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Commission for Women

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On Monday, February 2, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Cumberland Child Care Center officially opened its doors. The Center, operated under the direction of the UTK Personnel Department, is a non-profit unit whose primary purpose is to provide good physical, intellectual, social and emotional care for children of the University staff and faculty.

Karen Sterchi, Director of the Center, notes that the Center is designed to handle up to fifteen Toddlers (age 18 months to 3 years) and twenty preschoolers (age 3 to 5 years). As of March 1, the Center had 16 students and some spots are available. Interested persons should contact Sterchi at 974-0817.

Sterchi also added that the Center has altered its fee payment policy. Initially, the fees were on a sliding scale of $35-$65 per week based on income. "We have changed the fees," said Sterchi. "UT employees who make under $35,000 a year will be charged a flat fee of $35 per week and those over $35,000 will pay $45 per week." In a two income family, only the UT employee's income will be considered when assessing fees. Sterchi commented that this fee arrangement made the Center at or below the Knoxville average for day care cost.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi, Sterchi received a B.A. in home economics and an M.S. in child development. While a graduate student, Sterchi worked in a child care laboratory. The four years before coming to UTK, Sterchi served as director of the child care laboratory at UT Martin where she also taught child development courses.

With her background, the input of the Day Care Advisory Board and Governor Alexander's report on child care, the UT Center carved out a progressive philosophy toward child care. According to the Parent Handbook, the Center "sees itself as a supplement to the child's family by providing quality care while parents participate within the University." Among other objectives, the center seeks to "provide a warm, secure environment appropriate to the age and abilities of the child, encourage independent development of children with specially planned activities and guidance techniques, and recognize and respect children as individuals with unique needs.

When asked how the program's philosophy is manifested through the curriculum, Sterchi stated that the Center's staff strives for a flexible routine. "Coordinators in each group plan a general curriculum and plan a particular theme for each week. Projects and activities are carried out each day around that theme."

Sterchi stressed that daily activities are not etched in stone, but rather that teachers often schedule their routine around the children themselves depending on their particular needs or desires. Spontaneity will also be an important part of the program. For example, the Mickey Mouse hot air balloon was on the World's Fair site during the opening week and the children went and watched the crew inflate and deflate the balloon. "If the children

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Center Opens (cont’d)

miss a routine activity to see something like that, then that’s ok,” commented Sterchi.

Daily routines are geared to the appropriate level of the group and of each child. “We’re trying to promote self-confidence and high self-esteem in each child, not competition with each other. We’re striving to promote creativity, problem solving skills and imagination.” One way in which the Center tries to encourage creativity and imagination is by changing the equipment in the rooms each week, introducing new puzzles, new clothes in the dress up corner and new toys.

Because of the Center’s child care philosophy, contact and input of parents is deemed very important. If a Child is accepted into the program, a staff member makes a home visit before the child officially enrolls. In addition, three mandatory parent-teacher conferences will be held yearly. Sterchi plans to have a monthly newsletter for parents, regular parent meetings at the center, and elect a parent to the Day Care Advisory Board. “We’ve even had several parents come and have lunch with their children,” added Sterchi, “something we want to encourage.”

One of the more appealing aspects of the center and one which reflects closely the Center’s philosophy is the student-teacher ratio. At maximum enrollment, the teacher-child ratio will be one to five among toddlers and one to seven among preschoolers.

Dworkin To Speak on Pornography

Andrea Dworkin, radical feminist and author, will present a lecture on Thursday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the University Auditorium.

Dworkin, long considered the most outspoken feminist on the issue of pornography, is co-author of the Minneapolis and Indianapolis ordinances that define pornography as a civil rights violation against women. She has been the focus of much media attention because of the issue and has appeared on such national television shows as Donahue, McNeil/Lehrer Report, Sixty Minutes, and CBS Evening News.

Dworkin is author of the controversial books: Pornography: Men Possessing Women and Women Hating, as well as Our Blood and Right-Wing Women. In her works, particularly Pornography, Dworkin harshly attacks the pornography industry. Her presentations are usually quite graphic and incorporate examples ranging from the historical works of the Marquis de Sade to today’s triple X-rated films, books and magazines.

According to Dworkin, pornography destroys the dignity of women and, in fact, encourages their degradation. Calling pornography “a form of violence against women,” Dworkin also examines the subject of male aggression and power. “As one goes through the pictures of the tortured and maimed, reads the stories of gang rape and bondage,” contends Dworkin, “what emerges most clearly is an omnipresent, eternal, limitless power over others.”

Anyone interested in reading Dworkin’s work should contact the Women’s Center at 974-1029. They have copies of several of her works which are available for checkout. To find out more about Dworkin’s visit, contact the Women’s Center also.
Sexist Language Contributes to Sexual Stereotypes

When most people are in trouble, they think first of a policeman. Milkmen carry milk and if you are in Congress, you are either a Senator or Congressman. If this situation is irritating, you should be aware of the guidelines for using nonsexist language.

The Association of American Colleges has distributed a booklet called "Guide to Nonsexist Language" aimed at taking sexism out of government communications and publications, college publications, newsletters, TV and radio broadcasts, newspapers and business communications.

The authors say there are two rules to use in checking written material for sexist language: Would you say the same thing about a person of the opposite sex, and would you like it said about you?

They object to the routine use of male nouns and pronouns to refer to all people. Most research studies have indicated, they maintain, that when the word "he" is used, most people think it refers to men.

We should use he and she or him/her rather than simply he or him, the Guide indicates. Rather that Dear Sir, businesses should use, Dear Madam or Sir or Dear Executive. In addition, we should eliminate terms such as fatherland, founding fathers, and maiden voyage, replacing them with homeland, pioneers, and first or premier voyage.

UT's faculty handbook lists six guidelines for using nonsexist language. It suggests that people use gender equivalent construction, men and women as opposed to men and ladies or men and girls. Alternatives are provided for the masculine singular pronoun, generic terms such as he/she rather than merely he. Also, UT's guidelines encourage the use of person-oriented words (e.g. humanity over mankind and synthetic over man-made) and person-oriented job and occupational titles (e.g. chair or head instead of chairman and police officer instead of policeman).

Sex-role stereotyping should be avoided by providing parallel treatment of women and men. Descriptions of women should stress their professional role and competency, not their attractiveness, children or relationship with men. Furthermore, noncondescending approaches should be adopted when addressing or describing women. Secretaries are not "girls" or "females" or "milkmaids," but "secretaries." Secretaries are not "girls." Fridays" or "gals."

Many of these ideas have been widely accepted, but there are some less well known and less widely used alternatives to sexist language. Warren Farrell, author of The Liberated Man, suggested the use of ter, a word he recommended to as the "human pronoun." It would be confusing he admits, but ultimately it would save space and trouble and lead us to a true nonsexist language.

Susan Alexander, a lawyer and writer from Illinois, points out that the popular alternative of using person instead of man in compound words has not gained tremendous popularity. "It's easier to say policeman or Congressman," she writes in the Chicago Tribune. "Even the most dedicated feminists among us would prefer to say fireman instead of firefighter or repairman instead of repairperson because they are, frankly, easier to say."

She suggests substituting one rather than man. One is already widely used in speech (anyone, everyone, someone, etc.) "The word policeman could become policeone. Fireman would be transformed into fireone, and so on."

At this point, there has been no universal embracement of these terms and, for many, they seem somewhat eccentric. However, they are attempts to remove sexism from our language, attempts which need to be made more often if society is to truly institute equality among the sexes.

Women's Studies Assistantship Open

The Women's Studies Program is currently accepting applications for its Graduate Assistantship. The primary role of the assistant is to aid the chair of the program in her duties and to serve as a liaison between the university library system and the Women's Studies faculty and students. The G.A. maintains the Resource Center and acts as an aide to students seeking information related to women or women's studies. In addition, the G.A. is a member of the Women's Studies Committee and is required to take minutes at the Women's Studies Committee meeting. The G.A. also is often asked to do light typing, filing and run errands.

The G.A. is slightly less than a half-time position (18 hours per week Fall, Winter and Spring quarters, 10 weeks per academic quarter). The stipend is approximately $4800 per year, and the G.A. may select to have the stipend distributed over a 9-month or 12-month period. In addition, the G.A. will have tuition and maintenance fees remitted.

Applicants must submit a resume which should include an educational and work history, and any awards or honors. Applicants need two letters of reference from recent professional or academic sources, and a one-page typewritten statement of interest in the position and any involvement the applicant has had with women's studies courses, programs, issues, etc.

The application deadline is Monday, March 30, 1987, and a decision will be made before the end of Spring Quarter. For more information, contact the Women's Studies office at 2012 Lake Avenue, 974-2409, or call Dr. Martha Lee Osborne at 974-7212 or 974-3255.
Novelist To Speak

Lucette Finas, Head of the Department of Literature at the University of Paris, Vincennes, will be speaking at UT on Thursday and Friday, March 5 and 6. Both a novelist and scholar, Finas is an authority on the “New French Literary Criticism” and recently has participated in discussions and panels at Dartmouth College, Brown University, Rice University, and University of Wisconsin. Finas is also a member of the International College of Philosophy.

While on campus, Finas will present three lectures, two in English and one in French. On Thursday, March 5, from 3:30-5 p.m. in HSS 219, Finas will lecture in English on the French philosopher Derrida. The other English language presentation will be Friday, March 6, at 1:15 in HSS 105, and will be a forum on women and women writers in France. At 2:30 p.m. in McClung Tower 1202 on March 6, Finas will discuss eroticism in the writings of Bataille. This program will be in French.

Finas’ visit is being sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program and the Departments of Romance Languages, Philosophy, and English. For more information contact these departments.

Announcements

The Wellness Brown Bag series will continue this quarter and spring quarter. On March 4 the program is “The Young, the Healthy and the Hypertensive.” The speaker will be Jean Sylvester, B.S. and R.N. On April 1, James R. Cundall, manager of operations for Medic, will speak on “How Safe Is Our Blood Supply?” On May 6, Lori Dewald, a graduate assistant and athletic trainer will discuss “The Catamenial Products.” All Brown Bag programs last from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

In addition to continuing the Brown Bag series, Rosa Emory, the Wellness Director, and the Student Health Clinic have designated May “Wellness Month.” To open the month, Emory has scheduled a Wellness Fair to be held May 1 in the University Center. For more information about Wellness Month or the Brown Bag Series, contact Emory at 1818 Andy Holt, 974-3135.

Workshop on Women

The Memphis State University Center for Research on Women is holding its third annual Workshop on Women in the Curriculum May 27-29. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Margaret Anderson, author of Thinking About Women. The workshop provides an opportunity for college level faculty to either develop new courses on women or revise established courses to include more material on women. Emphasis is on the social sciences and history. Pre-registration is $90. For more information call 1-322-4843.

Kambo to Lecture

Dr. Amjana Kambo of the Department of Sociology at the University of Rajasthan Jaipur, India, will be presenting a lecture in early May. Kambo is a sociologist and expert on the condition of women in India. The Women’s Studies Program is one of the sponsors for Kambo’s visit. If you would like more information about Kambo’s visit, contact Women’s Studies at 974-2409.

Did You Know...

March is Women’s History Month. Local telephone rates have increased an estimated 40 percent since deregulation.

One-half of 1986 medical school graduates specializing in obstetrics and gynecology were female, up from one-third since 1982.

Sixty-seven percent of men say they are accompanied by a woman when they shop for clothes.

Ecuadoran Novelist to Speak

Consuelo Navarro, an Ecuadoran novelist and writer-in-residence at Trent University, Champlain College in Ontario, Canada, will be speaking on campus in late April. Her visit will be sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program and Latin American Studies. For more information, contact 974-2409.

Commission for Women Meeting

The Commission for Women will hold its next meeting on Thursday, April 2, at noon in the University Center. All CFW meetings are open to the public and are held at noon in the University Center on the first Thursday of each month while classes are in session. If you would like to find out more information about the Commission and its work, please contact the Commission office at 974-4739.

The Networker is a newsletter for all women on the UTK campus, and we try to include all news items and announcements that will be of interest to women on campus, but we are human and we don’t always see, hear, or read everything. So it’s up to you, if you have an item or announcement that you think will be of interest to other women or you have an issue you would like to see explored in greater depth call Carol Guthrie at 974-4739.

WOMEN’S STUDIES SCHEDULE

SPRING QUARTER

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<td>Behavior of Women</td>
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Of Related Interest:

English 3236 Writings By and About 18th Century English Women
Instructor: Zomchick

Networker, Winter, 1987
Family Planning Center Available

In conjunction with the Knox County Health Department, the UT Student Health Service provides a Family Planning Clinic for students. For the clinic's operation, the County furnishes supplies, materials and medical personnel while facility spaces and back-up medical consultative services are provided by the University.

Presently, the campus clinic at 1818 Andy Holt Avenue operates from 8:00 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. For new patients and once a year for returning patients, a complete examination, including breasts, heart, abdomen and pelvis is done. Also, a pap smear, cervical culture for gonorrhea, urinalysis, and hematocrit are obtained for all patients. Following the exam, the patient is counseled regarding the contraceptive supplies or devices which are felt appropriate for her.

Most patients are given sufficient supplies for a three or six month period and must return at these intervals for measurement of weight and blood pressure as well as determination of any possible side effects.

Fees for services are based on family size and income according to sliding scale. In many instances the patient is not charged. While the great majority of the patients seen at the clinic receive oral contraceptives (The Pill), other supplies are available, including the Diaphragm (which will be properly fitted by the examining personnel), foams and condoms. At present, intrauterine devices (IUD) are not available through the clinic.

Appointments for the clinic are made by calling the Family Planning section of the Knox County Health Department at 544-4118. Appointments are not made at the Student Health Service.

Medical Self-help Vital to Personal Health

The charge of one's overall health is so taken for granted in the 1980's that it is hard to realize that the medical self-help and wellness movement has a relatively recent date.

For women, the first realization that they can take an active role in pursuing their own wellness usually comes with learning about breast self-examination. The breast exam, which should be done about once a month, a few days after menstruation, is considered by most health care practitioners to be the most effective method for early detection of breast cancer.

Another landmark for women's health occurred in 1971 with the publication of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. Before this book came out it was often difficult for women to get information about symptoms and treatment of various illnesses. The book covers vaginal infections, endometriosis and venereal disease thoroughly. For the first time women had the necessary information to become informed associates in their own health care.

One area of women's medical self-help never gained wide acceptance and even today may cause twinges of discomfort. In 1972, Ellen Frankfort described a pelvic self-examination in her *Vaginal Politics*. Critics were amused and outraged, but many health care practitioners seconded the idea. The concept that women can insert a speculum and examine their own cervixes is still a novel one, but, physicians at the Santa Cruz Women's Health Clinic in California say that it can be important as an indication of fertility or early detection of pregnancy.

One other health area where self-testing may be done is in urinalysis. Urinalysis offers more health information with less effort and at less cost than any other procedure and a wide variety of tests are available for purchase at pharmacies. Among various tests available are those for glucose, ketones, leukocyte, nitrite, protein, urobilinogen, and vitamin C.

Why use any of these tests? Each has value in monitoring overall wellness. Positive glucose tests over an extended period of time could indicate diabetes. Positive nitrite can indicate the possibility of a urinary tract infection. The single most valuable urine examination is that for protein. It can screen for kidney disease, offer an early warning sign for heart and artery problems, liver, nerve and thyroid dysfunction, and hidden virus infections.

Some health care practitioners are wary of these home tests, and positive results are often the result of misuse; but used properly, they can be a major asset to overall wellness. Any abnormal results should be discussed with medical personnel.

While self-examination does not replace regular care by a health care practitioner, it can add a great deal to the wellness process. An informed client is a useful asset in any medical situation. For more information on symptoms, possible treatments and ways of self-help consult the new edition of *Our Bodies, Ourselves* or any of the several other books dealing with medical self-help available in the Women's Center.
Scholarship and Grant Aid Provided for Women

Even though significant strides have been made toward encouraging women to enter higher education, financial problems have made it increasingly difficult for women to fund their way through school. Help is, however, becoming more widely available for women. Special agencies and organizations have arisen in the past ten to fifteen years to specifically assist women attain their educational and academic goals. Below is a listing of some of the agencies and scholarships open to women.

American Association of University Women (Fellowship Programs), 2401 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037. Scholarships available for dissertation completion.

Business and Professional Women's Foundation 2012 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Scholarships, averaging $350 a year for women going back to school for vocational training, undergraduate or graduate work. Graduate fellowships are available for doctoral candidates.

Better Late Than Never Women's Equity Action League 805 15th St. N.W. Suite 822 Washington, DC 20005

Clairol Loving Care Scholarship Program (c/o Business and Professional Women's Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036) Scholarships for women thirty years and over, up to $1,000 for vocational training, and undergraduate and graduate work.

Danforth Foundation (Director, Graduate Fellowships for Women, 222 South Central Avenue, St. Louis, MO. 63105). Scholarships up to $2,450 per year for graduate work in secondary or college teaching or administration.

Diuguid Fellowship Program (Executive Director, Council of Southern Universities, Inc., 795 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 484, Atlanta, GA 30308). Grants from $3,000 to $6,000 for women wanting to attend school in the South for one year of study, internship, or independent study leading to a career.

Helena Rubinstein Foundation (261 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016). Grants awarded to colleges and universities for scholarships, mostly for women.

Sears-Roebuck Foundation (Business and Professional Women's Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20036.) Loan Funds available to women attending graduate schools of business.

Wonder Woman Foundation, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019. Makes awards up to $10,000 to women 40 years of age or older who promote peace, pioneer in non-traditional occupations, are outstanding artists, politicians, scientists, inventors or businesswomen, or who have made a notable contribution to the personal and social growth of women.