Fall 1987

Networker 1987 Fall Issue

Commission for Women

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Askew offers update on campus safety

By Bernadine Andrew

In the past year, The University of Tennessee has spent a substantial amount of money in order to upgrade the quality of campus safety, according to Dr. Jerry Askew, dean of students.

"We've spent about $50,000 on new lights during the past twelve months. We've spent an additional $50,000 on walking patrols on campus this academic year, particularly for the more dangerous areas. We've spent well over $1,000 on signs and the escort van is running both a scheduled van and an on-call van," Askew said.

The scheduled escort van has regular route around campus during the day. The on-call van is available from about 5:30 p.m. - 3 a.m. to take people from one campus location to another, according to Edward Yovella, UT police chief. Persons interested in utilizing either the regular or on-call van service can call 974-3114.

When conducting seminars on rape awareness for men, Askew said there are four points he emphasizes, points which surprisingly have never occurred to many of the men with whom he speaks. They are: 1) No means no; 2) You have no right to anyone else's body; 3) To prevent date rape, both sides should make their intentions clear from the beginning; and 4) Psychological intimidation can be as powerful as physical intimidation, i.e. a man may be forcing a woman to do something without realizing he's using force.

For female non-commuters who have to park far from their residence halls after dark, Askew offered this advice: "I would say, first, don't walk alone. Go back to the dorm and get someone to walk with you. Second, use blue phones to call for a ride. Take well-lighted paths. Walk briskly, walk with a sense of assuredness."

Askew noted that the need for such safety precautions is unfortunate. "I think a person ought to be able to walk wherever he or she wants to walk." He stressed that safety and rape-prevention tips are not meant to make women feel that it's up to them whether they're raped or not. "It's never the victim's fault."

Askew said he feels the incidents of violent crime on campus have decreased in the past year. "Certainly the sexual assaults have gone down. We haven't had any reported this year. That's not to say they haven't happened, but we had six reported last fall and none so far this year." However, he said there have been four assaults made against males on campus by teenaged off-campus non-students.

He pointed out that men often feel their gender exempts them from the possibility of being attacked and warned that men as well as women should be on guard against potential attackers.

In explaining why he feels the campus is safer this year, Askew noted, "The university has been willing to spend massive amounts of money to (make the campus safer). A lot of universities wouldn't have spent that kind of money."

Violent crime, however, will never be eradicated from UT, said Askew, because the university is located in an urban area with easy access to campus.

"I wish I could get people to report suspicious people to the police. I do that as a matter of course... I think most of us know whether a person's acting suspiciously," he said. "Campus safety is everybody's business."

Child Care Center at capacity

The Cumberland Child Care Center, opened in February, is now at full capacity, according to Karen Sterchi, Director of the Center.

"We have 34 students, 20 preschoolers and 15 toddlers," Sterchi reported at the November Commission for Women meeting. "There are thirty-nine applicants on the waiting list which include expectant parents and parents whose children don't yet qualify. In addition, eleven preschoolers and forty-eight toddlers are on the list. In all, over 100 full-time UTK employees have put in requests which cannot be met."

Because of this demand, Chancellor Jack Reese has asked Sterchi to compile a report to determine the need for expansion of the existing facility and also to explore the demand for infant care. "I feel the most pressing need right now is in the area of infant care," said Sterchi. "There are very few infant centers in this area as compared to toddler and preschool facilities."

Sterchi added that the present facility on Cumberland Avenue could not be expanded and that if the center were to enlarge its present capacity or add infant care, a new site would be needed.

In assessing the progress of the center, Sterchi said she was pleased with parent involvement, noting parents frequently participated in such activities as picnics and field trips. In addition, Sterchi commended the staff for its hard work and added that the university had been very helpful in quickly resolving problems as they arose.
Osteoporosis presents danger to women

Osteoporosis is a disease that has been identified only recently. As hard as it may be to believe given that osteoporosis is today discussed on antacid commercials, it was not even described in medical texts until the mid-1920's. It happens sooner or later to everyone who gets older, but it usually affects women earlier and more seriously, and causes such problems as hip and wrist fractures. One source notes that since hip fracture is the leading cause of accidental death in people 75 and older, osteoporosis can be considered a life threatening illness.

Simply put, osteoporosis is a disease characterized by a decrease in the amount of bone in the body. Bone tissue is destroyed faster than it can be replaced by the formation of new bone. It causes the bones to erode from the inside and can result in a diminution of height and the formation of the "dowager's" hump.

Women have a significantly higher incidence of osteoporosis (about ten to one) than do men. It usually begins after menopause, possibly because of the reduced function of the ovaries. Significant bone loss starts at menopause in women, and continues to the end of life at the rate of one percent a year. About fifty percent of all women have osteoporosis by age seventy. The rate is much less in men, and women also experience an extremely rapid bone loss in the first decade after menopause.

There are four distinct types of osteoporosis, age related, senile, hyperparathyroid, and that associated with impaired bone formation. The most common manifestation of age-related, or post menopausal osteoporosis, is a vertebra fracture which results from subnormal calcium absorption. The second type, senile osteoporosis, has only about a two to one female to male ratio, and is inevitable and untreatable. By age ninety, about 100% of men and women will get this type of the disease. The other types of osteoporosis are quite rare.

The most severely affected group in America are white menopausal women who are small-boned, thin, and who smoke. Other risk factors which can lead to osteoporosis include alcoholism; diabetes mellitus; place of residence (osteoporosis is more common in temperate zones); low calcium intake; lack of exercise; use of diuretics, corticosteroids, or aluminum-containing antacids; a family history of osteoporosis; and not bearing children.

What can be done to prevent osteoporosis? One way is to maintain a relatively high daily intake of calcium (1000 milligrams or more per day) throughout your life. One important factor to remember if you take a big calcium dose—have your blood pressure checked every six months. Also, a supplement of vitamin D is helpful. A 400 unit a day dose is adequate, anything higher is unnecessary.

The most common treatment for osteoporosis has been estrogen replacement therapy (ERT). There are, however, several drawbacks to ERT. Used on a long term basis, ERT can cause endometrial cancer, and some studies indicate that there may be a relationship between estrogen and breast cancer. Most physicians believe that ERT treatment on a short-term basis is not dangerous, and it has been the most effective treatment for osteoporosis.

A broadly based, balanced diet combined with a regular exercise program has also been shown to be effective in treating osteoporosis. Most health care providers have several diets and exercise regimens proven safe and effective for treating osteoporosis.

Mobile mammography unit to visit UTK campus

This coming winter quarter, the University, in conjunction with UT hospital, will sponsor the visit of a mobile mammography unit on campus.

In a report to the November Commission for Women meeting, Mickey Bilbrey, Associate Vice Chancellor for Marketing at UT Hospital, announced that Jack Reese has asked the hospital to provide the university with mobile mammography service. While the exact cost of the visit has not been set, Linda Burton, chair of the Commission for Women, said it would range from $50-$60 for UT employees. Dr. Ed Buonocore, head of the radiology department at UT Hospital, said that this cost was about one-third less than an office visit.

At the meeting, several members of UT hospital discussed the necessity for mobile mammography, stating that the survival rate for women who have regular mammography ranges from 86 to 95% while the rate for women without mammographies is between 51 and 64%.

Mammography is recommended for women over 35, and should be done yearly for women over 50 in order to insure early detection of breast cancer. According to Myrna Sayne, coordinator of the mammography section of the radiology department, the procedure is simple and takes only about ten minutes.

Women interested in finding out more about the visit of the mobile mammography unit should contact the Commission for Women at 974-4739.

RAPE PREVENTION TIPS
- Remove identification from your key ring.
- Leave only your switch key in car at service stations and parking lots.
- Light and noise are the best deterrents to crime.
- Be prepared; stay calm; don't be afraid to make a scene.
- If attacked, yell FIRE as loud as you can
Osborne discusses status of women in Brazil

During this past summer, Dr. Martha Lee Osborne, head of the Women's Studies Program and professor of philosophy, participated in a Fulbright Seminar on Brazilian Contemporary Issues and Problems, and gained firsthand insight into the status of women in Brazil.

While sexism does exist in Brazil, Osborne believes that the major determinant of a woman's status is her socioeconomic position. "Upper class women are pampered. Not only do they have servants, but their lifestyle is uxorial."

In addition to greater luxuries and advantages, upper-class Brazilian women have, because of their status and rank, greater access to certain positions of power. "In some cities, the wife of the chamber of commerce automatically becomes head of the commission for women's affairs, even if she has no interest in the subject," noted Osborne.

Professional women also have a large measure of prestige and privilege. "Almost all professional women have servants," said Osborne, "and I even met a husband of a university professor who picked up their evening meal everyday because his wife did not want to spend time supervising a servant to prepare the food."

According to Osborne, the majority of women in Brazil fall into the lower socioeconomic category. "A great many women work in industry and agriculture, particularly agriculture as is the case in most developing countries. Women tend also to gravitate toward low paying jobs."

In many of Brazil's rapidly growing cities, large slums have developed which have become home to many dispossessed agricultural families, particularly in the northeast where a series of droughts has severely damaged agricultural productivity. Osborne noted that women enjoy more prestige than men in these slums. "A man is perceived as being a failure because he wasn't successful farming and will often turn to alcohol or drugs. Women then become breadwinners and take on a lot of political power in the slum community."

Osborne noted that historically, Brazilian society and women in it have been shaped by the melting pot nature of the country. "Indian civilization prior to European settlement in the early 16th century was very egalitarian," said Osborne. "Women did most of the domestication of plants and were early geneticists who developed crop variety and a crop identification system."

However, Portuguese settlers brought with them the sexism nature of European society. From 1522 until the 1600's, Brazilian society was marked by three major influences: native Indians, Europeans, and African slaves. "African societies were also more egalitarian than the European and this translated into Brazilian society," noted Osborne.

The abolition of slavery in 1888 enhanced the status of African women. "African women had more marketable skills than their male counterparts, who had worked primarily on large plantations which were beginning to break apart in the late 19th century. With freedom, African women opened streetcorner stands, amassed money and some power."

The result of the admixture of these three ethnic cultures has been mixed. "In places where Indian and African religions and societies still persist, the status of women tends to be higher than where European culture is stronger."

While in Brazil, Osborne became acquainted with the work of the DAWN (Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era), an organization which grew out of the United Nation's International Women's Decade. "DAWN is focusing on two lines of research," commented Osborne, "one is food and energy and the second is more on the women's movement, a more visionary aim."

"In Brazil, DAWN is focusing its efforts on the new Brazilian Constitution," added Osborne. "They want a definition of when life begins left out so that abortion is not completely illegal. They also want retirement rights for peasant women the same as those which already exist for peasant men."

The feminist movement in Brazil has also made strides toward alleviating discrimination against women. In most Brazilian cities, delegacias have been established which serve as women's precinct police stations. "Women can go to delegacias and report rapes, threats, or even attempted seductions," Osborne said. "They are completely staffed by women and include doctors, psychologists, social workers and counselors. There are even a few cells where offenders can be incarcerated for brief periods."

In addition to the delegacias, Brazilian women have been pushing to secure banking and financial right for women. "They have established the Banque de Mulher which is loosely affiliated with the Women's World Bank. Its aim is to give women financial rights equal to men."

Finally, in the academic arena, Brazilian women have formed NEDIM (Nucleo Estudos, Documentacao e Informacao Sobre a Mulher) which is a nucleus designed to study women and women's issues. "They do research, prepare documentation and information, and publicize women's issues," said Osborne. "These nuclei are a part of the federal university system and are in most Brazilian states. In general, they are more activist than academic. Their focus is on reaching out to the community."

Rape Prevention Tips

IN THE HOME
- Use initials in place of first name in phone book, on mailbox.
- Install strong locks on all exterior doors; change locks when you move.
- Use doorviews or peepholes.
- Never admit uninvited salespeople or strangers into your home.
- Use exterior lighting at night.
- Trim shrubbery low.
- Close blinds, shades, and drapes at night.
- Hang up immediately on unknown phone callers.
- Keep emergency numbers near the phones with a flashlight.

ON THE STREETS
- Choose well lit busses and streets.
- Walk near the curb and avoid alleys, shadowy entrances, and shrubbery.
- If approached by a stranger, run to center of street and call for help.
- Be very cautious of elevators, stairwells, and lobbies.
- Leave with others and watch each other to car.
- Refrain from displaying large sums of money or several credit cards when shopping.
- Vary your daily habits and patterns of travel.
- Keep your car and door keys in your hand, ready for use.
- Don't be embarrassed to ask a friend to follow you home when you are out late.
- Call the Knoxville Rape Crisis Center if you have questions or concerns.

Knoxville Rape Crisis Center: 24-hour hotline - 522-7273
business office - 522-4745
Hazeur appointed to Affirmative Action post

On July 1, Camille Hazeur became the Affirmative Action Director for UTK. Both Hazeur and Lola Dodge, Senior Research Associate and Director of Affirmative Action Compliance, will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the University's Affirmative Action Plan.

"My vision is to get word around campus as to what Affirmative Action means at UTK," said Hazeur of her duties. "I will deal with problems that arise relative to race and gender relations, hiring policies and practices, and complaints."

Among her duties, Hazeur will assist search committees and function as a liaison to help them interpret and follow Affirmative Action guidelines. In that capacity, for example, Hazeur will "try to help search committees be sensitive about their published requirements for hiring so they don't inadvertently exclude women and minorities."

Hazeur's office will also hear complaints. "I'll listen to what people in the trenches are saying," added Hazeur, "and try to act as quickly and as fairly as possible."

In addition to acting as a campus liaison and sounding board, Hazeur will also try to promote gender and racial sensitivity on campus. She feels this will be a more difficult part of her job because "it's hard to find a way to get people to change their opinions."

Hazeur, who has a B.A. in sociology and a master's in counseling, served for three years as Director of Student Services at Delgado Community College in New Orleans. Before that, she served five years as the head of Developmental Studies at Dominican College. She also has extensive experience in student affairs holding posts at other colleges ranging from Director of Residence to Student Admissions. "My background is in higher education, mainly student affairs," said Hazeur. "My work experience has not only given me an interest in human affairs, but also has provided me the experience of dealing with university policy and procedures."

"While at Dominican, Hazeur was author and director of a project which focused on racial and gender issues. From this experience, she learned much about not only those issues, but also the process of making people aware of their own biases. "We had students (blacks and older women) who were educationally underprepared, primarily because of their backgrounds. We also had faculty who had no conception of how to deal with them. It was a rewarding challenge finding ways to overcome the racial and sexual misconceptions that existed on the campus."

Hazeur believes the success of that project was instrumental in her seeking the Affirmative Action post at UTK. "I found out how difficult it was for people to understand other people's differences. It was rewarding getting people who had varying points of views to recognize and accept their differences, and yet move in the same direction."

"There has to be different approaches to problems," added Hazeur. "I feel I take a mild mannered approach... The most important thing is to get people to realize they can work together."

Films available on women

The Media Project, a non-profit media arts organization dedicated to promoting independent film and video production in the Northwest United States, offers for sale and rental a series of films entitled Mythic to Modern: a Women's History.

Included in the series are the films Remember the Witches, a documentary which explores witchcraft as a woman's crime by "analyzing Medieval European societies that used witch hunts as a tool for political and social control;" Good Work Sister, which tells the stories of women who went to work in the shipyards of Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington from 1942-1945; and Some of these Days, a "sensitive, intimate and humorous film... profiling four women grappling with the process of aging in America."

These and other films are available for sale at prices ranging from $220 to $800. In addition, all are available for rental in both 16mm and ¼ inch video cassette format. A few selections are also available in VHS. Rental prices range from $25 to $100.

For more information write to: The Media Project, 716 S.W. 16th, 3rd Floor, P.O. Box 2008, Portland, OR 97208.
WCC announces Winter schedule

The Women's Coordinating Council has released their Winter 1987 calendar of events.

On February 6, noted women's musician Holly Near will give a concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall. The cost for students is $2.00, Faculty and Staff $5.00, and General Admission is $7.00.

On February 16, Karla Jay will present a lecture entitled "Lesbian Sexuality and Lifestyles."

The WCC is also planning to hold a panel discussion on issues and concerns of black women in February.

March is Women's History Month, and the WCC is planning to sponsor a Women's History Week to commemorate the occasion.

For many of these events, the WCC provides child care services in the Women's Center, Room 301, University Center. Because they offer this child care service free of charge, the WCC is always willing to accept donations of toys suitable for small children.

In addition to these Winter Quarter events, the Women's Center has a library stocked with books on topics ranging from women's health to women in the law. There is also a good selection of women's fiction. Any student, faculty, or staff member may check books out of the Women's Center Library.

To find out more information about the Winter Quarter Schedule, the WCC, and the Women's Center, call 974-1029.


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Announcements and notes of interest

Commission for Women Meeting

The Commission for Women has three monthly meetings scheduled during Winter Quarter which are open to the public. The first meeting will be held Thursday, January 7; the second will be Thursday, February 4, and the third will be Thursday, March 3. All meetings are at noon in the University Center. If you would like to find out more about these meetings and about the Commission for Women, contact the Commission office at 974-4739.

Networker seeks input

The Networker is a newsletter which addresses issues relevant to women. We try to include news items and announcements that will be of interest to women on campus, but we do not always hear or read about everything going on at UTK. If you have an item or announcement that you think will be of interest to other women or you know of an issue you would like to see explored in greater depth, contact Carol Guthrie at 974-4739.

Kambo visits UTK

During the 1987-88 Academic Year, Anjana Kambo, an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Rajasthan in Jaipur, India, will be visiting UTK and conducting research on the comparative roles of university women in the U.S. and India. In particular, Kambo will be focusing on the role, status, and perception of university women in the two countries.

While at UTK, Kambo will co-teach with Dr. Martha Lee Osborne, head of the Women's Studies Department, the course Women in Cross Cultural Perspective for the Learning Community. Kambo also will be compiling data and doing interviews with various women faculty members at UTK.

Infertility on Rise

Infertility is rising steadily among both men and women today, according to a report in the March/April issue of New Directions for Women. Authorities estimate that more than ten million people - fifteen to twenty percent of those of childbearing age - cannot conceive. These figures indicate that the rate of infertility has more than doubled in the past twenty years. It also would seem that these statistics indicate the demand for surrogacy will continue to increase. It is therefore vital that society, and women in particular, address the issue of surrogate motherhood and its ramifications.

Foundation offers program in women in academia

The Henry Luce Foundation has established a visiting professorship program for women at Brown, Columbia, New York and Yale Universities.

In announcing the program, Luce stated: "Despite spectacular professional strides by women during the past several decades, the academic community continues to prove highly resistant to the professional advancement of women at the highest levels."

According to Luce, the program is "designed to encourage the advancement of women to the highest levels of academia." The program will support two-year visiting professorships for one established women scholar at each of the selected universities. Eventually, the program could extend to twelve major research universities.

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New Tennessee Maternity Leave Law becomes effective January 1

On January 1, 1988, a new Tennessee law concerning maternity leave will go into effect. The law states that "a female employee who has been employed by the same employer for at least twelve consecutive months as a full-time employee...may be absent from such employment for a period not to exceed four months... A female employee who gives at least three months advance notice to her employer of her anticipated date of departure...length of maternity leave...and her intention to return to full-time employment after maternity leave, shall be restored to her previous or a similar position with the same status, pay, length of service credit and seniority, wherever applicable, as of the date of her leave. A female employee who is prevented from giving three months advance notice because of a medical emergency which necessitates that maternity leave begin earlier than originally anticipated shall not forfeit her rights and benefits..."

"Maternity leave may be with or without pay at the discretion of the employer...If an employee's job position is so unique that the employer cannot, after reasonable efforts, fill that position temporarily, then the employer shall not be liable under this section for failure to reinstate the employee at the end of her maternity leave period..."

"Nothing contained within the provisions of this section shall be construed: 1) to affect any bargaining agreement or company policy which provides for greater or additional benefits than those required under this section; 2) to require any employer to provide maternity leave for male employees; or 3) to apply to any employer who employs fewer than 100 full-time employees on a permanent basis at the job site location."

The Women's Studies Program wishes to announce the availability of a graduate assistantship for the winter and spring quarters, 1988. The assistantship, open to students enrolled in any course of study, will carry a stipend of $3,337.32 for the two quarters and will require approximately eighteen hours work per week, largely clerical. Applicants should send a statement of interest, a resume, and two letters of reference to:
Dr. Martha Lee Osborne
Women's Studies Program
2012 Lake Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37996-4102
by January 5, 1988. For more information call 974-2409.

Networker is published quarterly by UTK Commission for Women, 2012 Lake Ave., Knoxville, TN 37996 Telephone: 974-4739 Chairperson: Linda Burton Editor: Carol Guthrie