Women's VU

Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

Volume XVII: 1

SEPTEMBER 1994

Vanderbilt University

Something for everyone at MCWC

People, programs, and resources make women's center a special place

Nancy A. Ransom, director, Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

As we begin a new academic year, I want to welcome back to Vanderbilt those readers who have been away and greet new readers.

When your life is tied to an academic calendar, September feels more like the first month of a new year than January. Fall is my time for renewal, starting over, making resolutions. One very high priority for me this year is to make sure that undergraduate students learn about and become acquainted with the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center.

The women's center is an all-university center; it's for everyone: students, staff, and faculty. Because this is such a diverse population, however, some of our programs and activities must be tailored for specific groups. We have always offered special programs for undergraduate students and for graduate and professional students. I think

we offer something special to undergraduates who are interested in gender equity. One recent graduate thinks so. She wrote the following: "The women's center is/was such an important part of my development. Not only did I learn so much from each of you, but also had FUN."

Information services as well as programs also may be of interest to students. We have a small library which houses books, journals, video and audio tapes, and a great deal of unbound material on women, gender, feminist research, and a variety of issues associated with these themes. An undergraduate or graduate student may find this resource center a perfect starting place to research a paper for an English class, a philosophy class, or a class in one of the social sciences. Anyone enrolled in a women's studies

course will want to check out our library at the beginning of the term. For some, fiction may have the greatest appeal.

The library is open from 8:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday during the academic term; on Friday it closes at 5:00. Books and tapes circulate for two weeks. A copy machine in the library may be used for a reasonable charge. In the early evening or between classes, the Cuninggim Women's Center library is a great place to study or browse.

Undergraduate students also will be interested in some of the student groups that meet at the Cuninggim Women's Center. I serve as an advisor to Students for Women's Concerns, which sponsors a women's consciousness-raising discussion group. I also advise Students for Choice, an advocacy organization for women's reproductive rights. A variety of discussion groups run by and for students includes a rape survivors' support group; a discussion group for undergraduate women concerned about eating disorders; a group of men and women who discuss aspects

of gender. New groups can be formed at the request of students who are willing to organize and participate in the management of their group.

Our monthly newsletter, Women's VU (pronounced "women's view"), is published from September through June. This is where you can learn the specifics about groups, special speakers, and programs. If you are a newcomer and have picked up a copy of Women's VU somewhere on campus, remember that student subscriptions are free to any address.

The women's center is located in a small, two-story house on West Side Row just behind Tolman Hall. Staff welcome visitors and will answer your questions. You can look at the current art show, browse in the library, and pick up some

CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER!

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CONSCIOUSNESS RAISED!

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ALICE'S ADVENTURES

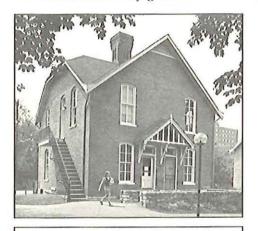
IN VANDYLAND

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brochures or pamphlets. Let me encourage you to make our acquaintance by stopping in one day when you are in the neighborhood. Men are welcome as well as women. As a student recently said, "This small house does not entertain male-bashers."

If you live on Peabody campus and don't get to Sarratt or Rand very often, I hope you'll take the time to make a special trip over to see the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center and meet the staff. Perhaps we can enrich your Vanderbilt experience as we did for another recent graduate who wrote, "Let me thank you personally for all you've done to make my stay at Vanderbilt absolutely glorious."





Women's VU

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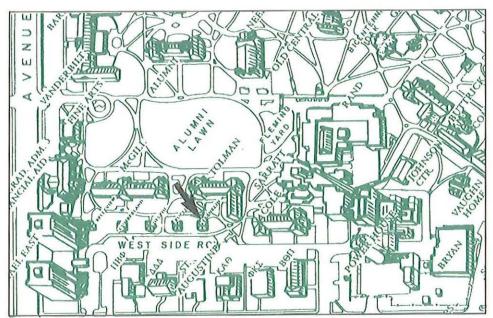
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Cindy Brown, cartoonist

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Page 4 and 6 photos by Rebecca Fischer



Women's Center Arts Committee Show opens at the Cuninggim Center

An exhibit of works by four Vanderbilt women runs from August 29 to October 13 at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center. The artists are members of the Cuninggim Center's Arts Committee.

**Jeannie Rice, curator of the show, is the manager of the Space and Facility Information Center, Campus Planning and Construction. Rice's work in the show expresses her two favorite subjects — her family and traveling. Oil paintings of people, pets, and places as well as a self-portrait "painted" by computer software will be exhibited. Rice has studied under numerous local artists including Hazel King, Connie Erikson, and Paul Swaub.

*Cindy Brown, Women's VU cartoonist, says, "Watercolor is experimental for me. When it works, I am happy. When it doesn't, I blame it on the fact that I am really a cartoonist!" Her watercolors focus on prospects from Lake Cayuga, New York State. Brown majored in English and minored in art at Syracuse University. She has taken courses in sculpture, life drawing, cartooning, and illustration.

****Lois B. Stone** is the College Work Study Program Employment Coordinator in the Student Financial Aid Department. While in college at the University of Tennessee, Stone's focus was on hand building clay objects and plaster body casting. She studied Indian ceremonial masks and ceremony, with a particular interest in the ceremonial rituals of Eskimo Indian tribes. She assisted Alan LeQuire in the process of casting the Athena for the Centennial Park Parthenon installation. She will show clay Indian ceremonial masks, an original design clay mask, face casts, and a Dolly Parton doll at the exhibit.

#Jo-El Logiudice is Visual Arts Director at the Sarratt Student Center. Logiudice studied theatre/art at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and received a master's in education from the University of North Florida. Prior to coming to Vanderbilt she was instructor of art education, Tennessee Technological University. Many of her pieces center around childhood exposure to a religious world richly adorned with symbols and icons of "saints and sinners," suggesting that she does not like to part with the past. These mixed media works involve various recycled papers, including everything from religious holy cards to Mexican playing cards.

A reception for the artists is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the women's center. Everyone is welcome!



Women judges step up to the bench

Fully one-third of Clinton's nominations to the federal bench are women, a major jump that could have a long-lasting impact on the administration of justice.

The face of the judiciary is changing, from an additional woman on the Supreme Court to women serving at every level of the federal judicial system.

These women will help chart a course for issues central to women's lives well into the next century. Federal judges are appointed to lifetime terms.

There have also been key increases in the number of women appointed as U.S. Attorneys and the traditionally male position of U.S. Marshal.

Minority appointments are also up sharply, with 24 African-American and 11 Hispanic appointments.

Carter

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34

Gender

Female

Male

Race

Black

Other

White

Hispanic/

Women's Political Times Summer 1994

Middle-aged men make up most of college faculty world-wide and probably will dominate the profession in the next century.

"It's not a picture we can rejoice about," says Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching President Ernest L. Boyer. "We haven't tapped talent at all to the degree I think universities should."

Japan and Korea have the most male faculty, about 90%, while the USA, Chile, Mexico, and Brazil have 60% to 70%.

> USA Today June 20, 1994

By the way, doctor. . .

"For the first time, we have evidence that cranberry juice can reduce bacteria in the urinary tract, but its role in treatment is not yet clear," says internist Jerry Avorn, associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, lead author of a recent study that tracked 153 older women to see if a regular intake of cranberry juice influenced the presence of bacteria in the urine.

Dr. Avorn and his colleagues found that older women assigned to drink 10 ounces of cranberry juice a

Clinton

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Bush

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day for six months were 58% less likely to have lab results indicating a urinary tract infection (UTI) than those who drank an identical-tasting, red placebo beverage. And those on the cranberry juice were about four times more likely than the placebo group to have bacteria and white blood cells cleared from their urine.

Although many people drink cranberry juice in the hope that it will prevent UTIs, the researchers found that it is more effective at eliminating existing infections than warding off new ones. Dr. Avorn cautions that women who have the symptoms of a UTI should still seek medical attention.

> Harvard Health Letter August 1994

In a nutshell

Surveying the largest sample of women faculty ever to be asked about sexual harassment, the Dey, Sax & Korn study offers the most solid data on faculty sexual harassment available to date, debunking some myths. They used regressions to control for other factors, finding:

- ♦Women in faculty most likely to be harassed:
 - -in public universities
 - -at highly selective schools
 - -at campuses with few women colleagues
- -in fine arts, English, engineering ♦Women faculty least likely to be
 - -at Catholic four-year colleges
 - -at women's colleges

harassed:

- -in math, physical sciences, health fields
- -married rather than single
- ♦Women of color are no more or less likely than their white colleagues to be harassed.
- Rates of harassment complaints may very with awareness levels. For example, those in women's studies reported

more harassment.

Women in Higher Education **July 1994**

Comparative analysis of Presidential judicial nominations as of May 24, 1994 for the Clinton Administration and equivalent dates for other Administrations. Source: The White House, reprinted from Women's Political Times

Judge for Yourself

Reagan

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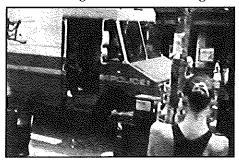
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Street harassment creates a "War Zone" for women

All the war zones aren't in Rwanda or Haiti. Maggie Hadleigh-West believes that for women, walking the streets (or campus) is like traversing a mine field. The anxiety that is produced by gestural and verbal attacks, which she calls "street abuse," is directly related to women's understanding of the potential for physical/sexual violence and rape. Whether men are conscious of it or not, their misguided "compliments," such as leers, taunts, and catcalls, often are perceived by women as a threat to their safety and as a reminder of their powerlessness in society, especially on the streets.

After years of frustration, Hadleigh-West decided to retaliate against this constant harassment which rises in New York City with the summer heat and the exposure of visible flesh. Armed with a movie camera, she walked the streets of her neighborhood and the areas she frequented. Wielding her camera as if it were a weapon, she recorded men in the act of harassing her, documenting 112



incidents of street abuse in seven and a half hours.

Hadleigh-West attempts to define the subtle phenomenon of women's fear and outrage against harassment, and to raise the awareness of both men and women about the ramifications of street abuse.

"War Zone," Hadleigh-West's first film, has been critically acclaimed for its scrutiny of the public harassment of women.

On Tuesday, September 27, Maggie Hadleigh-West comes to Vanderbilt with her thirteen - minute documentary, "War Zone," for a 7:30 p.m. screening and discussion of street abuse. A second short film will also be shown: Hadleigh-West's confrontational interview on "Eye to Eye with Connie Chung."

There is no charge for this program, thanks to the generous support of the Cuninggim Center and co-sponsors: the Women's Studies Program, Students for Women's Concerns, Sarratt Film Committee, and University Lectures Committee.

Melinda Lewis attends 10th Annual Women as Leaders Seminar in Washington D.C.

Priscilla Sanders, communications asst., Kennedy Center

When Melinda Lewis, A&S '96, was chosen to be one of 200 women from across the country to attend the 10th Annual Women as Leaders Seminar in Washington D.C., she was "flabbergasted, completely surprised" and thrilled. Nominated by Nancy A. Ransom, Director, Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Lewis had her expenses paid by the Chancellor's Office and the women's center.

The conference brought together professional women from multiple work environments to speak to college women from diverse backgrounds. A wide spectrum of women's experience was represented in a "jam packed" schedule as political, corporate, media, arts and health care arenas each had time in the spotlight. A few of the speakers and panelists at the May event were U.S. Representative Pat Schroeder, U.S. Senator Carol Mosely-Braun, Deputy Secretary of Education Madeleine Kunin, the Page 4, Women's VU, September 1994

Senior Vice President of Marketing for Liz Claiborne, the president of *Time*, and bureau chiefs and columnists from the *Washington Post* and *People*.

"Mentor Day" was Lewis's favorite conference activity. She was matched with a young lobbyist from the National Federation for Independent Business. Lewis accompanied her mentor as she researched, talked, and listened. She even attended confidential briefings on the effects of President Clinton's "employee mandate" for health care and meetings with Senate advisors.

Visits to the National Museum for Women in the Arts, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and NOW were also highlights for Lewis.

Speakers often inspired thoughts on the struggles of being "super women" to husbands and families and the frustrations of the "glass ceiling." Several spoke about male colleagues with less education who entered into careers later but progressed higher and faster. Lewis, planning to be a lawyer and eventually a political leader, hopes she won't be battling the

same issues.

A faculty-led discussion group of fourteen women proved both enlightening and frustrating for Lewis. Surprisingly, most of the women refused to call themselves feminists. However, Lewis believes that their concerns and perspectives are feminist—that is, they are all deeply committed to the equality of the sexes.

Lewis came away from the conference with "renewed energy" for working to make a difference and changing the system, and she is still processing all she learned. "We all need to be free to serve," says Lewis. "I want to give back to women and make a way for the women after me, just as a way was made for me."



SEPTEMBER

Calendar of Events

Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center Please save and post. Individual flyers for these programs will not be sent.

September 2 (Friday)

Cuninggim Center Advisory Board Picnic. 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

September 7 (Wednesday)

Gender Study Group, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Women interested in joining the group should speak with Nancy Ransom, 322-4843. Also meets September 21.

September 9 (Friday)

Brown Bag Lunch for New Staff and Faculty. A time for guests to meet the Cuninggim Center staff and learn about activities and programs. Men as well as women are invited to bring a lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

September 12 (Monday)

Book Group discusses *The Girls in the Balcony: Women, Men, and the New York Times.* Facilitator is Jane DuBose. New members welcome. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

September 13 (Tuesday)

Artists Reception for Jeannie Rice, Cindy Brown, Jo-El Logiudice, and Lois Stone. 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Show runs through October 13.

September 14 (Wednesday)

Colloquium: Sexism in the Visual Arts given by Vivien Fryd, associate professor of fine arts, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Writers Workshop 5:15 - 7:15 p.m. Also meets September 28.

September 19 (Monday)

Dissertation Writers Organization Meeting. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. First regular meeting September 26. (*More information page seven.*)

September 20 (Tuesday)

Lunchtime Book Review. Cynthia B. Paschal, assistant professor of biomedical engineering and radiology and radiological sciences, reviews *Nobel Prize Women in Science: Their Lives, Struggles, and Momentous Discoveries* by Sharon Bertsch McGrayne. 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

September 27 (Tuesday)

Financial Management on a Shoestring. Cile Matlock shares her experience of learning how investing can be fun even on a small budget. 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Sarratt 205.

Maggie Hadleigh-West, filmmaker and director, "War Zone." Short film documenting one woman's experience with rude language and gestures on the street. Discussion with the filmmaker follows screening. 7:30 p.m. Sarratt Cinema. Free. Co-sponsored by Students for Women's Concerns, Women's Studies, and Sarratt Film Committee. (More information page four.)

September 29 (Thursday)

Advisory Board Meeting, 4:10 to 5:30 p.m., Carmichael Towers East, room 208.



Unless otherwise stated, all programs are held at the Cuninggim Center, Franklin Building, West Side Row. For more information, please call 322-4843.

Summer acquisitions provide a wealth of reading material

Some interesting new books were received during the summer.

Barbara Clarke, Women's Center librarian



Who Stole Feminism? How Women Have Betrayed Women (Simon & Schuster, 1994) is a controversial new book by Christina Hoff Sommers, an associate professor of philosophy at Clark University. Sommers is very critical of many of today's feminists, who portray society as a patriarchy, and women as victims of men's efforts to keep them powerless. The writer challenges many statistics and facts in books by such "gender feminists" as Gloria Steinem and Naomi Wolf, and she wonders why so many feminists want to show men in a bad light. She believes that these writers do not present the views of most women. Sommers thinks that gender feminists "tend to view male/female relations as violent or humiliating to women" and that the women's movement is gravely threatened by the ideologies of such women.

Feminist Perspectives on Eating Disorders (Guilford Press, 1994), edited by Patricia Fallon, Melanie A. Katzman and Susan C. Wooley, is a collection of papers by psychologists, psychiatrists, family therapists and others. The contributors, who include Naomi Wolf, Deborah L. Tolman and Roberta P. Seid, discuss all aspects of eating disorders, including historical perspectives, fashion and advertising, obesity, body image, mother-daughter relationships, sexual abuse, and prevention and treatment.

An addition to our reference collection is *The New Ourselves, Growing Older: Women Aging With Knowledge and Power* (Simon & Schuster, 1994) by Paula B. Doress-Worters and Diana Laskin Siegal. This new edition, published in cooperation with the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, dis-Page 6, *Women's VU*, September 1994

cusses medical, psychological, financial, and other aspects of aging in women.

Second to None: A Documentary History of American Women (University of Nebraska Press, 1993) is a two-volume set edited by Ruth Barnes Moynihan, Cynthia Russett and Laurie Crumpacker. They use mostly original documents — essays, letters, speeches, petitions and diaries — to chronicle the history of American women from the sixteenth century to the present. The authors concentrate on the lives of ordinary women, though the contributions of many well-known women are discussed.

Every Woman's Guide to Financial Security (Capital Publishing, 1994) by Stephen M. Rosenberg and Ann Z. Peterson is a book of practical advice for women. The authors explain why many women feel that they are not financially capable and why it is vital that every woman be knowledgeable and assertive about her finances. Included are a variety of topics: retirement, Social Security, investing, stocks and bonds, saving for college, credit cards, borrowing money, insurance of all types, home owning and renting, and the psychological and financial problems of widows and divorced women.

Gloria Steinem's latest book is *Moving Beyond Words* (Simon & Schuster, 1994). This is a collection of six essays, three of which were published previously in different form. Steinem discusses wealth, economics and women, aging, bodybuilding and advertising. The longest essay is the satirical "What if Freud Were Phyllis?," with an explanation of how Phyllis Freud was born.

Sherrye Henry is the author of *The Deep Divide: Why American Women Resist Equality* (Macmillan, 1994). She describes the Deep Divide as "a self-destructive chasm. . . in mainstream American women between what they believe and how they act on those

beliefs." Henry, a journalist and political commentator who ran unsuccessfully for the New York State Senate in 1990, doubts if women will ever achieve full equality. Women who demand equal opportunity and equal pay "vote against candidates who could bring about those goals, and disavow with a vengeance the forces fighting in their name: 'feminism' and the women's movement." It is much easier to complain about discrimination than to fight against it, and Henry feels that women back away from conflicts that could benefit them but that might upset the men in their lives.

SECOND TO NONE A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF AMERICAN WOMEN VOLUME I, FROM THE 16TH CENTURY TO 1865 Folited by Ruth Barnes Moynihan, Cynthia Russett, & Laurie Crumpacket

Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female With the Mass Media (Random House, 1994) by Susan J. Douglas is a study of the messages girls received from the mass media from the 1950s to the 1980s. Douglas studied movies, television shows, popular music, advertising, and news programs to discover the mixed messages given to young female consumers. She explains how the media helped turn her and others of her generation into feminists, and she shows that women of today have contradictory feelings "because much of the media imagery we grew up with was itself filled with mixed messages about what women should and should not do, what women could and could not be."



MEDICAL CARE* CPIRITUALITY* AWARENESS* LOVE * INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS

Norplant

provides excellent

contraceptive pro-

tection. As with all

birth control meth-

ods, however, it

does have draw-

backs.

Are the benefits worth the risks?

What you should know about Norplant

Deborah Narrigan, assistant professor of the practice of nursing

In the three years since Norplant became available in the U.S., over one million women have chosen this new contraceptive method. The Norplant system requires that six soft, matchstick-size plastic tubes of powdered hormone be put under the skin,

through a 1/4 inch incision. Norplant provides excellent contraception for up to five years.

As with all birth control methods, however, it does have drawbacks. The majority of users experience either spotting or irregular bleeding. An estimated 20 percent of women have Norplant removed in the first year of use, according to an article in the July

8, 1994, New York Times. This proportion of women changing method compares favorably with other methods. For example among birth control pill users, an estimated 40-50 percent stop taking pills by the end of the first year of use. What is significant about choosing to stop using Norplant is that for a small proportion of users, Norplant removal is turning out to be a more complicated procedure than expected.

Two problems can cause difficult Norplant removal. First, the depth of the capsule insertion is critical. If a capsule is placed too deeply, it can be difficult to remove. The second problem is that scar tissue may develop around one or more of the capsules. So far, there is no way to predict or prevent scar development. The capsules can always be removed, but the degree of technical difficulty is hard to predict. Wyeth Ayerst, the company producing Norplant, estimates that difficult removal occurs for only about 6 percent of users. Some users contend, however, that removal has had

serious problems. The *New York Times* article reports that a class action law suit has recently been filed on behalf of 400 women claiming "severe pain and scarring" related to removal.

Although removal may be a problem for a small number of users, Norplant can be a good contraceptive choice. The following suggestions may help women seeking Norplant to

minimize problems:

1. Before having Norplant inserted, be sure to discuss all questions with a health care provider.

2. Read about Norplant, preferably not only in pamphlets produced by the company marketing it, but from a source such as *The New Our Bodies*, *Ourselves*, to insure a balanced view of information.

3. Ask the practitioner or doctor who will do the insertion how many Norplant insertions she has done; how many removals, and what types of problems have been encountered. (Physicians and nurse practitioners are not required, but strongly encouraged, to have training and at least 10

supervised insertions before offering this service.)

4. Because some providers only learned insertion, be sure to find out what clinic or provider is available to you for removal.

Students considering Norplant can call the Student Health Service, 2-2474. Students deciding to use Norplant are then referred to the Vanderbilt Ob/Gyn Clinic. Faculty and staff can call the clinic at 2-6173 for an appointment for Norplant counseling, insertion, or removal.

Planned Parenthood of Middle Tennessee, phone 327-1066, also provides Norplant services. The fee for insertion is \$350 for the Norplant and \$150 for the procedure. Removal cost is \$160. Although most insurance plans cover the cost of all Norplant care, it is best to check your policy.

Dissertation Writers Group for women

Dissertation Writers Organizational Meeting on Monday, September 19, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Cuninggim Center.

The women's center sponsors a Dissertation Writers Group which provides problem solving, trouble shooting, and moral support for women at the proposal stage and beyond. The group is organized at the beginning of each semester; no additional participants are admitted after the first meeting each term.

Interested women in any school or discipline are invited to attend this planning session. New members should bring a synopsis of their proposal with name, campus and/or home address, and phone number(s). At the organizational session dates will be set for fall term meetings. Two or more sections will be established if the number of participants warrants. Nancy Ransom, director of the Cuninggim Center, facilitates.

If you cannot attend the reorganization meeting but wish to be included, please call 322-4843.

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Announcements

Conference

From Affirmation to Advocacy, The Third Annual Conference Recognizing the Needs of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth, has been rescheduled for Friday, September 23, 1994, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Tennessee State University Avon Williams Campus, third floor. For more information, call Planned Parenthood of Middle Tennessee at 356-5326.

Volunteer Opportunities

Women Helping Women through Decisions. Women volunteers (faculty, staff, and students) are needed for a course in positive decision-making and life-planning skills at the Tennessee Women's Prison and the Metropolitan Davidson County Jail (Women's Unit). Would you work one-on-one with a prisoner-partner for an hour weekly during the 8-week

course, September 19 to November 14? Volunteer training is scheduled for September 10-11. For information, call Candy Markman at 783-0271.

Oasis Center, Inc., the only Middle Tennessee emergency shelter for teens in trouble, burned in July. There are many volunteer opportunities and ways of contributing to the rebuilding of this important service to teens, the majority of whom are young women. For more information call Lisa Cates, volunteer coordinator, at 327-4455.

Call for Papers

The American Association of University Women's 1995 symposium, Achieving Gender Equity in the Classroom and on the Campus — The Next Steps, will focus on current research and programming that have proven successful in advancing the education of girls and women in K-12 and higher education. AAUW seeks proposals for presentations that will

address advancing the status of women as employees in public and higher education, achieving equity for women and girls in kindergarten through graduate school, and fostering a woman/girl-friendly campus and school climate. Proposals must be postmarked by Sept. 20, 1994. Forms are available at the women's center.

Discussion group at the women's center

A group of women have been meeting weekly at the women's center each Tuesday from noon until 1:00 p.m. This is a continuation of the discussion started last spring in the workshops led by Lynne Hays on "Creative Life Planning: What Kind of an Old Person Do You Want to Be." Some future ideas for discussion are preparing your genealogy, aging parents, career changes, and an overnight retreat in October. New members are welcome any Tuesday.



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Women's VU

Subscription information: return this form or call the Women's Center at Ph (615) 322-4843, Fax (615) 343-0940.

Newsletters (published monthly except July and August) are sent free upon request to all students and contributors. Faculty and staff subscriptions are free to a campus address.

A yearly subscription to off-campus addresses is \$8.00. Please make checks payable to Vanderbilt University.

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