

Pembroke Center Associates

BROWN UNIVERSITY
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NEWSLETTER

A Look Back at Spring 1989

Spring semester was a busy time for the Center, beginning with the alumnae forum on February 4 and ending with the commencement forum and reception on May 27.

Women's History Month Celebration

Our March celebration of Women's History Month this year was cosponsored with the Sarah Doyle Women's Center and featured a talk by archivist Karen Lamoree and a slide show presentation. Entitled "Rediscovering our Buried Past: Lives and Lore of Women of Rhode Island and Pembroke College," Karen's talk drew heavily on interesting materials

she uncovered in the archives as she prepared to publish *The Guide* (see page 2). The slide show, "The Way We Were," is a humorous, nostalgic look back at women at Brown, from the first two young girls entering in 1891 to the present day. It was originally produced for the Pembroke Center's endowment kickoff celebration and has been transferred to a video which can be shown on a home VCR. In fact, it has gone back and forth across the country twice for alumnae meetings in southern California.

Balancing Children and Careers

The audience for the March 20 program on "Balancing Children and Careers" ranged from three-month-old Patrick on his graduate student mother's lap to Brian Hawkins, vice president for computing at Brown. A panel of four included Kathleen Bowling, an obstetrician with two young sons; Toni Fannin, a program officer at the Rhode Island Foundation and mother of a young daughter and son; Rita Good, a divorced mother of four working as a psychotherapist; Lowry Marshall, associate professor in Brown's Theater, Speech and Dance Department and single parent of twin sons. Each spoke about how she coped with her multiple roles, and each had a different story to tell. Dr. Bowling was in residency when her first child was born and took only a few weeks off before putting him into a child care situation which she had lined up long in advance. Toni Fannin worked at Brown when her children were born, and, with the support of former Dean Harriet Sheridan, she was able to make arrangements to bring both babies to work with her when they were very young. Her position as Director of the Resource Center meant that undergraduates were in and out all day long and many of them delighted in taking turns feeding and entertaining the babies. When they learned to walk, Ms. Fannin found a day care center for them. Lowry Marshall, a single parent from the time her sons were six months old, relied on

As those of you who read the last Associates Newsletter are aware, the class of '49, as part of its 40th reunion celebration, raffled off a quilt made by several class members - Dolores DiPrete, Lois Fain, Caroline Barlow, Joyce Reynolds, Therese Hughes, Marguerite Purcell - with proceeds going to the Pembroke Center. The drawing took place at their reunion luncheon, and the winner of the beautiful quilt was Nancy L. Buc '65. Ms. Buc will donate the quilt to the Pembroke Center and it will hang on the wall in Room 202, Alumnae Hall (formerly the *Pembroke Record* and *Brun Mael* office). You are all most welcome to drop in and see it. We will have a festive "hanging celebration" in October!



support from friends and also on good luck in living in communities with good child care situations. Also, there was some relief in that there were two little boys who had each other's company. Rita Good and her former husband have joint custody of their children, so she could plan her work schedule around the days of each week when the children would be with their father. Although each of the women had coped, the problems were real and sometimes overwhelming.

Brian Hawkins and two senior managers from Computer and Information Services attended the program because of their concern for the large number of women managers in their organization who are very competent and whom they want to retain at Brown, but who must resign when they have children and cannot find adequate day-care (see page 7).

A program such as this, of course, cannot answer everyone's questions, and, as was evident from the panel, solutions are individual. We were immediately made aware of the need for a follow-up program when an undergraduate woman asked why we had focused only on women having to balance careers and children, when it is also a man's problem. Many heads in the audience were shaking in the affirmative. Cosponsors of this event along with the Pembroke Center were the Sarah Doyle Women's Center and Career Planning Services.

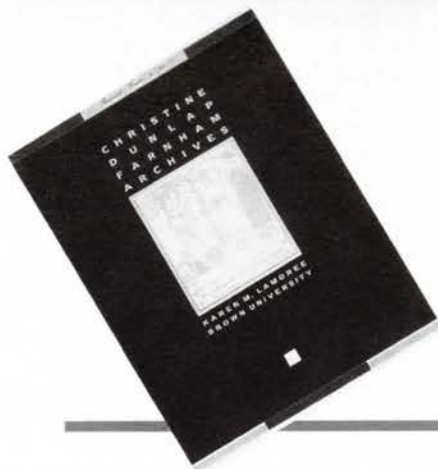
Alumnae Forum Series Continues

Law was the focus of the first alumnae forum of the spring term. Each participant represented a different working environment and area of expertise. **Laura Corwin '66**, who has a Ph.D. in English Literature as well as a law degree earned in 1975 from Yale Law School, works as an assistant secretary and staff attorney for the New York Times Company. This, of course, is a very large organization, but different from working in a large law firm, as the discussion between Ms. Corwin and **Gail McCann '75** indicated. Ms. McCann is a partner in one of Providence's largest firms, Edwards & Angell, where her special area of expertise is commercial real estate law. **Rogeriee Thompson '73** began her career in poverty law and continued in the public sector as assistant city solicitor for the City of Providence while operating her own law firm. Ms. Thompson rushed into the forum late, just off the bench as district court judge, the first black woman judge for the State of Rhode Island. Her stories fascinated the audience. However, all three panelists confided after the forum that they were surprised at the overwhelming number of questions from students as to how many hours they as lawyers had to work; or, if it is possible to work part-time without being seen as a second class citizen; how you can have children and still be a successful lawyer (Ms. Thompson has three youngsters). No one seemed to want to know what each woman did every day on her job.

All three of the panelists for the science careers forum are mothers of young children, but what they emphasized as the greatest difficulty was the commitment that a science career, especially through the doctorate level, entails. **Pamela Tomic**, a physicist, in fact did not complete her doctorate. "One thing

I could not give up was reading," she stated and, after failing to pass the Ph.D. exam twice, decided to look for a job instead. For the past several years she has worked in industry, loving her work, and is now very excited about having made a decision to go into management. **Kathleen King Siwicki '77**, a neurobiologist with a Harvard doctorate, looks forward to her new position as assistant professor at Swarthmore College in the fall of 1989. Ms. Siwicki followed a traditional path for a scientist - undergraduate degree, graduate school, then a postdoctoral research fellowship. She admitted that her decision to go into teaching was the first career decision she has made based on family considerations, since she was expecting her second child within weeks. She was very encouraging about job possibilities for biologists, with bachelor through doctoral degrees, stating that except at the very highest levels the field has become much more balanced in terms of women/men. **Marilyn Karol Pelosi '76** always knew she would major in applied math as an undergraduate, and expressed some regret that since she was so focused she did not experiment by taking more liberal arts courses. The tracing of her career from returning to school as a married woman, and in the course of her graduate education becoming the mother of two children, brought laughs, moans, and sighs of sympathy. Now chair of the Department of Quantitative Methods and Computer Information Systems at Western New England College in Springfield, Ms. Pelosi attributes much of her ability to "do it all" to having a husband who is also an academic and can be somewhat flexible in his schedule too.

The April 14 forum on visual arts ended the series for this year. **Tracy Salvage '81**, a professional artist in New York City did not major in art at Brown and worked in business for two years before beginning art school. Her schedule is rigorous: days are spent in her studio in the Village and most evenings are



The Pembroke Center and the University Library are pleased to announce the publication of the *Research Guide to the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives*. This 500 page volume with over 1000 entries provides comprehensive descriptions of women's materials in Special Collections at Brown. The nationally significant holdings for women's studies are strongest in the areas of clubs and philanthropies, education, employment, literary works, reform movements, religion, and Rhode Island history. Perhaps **Judith Korey Charles '46**, co-chair with **Phyllis**

Baldwin Young '45 of the archives fundraising committee, expresses our reactions to the book best: "I am overwhelmed to learn, through the book, of the volume and depth of the Archives. . . . Each entry appears to be so intriguing, thanks to her (Karen Lamoree's) writing, that I would dearly love to set aside many weeks just for the purpose of poring through the material she describes."

The *Guide* is available to Associates at a discounted price of \$30.00. Prepaid orders can be sent to Karen Lamoree, Farnham Archives, Box A, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.



Sojourner Truth in "Narrative of Sojourner Truth, a Northern Slave, Emancipated from Bodily Servitude by the State of New York in 1828"

spent in front of her word processor as she free-lances to earn extra money to help pay for the expenses of being an artist. "I hope I don't offend your sense of idealism, when I say that the career aspect of being an artist is about being a small-business person," she told the audience. Ms. Salvage's work has been exhibited among other places at the Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven and in an exhibit entitled "Young Faces Going Places," which seems to sum up her relatively young career. **Jamie Evrard '71** earned a bachelor's and master's degree in art as well as a master of fine arts degree and has always worked extensively in the field as a teacher and as a very well exhibited artist in drawing and painting, weaving, basketry, and print-making. Now a resident of Vancouver, British Columbia, Ms. Evrard is concentrating on painting, working in the studio she built right next to her home. Both artists emphasized that even though it may seem like an easy job to just paint or create all day, it is indeed difficult always to work alone and always to maintain a sense of self-esteem in a field such as theirs. Ms. Evrard left with plans to visit Ms. Salvage's studio within the next few days during a trip to New York — an invitation Ms. Salvage extends to all interested Brown alumnae/i in the New York area.



Eileen Rudden

stories as well as supervising layout, design and paste-up. Summers she had worked for *Newsweek* and Gannett *White Plains Reporter Dispatch*.

Eileen graduated from Harvard Business School in 1976 with First Year Honors and as president of a working team in a Computer Simulated Management game. She maintains her contact with the school as secretary of her class.

After Harvard she worked with the Boston Consulting Group and Wang Laboratories Inc. in Lowell, Massachusetts. Since 1986 she has been associated with Lotus Development Corporation of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was recently promoted to general manager of Lotus 1-2-3, with responsibility for marketing and development of 1-2-3, the most popular business productivity software for PCs. There are now 7 million users of this software around the world.

Now to use a tactic of the TV announcers — let's look at Eileen up close and personal:

She came to Brown from Nutley, New Jersey, where she had been class valedictorian and student council president of her high school. She is married to Joshua Posner '71, who is director of development at Community Builders, Inc., a company which develops affordable housing for nonprofit organizations. Eileen and Joshua are the proud parents of three sons, Sam aged 8, Joe aged 4 and Charlie, almost one. They live in Cambridge, where they are restoring a Victorian house. Eileen enjoys perennial gardening and Nantucket natural history. As an active Brown alumna she was chief staff aide to a corporation committee chaired by Fred Wang to review Brown's social commitments.

The Council is fortunate to have Eileen as the new chair and the members anticipate another exciting year under her leadership.

Commencement Forum Attracts Large Crowd

by Doris Stapelton '28

"Looking for Women in the Past," the Commencement Forum sponsored by the Pembroke Center and the Friends of the Library, attracted a standing-room-only audience to the List Auditorium on Saturday, May 27th. Joan Scott, former Nancy Duke Lewis University Professor and professor of History as well as founding director of the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women was the speaker. The forum celebrated the publication of *The Research Guide to the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives*.

Ms. Scott traced the history of women's archives and their importance in providing historical evidence about women's capabilities. Late in the nineteenth century, about the time of the founding of the Women's College in Brown University, the tradition of establishing women's archives began. The process continued and gained strength in the first three decades of the twentieth century. New archives created new needs, and dozens of collections large and small were begun, usually by women active in the suffrage movement or some enterprise devoted to improving women's access to education, employment, the professions, public or political life.

In England the great repository for women's papers is the Fawcett collection, the basis of which was the extensive collection of the papers of two sisters, Millicent Garrett Fawcett (1847-1929), leader of the National Women's Suffrage Society and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836-1919), one of the first women doctors in England.

In France two women, Marguerite Durand (1864-1936), a feminist journalist, and Marie-Louise Bouglé (1883-1936), a member of groups interested in peace and women's rights, are credited with extensive collections. Interestingly, Bouglé spent more on her archives than on all her living expenses! Still, her collections were lost in boxes until 1977 when a graduate student found and catalogued them. Today researchers on the history of women in France are grateful for the use of pictures, manuscripts, and newspaper clippings with invaluable and otherwise unavailable information.

In Amsterdam Rose Manus was the driving force for the establishment in 1935 of the International Archives of the Women's Movement. She was aided by women active in the pacifist movements during World War I. Manus wrote to women all over the world asking for donations, and although some contents of the archive were lost during the Nazi

Eileen Rudden Named New Chair of Associates Council

by Doris Stapelton '28

When the Council of the Pembroke Center Associates meets in October, the members will welcome Eileen Rudden '72 as the new chair. Eileen has been active in the Council for several years and in the past year was chair of the membership committee when the membership increased 30 percent and the income 55 percent.

To the chair Eileen brings a professional background that has unusual depth and breadth. Her A.B. degree with honors from Brown was in American Civilization. Having entered college as a National Merit Scholar, she worked her way through as a computer programmer.

Before entering Harvard Business School in 1974, for two years Eileen was the founder, editor and copublisher of the quality weekly newspaper the *Brockton Examiner* in Brockton, Massachusetts. In this position she covered every aspect of newspaper publishing such as assembling a team, selecting equipment and supplies, selling ads, planning content, editing and writing

occupation, the collections are now housed in a library and are widely used.

In the United States there are many variants of these stories. In the 1920s Rosika Schwimmer, a Hungarian pacifist, urged Mary Beard to establish a World Center for Women's Archives in the U.S. At that time seeking information regarding women, wrote one collector, was like "looking for a needle in the proverbial haystack of historical writing." Mary Beard put it most succinctly – "No documents – no history." Unfortunately Ms. Beard abandoned her effort in the face of World War II. The papers they had collected were distributed to various libraries – the New York Public Library, the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College, and the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe, which also houses the Annie Dillon (a Chicago suffragist) collection unwanted by Northwestern University.

The publication of *The Research Guide* brings the Farnham Archives into national and international visibility. The Farnham Archives is the historical arm of the Pembroke Center accumulating the documentation upon which a permanent though inevitably changing historical memory can be built. All this material becomes available at a most opportune time for the publication of a history of women at Brown as we anticipate the centennial of the founding of the Women's College in Brown University in 1991.

Gender and Popular Culture

On Saturday, May 6 a large and varied audience came to Alumnae Hall to spend the day learning about popular culture. Over lunch in the Crystal Room and at the reception at the end of the day Associates were able to chat with the speakers, and the room was filled with lively, animated conversations. The conference was, as well, a unique opportunity for critics and practitioners of popular culture to interact.

Janice Radway, professor in the Graduate Program in Literature at Duke University, and author of *Reading the Romance* was keynote speaker. *Reading the Romance* takes a critical look at everything from the advertising, marketing and distribution of romances to what a romance is for the woman who buys and reads it. Radway asks whether the increase in the romance's popularity results from women's changing needs and beliefs or from the many important changes in book production, advertising, and marketing techniques, such as corporate takeovers, subscription series, and prominent supermarket exposure.

In order to address the question of romance reading in a social context Radway conducted a study in a mid-western community which she calls Smithton. It had been recommended to her by a Doubleday editor as the home

of a woman Radway calls "Dot Evans." Dot, a salesclerk in a bookstore, has earned herself a reputation as an "expert" on romance fiction, advising women on the newest publications, and publishing a newsletter, among other things. Radway conducted interviews and administered questionnaires to Dot and selected readers, most of whom were married,

middle-class mothers living in single-family subdivisions.

The Smithton women deliberately select only certain kinds of fiction with particular kinds of romances, heroines, and heroes and they totally reject some authors. They formulate for themselves coherent explanations of why they find reading romances so satisfying, especially since romances are often ridiculed by the media and by the women's own families. For these women romance read-

ing can be said to constitute a "declaration of independence" from their duties as wives and mothers. In this sense, Radway states, Dot and her customers see the act of reading as combative; by picking up a book they refuse temporarily the constant demands on them from husbands and children. Reading can also be seen as a compensatory act in that it gives the women a chance to focus on themselves and to inhabit a solitary space away from their roles as care-givers to everyone in the family, a beneficial "escape" which sparks hope, provides reassurance, and helps them to learn something about the world around them. Ironically, because the reader has carefully selected what she reads, her reading reinforces the desirability of the very roles from which she seeks relief.

After Radway's talk, the morning's program was completed by a panel of three very successful romance authors: Sylvia Rosen Baumgarten, Barbara Hazard, and Barbara Keiler.

Besides being a romance novelist, **Sylvia Rosen Baumgarten** '59 is an accomplished interior designer, and a "trivia nut" who has appeared on quiz shows and has had crossword puzzles published by Simon and Schuster and the *New York Times*. She writes as Ena Halliday – her grandmother's name – and more recently as Louisa Rawlings – her great-grandmother's name. Baumgarten writes historical romances set primarily in France. Her books are meticulously researched and attempt to capture sociological and psychological realities as well as historical aspects of their times. As an historical author she feels a strong obligation not to mislead. For *The Stormy Spring*, which takes place in Versailles in the 1700s, for example, she used dozens and dozens of books and manuscripts – books on history, costume, architecture, the letters of Louis' sister-in-law ("who was a deliciously wicked lady"), three books on the chateaux of Versailles, the memoirs of Saint-Simon, books on cooking and baking and the sexual peccadilloes of the courtiers of Versailles. And yet she is forever finding herself defending her books, as when some big city book sellers respond to her queries about the location of romances in the store with the remark that they don't carry "those books."

Baumgarten spoke further about the biases against romance novels even though they represent about 40 percent of the total paperback market and help keep some publishing houses alive to publish the "good stuff". She speculates that part of the bias may be class related: "they are read by working girls on busses and by sweet old ladies with nothing better to do, not by 'us' – we're ambitious, we're liberal, we're sophisticated." In air-



L to R:
Marianne Hirsch '70, '75 Ph.D.
Susan Adler Kaplan '58
Barbara Keiler

port bookshops you see rows of westerns, spy novels, men's books, but only a few romances. "But," asks Ms. Baumgarten, "how about the woman who reads romances – at least she reads, and sometimes very prolifically, eight to ten novels a week. She reads, she remembers, she cares about the characters she meets."

Barbara Hazard seemed well on her way to a career in music, studying violin, piano, voice and theory. Then she decided she would rather be an artist and graduated from Rhode Island School of Design, where she studied oil painting, and while her children were young, participated in two one-person shows and many group shows, and sold twenty-five major works. An avid reader, at least six books a week for her whole life, she became a fan of English mysteries, especially those written by Georgette Heyer, and about eleven years ago, she decided to try her hand at writing Regencies.

Regency romances are quite different from other popular romances. They always take place in Regency England, a period lasting from 1811 to 1820. In addition, the standard Regency is 220 typeset pages, or 14 to 16 chapters. An author must pay careful attention to all aspects of society during that period – carriages, accommodations, food, wealth – and cannot use any situation that would not have occurred in the early 1800s without inviting criticism from some of the thirty thousand women (and some men) who read a new Regency each month. However, Ms. Hazard pointed out that from her perspective, the things that were happening during the period – the Napoleonic Wars, the War of 1812, the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and the rise of the middle classes, etc. – are of great interest to her and are wonderful sources for her plots.

Hazard states that she often wonders why Regencies are so popular. What do women today have in common with women of the early 1800s who had little or no education, were to all extents and purposes powerless, seldom had control of their money – the Regency period was definitely a man's world. One answer, she believes, is that these women readers do so for pleasure and escape and, moreover, once they finish a Regency, they have learned something, they know a lot about what life was like in the early 1800s. Polls have shown that the main audience for Regencies is college-educated women, and fanletter-writers to Hazard range all the way from "a church secretary in Texas, a state trooper in Nevada (female of course), a social worker in Virginia, a vice-president of a bank in Florida – and I know that the governor of Kentucky adores Regencies, or is she past governor? I don't know whether she's still in office". She has never had a fan letter from a man, but

she has had men come up to her and tell her how much they enjoyed her books.

As with other romance novels, there is a lot of negative press for Regencies, and this means that they rarely get good reviews, if they even get reviewed at all. Or the authors are invited to appear on television talk shows and have to put up with leers and winks and countless questions about sex in their books. All three of the authors presented a spirited defense of the romance genre based on their own personal practices as writers, and Hazard ended her talk by stating "There's nothing wrong with love, folks, it really does make the world go round. It's just a shame that the world does not have more of it."

Barbara Keiler earned her bachelor's degree in music from Smith College and a master's degree in creative writing from Brown University in 1976. She originally pursued a career as a playwright and has had plays staged professionally in New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. She has also taught at a number of colleges and universities.

Keiler read her first romance in 1982 with the thought of writing them herself, but quickly realized that what she was reading was very sexist and that she could not write novels which celebrate pursuits such as amassing fortunes, exerting power, and killing bad guys. Her husband (a research chemist) encouraged her to write feminist romances; after

writing four to learn how to do it, her fifth was accepted for publication, in 1983. She now has thirty-one books to her credit! She writes under the pen name Judith Arnold for Harlequin Books and as Ariel Berk for Silhouette Books. And her husband continues to read and critique her work.

As the mother of two young boys, Keiler is fortunate to be able to work in an office in her home, and has trained her sons not to march in and bother her whenever they feel like it. She does a lot of mental preparation for a book as she cooks meals, for example, squeezing in all the time she can get. She spends four or five hours a day at her word processor, proofreads in the evening, and usually completes a book in two months.

Keiler's books are "contemporaries." Keiler feels very strongly about the values she tries to communicate in her books: the importance of caring for others, of taking emotional risks, of making commitments and keeping them. "I consider one of the great strengths of romance fiction its devotion to humanity, to the healing power of love." The woman in her stories "has it all" in the contemporary sense – her career, a fulfilling life and a good relationship with a loving partner who treats her as an equal. The man in her stories is not macho, doesn't mind doing dishes, etc. Keiler states that she writes very realistic books about people who are not perfect,

Janice Radway



Valerie Smith



Sylvia Rosen Baumgarten '59



Jennifer Sharpe, Postdoctoral Fellow '87-'88

but who work hard to make relationships better. Not all of her books have happy endings – she gave as an example her 1988 book *Together Again*, in which a couple lose a baby to sudden infant death syndrome and in the process their relationship is destroyed. Readers who had also lost babies wrote to her to say how they could relate to this couple. But, she says, “my books always end with things improving. They’re hopeful.”

In the afternoon, we left the specific topic of romance novels and moved into the broader realm of “popular culture and media.” The four speakers, Nancy Vickers, Mary Ann Doane, Valerie Smith, and Lynn Joyrich, are all professors whose current scholarship involves topics such as music television, film and psychoanalysis, Afro-American studies and film, television, and melodrama.

Nancy Vickers, an associate professor at the University of Southern California, led off the afternoon with a fascinating critique of an Aretha Franklin/George Michael music video entitled “I Knew You Were Waiting For Me.” Through it, Vickers charted Michael’s “crossover” from his position as a (white) British pop star to his newly won place at the top of the American Rhythm & Blues charts (which are traditionally populated by Afro-American artists). For Vickers, Michael’s transition is appropriative and yet she points out that what provides artistic recognition for Michael provides commercial advantages for Franklin. Vickers began and ended by showing the video, which gave us a chance to see it both before and after having had the benefit of her commentary.

Mary Ann Doane, an associate professor of English and Modern Culture and Media here at Brown, spoke about a silent film made in the 1920s by G.W. Pabst, “Joyless Streets.” The main

female character of the film was a young blind woman who lived with her father. In the scene which Doane showed us and then analyzed, the woman’s father is killed. Though this occurs “right in front of her,” her inability to see causes her to confuse what has happened and she peacefully lets the “visitor” leave. Interestingly, sight and the visual are traditionally associated by film critics with male power. Accordingly, the absence of this male attribute allows the most heinous of crimes to occur and, even leads, in some sense, to the young woman’s complicity in the crime.

Valerie Smith, an associate professor of English who is in the process of moving from Princeton to UCLA, spoke about the films of Whoopi Goldberg. She said that what inspired her to write this paper was the enormous amount of bad press she saw Goldberg’s films receiving. She decided to try to find out why a talented black actress was getting so thoroughly panned. Upon viewing Goldberg’s films, she found herself in agreement with the critics. However, she felt that the bad quality of the films had little to do with Goldberg’s acting and much to do with the actual screenplay. She said, for example, that there was never any attempt to represent the sexuality of Goldberg’s characters, i.e., she was rarely given a “love interest” in the films and accordingly the plots really suffered – imagine a Hollywood movie without a “love story”! Smith did, however, show us a part of one film, “Burglar,” which she felt put Goldberg in a better position – one which had a definite historical, hence political, resonance. It was a scene where Goldberg dresses up as an old cleaning woman in order to rob a house. She escapes being caught by pretending to have been scared into hysteria by the “real burglar” – a response perceived as “normal” by the men – and as they run

off after her created robber, she mutters “I gotta stop this shit” – a reference both to her role as burglar and to her assumed role as domestic servant.

Lynn Joyrich, who recently received her doctorate in American Civilization from Brown, is now an assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her talk was about television and its audience, specifically about how television constructs and assumes its viewers. Her comments focused on emotion and how the highly emotional nature of television ties it to women, who are traditionally considered to be “closer to their emotions” than men. She specifically cited such things as soap operas, talk shows which play up the emotional side of topics like teenage pregnancy, adultery, etc., and all of the made-for-TV movies that are promoted as, for example, “the true story of the man who defeated all odds to become . . .” etc., etc. It was fascinating to see the gender issues involved in something like television programming, which we often consider to be fairly innocuous.

In all, it was a stimulating and invigorating afternoon. It provided us with a wonderful chance to see a handful of women scholars “in action” and to see just what type of things are being pursued in the field of Gender and Popular Culture.

Thanks to Nicole Cunningham ’90 for her assistance in writing the above summary.

News and Notes From the Center

- Membership in the Pembroke Center Associates topped 500 in 1988–89
- Karen Newman, Director, has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for the 1989–90 academic year. She will spend the fall term completing her book on women in comedy in early modern England. During the spring term she and her family will live in Bologna, Italy, where Karen will begin research on a new project.
- Karen Newman has also been appointed to the Rhode Island Humanities Council.
- Karen Lamoree, Farnham Archivist, is a member of the Program Committee of the Joint New England Archivists–Boston American Records Management Association, and also of the Advisory Committee for the Newcomb College Archives at Tulane University in New Orleans.
- Barbara Anton, coordinator of Alumnae Affairs, has been elected vice-president of the Rhode Island Association of Women Deans, Administrators, and Counselors. She has also been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Becker Junior College in Worcester, Massachusetts.
- *Coming to Terms: Feminism, Theory, Politics*, edited by Elizabeth Weed, Associate Director, was published this spring by Routledge, Chapman & Hall.
- The Sarah Doyle Women’s Center has a new coordinator, Gigi DiBello, formerly assistant director for Student Services in the office of Student Life at Brown.
- The 1989 winner of the Joan Wallach Scott Prize for the best senior thesis in women’s studies is Alys Weinbaum. Ms. Weinbaum, who will begin a graduate program at Sussex University in England in the fall, wrote her thesis on “Rethinking Reproductive Technologies: Reimagining Reproduction.”
- Margery G. Whiteman ’62, program chair of the Ad Hoc Corporation Committee on the 1991 Centennial, met with President Gregorian and Robert Reichley in July. Gregorian is very enthusiastic about the celebration and has many ideas for the committee to consider.

Women, the State and War: What Difference Does Gender Make?

by Jacqueline Berman '88

The somewhat antiquated theories of international relations were the topic of a conference entitled *Women, the State and War: What Difference Does Gender Make?* Based on the organization of Kenneth Waltz's book *Man, the State and War*, the conference addressed many of the fundamental assumptions found in social science theory that marginalize gendered analyses. The Center for International Studies at the University of Southern California along with the Center for Men and Women at Pepperdine University hosted the conference on April 28–29, 1989, which brought together scholars from many different disciplines including international relations, political science, feminist theory, literary theory, sociology, anthropology, and psychology. Distinguished panelists included Jean Bethke Elshtain, Nancy Hartsock, Robert Keohane, John Ruggie, Judith Hicks Stein, and Joan Tronto.

In an open forum, panelists presented prepared working papers on feminist approaches to international relations theory. Conference participants asked questions and made comments about these presentations. The discussion focused on what, if anything, feminist theory has to say to international relations theory and vice versa. Academics from different disciplines had great difficulty addressing one another, largely because each operates from fundamentally different foundations. For example, international relations theorists who base their work on traditional "Realism," could not accept feminist assertions about power relations between states. The international relations paradigm utilizes the power dynamic, especially when defined as military force, to explain interactions among states. Many feminists reject this dynamic because it imposes a perspective that necessarily privileges the body with the most power. Thus, feminist theory continues to search for alternative explanatory theories.

In spite of such difficulties, the conference generated many useful and spirited exchanges. As a first attempt, the conference succeeded in illuminating the utility of gender as an analytic tool in political science. Many participants found that the category of gender revealed many of the disciplinary limits of American political science. The conference generated interest and plans for further conferences and research in an area that may break down some of the most dangerous and exclusionary components of

PARTIAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL '89

SEPTEMBER 15

Panel discussion of Supreme Court decision on Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services for the State of Missouri. Sarah Doyle Women's Center Friday Forum

OCTOBER 2–6

University-wide Women's Fair focusing on "Women in the Arts" Kate Burton '79 keynote speaker on Monday evening Day-long activities Wednesday including alumnae forum Evening performance by dancer Barbara Sarbin '83 Exhibits and demonstrations across campus

"Alone Together," slide show and presentation on women and the media by Barbara Sarbin '83 at noon on Friday

OCTOBER 13

Presentation by the Rhode Island Council on Domestic Violence Cosponsored by Pembroke Center and Sarah Doyle Center

NOVEMBER 3

Report on the Women Writer's Project at Brown University Sarah Doyle Friday Forum

Pembroke Center Alumnae Forums for 1989–90 will feature careers in Medicine, Management, Public Policy, College/University Teaching.

such influential academic disciplines as political science and international relations.

Note: Ms. Berman, who now works at the Center for Foreign Policy Development at Brown, was given a small stipend by the Pembroke Center to enable her to attend this conference.

Day Care Center to Open

Since one-third of the faculty and two-thirds of the staff hired by Brown are women, the need for quality, preferably on-site, day care is evident. Thus the announcement in the May 3 issue of the *George Street Journal* that the first day care center at Brown will open was greeted enthusiastically. As we reported in the preceding Associates Newsletter, day care has been a priority with the Sarah Doyle Women's Center for many years, and we must acknowledge Mary Renda and Beth Zwick, both former coordinators of the Center who initiated the drive and worked closely with the Personnel Department to finally bring the plan to fruition.

The project is two-phased; in January 1990 a small center with space for 20 children aged six months to three years will open, and at the beginning of the 1991–92 academic year a larger center

with space for 50 will hopefully accommodate all faculty and staff childcare needs. The small center will be housed in part of the University's Solar Energy Laboratory near the Brown Stadium. Staff of the laboratory look forward to gathering significant data on energy consumption under actual use conditions, since as much as 65 percent of the building's energy could be supplied by solar energy. The present plan for the larger center calls for the University to construct a prefabricated building to meet all requirements for day care facilities. The center will be an attractive benefit for employees and prospective employees.

Gifts:

In memory of Leonore Daniels Klein '54 by Pembroke College Class of '54. In memory of Marguerite Hartley Nolan '68 by Judith T. Reinhardt '67. Special thanks to the Class of '39 for its fiftieth reunion gifts to the Farnham Archives and to the Pembroke Center Endowment. Special thanks also to the fortieth reunion Class of '49 whose quilt raffle proceeds went to the Farnham Archives and to the Pembroke Center Endowment.

Our thanks once again for editorial assistance from Frances Tompson Rutter '41 and William Rutter.

1988-89 Membership Received after 2/1/89

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