

# WOMEN'S V

September 2003 Volume XXVI, Issue 1

Naomi Tutu



Celebrate! Empowering Women for over 25 years!

# CELEBRATED EDUCATOR NAOMI TUTU TO SPEAK SEPTEMBER 23

Naomi Tutu, the third child of Desmond and Nomalizo Tutu, will be on Vanderbilt campus to speak on the topic of "Women and Leadership in the New Millennium: Privilege and Peace." Of this topic she writes:

"The 21st century is upon us and yet our leadership paradigms have barely changed since the days of Machiavelli. The dominant form of leadership is one that is conflict-driven. It seems that people always need to identify an "enemy" in order to feel united as social groups and nations. If we have an "other" from whom we can differentiate ourselves who "threatens" our way of life, we experience an illusion of safety and superiority. We are killing ourselves and our planet and yet, there is another way. It is time to examine a new form of leadership that integrates and values the experiences of all people, from both genders. The call is coming from all over for women to rise up to add their perspective

Ms. Tutu has worked tirelessly for many years as a consultant active in providing educational and professional opportunities for black women in South Africa. She has worked on several college campuses as an educator on gender issues and diversity, including a tenure as program coordinator for the Race Relations Institute at Fisk University. Since 1979, she has travelled the country as a celebrated speaker and educator, promoting diversity and women's issues. More details on page 6.

### WIDOW INHERITANCE AND THE AIDS CRISIS

toward a new way to achieve peace in the world and in our daily lives."

by J.D. Rush

Gorewty Ouko is early—not an easy feat in Kenya.. Lack of quality transportation and extreme poverty won't allow it to be.

As the 58-year-old Luo woman nervously fingers her handbag, her opal eyes shift to reveal a vast range of emotions from unsure to terrified to uninhibited and proud. As it turns out, Ouko is quite realistic and straightforward about her country's AIDS pandemic.

"I am HIV positive," says Ouko as her eyes now fixate. "My husband died in 1997. Luo custom says you have to be inherited, but I've decided to stay alone."

To clarify, wife inheritance is a widely accepted African custom, originally conceived by communities as a means of protecting widowed women and their children. After a husband dies, the widow is "inherited" by a male member of the deceased's family, preferably a young brother-in-law, and is thus provided for.

In Ouka's tribe, located in Mbita town in Western Kenya's Nyanza

Province, the act was once a test of manhood. Oftentimes, if a widow had no inheritor in continued on page 2

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September 15th is "Love your Body" Day ! Celebrate with us, details on page 5

## In the Gallery

#### Artist Nanette Bahlinger Opens The Women's Center Fall 2003 Season

Artist Nanette Bahlinger, opens our season with an insightful and unusual series of work called "Idle Tension," which explores the relationship between words and maps. Ms. Bahlinger shares this statement about her work:

> 'Idle Tension describes the recurring feeling I have of moving in place, but going nowhere. In a broader context, the homophones, Idol Tension' and Idyll Tension,' describe certain aspects of life in the United States."

Ms. Bahlinger's artwork will be exhibited in the Women's Center gallery from September 16 through October 29. The Women's

Center will host an artist reception on Tues., Sept. 16, from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information, please refer to our events calendar on page 5 for details or call 322-

A native Louisianian, Nanette Bahlinger has lived in Nashville for eight years. After graduating from LSU with a BFA, she worked in art galleries and museums before moving to Germany for a year. There she picked grapes and embarked on a six-week solo bike ride across France. She returned to the U.S. to live in south Georgia where,

among other positions, she worked as Curator of Education at the Jekyll Island Museum. Most recently

settled in



Artist Nanette Bahlinger

Nashville to return to school. She earned her M.T.S. from Vanderbilt in 1998 and now works as a meeting planner in the Vanderbilt Division of CME. In her free time she volunteers for the local anti-death penalty organization, T.C.A.S.K.

#### 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!

Women's VU is published monthly September through June at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

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## Widow Inheritance and the Spread of AIDS

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inheritor in line, a man from the community was expected to hang a piece of clothing in the bereaved house. This act symbolized the claimed responsibility for the burdened woman, even without sexual contact.

But now, in the midst of ballooning HIV rates, this practice has become more of a deadly infringement of women's rights. Some women end up inherited several times. Each time a husband dies of AIDS, or any other illness, his relatives arrive after the funeral to claim their new "property" and this time, her sexual rights are in the contract.

"It was not always like this. My culture used to have virtues," Ouka says. "For example, you couldn't play sex before you were married—now everyone moves about. They say they are more 'civilized'.'

"Civilized?" Asks Magdaline Ouma, a passionate nurse in charge of administering HIV tests and family counseling with Akado Women's Community Center in Mbita.

The fellow Luo woman shakes her head and sighs, "Wife inheritance has become more like prosti-

tution. It's just someone eyeing what you have-sexually and materially. I even have some cases now where the men just steal their property and go. You call that civilized?"

Generational or not, the facts are staggering. At the end of 2000, the Kenyan Ministry of Health estimated that there were 2.2 million people living with HIV infection or AIDS. About two million of those were HIV-positive, but did not know they were infected, and were therefore probably helping to spread the virus.

While overall numbers of HIVpositive males and females are about equal, women between 15 and 24 are more than twice as likely to be infected as males in the same age group. A study conducted in Kisumu, western Kenya, found that girls from 15 to 19 years old were about six times more likely to be infected than boys.

Medical studies have also shown that women are three times more likely than men to be infected through sexual intercourse because the vaginal wall is prone to sores and continued on page 3 abrasion and

#### Widow Inheritance and the Spread of AIDS

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the viral load in semen is higher than that in vaginal fluid.

The frightening end result to all of this, according to UNAids, is that many more women will die from the disease than men in the next ten years, creating an unprecedented gender imbalance, which could, in turn, lead to further abuse of Kenyan women in an already crippling patriarchal society.

"Women are the breadwinners here," says Akado's Oumo. "They'll do quite well in this society with a bit of empowerment. They do most of the work anyway and they think of their children first, not the future of themselves. They just aren't aware they can say 'no."

But saying "no" is not always an option. In Gorewety Ouko's case—the virus was not contracted by inheritance but rather her husband's unfaithfulness. After realizing his wandering ways, she voiced her concern by giving a brave ultimatum—sex outside the marriage means no sex with her. So her husband withheld money in return.

"A wife is a wife. You can't give your husband advice," says Ouko as she nervously wrings her hands. "I was just quiet because I knew God was with me."

But the disheartening evidence is if inheritance or unfaithfulness don't spread the disease, many other cultural factors that harbor HIV will. For example, in Luo culture, polygamy runs rampant and is even endorsed as a status symbol amongst men. Plus in Ouko's village, which is located next to Lake Victoria, fishermen often force local women to engage in sex before they'll even sell fish necessary for the woman's survival. And, although it isn't talked about, many widows are still forced to participate in supervised cleansing rituals. In Luo land, most women must have sex with a stranger before they can even re-marry.

Also, since the Luo take great

measures to uphold tradition, families will often hire "professional inheritors" (mostly stragglers from the beaches who are sick themselves) to inherit widows who are believed to be unhealthy—or bewitched as they say. In fact, most communities wholeheartedly believe that AIDS is a form of witchcraft.

"They don't want you," says Ouko.
"They won't eat the food from your garden. They leave you alone to die and they won't even bury you. You

"The frightening end result to all of this, according to UNAids, is that many more women will die from the disease than men in the next ten years, creating an unprecedented gender imbalance, which could, in turn, lead to further abuse of Kenyan women in an already crippling patriarchal society."

are helpless."

This mentality is most perplexing considering the vast amounts of money pumped into scores of anti-AIDS NGOs in Kenya over the past 20 years. Most are plagued by mismanagement, embezzlement of funds, duplicity of duties and fixation with urban seminars and high-profile meetings. Very few look seriously into the plight of AIDS or its patients.

"The people here know about HIV," says U.S. Peace Corps volunteer and local AIDS educator Jaime Richardson. "They know more than I do. Most just aren't willing to change their behavior."

"What little progress that happens is very slow," says Akado's Oumo. "I go to the same beaches I went to seven years ago and not much has changed. But I feel that something is coming, inheritance is becoming less rampant. I look for women to rise up."

And it seems as though more options are slowly appearing. Many widows are beginning to band together forming support groups, compiling skills and working together to survive in a community that has ousted them.



Gorewety Ouko

Ouko, for instance, belongs to a group of eight other widows all faced with similar problems. To support herself,

Ouko travels to neighboring Cindo to buy maize with a donkey she managed to keep after her husband's death. She then sells the grain at the local market in Mbita along with some homemade charcoal. Whatever profit she or the other widows make, they pool together and try to go on as best as possible.

"I leave everything before God," says Ouko as she seems to finally settle into her body and get comfortable. She smiles revealing the dark gap where her six bottom teeth used to be—a sign of beauty amongst the Luo. "The same people that wanted me to re-marry are now telling me I did a good thing. Now other women are chasing husbands away, too. Because of my example, they changed. But, I know that God is the help of the people in this world—that's why I'm still alive."

m

Jeremy Rush is a recent graduate of MTSU, majoring in journalism. Rush would like to use his skills to be a part of the new freedom of the press in East Africa. This article was written about his experiences in Kenya, his trip partially sponsored by the Women's Center as he was interested in writing about the plight of women. Mr. Rush has several more articles soon to be published. He can be reached at jdr2d@hotmail.com.

# IN THE LIBRARY

# BARBARA CLARKE

Women's Center Librarian





# A new biography of Zora Neale Hurston sheds new light on a unique life

Wrapped in Rainbows: the Life of Zora Neale Hurston (Scribner, 2003) is the first biography of the

notable writer to be published in over twenty-five years. The biographer, Valerie Boyd, is an Atlanta-based journalist who has produced a comprehensive and engrossing volume. "Wrapped in rainbows" is a phrase taken from Hurston's 1942 autobiography, *Dust Tracks on a Road*.

Uncovering all the facts of the writer's fascinating life is not easy as Hurston tended to be "creative" with the truth. She was born in 1891 in the small Alabama town of Notasulga and moved with her family to the all-black Florida town of Eatonville when she was about a year old. She always considered Eatonville to be home and always gave it as her birthplace.

Hurston had a fairly happy childhood but was just thirteen when her mother died. This tragedy marked the end of the stability in Hurston's life. Her father, a minister with eight surviving children, married a young woman of twenty less than five months after the death of his first wife. The new wife did not care for the role of stepmother and the family broke up. From then onwards, Zora seemed to be constantly on the move, rarely living in the same place for long.

As a poor young woman of twentysix in Baltimore she told school officials that she was sixteen in order to qualify for free schooling. After that deception Hurston never admitted her true age and used a variety of different birth dates. In her autobiography, in order to disguise her age, she was vague about early dates and details; she also altered the chronology and omitted some important details.

Hurston had always loved books and was finally able to pursue a college education after finishing high school in Baltimore. She was thrilled to be admitted to Howard University in 1919 and later to Barnard College in New York, where she was the only black student. After graduating from Barnard she began graduate study at Columbia University under the guidance of noted anthropologist, Franz Boas. He encouraged her interest in black folklore and she traveled around the south and to the Bahamas and Haiti collecting data on black folklore, folkways and the "voodoo" of New Orleans and Haiti.

While Hurston is often considered to be part of the Harlem Renaissance, her major works were actually published after that era. Her first full-length work was Jonah's Gourd Vine, which appeared in 1934. Her last novel was published in 1948, with later manuscripts being rejected by publishers. By 1950 Zora was out of the limelight and again living in Florida, where she took a series of low-paying jobs in different towns to support herself while she continued her writing. Despite her success as an author, she endured financial troubles for most of her life. When she died following a stroke in

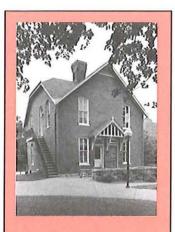
January 1960, a collection was taken up to pay her funeral expenses.

In this lively volume Boyd shows how Hurston's fame and acclaim grew after the mid-1970s. At the time of her death all of her works were out-of-print. It was only in 1973 that writer Alice Walker placed a headstone on her grave in a segregated and abandoned cemetery.

Catching a Wave: Reclaiming Feminism for the 21st Century (Northeastern University Press, 2003) is an anthology of essays by young women, most of whom could be considered third-wave feminists. Sexism and discrimination are still widespread and at the current rate it will be a very long time before equality is achieved, particularly in politics. The editors, Rory Dicker and Alison Piepmeier, are tired of waiting. "We can't wait that long. The alternative to waiting is waking up, recognizing the inequalities that surround us, and figuring out what we can do to redress the balance. To do these things, we need feminism, a social philosophy aimed at eradicating the pervasive sexism of our culture." Dicker is an assistant professor of English at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, while Piepmeier is a senior lecturer in women's studies at Vanderbilt University and the 2003 winner of the Mentoring Award presented by the Women's Center.

The fifteen selections are contributed by young women in academe as well as by well-known writers like Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards. They

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Calendar of Events September 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.

#### New Female Faculty and Administrators Reception

When: Tuesday, September 2, 4:00--6:00pm

Who: The incoming members of the female faculty and staff are welcomed by current members of the female faculty and staff.

What: This annual reception is sponsored by the Women's Faculty Organization and the Women's Center. For more info, please call 322-4843.

#### Vanderbilt Feminists (Vandy Fems)

When: Wednesday, September 3 @ 5pm Who: Specifically for undergraduates (women and men), but open to all. New members are always welcome! Come check it out!

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

#### Women's Consciousness Raising Group

When: Monday, September 8, (The group usually meets the first Monday of every month, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm).

**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 for the year. This group offers an opportunity to express your views in a supportive community and take part in a monthly activist 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. Contact Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu or 322-6518 for more information.

#### Creative Life Planning Group

When: September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 @12:00noon--1:00 pm (Meets every Tuesday).

**Who:** A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Open to everyone in the community and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90

years of age.

What: Topics for September

September 2--Issues

September 9--Lunch out at the Divinity School cafeteria. We'll walk over from the

Women's Center.

September 16--Issues

September 23--Guest Speaker, Susie Lee Biedel will talk about her book, *Daughter* of *Mercy* 

September 30--"Are you Organized?" a fun and informative program presented by Elisa Negroni and Beth Grantham Call 322-4843 for more details!

#### **Book Group**

When: Monday, September 8 @ 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 *The Last American Man* by Elizabeth Gilbert and will be facilitated by Jane DuBose. For more information, contact Jane Du Bose at jdubose@bellsouth.net Look on our web site for upcoming books under the book group at www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

#### Women and Poetry

When: Tuesday, September 9 @ 5:15 - 6:15 pm (Meets the 2nd Tuesday).

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

What: This meeting will be dedicated to planning for the future of the group. Contact Linda Manning at 322-4843 for more information.

#### Vandy Working Moms

When: Thursday, September 11 and 25 @ 11:30--12:30pm (Meets the 2nd and 4th 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

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on the 11th will be on, "Organizing Your Family's Health Records." To RSVP, contact misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu or call 343-4367.

# (Newly forming) Creative Writing Group

When: Tuesday, September 30 @ 5:30--6:30pm

Who: Calling writers of all ages! We are forming a new creative writing group. Bring your ideas about what you want a creative writing group to be. No previous writing experience necessary! Bring whatever you have to share, even if it's as short as a paragraph. Everyone is welcome to come and discover the writer inside of them. (This is a creative, not an academic, writing group.)

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

### Love Your Body Day 09/15/03

When/Where: Monday and Tuesday, September 15 and 16 on the wall across the lunch hours.

What: A national day of action to speak out against ads and images of women that are offensive, harmful, dangerous, and disrespectful. The Vandy Fems will be passing out information and acting as models as to how to act loving toward one's body.

#### Love Your Body Day Speaker Constance Rhodes

When: Tuesday, September 16, 7 pm Where: TBA, call for a final location Who: This program is open to the Vanderbilt and larger communities. What: We are very aware of the problems of anorexia and bulimia, but what about the huge societal pressure to calorie count, to diet consistently, to make sure that exercise outgo

equals the calorie intake? Constance Rhodes will be exploring disordered eating in our society.

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

#### Living with Loss

When: Wednesday, September 17th 12:00--1:00pm

Who: Open to all members of the Vanderbilt and larger communities. Dr. Linda Manning, Director of the Women's Center and Shelly Sowell, Graduate Assistant and HDC Masters' candidate will facilitate this discussion.

What: This is a monthly lunch group for students who have lost loved ones. Bring a brown bag lunch, drinks are provided. For more information, contact Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu, or 322-6518.

#### Naomi Tutu Lecture: "Women and Leadership in the New Millennium: Privilege and Peace"

When: Tuesday, September 23, 7pm Where: Ben Schulman Center Who: Open to all members of the Vanderbilt and larger communities. What: Naomi Tutu will address the need for a new leadership model that incorporates the "experiences of women as the way to peace.

#### Artist Reception

When: Tuesday, September 16, 4:00-6:00 pm.

What: The insightful and unusual works of art by Nanette Bahlinger who explores the relationship between words and maps in her exhibit, "Idle Tension."

Who: This exhibit will be on display from September 10--October 29. Refreshments will be served at the reception for the exhibit on the 16th, where you will have an opportunity to meet the artist. Free and open to the

public. Call 322-4843 for more information.

#### Reading Sisters

When: Thursday, September 18 @ 12:30pm - 1:30pm (Meets the 3rd Thursday)

Who: A book group for everyone interested in reading African-American women authors.

What: This will be an organizational one to decide not only this year's book choices, but also what the group wants the meetings to be. (i.e. just a book group, or more?) Bring ideas! For more information, contact Angela, D. Davis@vanderbilt.edu

# WEBS (Women Empowered By Sports) presents GOLF.

When: Thursdays, October 2, 9, and 16. The lesson on the 2nd will be at 6 pm; the 9th and 16th at 1:30 pm. You must be able to attend all sessions in order to sign up for this WEBS.

Where: TBA

Who: 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. You must sign up for WEBS this year. First come, first serve. There is no fee to you! To sign up or for more info, please contact Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu or call 322-6518.

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cover such diverse topics as the false feminist death syndrome, building a feminist movement on college campuses, searching for a third wave superleader, hip hop and feminism, Arab American feminism, transgender feminists, and the philosophy of a woman studying to become a rabbi. The afterword consists of correspondence between journalist Katha Pollitt and Jennifer Baumgardner.

## WHAT DOES FEMINISM MEAN TO YOU?

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Center, we thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for many of us to share what feminism has meant for us. We invite our readers--students, faculty, staff and especially alumnae!--to share with us their personal perspectives of feminism and/or how being a feminist has shaped your life decisions and experiences We want to celebrate YOUR story! If you are interested in contributing, please contact Misa Culley, Editor, via e-mail: misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu.

Our first installment comes from Jana Wheeler, a pediatric nurse practitioner in the Infectious Diseases Department at Vanderbilt University. Jana contributed a health article on HPV in last April's issue.

Recently, I was inspired by reading the memoir of Hillary Rodham Clinton to think about how my own ideals of feminism have been challenged by the realities of life. I would not dare compare myself to such an accomplished individual, but in many ways, Hillary has had the same challenges as the rest of us.

I remember when I graduated from college with my first degree how disenchanted I was about the realities of women in the workplace. I had a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from an all-women's college. Even though the media portrayed nurses as handmaids, mean old ladies or sex symbols, my graduating class was prepared by our all-powerful professors to go out and buck the system. My first job was difficult, working horrible hours trying to prove myself in the very intimidating health care system. On my first evaluation, my boss told me I was "overly idealistic." The truth was that I cared too much about everything.

I was 23. I looked about 18. No one listened to my ideas. Men looked

at me as a sex object in my nursing uniform. I worked with some doctors who would go out of their way to intimidate me. Every misconception about women, and especially nurses, that I was try-

ing to avoid was thrown in my face. It was a rude awakening.

Since then

most of my bosses have been women-some better than others. One was a physician who used fear to intimidate everyone in the office. After working for her, I decided to go back to school. I got a Master's of Science in Nursing from an Ivy League school. Surely, now everyone would respect me. I felt like I had certainly earned it. Instead, I had some real moments of clarity about my life and work.

I learned the hard way, that self-respect was what I needed, not every-one else's respect. The kind that is the hardest to earn is your own. It took a failed marriage, a practical disowning from my parents and walking out on a life-long love/hate battle with religion to find my own path, but slowly I have made progress. Having faith in your-self gives one more power than any "-isms."

Society does not yet cater to the woman who has a mind of her own. I have always found the Southern, lady-like traditions challenging. Women are still supposed to do all the cooking and cleaning. I personally have never enjoyed cooking, so that gave me a lot of trouble until I met my current husband, our household cook and grocery shopper. When I went to Steeplechase this year and received an e-mail entitled, "for the ladies only--Steeplechase food list," I forwarded it to my husband!

Another tradition I challenged was the one where a woman is supposed to take her husband's surname. When I got married recently, I chose not to do it. My reasons were partly feminist,

"I learned the hard way, that self-

respect was what I needed, not every-

one else's respect. The kind that is the

hardest to earn is your own."

partly for convenience. It just did not make since to me personally. I would have been uncomfortable with it. My hus-

band told me that he would rather me be happy than to do something because of tradition or expectation.

The topic never surfaced again until the days before our wedding. People started referring to me as Mrs. Leslie (my husband's surname). They were thinking I would squeal with delight! Instead, I thought "who is that?" My husband's friends even teased him about it. This gave me more resolve. People just do not want a woman to do the unexpected.

The rule that gives me the most grief is that women are supposed to want children. I am very sure of my plans *not* to have children. This one is hard for people to understand. I have been accused of being selfish, greedy and crazy. For some reason, I keep telling people about it and occasionally, someone will tell me that they admire my choices to create my own version of happiness.

Over time I have lightened up on others when it comes to feminism. I still get offended by some things, but try to remember that change comes from *within* a person before anyone can change the world.

In the future I hope to continue toward my dream of contentment. I do not plan to be the perfect feminist, wife, nurse or person. I do plan to be a person with no regrets who has been true to herself.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Looking for short-term, rewarding volunteer work?

Women are needed for Better Decisions, an eight-week program that teaches decision-making and life-planning skills to inmates at the Tennessee Prison for Women. Volunteers work one-on-one with an inmate/partner for one-hour weekly sessions during the eight weeks, September 22 through November 10. Volunteer training is scheduled for September 13-14 (9 am to 4 pm on Saturday and 1 to 4 pm on Sunday) at Westminster Presbyterian Church on West End Avenue. Please call Kathy Masulis at 832-8327 for more information.

The first Southern Regional Women's Professional Development Conference will be held in Memphis, TN, September 26, 27, and 28, 2003. The conference is sponsored by seven schools, including Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt School of Medicine. The conference is designed for women faculty, residents and graduate students with an interest in building or strengthening their management and leadership skills in order to advance their careers, either through acquiring a major administrative position or within a department. Registration information and other details can be found on the website: <a href="https://www.women-in-medicine.org">www.women-in-medicine.org</a>.

WEBS (Women Empowered by Sports) has already taught the sports of soccer, volleyball, basketball and tennis. If you are interested in seeing a particular sport in this new year, please email Jennifer.Hackett@vanderbilt.edu or call 322-6518. See the Calendar on page 6 for more information.

#### Nashville NOW (National Organization of Women)

Is having their regular meeting on Monday, September 22 at 7:00pm at the Peace and Justice Center 1016 18th Ave S. (they meet approx. every other month on the 4th Monday). NOW Chapter meetings are open to members and guests. This meeting will be in celebration of National Love Your Body Day, 09/22! For more information, contact Cynthia Bennett at TennesseeNOW@comcast.net

Vanderbilt University will hold its 17th Annual Affirmative Action & Diversity Initiative Awards on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 at 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 the website at www.vanderbilt.edu/odc

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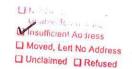
o Student (specify school & year)\_

o Staff o Faculty o Administrator o Other Mail to the Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Box 351513 Station B, Nashville, TN 37235

#### Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

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