



WOMEN'S VU

October 2003
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 VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Celebrate! Empowering Women for over 25 years!

A CALL TO ACTION

by Sandra Harrell, Co-Director of Project Safe

"Our little skirmishing for better laws, and the right to vote, will yet be swallowed up on the real question, viz: Has a woman a right to herself?" Lucy Stone, 1855

"For as my heart swells with pride to behold woman in the highest walks of literature and art, it grows big enough to take in those who are bleeding in the dust." Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1860

In the 22 years since the first nationwide Domestic Violence Awareness effort, the movement to end violence against women has seen legislation enacted, police protocols redesigned, and shelters erected. Across the country, advocates have joined government officials, corporations, churches, and hospitals to raise awareness and provide education about domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Slowly but steadily, we are chipping away at the silence and shame that have prevented so many women from seeking help. Slowly but steadily, we are changing the way friends, family members, ministers, and colleagues respond to victims of gender-biased crimes. Yet, there is more to be done.

We have an obligation to do more than create services for victims of violent crimes. It is not enough to erect a shelter where women may find respite if we leave the rest of the world unchanged. She will, after all, eventually have to return to that world. Nor is it enough to give women one night a year during which they can feel safe walking at night. That night will be followed by another and she will again be looking over her shoulder, clutching her keys between her fingers, feeling her heart race as she leaves the safety of the light. It is not enough to fund counseling and therapy services that offer women empowerment if that empowerment can only exist within the context of those services. True empowerment requires that our institutions, our traditions, our culture repudiate their legacies of oppression and begin to work toward equality. And we are not simply talking about equality of the sexes, for that cannot exist as long as racism exists, as long as classism exists, or as long as heterosexism exists. We must be willing to challenge all of these if we hope to end violence against women.

And we certainly do hope to end violence against women. As we organize our *6th Annual Take Back*

"If you love equality, if you believe in it, if it is the way you want to live, if equality is what you want and what you care about, then you have to fight for the institutions that will make it socially real."

Andrea Dworkin, "I want a Twenty-Four Hour-Truce During Which There is No Rape," 1984

the Night March, it is with an eye on taking back every night, and every day, and every home. This year's march symbolizes our collective rejection of the status quo. We are no longer satisfied with an increased awareness about gender-biased crimes if it only lasts a day, or a week, or a month. We are no longer satisfied with temporary refuge from an otherwise hostile world. We want to change the world and we hope you will join us.

Violence against women is not a natural, unchangeable occurrence to which we simply need to adjust our lives and the length of our skirts. It is the result of a *continued on page 2*

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Show your support! Details on page 5

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A Call to Action

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culture that degrades women, nourished by silence, victim-blaming and myths, feeding on homophobia, racism, sexism, and classism. If we change that culture, we can stop the violence. And before you throw up your hands and exclaim that we ask too much, that the task is too large, try to remember the women who are dying — whether physically or spiritually — every few seconds in Nashville, in Tennessee, in the United States. Remember them and join our efforts.



Let YOUR Voice be Heard!

As always, we welcome volunteers to assist us with programming, flyer design, receptions and bulk mailings. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents at the Women's Center, please call 322-4843. We'd love to have you!

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You still have a
voice...

Project Safe offers support groups for members of the Vanderbilt community who have experienced domestic, dating or sexual violence.

The group for students meets every Monday at 8pm in a confidential location.

The group for faculty/staff meets every Wednesday at 11 am in a confidential location.

For more information, students should contact 322-1333 and faculty/staff should contact 322-3774.



The Women's Center would like to say goodbye to one of our own this month. **Gladys Holt**, our beloved office manager, has left to be closer to her family in Washington, DC. She was a very active voice here at the Women's Center and in her tenure was involved in many aspects of our programming as well as lending her talents to committees here at Vanderbilt, including membership in the Association of Black Faculty and Staff and

the University Staff Council. We will miss her dearly and wish her every happiness. A few staff members share their thoughts of our Gladys:

Gladys brought to the Women's Center a desire to spread her own inner beauty to the rest of the world and a spirit of inquiry that only increased with years. I will miss our vigorous debates and being greeted with her radiant smile, but I take heart in knowing that she is spreading her special brand of feminism wherever she goes.

Thanks for everything, Gladys! Love, Sandra

Gladys is an incredible woman and is truly missed by many of us. She has impacted our lives in ways she will never know. Thank you to a wonderful person, friend and co-worker. May you achieve all that you aspire to be and may the world bless you in the way you bless others.

Vicky

Gladys will be greatly missed. She not only contributed a vast knowledge of Vanderbilt, the Women's Center, and all of their operations, but a profound joy in interacting with the people here. Gladys is always willing to give her honest opinion, and helped to the end even with less than glamorous tasks.

Jennifer

Gladys, we can never thank you enough for your many and varied contributions to the Women's Center. And I can never thank you enough for keeping me sane and taking such good care of me every day. Most of all, I will never forget your deep faith and the way you walk your talk. You inspire me and I miss you terribly!

Much love, Linda

We miss you and wish you well.

CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF EMPOWERING WOMEN!

This year, the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its founding. In addition to celebrating, we are reflecting on the people and events of the past that brought us here, as well as the mission and goals that will guide us in the years ahead. The undergraduate students attending Vanderbilt this year had not yet been born when the Women's Center opened its doors in November of 1978. Nancy Ransom, the Founding Director of the Center, began with a one-room office on West Side Row. Today our staff of eleven occupies (and fills to overflowing) the entire Franklin Building, and our programs and services have increased dramatically since those early days. Lectures, workshops, the library, a monthly newsletter, art exhibits, awards programs, and on-going groups and trainings highlight the opportunities and challenges facing women today, encourage campus discussion of gender-related issues, and promote social justice and cultural change.



This year, in celebration of our 25th year, we have unveiled a new logo and a redesigned newsletter, and we are sponsoring a very special group of articles, speakers and events. There is an African proverb that states, "*You can't know where you are going if you don't know where you have been.*" We know that we stand on the shoulders of very special women, and their male allies, who worked hard before the Center began, and in the first years of its existence, to examine the needs and concerns of all women on campus and to propose, create, and grow a Women's Center to address them. In the pages of this newsletter, and during special events this Fall, we will recognize, thank and celebrate these *Founding Mothers*.

Come and celebrate with us!

A distinguished series of speakers will help us celebrate throughout the year. We began the celebration last month with **Naomi Tutu's** talk on "*Leadership for the New Millennium: Power and Privilege.*" On February 26th, renowned artist, author, feminist, educator and intellectual, **Judy Chicago**, will speak as part of the Chancellor's

Lecture Series and the *At Home Project* exhibit will open in the Sarratt Gallery. On March 19th and 20th, **Judith Jordan**, co-director of the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute and Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, and **Maureen Walker**, faculty member at JBMTI and Psychologist, Harvard Business School, will present a day and a half conference on Feminist Psychology. Come and join us for these very special events!

The Center welcomes all women *and men* who would like to participate in its programs. We also want to hear your suggestions for future directions. Call, write, or visit us and add your input. We want to include your voice as we plan for the next twenty-five years of empowering women at Vanderbilt.

--Dr. Linda Manning, Director

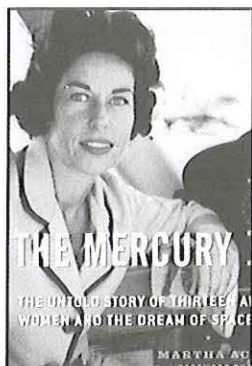
Breaking News...

Project Safe's Violence Against Women Task Force, founded in 1999 by Dr. Linda Manning and co-chaired by **Sandra Harrell** and **Vicky Basra**, has been chosen by the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence as the 2003 recipient of the **County Team Award**. This award is given annually to an outstanding Domestic Violence Community Task Force that has effectively demonstrated a coordinated effort, resulting in improved services for victims of domestic violence. Sandra Harrell and Vicky Basra will be attending the TCADSV's 2003 Gala Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on October 17th to accept the award.

Congratulations Project Safe! Congrats to Sandra and Vicky for all their hard work!



Sex Discrimination and NASA: A new book reveals women's pursuit of space travel



closed to women until 1974.

In *The Mercury 13: The Untold Story of Thirteen American Women and the Dream of Space Flight* (Random House, 2003) Martha Ackmann chronicles the fascinating but little-known history of thirteen talented women who were qualified to become astronauts but who were prevented from going into space by the sexism prevalent at that time. Randy Lovelace, a physician with a clinic in Albuquerque, had been chosen by NASA to test the original seven Mercury astronauts. He and Air Force Brigadier General Donald Flickinger visited Russia in 1959 and discovered that there was less prejudice toward women there and that the country would probably soon send women into space.

Lovelace and Flickinger decided to test whether women were physically and psychologically suitable for space. Though both men were on NASA's Special Committee on Life Sciences, this was an independent experiment as NASA was officially not interested in female astronauts. Thirteen highly qualified women were selected; all were experienced pilots and one had been a Women's Airforce Service Pilot in World War II. Jerrie Cobb, the first woman tested at the Lovelace Foundation in February 1960, surpassed some of the male astronauts' scores in the tests. The oldest of the thirteen was 40-year-old helicopter pilot, Janey Hart, wife of a U.S. senator and mother of eight. In 1961 the other twelve pilots underwent the first two series of medical and psychological examinations and a number of them scored even higher than Jerrie Cobb.

Ackmann, a senior lecturer in women's studies at Mount Holyoke College, has researched the topic thoroughly. She remarks that "As many Lovelace Foundation physicians later observed, the tests of women pilots in 1960 and 1961 were among the first comprehensive medical exams ever performed on *healthy* women." While the tests were conducted in secret, news of them filtered out to the public from time to time, and a few articles appeared in the press. The only scientific article ever published on the tests appeared in 1964. For some years many of the women did not even know the names of all other twelve participants.

Jerrie Cobb was the only one of the women who underwent (and passed) ten days of testing at the U.S. Naval School of Aviation Medicine in Pensacola, Florida. Scheduled tests for the other women were canceled by the Navy at NASA's suggestion. Through Janey Hart's Washington connections, she and Jerrie Cobb met with Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who was firmly against sending women into space and whose written response was "Let's Stop This Now!" In July 1962 the House Committee on Science and Astronautics conducted hearings to investigate allegations of discrimination against women in the space program and concluded that the program of male-only astronauts should continue for the present.

When Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space in June 1963 NASA dismissed it as a publicity stunt. Another blow to the female astronaut program came with the death of Randy Lovelace in December 1965. While nothing tangible seemed to have resulted from the tests the thirteen women had undergone, many did not give up their dream of eventually going into space and of achieving equality with men. Betty Friedan contacted Janey Hart, who became a member of the National Organization for Women's first national board in 1966. One of NOW's first actions was the filing of a formal complaint charging NASA with sex discrimination.

The climate for women and minorities was changing and in 1978, six women were among the thirty-five new astronauts presented to the public. It was not until June 1983 that Sally Ride became the first American woman in space; Janey Hart was at Cape Canaveral to watch her take off. Many of the surviving Mercury 13 women were pressing for a female space shuttle commander and were delighted when it was announced in 1998 that Eileen Collins would be the commander of a space mission. The Mercury 13 felt that they finally had cause for celebration and gathered in Oklahoma City to celebrate their accomplishments and to honor Collins. She invited the older women to be her personal guests at liftoff, which took place in July 1999, nearly forty years after Jerrie Cobb passed her first series of tests in Albuquerque. Watching the launch was 68-year-old Cobb, by then the subject of a "Send Jerrie into Space" campaign, which was inspired by the space flight of the elderly John Glenn. Cobb was still lobbying for her ride into space.

Other new acquisitions include: *Built to Win: The Female Athlete as Cultural Icon* by Leslie Heywood & Shari L. Dworkin and *Chicana Feminisms: A Critical Reader* edited by Gabriela F. Arredondo and others.





Calendar of Events October 2003

PLEASE SAVE AND POST

Unless otherwise indicated, all groups are open to all people and are held at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center at 316 West Side Row on Vanderbilt University's Campus.

For directions, please consult the map at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter/contact.html>. For more information, please call 322-4843.



Vanderbilt Feminists (Vandy Fems)

When: Wednesdays in October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (Meets every Wed. at 5pm)

Who: Specifically for undergraduates (women and men), but open to all.

What: An undergraduate student group concerned about women's issues on campus and promoting equality between genders.

Contact Jessica.n.heaven@vanderbilt.edu or Jessica.l.bearden@vanderbilt.edu for more information or just come to a meeting!



Work to End Domestic Violence Day

When: October 1

What: Vanderbilt faculty and staff are invited to wear purple ribbons to demonstrate their support for ending domestic violence. Ribbons can be picked up at Project Safe or you can call our office for delivery at 322-1333 or 322-3774.

W.E.B.S. (Women Empowered By Sports) presents GOLF

When: Thursdays in October, 2, 9, 16.

The lesson on the 2nd will be at 6:00pm and the 9th and 16th will be at 1:30pm.

You must be able to attend all sessions in order to sign up for this WEBS program.

Where: The first session will be held at the Women's Center, the second at the driving range and the last session at a golf course. Transportation can be provided from campus if you need it.

Who: It is open to ALL WOMEN in the Vanderbilt and larger communities.

What: This program is especially for women who are at a basic skill level who want to learn the game in a safe, non-competitive environment. Opportunities will be made to connect with others at your same skill level after this section of WEBS is finished. Our first sport is **GOLF**. **You must sign up for WEBS this year.** First come, first served. There is no fee to you to learn golf. To sign up or for more info, please contact Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu or call 322-6518.

Women's Consciousness Raising Group

When: Monday, October 6, 6:30pm

(Meets the first Monday of every month,

time to be determined by the group).

Who: A progressive women's discussion group open to faculty, staff, graduate students and community members.

What: This first meeting will be to discuss the plans of the group for the year. This group offers an opportunity to express your views in a supportive community and take part in a monthly activism experience if you so choose. Monthly topics are chosen by consensus and could include: feminism, war, poverty, hunger, sexuality, etc.

Bring a brown bag dinner if you choose, drinks are provided. Contact Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu or 322-6518 for more information.



Candlelight Vigil

When: October 6 at 6:30 pm

What: Sponsored by Soroptimist International of Music City, the YWCA, Project Safe, and various community service providers. The vigil will be held at the Shepherd's Center in the St. Joseph Catholic Community Building on Gallatin Road.

The ABCs of Car Maintenance Goes Hands On!

When: Tuesday, October 7 at 5:15-7:00pm

Where: Terrace Place garage (visit: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/map> for exact location of the garage.)

What: This very popular annual program is allowing you to **bring your own car** this year! The class is free and open to only the first 12 people who sign up. Learn the basics of car maintenance and repair, while looking under your own hood!

Who: The program is open to everyone in the Vanderbilt and larger communities. RSVP to Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu. This class ALWAYS fills up, so reserve now!

Creative Life Planning Group

When: Tuesdays in October at 12:00noon-1:00 pm (Meets every Tuesday).

Who: A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Open to every-

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October 2003

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one in the community and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90 years of age.

What:

October 7

October 14

October 21

October 28

Call 322-4843 for more details!

Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day



When: October 8

Look for our display boards throughout the Vanderbilt University Medical Center!

Twin Oaks Intentional Living Community

When: Wednesday, October 8, 5pm

What: "Twin Oaks works against sexism on many levels. This involves non-traditional work roles and our egalitarian principle of valuing all work equally (i.e. one hour of business management is valued the same as one hour of child care), intentional use of gender-neutral language, and our non-traditional sense of fashion. We embrace women's groups, women-only space, and new relationship models. One of the things most demonstrative of our differences from mainstream culture is that women here feel comfortable walking alone on dark paths in the middle of the night."

Who: This event is co-sponsored by the Vandy Fems. Everyone is welcome to come and hear a speaker from this community discuss a non-mainstream way of living.

Contact Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu or 322-6518 for more information.

Vandy Working Moms

When: Thursday, October 9 and 23 @ 11:30-12:30pm (Meets the second and fourth Thursdays)

Who: Working Moms of any age! Women who juggle! Superheroes! Open to all working mothers, partnered or single.

What: A support network that provides advocacy for working moms in the Vanderbilt and larger communities. It also provides programming to inform, empower and enrich. The meeting on the 9th will feature Susan Caro, MSN, RNC, Director, Family Cancer Risk Service at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center who will speak about "Breast Cancer Awareness." VICC will provide lunch. To RSVP, contact misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu or call 343-4367.

Book Group

When: Monday, October 13 @ 5:15-6:15 pm (Meets the 2nd Monday).

Who: This is a group for anyone of any age who loves to read.

What: This month's book is *Otherwise: New and Selected Poems* by Jane Kenyon and discussion will be facilitated by Carmen Gherman. For more information, contact Jane Du Bose at jdubose@bellsouth.net Look on our website for upcoming books under the book group at www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

World on Wednesday-- Violence Against Women in Context

When: October 15, 12:10-1pm

Where: Sarratt Student Center, Room 189.

What: Sandra Harrell, co-director of Project Safe, will discuss the intersectionality of violence against women. World on Wednesday is sponsored by the International Students and Scholars Services Office.

Women and Poetry

When: Tuesday, October 14 @ 5:15 - 6:15 pm (Meets the 2nd Tuesday).

Who: A group for all who are interested in poetry.

What: This meeting will be dedicated to planning the future of the group. Contact Linda.Manning@vanderbilt.edu for more information.

Waves of Feminism

When: Wednesday, October 15 from 12:10-1:00pm

Where: Divinity School, Ground level, room G-23.

What: A discussion of feminism from its origins to the present and what it means for us today.

Who: Open to everyone in the Vanderbilt and the larger Nashville community. Co-Sponsored by the Vanderbilt Divinity School Office of Women's Concerns.

Contact Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu for more info.

Living with Loss

When: Wednesday, October 15th 12noon-1pm (Meets the 3rd Wednesday)

Who: Open to all members of the Vanderbilt and larger communities. Dr. Linda Manning, Director of the Women's Center and Shelly Sowell, Human Development Counseling Masters Candidate will facilitate this discussion.

What: This is a monthly lunch group for those who have lost loved ones. Bring a brown bag lunch; drinks are provided. For more information, contact shelly.sowell@vanderbilt.edu

Reading Sisters

When: Thursday, October 16 @ 12:30pm - 1:30pm (Meets the 3rd Thursday)

Who: A book group for everyone interested in reading African-

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American women authors.

What: This month the group will be reading *Water Marked* by Helen Elaine Lee. Contact Angela.D.Davis@vanderbilt.edu for more information.

Real Women Have Curves!

When: Tuesday and Wednesday, October 21 and 22 at 7 and 9 pm. Tickets are \$5/Students \$3.

Where: Sarratt Cinema (go to <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/map> for an exact location)

Who: Open to everyone in the Vanderbilt and the larger Nashville community. Stop by the Women's Center for a free ticket!

What: This independent movie was one of last year's indy hits. This movie looks at a variety of cultural issues. Contact Sarratt Welcome Desk at 322-2425.

Take Back the Night

When: Monday, October 27th, 7pm

Where: March from Olin Field across from the VU baseball field to the covered shelter in Centennial Park.

Who: Open to all members of the Vanderbilt and larger communities.
What: TBTN is a night of healing, a community rally and march against domestic and sexual violence. We will begin at Olin Field with stories from survivors of violence. After marching to Centennial Park, we will have an open mike for anyone who cares to share their own story of healing. Please join Project Safe, the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, the Vanderbilt Feminists, Alpha Chi Omega, Vanderbilt's Women's Studies Program, the Vanderbilt Divinity School Office of Women's Concerns, the YWCA of Nashville, Belmont University, Fisk University, UT College of Social Work, and TSU for an evening of healing and empowerment. Shuttle services will be provided.

For more information, please contact Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu or 322-6518 or call Project Safe at 322-1333 or 322-3774 if you have any questions or wish to become involved with any of our Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities.

(Newly forming) Creative Writing Group

When: Tuesday, October 28, 5:30pm

Who: Calling all writers of all ages! We are forming a new creative writers group. This group will take new members only until the January meeting, at which time it will become closed. No previous writing experience necessary! Everyone is welcome to come and discover the writer inside them.

What: For more information, contact Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu or 322-6518.

Witches and Misogyny

with Kelly Kaufman, Gary Jenson, Melinda Brown and Laura Miller

When: Wednesday, October 29, 12:10-1:00

Where: Divinity G-23

What: This discussion will be a revealing one about actual witches, their origins, and their enemies. Free and open to everyone in the Vanderbilt and the larger Nashville community. This program is co-sponsored by the Vanderbilt Divinity Office of Women's Concerns. Contact Dana.Irwin@vanderbilt.edu for more information.

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Women's Health Matters

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center has planned a series of events marking October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. These events can be viewed on their website at www.vicc.org under the **Women's Health Forum**. A few of the topics include:

Friday, October 10th, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm: "Mothers and Daughters: Coping with Breast Cancer Risk and Breast Cancer;"

Sunday, October 12th, 2pm to 5 pm, The Nashville Chapter of Sisters Network presents "A Fortress of Hope"

to raise awareness of the impact that breast cancer has in the African American community. Please call (615) 299-5574 for more information.

Tuesday, October 21st, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm: "The ABC's of HRT: What does the latest news mean to you?" The topic of hormone replacement and breast cancer risk will be discussed.

These are just a few of the many events going on all month long. For more information, please call (615) 936-1782.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The American Cancer Society is taking registrations for its annual **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk** on **October 4, 2003**. For more information, please call (615) 341-7323 or makingstridesnashville@cancer.org.

Nashville NOW (National Organization for Women) is having their annual statewide conference on **October 10 and 11**. This year's theme is "Young Feminists Take Action!" For more information, please contact Cynthia Bennett at TennesseeNOW@comcast.net

Vanderbilt University will hold its **17th Annual Affirmative Action & Diversity Initiative Awards** on **Tuesday, October 14**, in the Branscomb South Dining Room at 3 pm. The Awards are designed to recognize members of the Vanderbilt community who have displayed an extraordinary dedication to affirmative action. For more information, or to make a nomination, please call the Opportunity Development Center at 322-4705 or visit the website at www.vanderbilt.edu/odc

October 23, 2003: National Young Women's Day of Action: Take Back the Vote! The 2003 National Young Women's Day of Action is a call for women to unite in solidarity, across movements, to feel our power and secure our freedom. For eleven years, young women across the country have organized around issues of reproductive and sexual freedom, racial and economic justice, and to end violence against women. On October 23, women and girls across the country can participate in a massive movement for voter education, registration, mobilization and action. In preparation for the 2004 elections, young women and girls will be organizing around everything from voter registration to youth suffrage. To receive a Day of Action Organizer's Guide or for more information on planning an event, please contact: The Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at (413) 559-5506 Fax: (413)559-6045 or e-mail nywda@hampshire.edu http://clpp.hampshire.edu/national_young_womens_day.htm

The **12th Annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure** will take place **November 2, 2003**. For registration information, please visit their website at <http://komen-nashville.org/race2003.php#top>.



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