

Maintaining a room of one's own

Zinker considers being a wife and a feminist in the '90s

Laura Gussin Zinker
Staff Writer
University Relations
and General Counsel

A man loves a woman so much, he asks her to marry—to change her name, quit her job, have and raise his babies, be home when he gets there, move where his job is. You can hardly imagine what he might ask if he didn't love her.

Gabrielle Burton

It's after six o' clock. I've just come home from work and am perched on the sofa that my mother bought for me when I moved to Nashville. We are having our daily phone conversation, a vestige of the after-school ritual established over twenty years ago by a school-girl and working mother. She asks me how it feels to be a "married lady." I'm looking at the sofa and my thoughts go back in time.

"A single girl has to live nicely. You have to have good things, live in a decent neighborhood. When I was your age, I lived in that furnished apartment on the West Side and nobody told me how to fix it up. I would have met better people if my sister and I had lived better."

Now I'm a newlywed. Now I am a wife. Would I be married today if my mother hadn't purchased this sofa five years ago? I feel strangely indebted to the sofa.

As a college student, I first discovered literature by women (other than the Brontës and George Eliot). Reading works by contemporary women writers, taking classes taught by women, and forming friendships with students in these classes helped me begin to look at my world with fresh eyes.

I began to realize that women's issues were my issues. At nineteen, I read Virginia Woolf and vowed always to have my own money as well as a room

of my own.

I was supported financially by my parents (and a fifteen-hour-a-week work-study job). Woolf's statement that intellectual freedom depends on material things was a revelation. Her words have even greater resonance now. Do I, will I, have this freedom?

In my new role as wife, I am returning to the questions I pondered in college—but now with greater intensity. Once again, I look at the world with an altered focus, a different perspective. For years I supported the aims of the women's movement. Now I understand what I once only abstractly theorized about.

Having been married for a few months, I hear my mother's voice as I drive to work and when I'm in the shower, reminding me of a lifetime's worth of advice. "Make a meatloaf or a beef brisket on the weekend so you'll have dinners ready for the week. Al-

ways make a potato or rice; a man needs a starch at dinner." I never actually met my grandmother, but I was also told: "My mother always took a bath, put on Chanel No. 5 and a fresh dress before my father came home from work. You should freshen up, put on a bright lipstick before dinner."

Tonight, having battled rush-hour traffic, I wonder how I can manage to have dinner ready, bathe, and why I feel compelled to apply lipstick when all I can think of is what I will serve for dinner. And whether I want to serve anything or anyone at all. My mother's voice rings clearly in my head, as does the voice of my grandmother, who died years before I was born. But where is my voice? What is it trying to say?

Soon after I announced my engagement, I was presented with a great number of etiquette books and how-to books for the bride-to-be. Advice in these manu-
—see MODERN, page 4



"Yes, mother. Tim and I got the antique epergne from Mrs. Willoughby . . ."

'Taking back the night' should involve more than 120 students

On October 30, students protested violence against women

Jennifer Snyder
A&S '93

When I read the security alert on October 25, a combination of sorrow, fear, and anger made me sick to my stomach. I felt sorrow for the young woman from Florida State whom I'd never met; I felt fear because I know, just like every woman who read the alert, that it could have been me; and I felt anger because women have been feeling sad and afraid for far too long.

On Friday, October 30, I marched to protest violence against women, and to try to get rid of the sick feeling that had been in my stomach all week. I joined 120 others in a candlelight vigil that began at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, and ended in a rally at the scene of the crime.

I was able to give voice to my anger. I listened as others, women and men, found ways to express their fear and outrage. This event, which was sponsored by Students for Women's Con-

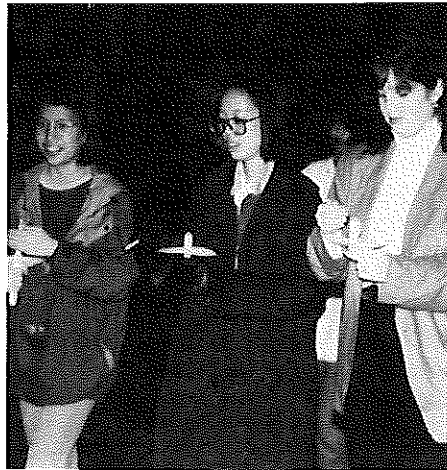


Photo by Danielle Heyman

Joyce Kao, Renee Yuen, and Deborah Fleischaker join in vigil.

cerns, gave students a chance to deal with their feelings regarding the rape that occurred on campus. It also drew attention to something that is often not given the attention it deserves, violence against women.

The rally was a success for those who attended. However, I cannot help but feel discouraged that only 120 people, at a university with almost 5,000 undergraduates, chose to make time for such an important issue.

Violence against women must end. Students for Women's Concerns and everyone who took part in Friday's protest took a step in the right direction. I hope others will follow our lead.

Women politicians take one more step toward the White House

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7 (AP) -- Women increased their numbers in statewide offices and in Congress in Tuesday's balloting, and feminist groups said that strengthened their position for a future White House bid.

Seventy-one women now hold statewide-elected offices at the executive level, increasing their share to a little more than twenty percent. Winners included all four women who ran for state attorney general, four of seven candidates for lieutenant governor, two of five for secretary of state, three of five for treasurer and eight of thirteen for other statewide executive posts.

While none of the three women running for governor won, the number of women in the United States Senate rose to six from three; in the House to forty-seven from twenty-eight.

Ellen Malcolm, president of Emily's List, which financially supports Democratic female candidates, said the gain in the House would put more women in position to run for the Senate, governor, and eventually for the White House.

The New York Times,
November 8, 1992

Women's VU

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Kathleen Skaggs wins Sui Juris Award

Kathleen Skaggs, director of community programs for Vanderbilt's Center for Health Services, received the Sui Juris (In Her Own Right) Award of the Tennessee Task Force Against Domestic Violence on October 23.

The award was presented in appreciation of Skaggs' dedication and perseverance in the work of ending violence in the lives of women and children in Tennessee.

The program Skaggs directs, the Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker project, also received an award this week. The award, appropriately called Inten-

sive Care of Our Neighbor (ICON), recognizes uniquely effective health-related outreach services to the poor and underserved.

Three awards are given nationally each year. The award carries with it a grant of \$82,500 (over three years) which will support an adaptation of the project for use in an inner-city public housing project in Nashville.

The project will be developed in partnership with the Vine Hill Volunteers, an organization of public housing residents in the Vine Hill community of Nashville.

DECEMBER 1992

Calendar of Events

Margaret Cunninggim Women's Center



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

2 (Wednesday)

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

7 (Monday)

Dissertation Writers Group meets at 4:30 p.m., Cuninggim Center. For more information call 322-4843.

8 (Tuesday)

Breast Cancer: The Challenge for the 90s. Dr. Catherine J. Brandon, assistant professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, director of the Vanderbilt Breast Center gives an update on breast cancer, 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., Cuninggim Center. Come meet and talk with the new director of the Vanderbilt Breast Center.

Women and Self-Image, led by Nancy A. Ransom, director of the Cuninggim Center. This workshop is designed to provide information about the meaning of self-image and mechanisms for maintaining a realistic and positive self-image. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Cuninggim Center. Reservations are required by Friday, December 4. Free.

9 (Wednesday)

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

14 (Monday)

Book Group discusses *Busman's Honeymoon* by Dorothy L. Sayers. Facilitator is Elaine Goleski. 5:15 p.m. Call 297-6302 (daytime) or 329-0180 (evenings) if you plan to attend.

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

Coalition studies battered women who fought back

Barbara Clinton,
Director, Center for Health Services

In the June issue of *Women's VU*, Beth Colvin Huff noted the scandalous frequency of domestic violence against women. According to the National Women's Health Network, a woman is beaten every eighteen seconds in this country.

Women respond in many ways to violence from their husbands or lovers. Many undergo years of threats and attacks, hoping the abuse will stop. Eventually some die at the hands of their abusers. The lucky ones find ways to leave the relationship. But others respond violently themselves. Nationally, 500 to 750 women each year kill their abusers in self-defense, or in defense of their children.

The legal system finds it difficult to accept the notion of self-defense in cases of violence within the family. Some judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and juries still see assault within marriage as a "private matter." But juries and judges do not always know about past battering. When a woman has defended herself against an abusive husband or male partner, evidence of prior abuse is rarely introduced at trial or sentencing.

Abusive men who kill their partners serve an average of two to six years in prison. Women who kill their partners, usually in self-defense, serve an average of fifteen years. In Tennessee, at least twenty-eight women are serving time for killing or assaulting men who habitually abused them. One of these women is on death row.

The Coalition for the Defense of Battered Women includes the Vanderbilt Center for Health Services, the Tennessee Task Force Against Domestic Violence, the Tennessee Women's Prison, the YWCA Shelter and Domestic Violence Program, Vanderbilt students, and the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. This year the Coalition analyzed Tennessee sentencing data and surveyed attorneys who have defended battered women who respond violently. The studies revealed that Tennessee women have received prison sentences as long as fifty years for killing their abusers, and their special situation goes unnoticed by the criminal justice system.

Now the Coalition is conducting face-to-face interviews in the Tennessee

-see COALITION, page 5

PHYSICAL FITNESS ♀ REST ♀ SOCIAL SUPPORT ♀ GOOD DIET ♀ SELF CARE ♀ FUN ♀



MEDICAL CARE ♀ SPIRITUALITY ♀ AWARENESS ♀ LOVE ♀ INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS

Immunization not just for kids

Beth Colvin Huff
RN, MSN

How many of you have little white scars on your upper arm from the smallpox vaccine you received as a child? Because of the immunization program undertaken to combat this disease, the world was declared smallpox-free in 1980, and vaccination is no longer necessary. We generally associate immunizations with childhood, but adults need to be aware of recommended vaccination schedules too. Remember that it is in unprotected populations that diseases can gain a foothold and can cause serious illness and death.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, adult vaccination programs have been difficult to implement for a variety of reasons. State laws require vaccinations for school-age children, but no such requirements exist for adults. Insurance coverage is often limited or non-existent for preventive health measures. And vaccination programs and delivery systems have not been developed in the adult population to the degree they have been for children.

As with all medications, the risks and benefits must be considered, including the actual risk of exposure to the disease, and the susceptibility of the individual to that disease. A brief review of the standard recommended vaccinations for adults follows.

Influenza. The flu vaccine is an inactivated virus that cannot cause influenza, although area soreness, mild fever and muscle aches may result. Since the virus is grown in eggs, persons allergic to eggs should not take the vaccine without discussion with their physician. Yearly vaccination is recommended in the fall before influenza activity peaks. The vaccine is strongly recommended for groups at high risk (over age 65; with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease; and those who are HIV positive), but is also recommended for anyone in the general population.

ommended for anyone in the general population.

Pneumococcal pneumonia. High risk groups as noted above are strongly encouraged to receive this vaccine. Most healthy older adults will only need one injection but medically high risk groups may need it repeated after six years. Arm tenderness and redness are the most frequent side effects.

Diphtheria and tetanus. If you have never completed the primary series (usually given in childhood), then the full three-dose schedule is necessary. However, most adults with adequate health care as children have received the primary series. Booster doses are necessary for adults every ten years to maintain immunity. The vaccine against both of these diseases is given as a single injection with the main side effect being arm soreness.

Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR). If you have evidence of having received the live MMR vaccine or if you have physician and/or laboratory documentation that you have had these diseases, the vaccine is not necessary. If you were born in 1957 or later and cannot supply this evidence, the vaccine is recommended. Because outbreaks of these diseases continue to occur (especially in schools and on college campuses) and because of the devastating effect they can have during pregnancy, it is very important to know your immune status. Side effects from the vaccine may include fever and joint aches. Pregnancy should be avoided for three months after vaccination.

Keep good records of your immunization status so that dates can be checked easily. Discuss any concerns about particular risk categories with your health care provider and contact her immediately if you experience any unexpected side effects.

Information and immunizations are available through Employee Health Services at 343-9438 or the Metropolitan Health Department at 862-5900. ■

Modern marriages can still perpetuate traditional views

—from page 1

als covered everything from the proper contents of a bridal trousseau (including tips on bath and table linen), to everyday dishes, dishes for entertaining, glasses, silver, and additional equipment. I wondered if I was opening a catering business, some sort of lodging establishment or simply (simply?) making the commitment to spend my life with the man I love.

Also, I began to receive gifts. Lots of them. Primarily, I was given frilly lingerie in white, off-white, and every color imaginable. My mother's most Victorian friend sent me a package containing a slinky black nightgown and a tea kettle. What were these books and presents telling me? What was expected of the bride-to-be?

Although my father was nontraditional and unquestionably more nurturing than the fathers of most of my childhood friends, the dominant patterns within my parents' marriage were certainly traditional.

My father and mother were business partners, but, after a full day's work, she cooked, she made the beds and the social appointments and the grocery lists. I am beginning to understand why she had to struggle so to stay awake after dinner.

My husband wants to share domestic responsibilities, sometimes taking his eagerness to an amusing, though touching, degree.

He has been known to send me to work with a lovingly-prepared lunch that would satisfy the appetite of a truck driver. He is generally a reliable partner who does his share around the house. But it is as easy for him to fall into familiar paternalistic patterns as it is for me to heed the chorus of maternal counsel in my head. And so we talk. And talk. And talk until we have settled whatever it is that requires attention. And laugh and marvel at our good fortune (we are newlyweds).

We are still attempting to unpack the countless boxes in our new home, discard the duplicate items, and find places for all the gifts.

We are discovering things we didn't even know we had. And we are creating a new family, unlike any we have ever known. ■

'Juggling' roles offers benefits to busy women

Women and Sisters investigates the roles of antislavery feminists

Barbara Clarke
Women's Center Librarian

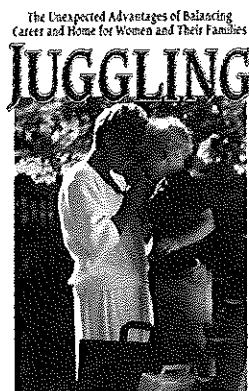
Juggling: The Unexpected Advantages of Balancing Career and Home for Women and Their Families is written by Faye J. Crosby, chair of the psychology department at Smith College. Crosby discusses how women benefit when they play a variety of roles.

Their children also gain, as do their husbands to a lesser extent.

The family benefits, not only financially, but because of the wife's increase in psychological well-being. Women who juggle several roles experience more stress, but they are also less likely to be depressed and are happier with their lives.

Crosby discusses the changing roles of women and men, and she reveals how little housework and child care men really do, and why they are so reluctant to do more at home. She feels that while men have blocked women's progress, husbands are not completely to blame for their attitudes. As women are co-conspirators, they should not be angry at men.

The writer disagrees with the ideas of Carol Gilligan, Nancy Chodorow and others about intimacy and the nurturing qualities of men, and she does not think it is fair to say that women are



FAYE J. CROSBY

better at relationships.

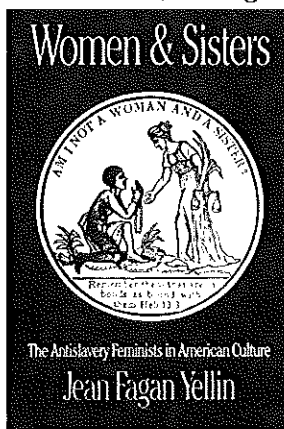
Crosby concludes that "it is possible, desirable, and perhaps even obligatory, to regard the growing number of women who are simultaneously spouse, parent, and paid worker as affording us all a chance to fashion social environments that promote healthy communities, families and individuals."

A new addition to our reference collection is *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves: A Book by and for Women*, which has been "updated and expanded for the 1990s" by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective. The first edition of this well-known volume was published over twenty years ago, and the last revision was in 1984.

The new edition is not a total revision, but is an enlarged and updated version of a publication that was originally considered radical and controversial. Topics covered for the first time include AIDS, breast reconstruction after mastectomy, interstitial cystitis, and RU-486.

In *Women & Sisters: The Antislavery Feminists in American Culture* Jean Fagan

Yellin looks at nineteenth-century feminism from an unusual perspective. She "examines the Women and Sister emblem of the kneeling female slave that the American antislavery feminists



adopted." Yellin discusses feminism and emblems in the antislavery writings and speeches of Angelina Grimké, Harriet Jacobs, Lydia Maria Child, Sojourner Truth, and others. Through her study of the works of the 1830s to the 1850s, the author aims "to use the analysis of contradictions of race, caste, condition, ethnicity, and gender as a way of opening up and redefining American literature and culture."

A useful new book is *Sexual Harassment: What It Is, What It Isn't, What It Does to You and What You Can Do About It* by Joel Friedman, Marcia Mobilia Boumil, and Barbara Ewert Taylor. This volume of practical advice is written by two women lawyers and a male psychologist. They show clearly what constitutes harassment, and advise victims how to file complaints. The writers explain how the need to dominate, control and exert power over others causes some men and a few women to harass others.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's guidelines on harassment are included, along with the addresses and telephone numbers of the EEOC offices at which victims of workplace harassment can file complaints.

Other recent acquisitions include: *Meeting at the Crossroads: Women's Psychology and Girls' Development* by Lyn Mikel Brown and Carol Gilligan; *Throwing Like a Girl and Other Essays in Feminist Philosophy and Social Theory* by Iris Marion Young; *Gender and International Relations* by Rebecca Grant and Kathleen Newland; and *Radical Feminist Therapy: Working in the Context of Violence* by Bonnie Burstow.

Coalition interviews women in prison for fighting back against their abusers

-from page 3

Women's Prison. The Tennessee Department of Corrections has cooperated fully, by identifying women incarcerated for crimes against men who may have abused them.

Approximately fifty women prisoners have asked to be included in the study. Interviews are expected to be completed by December 1, 1992. The

Coalition needs help with data analysis. Students, staff, or faculty members with interests in the area of women, justice, or corrections are needed to help us input, analyze, and understand the information.

If you can help, please contact Barbara Clinton at the Center for Health Services at 322-4176.

Cuninggim Center Library Hours

The Cuninggim Center Library remains open until 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through December 8. On other weekdays, the library is open as usual from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

During the spring semester, the library will be open until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Announcements

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

MEETINGS

A **Support Group for rape survivors** meets each Monday evening at 8:00 p.m. at the Cuninggim Center. Sponsored by Students for Women's Concerns.

Students for Women's Concerns meets on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. at the Cuninggim Center. New members are welcome.

Tennessee NOW State Conference is December 4-6 at the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville. Patricia Ireland, NOW National President is the keynote speaker at the conference. Conference details available at 269-7141.

Nashville NOW monthly meetings have changed their location to the Peace and Justice Center, Scarritt-Bennett Center, 1016 18th Avenue South. The group meets on the fourth Monday of each month (December 28) at 7:00 p.m. Call 269-7141 for more information.

If you can participate in a focus group during February for the Cuninggim Center's long range planning, please call 322-4843.

CONFERENCES

The South Central Women's Studies Association, University of Arkansas, March 26-27, 1993, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Northwest Arkansas Women's Festival and Conference coincides with the above conference in Fayetteville. "Women's Voices: Past, Present & Future" is held March 25-28, 1993.

GRADUATE STUDY FELLOWSHIPS

The Mr. & Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowships for Women in Graduate Study, Washington University in St. Louis, are awarded to encourage young women of exceptional promise to prepare for careers in higher education and the professions. Fellows appointed in the spring of 1993 may expect to receive awards ranging from \$18,000 to \$32,000 for the academic year 1993-94. Application deadline is February 1.

The 1993-94 Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy are designed to train women as potential

leaders in public policy formation and to examine issues from the perspectives of women. Fellows work thirty hours per week in a Congressional office. Any student currently enrolled in a graduate program anywhere in the United States is eligible. Fellows receive a stipend of \$9,000 for the academic year. Applications are due February 15, 1993.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Vanderbilt Women's Basketball season kicked off on November 20. The following games are all at home. Please mark them on your calendar.

Dec. 4-6—MCI-O'Charleys Classic
Dec. 10—BOWLING GREEN
Dec. 15—DARTMOUTH
Jan. 5—MEMPHIS STATE
Jan. 8—OHIO STATE
Jan. 10—LSU
Jan. 14—ORAL ROBERTS
Jan. 17—MISSISSIPPI STATE
Jan. 19—SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
Jan. 30—TENNESSEE
Feb. 4—WESTERN KENTUCKY
Feb. 9—DEPAUL
Feb. 13—SOUTH CAROLINA
Feb. 28—MISSISSIPPI



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Women's VU

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