the classroom, and perplexed by his remark, I asked what he meant. He explained, first, that he assumed all the women in the class were avowed feminists (not all were), and that he thought all feminists agreed about all issues.

More recently, the *Chronicle of Higher*



*Education* took it to be front-page news that academic feminists had differing views on theory and pedagogy, and it occurred to me that if academic astronomers, say, had disagreed about the characteristics of a star, this would have been regarded as healthy intellectual debate rather than dangerous divisiveness.

Twenty years ago, columnist Nora Ephron expressed her own dismay at the lack of complete unity among feminists working for women's equality. "The women's liberation movement," she

wrote in 1972, "makes the American Communist Party of the 1930s look like a monolith."

She continued, "I have even heard a woman defend her affection for cooking to an incredulous group who believed that to cook at all—much less to like it—was to swallow the worst sort of cultural conditioning. Once I tried to explain to a fellow feminist why I liked wearing makeup; she replied by explaining why she does not. Neither of us understood a word the other said."

But beyond cooking and makeup, there have been and are many varieties of feminism, all based on the premise that women have the right to equality with men and the conviction that their status is and has traditionally been fundamentally unequal. And despite the connection between the term "feminism"



and political activism for nearly two hundred years, being a feminist does not necessarily entail espousing a public cause. It is this fact, as Paula Kamen points out in *Feminist Fatale*, that many younger women fail to understand, and that causes some of them to resist acknowledging feminist views.

Differences among groups of femi-  
—continued page two

# Many faces of feminism

—from page one

nists may originate in what they view as the central cause of women's oppression. For the suffragists of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the basic problem was lack of participation in the political process. For Marxist feminists, the capitalistic economic system, with its emphasis on private property, permits men the "ownership" of women, just as it has allowed human enslavement. One movement in feminism that seems new because of the current interest in the environment actually reaches back to ancient cultures that stress the relationship between the earth and womanhood. Often having a strong spiritual component, ecofeminism is defined by Karen J. Warren, author of *Ecological Feminism: What It Is and Why It Matters*, as having "a commitment to making visible the various ways in which the

dominations of women and nonhuman nature are sanctioned and perpetuated under patriarchy, and to engaging in practices and develop[ing] analyses aimed at ending these twin exploitations."

*Feminists are, curiously, expected to be homogenous in their beliefs and goals, so that disagreements among them are viewed with alarm, or taken as signs of weakness or disarray within the women's movement.*

Other differences in feminist ideology arise from the circumstances of women's personal lives, including sexual preference, race, ethnic background, and social class. The relationship between lesbian and heterosexual feminists has often been an uneasy one, for obvious reasons. For lesbian women, a separatist, women-only culture, such as that described in

Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland*, has personal and ideological attractions that are lacking for most heterosexual women. Increasingly, however, heterosexual feminists have recognized the double oppression affecting lesbians, and have supported their right of sexual preference.

Also doubly oppressed are women of color, for whom both gender and race are sources of discrimination. Whereas Caucasian feminists can claim the heritage of the dominant culture, despite exclusion from its power structures, women of color have found race to be at least as stubborn a barrier to equality as gender, a fact which orders the priorities of their feminist ideologies and goals. Many African-American women have embraced the term "womanist" in place of "feminist," defined by Alice Walker in *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens* as "referring to outrageous, audacious, courageous or willful behavior. . . . Responsible. In charge. Serious." In Walker's terms, a womanist ideology celebrates women's strength and courage.

Above all, despite unfortunate stereotypes, feminism has come to represent and celebrate women's differences as well as their similarities. True freedom involves the ability to make choices about one's body, relationships, life-work, and future, and respect for each others' choices is vital to an equitable society. ■

## NEWS QUOTE

### *Supreme Court delivers blow to reproductive rights*

On June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*. The decision is an assault on women's fundamental liberties and makes it easier for states to pass restrictive abortion laws.

At issue were several provisions that restrict access to abortion by:

- requiring young women under the age of eighteen to obtain the consent of one parent or a waiver from a judge;
- subjecting women to state-produced literature and intimidating lectures designed to dissuade women from having abortions;
- subjecting parent of a young woman under the age of eighteen to the above;
- requiring a woman to wait twenty-four hours before having an abortion;
- requiring a married woman to notify her husband before she may obtain an abortion;
- creating an extremely narrow "medical emergency exception."

In a complicated opinion, the sharply divided Justices upheld all but the husband notification provision of the Pennsylvania law. Although claiming to uphold *Roe v. Wade*, the Justices established a new and less rigorous constitutionally protected fundamental right to abortion established in *Roe*.

Some are hailing this decision as a victory for women's rights, because the Court did not overturn *Roe* outright. However, the ruling is really a loss for women. The Court has now created a system whereby women will have to hurdle a number of barriers in order to exercise their constitutional right to reproductive choice. While the Court continued to allow states to chip away at women's fundamental freedom, pro-choice advocates must work to pass the Freedom of Choice Act, battle the likely onslaught of restrictive abortion proposals in the state legislatures, and elect pro-choice candidates.

*Action Alert*, American Association of University Women, July 1992

—more quotes page seven



#### Women's VU

published monthly September through June by the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Franklin Building, West Side Row. Mailing address: Box 1513 Station B, Nashville, TN 37235.

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SEP  
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1992

Calendar  
of  
Events

Margaret  
Cuninggim  
Women's  
Center



Please save and post. Individual flyers for these programs will not be sent.

For further information call the Cuninggim Center at 322-4843.

2 (Wednesday)

Reception for Graduate Students, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Cuninggim Center, Franklin Building, West Side Row.

8 (Tuesday)

Conversation With Artist Valerie Harben, 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Cuninggim Center.

9 (Wednesday)

Dissertation Writers Group meets for a preliminary planning/organizational session, 4:00 p.m., Cuninggim Center. Women at the proposal stage and beyond in any school or discipline are invited to attend. Nancy Ransom and Katharyn May act as advisors to the group.

If you cannot attend the organizational meeting but wish to be included in the fall group, please phone the Cuninggim Center at 322-4843.

Self-Image Discussion Group, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Cuninggim Center.

Writers' Workshop, 5:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., Cuninggim Center. New members welcome.

10 (Thursday)

Journaling Workshop: *Life As A Work In Progress*, Miriam Bassuk, L.C.S.W., 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., David K. Wilson Hall, room 112. Fee \$10; \$5 students; registration required by September 8, limited to 35 registrants. Scholarships available.

14 (Monday)

Book Group discusses *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath. Facilitator is Martha Young. 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., Cuninggim Center. New members are welcome.

15 (Tuesday)

Women and Body Image: Setting Realistic Goals, an introductory session for a four-part workshop. The purpose of the series is to help women understand the origins of their personal body image and learn techniques for viewing their physical selves in a positive manner. Leaders are Nancy Ransom, director of the Cuninggim Center and Annell St. Charles, nutrition services coordinator, Dayani Center. 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., Cuninggim Center. Free. (\$40 fee for subsequent four-part series.)

16 (Wednesday)

Noontime Seminar: *Notable Black American Women*. Dr. Jessie Carney Smith, university librarian and professor, Fisk University, discusses her book by the same title. 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., Cuninggim Center.

Women and Body Image: Setting Realistic Goals. Repeat of introductory session offered on Tuesday, September 15. 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., Dayani Center.

22 (Tuesday)

Lunchtime Book Review. Karen Campbell, associate professor of sociology and acting director of women's studies, reviews *The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women* by Naomi Wolf. 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., Cuninggim Center.

23 (Wednesday)

Self-Image Discussion Group, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Cuninggim Center.

Writers' Workshop, 5:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., Cuninggim Center. New members welcome.

24 (Thursday)

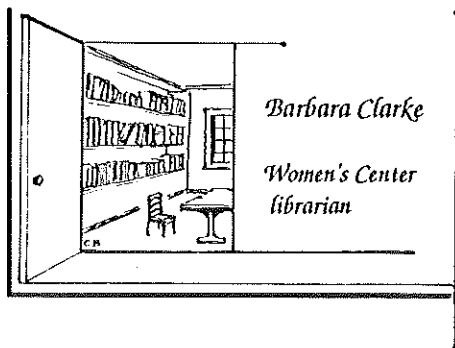
Women and Body Image: Setting Realistic Goals, part one of four-part series, led by Annell St. Charles, pre-registration required. 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Dayani Center Conference Room. Fee \$40. To register call 322-4751.

# Tavris' book measures the mismeasure of women

*French investigates the war against women;  
Kaminer attacks the self-help trend*

Some interesting new books were received during the summer.

*The Mismeasure of Woman* by Carol Tavris is a notable work on sex differences and discrimination. The writer, a social psychologist, shows how the male has always been the norm by which people are judged. This applies in every



sphere, including medicine, law, body shape, and psychology. Women have been shown to be deficient because they deviate from these male "norms."

Among the many topics discussed by Tavris are codependency, PMS, gender and emotions, pregnancy, communication, children's behavior, and medical textbooks. As the author points out, persons or groups dominant in a society have an interest in maintaining the differences that lead to dominance.

Tavris believes that the solution to the problems of gender inequality and women's "abnormality" do not lie in replacing male-centered standards with female-centered ones. She suggests "flexibility, the ability to speak both languages when required." She concludes that "the goal for both sexes should be to add qualities and skills, not lose old ones."

Marilyn French's *The War Against Women* is a more depressing work. In this controversial and powerful publication the writer discusses the status of women worldwide and through the ages. She finds that the oppression of females is universal, and that women have not

really made a great deal of progress, even in industrialized societies.

French divides her work into four main divisions. In the first she focuses on systemic wars—the subjection of women by political systems and religions, and in the second section she discusses institutional discrimination—in law, medicine, business, and education. The third part deals with misogyny in the arts, culture, and language, and the final section is concerned with men's personal wars against women—with rape, incest, domestic violence, and men's refusal to support their children.

Wendy Kaminer's *I'm Dysfunctional, You're Dysfunctional: the Recovery Movement and Other Self-Help Fashions* is a controversial study of the recovery movement and self-help programs that are in vogue today.

Some "experts" claim that ninety-six percent of all Americans are codependent, while others consider codependency to be a women's disease, and femininity to be a form of codependency. About eighty-five percent of self-help books are purchased by women.

Kaminer is critical of all types of recovery programs, although she admits that some individuals have been helped by some programs. She is skeptical of the claims that almost everyone is codependent as a result of child abuse, which many programs define in such a broad manner as to include any parental discipline or disapproval. Society now rewards those who call themselves dysfunctional or declare that they are addicted to something.

*Women in Power: the Secrets of Leadership* by Dorothy W. Cantor and Toni Bernay with Jean Stoess is a new publication on women in United States politics. The work is based on a survey of twenty-five women in office at the time they were interviewed.

This study is interesting in that the writers are psychologists rather than political scientists, and they asked no political questions. They were looking  
—Cantor and Bernay, see page six

## *Valerie Harben exhibits works at Cuninggim Women's Center*

Paintings and collage by Valerie Harben are on exhibit in the Cuninggim Center Lounge, first floor, during office hours from now until October 16.

In the artist's statement Harben says, "I have always been interested in art and have been drawing since early childhood. My present artistic style has evolved from various ex-



PHOTO BY THOMAS STREET

Artist Valerie Harben

periments and influences. It is my intention to convey emotions through my work.

"I want my illustrations to relate to the product on a deeper level than a simple endorsement. I enjoy experimenting with the effects achieved by using certain colors and rhythm of lines. My media range from acrylic and oil to ink and colored tissue paper."

### *New Library Hours*

Beginning on September 1 the Cuninggim Center Library remains open until 10:00 p.m. on Tuesdays for research and as a place to study. On the other four weekdays the library is open as usual from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The Cuninggim Library welcomes donations of books, including textbooks.

Speaking of women . . .

# Long-time activist Campbell named acting director of women's studies

*Karen Campbell, associate professor of sociology, will be acting director of women's studies during the 1992-93 academic year, while director Nancy Walker is on leave. She was interviewed by Anita Linde, activities coordinator in the Office of International Services.*

When asked about her upcoming tenure as acting director of women's studies, Karen Campbell confesses that the position inspires mixed emotions: "I feel fortunate, and overwhelmed" by the prospect of being at the program's helm. Campbell views her role primarily as one of "caretaking" during Professor Walker's absence: "Women's studies has come a phenomenal distance" since Walker arrived, "and I would like to 'return' it to her in equally excellent shape." Given Campbell's impressive record of scholarship and teaching, she appears well-suited to the task.

As a graduate student at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in the early and mid-1980s, Campbell wrote her doctoral dissertation on "Women's and Men's Job Searches, Job Changes, and Social Resources." The central finding of her research was that, not surprisingly, men were more likely to use personal contacts in their job searches than were women.

This formal documentation of the "old boys' network" pointed to the need for fundamental change in the structure of occupations: even if women were to rely more heavily on personal contacts in their job searches, the fact that women are excluded from many highly placed positions means that the extent of those networks is necessarily limited.

Campbell has done considerable research on networks in neighborhoods. Her interest in neighboring was sparked by contact, in the mid-1980s, with urban sociologist Barrett Lee, a former Vanderbilt colleague who has joined the faculty at Pennsylvania State University.

Since then, neighboring has become one of Campbell's primary research areas. She has studied both gender- and race-based differences in urban neigh-



WOMEN'S VU SKETCH BY MICHAEL MCCRICKARD

KAREN CAMPBELL (right), acting director of women's studies  
1992-93 academic year

boring, and the patterns she has uncovered reflect broad societal themes. For example, while women, in general, tend to know more of their neighbors by name than their male counterparts, women are not necessarily any closer emotionally to their neighbors than are men.

The courses Campbell teaches include Women in Public Policy, which is cross-listed with women's studies. Campbell says she particularly enjoys this class because she finds her students support the idea that gender roles in modern society need to change. In discussing topics such as women's economic status, access to education, employment discrimination, and health issues, Campbell seeks to raise awareness of current inequities and to point out possible solutions.

During her seven years at Vanderbilt, Campbell has been a leader in promoting the status of women at the university. She has served on committees for the Women's Studies Program, the Cuninggim Center Lecture Series, and the Susan Ford Wiltshire Essay Prize. Currently, she edits the newsletter of

the Vanderbilt Women's Faculty Organization.

The history of Campbell's activism can be traced back to her undergraduate days at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Though Campbell concedes she did not "discover [her] voice" while at Randolph-Macon, she does believe her college experience afforded her many powerful role models: students, professors, class presidents, star athletes—all were accomplished women whose successes could be admired and aspired to.

In her career as a professional academic, Campbell says she has not been held back due to her gender, despite the fact that the Ivory Tower is known to house decades-old, tightly-knit "old boys' networks." On the contrary, Campbell asserts that her department, sociology, "could be a model for the College [of Arts and Science]" for its "hospitable climate for women."

Indeed, if such a climate nurtures the growth of faculty such as Karen Campbell, it should be replicated, *post haste*. ■





## Mammograms available at a reduced rate for employees

The Vanderbilt Breast Center, Radiology Department, Employee Health Service, and HEALTH Plus announce changes in the Employee Screening Mammogram service. All employee screening mammograms are now scheduled and performed at the new Vanderbilt Breast Center located in the Village at Vanderbilt. The Breast Center opened in December 1991, and offers a full range of screening and diagnostic services.

To qualify for the reduced rate of \$50, you must be: a female forty years or older; a volunteer, faculty or staff member, or the wife of one of the above; and have no history of breast cancer.

Call the Breast Center at 322-2064 for more information or to make an appointment. ■

## Autoimmune disorder poses greater threat to women than to men

Systemic lupus erythematosus, usually referred to as lupus, is a disease that affects women almost ten times more often than it affects men. Black women have higher rates of the disease than white women.

Lupus is an autoimmune disorder that affects the connective tissues of the joints, the skin, the kidneys and other organs. An autoimmune disease is one in which the body's immune system goes awry. Instead of defending the body against illness, the immune system begins to attack normal tissues. It is unknown what causes this breakdown in the defense system, but stress, sun exposure, infections and certain medications may trigger the response.

The signs and symptoms of lupus may vary from one person to another, but usually include some combination of the following: a facial rash, typically in a "butterfly" pattern across the nose and cheeks; a whitening of the fingers or toes with exposure to cold; unusual fatigue; unexplained fevers; painful, swollen joints; unusual degree of hair loss; chest pain with deep breathing caused by inflammation of the lining of the lungs; anemia. Other symptoms may be experienced depending on the spe-

Beth Colvin Huff,  
MSN, RN



cific tissues damaged.

The medical specialist trained in the management of autoimmune diseases like lupus is a rheumatologist. Although there is no cure, medications and treatments are available to relieve the symptoms experienced by the patient. Balancing rest and physical activity is important in keeping the body strong and disease-resistant. Pregnancy can pose extra problems because of the risk of miscarriage and the potential of a flare-up of the lupus in the mother.

Because the symptoms of lupus come and go in varying degrees of severity, it may be difficult for families, friends and co-workers to understand the physical and emotional ups and downs. The Lupus Foundation can supply information as well as caring through local support groups. The local agency can be reached at 352-2273. ■

## Cantor and Bernay consider female politicians

-from page four

for the secrets of power and leadership—for the qualities and strengths that enabled the women to be elected and to succeed in office.

Cantor and Bernay believe that early development plays a vital part in the type of person one becomes. They studied the early years and family backgrounds of the twenty-five women, and show how they were given the confidence necessary to become leaders.

The politicians in the study include Ann Richards, Pat Schroeder, Barbara Mikulski, and Nancy Johnson. Dianne Feinstein wrote the foreword and the afterword is by Geraldine Ferraro.

Other new arrivals include: *Boys Will Be Boys: Breaking the Link Between Masculinity and Violence* by Myriam Miedzian; *Disfigured Images: The Historical Assault on Afro-American Women* by Patricia Morton; *The Female Body and the Law* by Zillah R. Eisenstein; *Both Right and Left Handed: Arab Women Talk About Their Lives* by Bouthaina Shaaban; and *Women's Movements in America: Their Successes, Disappointments, and Aspirations* by Rita J. Simon and Gloria Danziger. ■

For the record . . .

"Because you didn't hire me, you made me what I am today. I hope you're satisfied."

—Gloria Steinem addressing a luncheon sponsored by *Time* magazine in New York City in May, shortly after the audience learned that the *Time* cover featuring Steinem and *Backlash* author Susan Faludi sold as many newsstand copies as *Time's* "Man of the Year" issue.

Media Report to Women, Summer 1992



## NEWS QUOTES:

### *Coaches, candidates, and Quayle*

#### *Different policy priorities?*

A recent survey of officeholders in state legislatures around the country found that women and men differ in their policy priorities. Women in the legislatures are more likely to give priority to women's rights issues and to "public policies related to women's traditional roles as caregivers in the family and society," reported the survey, sponsored by the Center for the American Woman and Politics at Rutgers University.

*The National Voter,*  
June/July 1992

#### *Female candidates overcome 'credibility' gap*

by Ellen R. Malcolm

The prospects for electing women to high offices in 1992 are exhilarating. But as the "year of the woman" unfolds, a pattern of personal attacks against female candidates has emerged. Using familiar stereotypes, the attackers are trying to undercut the credibility of the women running for office, from New York to California.

Female candidates have to prove themselves again and again to voters and the press. Whether these women are criticized for their fund-raising skills or the management of their campaigns, it all boils down to "they can't win."

My favorite recent example of this was the buzz that Carol Moseley Braun's Senate campaign in Illinois was (gasp!) disorganized. I have been in many campaigns, and few of them were models of efficiency. But to trivialize Ms. Braun's campaign because junior staff people quit or the candidate was late for lunch is to set a standard of excellence that no campaign could meet.

The Braun campaign raised more money than any other Senate challenger in the last three months, and the latest Illinois poll puts her thirty-five percentage points ahead of her opponent.

Both Geraldine Ferraro in New York and Barbara Boxer in California were considered good Senate candidates, but conventional wisdom—as divined by

pundits—pronounced that they could never compete financially with their male opponents. Paradoxically, the eight female Senate candidates already nominated this year raised twenty-five percent more money than their male opponents in the last three months.

Perhaps anytime a new political group breaks down barriers, questions arise about its members' ability to act on their own. Remember the concerns that John F. Kennedy, the first Roman Catholic President, would be influenced by the Pope?

The antidote to attacks on female politicians' credibility is the women themselves. The candidates for the House and Senate are quite able to go toe to toe with their opponents, and a record number will win in 1992.

These victories will help change public perceptions. And we will begin to see enough women in high office that our representative democracy actually begins to represent all the people.

*The New York Times,*  
August 5, 1992

#### *Employment facts*

*Washington Woman News* reports on "9 to 5 National Association of Working Women's Annual Profile of Working Women."

- There are 56 million women in the work force, an increase of 1.3 million since 1988.

- Over half of all women (54%) have incomes less than \$10,000 compared to 27% of all men.

- Women with four or more years of college earn roughly the same as men who have never attended college.

- 58% of all women in the labor force are either single, divorced, widowed, separated or have husbands who make less than \$15,000 a year.

- Less than 7.5% of all households today have a working father, a homemaker mother, and children under eighteen.

- Less than 1% of private establishments provide childcare facilities.

*Women Oughta Know,*  
June 1992

#### *Black Coaches' Association selects first female president*

Marian Washington, women's basketball coach at the University of Kansas, was chosen to head the coaches' association, a 3,000-member advocacy group for black coaches at colleges and high schools.

*The Chronicle of Higher Education,*  
June 10, 1992

#### *Dan Quayle's blunder*

"Vice President Dan Quayle may have picked on the wrong TV show when he singled out CBS' popular 'Murphy Brown' as contributing to the decline of family values," writes Joe Mandese in *Advertising Age*, (June 1). Mandese notes that the program finished the 1991-92 prime-time season as the third highest-rated series on TV. "More significantly," Mandese says, "the show's audience composition closely matches the type of voter the Republican incumbents are trying to woo: the upper end of the socioeconomic curve, especially women."

*Media Report To Women,*  
Summer 1992

#### *Feminist conference planned for 1993 in Bowling Green*

Papers are being solicited for the Seventh Annual Midwest Feminist Graduate Student Conference at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, February 12-14, 1993. An interdisciplinary, cross-cultural conference by and for graduate students, sessions are designed for African-American, Euro-American and Third World feminists. Suggested topics include: cyborgian identity, issues of the subaltern, post-colonialism and feminist theories inclusive of cross-cultural issues.

Send one page abstracts or queries to:

MFGSC  
c/o Women's Studies Program  
Bowling Green State University,  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Proposals are accepted until October 15, 1992.

Page 7, *Women's VU*, September 1992

# Announcements

*Additional information on items listed below is available at the Cuninggim Center.*

## CONFERENCES

**Sixth Annual Women's Studies Conference, Western Kentucky University. Women: Visions, Voices, Vexations, September 24-26, Bowling Green, Kentucky.**

**Second International Conference: Sexual Assault on Campus, October 1-3, Orlando, Florida.** The conference seeks to bring individuals, campus organizations, and community institutions together to reduce the insult and effects of sexual assault. Program addresses ways of meeting the needs of victims and school policies, government, and law enforcement needs.

**Second International Men's Conference: Exploring Conscious Manhood, October 16-18, Austin, Texas.** Noted speakers include authors Sam Keen and Warren Farrell.

**Families: A World Perspective, November 6-7, Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky.** The 1992 Wilma E. Grote Symposium for the Advancement of Women focuses on women and families.

**Sixth Annual International Conference: Women in Higher Education, January 7-9, 1993, El Paso, Texas.** Focus of the conference is on women in their various roles in higher education.

*Deadline for proposals to present a paper is October 15, 1992.*

## AWARDS

**National Association for Women in Education (NAWE) announces two \$750 awards to encourage and support excellence in research by, for, and about women.** Research may be on any topic relevant to the education and personal and professional development of women and girls. The two awards are Graduate Student Competition and Open Competition (for persons at any career/professional level).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**Women Helping Women Through Decisions.** Dismas, Inc. is looking for women volunteers (faculty, staff, and students), who are seeking a rewarding but short-term commitment, to join in offering a course in positive decision-making and life-planning skills at the Tennessee Women's Prison. You would work one-on-one for an hour weekly with a prisoner/partner during the eight-week course, September 21 through

November 9. Volunteers' training is scheduled for September 12 and 13. For information, call Kathy Masulis at 383-5823 or Candy Markman at 383-6393.

## AAUW opens membership to students

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has voted for the first time to accept undergraduate students into the organization. For more than a century, the AAUW has promoted education and equity for women and girls. The Nashville branch invites all students (male and female) interested in membership to participate through student affiliate membership. Dues are \$18 per year. For more information call Cathy Allshouse at 847-2092.

## Middle Tennessee Women's Studies Association (MTWSA)

MTWSA meets on Saturday, September 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at Middle Tennessee State University. Topic for the September meeting is "Transforming the Curriculum: The MTSU Experience."

Call Jan Rosemergy at 322-8240 for directions and more information.



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## Women's VU

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- A yearly subscription to off-campus addresses is \$5.00. Please make checks payable to Vanderbilt University.

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