

# Pembroke Associates' News

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Vol. 9, No. 2, Spring 1992

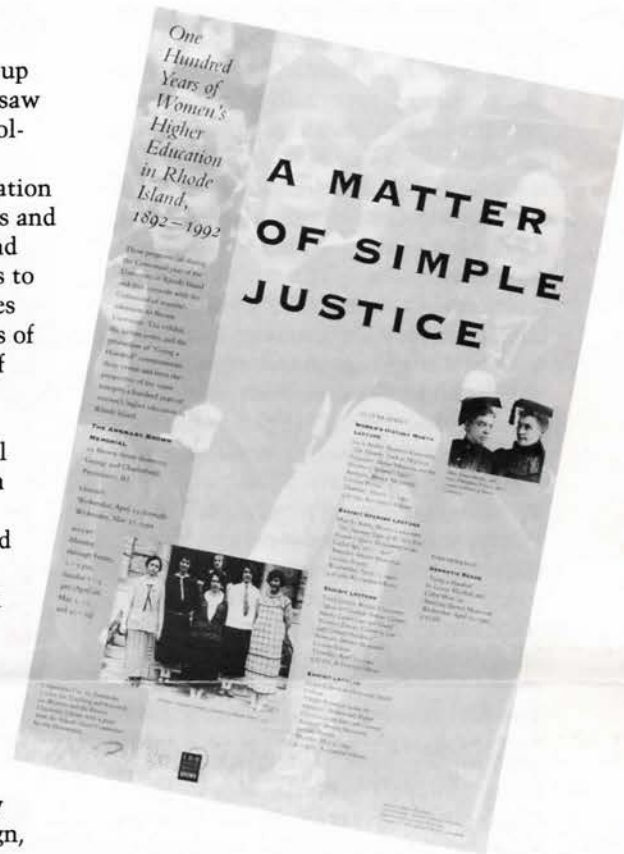
## Exciting Finale for Centennial

by Hetty Startup and Kim Brookes

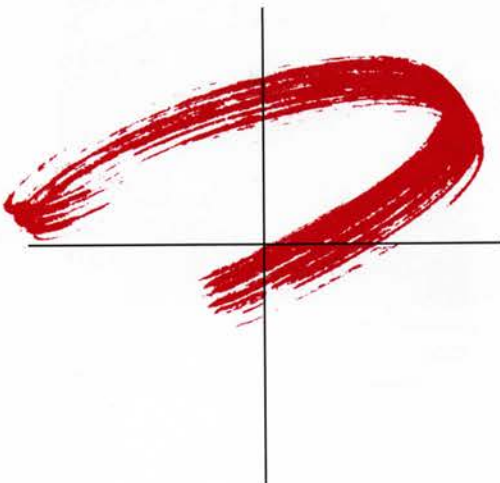
The Centennial celebration will draw to a close with "One Hundred Years of Women's Higher Education in Rhode Island, 1892-1992: 'A Matter of Simple Justice'." An exhibit, a performance of the dramatic review "Going A Hundred," and a lecture series will take place in the Annmary Brown Memorial April 15 through May 27, 1992. The exhibit will include material from several of the special collections housed in the John Hay Library, particularly from the records of Pembroke College in the Farnham Archives. Curator Hetty Startup also has chosen objects and documents from the Rhode Island Historical Society, and the archives of Salve Regina, Rhode Island College, the University of Rhode Island, Providence College, and Rhode Island School of Design. Photographs, diaries, engravings, clothes, pamphlets, banners, and other printed items will fill the Book Room in the Annmary Brown Memorial. The Cecilia Beaux portrait of Sarah Doyle, borrowed from the RISD Museum, will frame an introductory section to the exhibit. The remaining portion will trace the history of women at six institutions of higher education in the state.

In the post-Civil War years and up until the 1900s, the United States saw the founding of several women's colleges whose mission was to offer women the same upper-level education long available to men. By the 1870s and 1880s a host of existing colleges and universities had opened their doors to women and the "pioneer" graduates were ready to assume, in the words of Sarah Doyle, "the infinite radius of women's sphere of influence."

In the 1870s and 1880s, Rhode Island witnessed an era of upheaval and reorganization in the provision of private and state-funded higher education. In 1893, the Rhode Island General Assembly authorized a new building for the state's Normal School (opened free to residents in 1871) to train teachers. It had a model training school from kindergarten to eighth grade. In 1919, the college became the Rhode Island College of Education, now Rhode Island College. By 1882, Rhode Island School of Design, set up for men and women in 1876, had eight departments of industrial, trade, and non-vocational training. RISD offered a day and an evening program, housed by 1897 in a school endowed by women board members. In 1891, after the Brown University Corporation allowed women to take the same examinations men took in order to graduate, the urban lower-middle and middle-class women commuting to take courses from Brown professors, began to create their own highly motivated, serious-minded community. 1892 saw Rhode Island's land-grant college reopen as the coeducational state college of agriculture and mechanic arts. By 1895, the college had provided women a dormitory. In 1901, it became the Rhode Island State College, now the University of Rhode Island. Exhibit material will chronicle the development of these institutions and women's role in them through the 1990s.



The part of the exhibit devoted to women at Brown University begins with a section entitled "A Separate Life Together, 1897-1927." It will feature the social and intellectual culture of the Women's College. Before 1919 women were excluded from commencement and not allowed to march with men through the famous Van Wickle gates. Before the 1920s, the traditions and rituals organized by women students flourished on what was to become the Pembroke campus. Photographs of their social events, such as the Sophomore Masque, May Day, and the Ivy Night Dance, will be included in the exhibit. There will be visual evidence of the intellectual mentoring and female role models available for women students through



the activities of the Dean of Women and the Rhode Island Committee for the Collegiate Education of Women. Pictorial and documentary material from this period will illustrate that the Women's College in Brown University was anxious to prove that women were capable of combining intellectual work with physical exercise without damaging their ability to fulfill traditional feminine roles in society. A section on the 1920s and 1930s will follow; it will focus on such developments as the name change to Pembroke College, and the establishment of women's engineering and nursing programs in the late 1930s and war years. Post-war history in two sections, 1941-1971 and 1971-1992, will explore the larger historical influence of civil rights, the Vietnam War, and the women's movement, as well as chart the course to coeducation in the 1960s through 1971.

A lecture series in conjunction with the exhibit will examine the larger meanings of women's higher education in Rhode Island and the region. The lectures will provide a forum in which to exchange ideas and provide an additional lens through which to view the exhibit material. These lectures, all in the Annmary Brown Memorial at 4:30 p.m., are free and open to the public.

**Wednesday, April 15:** Exhibit opening lecture by Mari Jo Buhle, Brown University: *The Dawning of a New Era: Women's Quests for Learning in the Gilded Age, 1870-1890.*

**Wednesday, April 22:** Dramatic revue by Theater Arts Professor Lowry Marshall and Colby Moss '93: *Going A Hundred.*

**Thursday, April 30:** Todd Gernes, Brown University: *Hoop-la! Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Martha Miller Lane and Young Women's Literary Culture in late 19th Century Providence.*

**Monday, May 4:** Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, Smith College: *Ought Women to Learn the Alphabet?: Women and Higher Education in the Late 19th Century.*

The programs for "A Matter of Simple Justice" are funded by a grant to the Pembroke Center and the University Library from the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities, the Pembroke Center Associates, the University Library, and the Office of Alumni Relations. An exhibit catalog, funded by the Pembroke College Class of 1949, will be for sale and will include an introductory essay and an inventory of items on exhibit.

**Congratulations to Marianne Hirsch '70, '75 Ph.D., professor at Dartmouth College and former member of the Pembroke Center Associates Council. Hirsch was recently awarded a distinguished chair and is now The Dartmouth Professor of French and Italian Studies and Comparative Literature. She will spend the 1992-93 academic year at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina where she has been awarded a fellowship.**

## Center Centennial Highlights

Thanks to a generous gift to the center from Cynthia L. Jenner '61 in celebration of the centennial, several programs were held throughout the fall and others are planned for spring term. Ms. Jenner's gift honors her mother Nadine Newbill Jenner, and her maternal grandmother Leona Hopper Newbill. On October 2, Marianne Hirsch '70; '75 Ph.D., a professor at Dartmouth and former member of the Pembroke Center Associates Council, opened the series with a lecture entitled "Maternity and Rememory: Toni Morrison's *Beloved*". The talk was preceded by a dinner in celebration of Nadine Newbill Jenner's birthday.

The second Jenner event was held on October 11. The Center and University Relations co-sponsored a Parents' Weekend program on mother and daughter alumnae. There are many multi-generational Brown families, in fact, a great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Peckham Kinder, one of the first two women to enter Brown in October 1891, graduated in 1988, 93 years after her great-grandmother. Comparisons between generations brought shaking heads, sighs, and laughs. Of particular interest was the



Opening program of Jenner series, October 2: (above, l to r) Marianne Hirsch '70; '75 Ph.D., guest lecturer, and Cynthia L. Jenner '61; Dinner preceding lecture, (right, l to r) Sophie Blistein '41, Theatre Arts Professor Emerita James O. Barnhill, Theatre Arts Associate Professor Emerita Janice Van de Water Brown





October 11: Mother/daughter alumnae: (above, l to r) Dr. Martha E. Banks '73, Marjorie Stephens Banks '48; (below, l to r) Dorothy H. Testa '62, Teresa M. Testa '94; Maxine Israel Balaban '51, Rachel I. Balaban '80



story of Martha Banks '73, who was admitted to Pembroke College, saw the inauguration of the new curriculum, experienced the merger with Brown and all the changes in dorm and social life, and graduated four years later with an educational experience very different from what she had anticipated. A common thread was that these mothers had such positive experiences at Brown that the daughters wanted to come too – as did sons, and probably grandchildren in the future.

Joan Wallach Scott, founding director of the Pembroke Center, spoke at the Center's tenth anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 19. Joining her were Anne duCille '91 Ph.D., former participant in the Pembroke research seminar and now Assistant Professor of English and Women's Studies at Wesleyan; Valentine Moghadam, a postdoctoral fellow at the Center in 1988–89, and now at the United Nations University in Helsinki, Finland; Lecia Rosenthal '91.5, research assistant for the Pembroke Center; and Munia Bhaumik '93, former librarian at the Sarah Doyle Center. Director Karen Newman moderated the discussion. Panelists spoke about the importance of the Pembroke Center to themselves personally and to Brown.

A dinner at the Faculty Club preceded the second annual Ruth Burt Ekstrom lecture on October 23. Sandra Harding, a philosopher of science at the University of Delaware, was the speaker.

The final visiting scholar lecture of the semester, cosponsored by the English Department and the Jenner series, took place on November 7 with Jonathan Goldberg of The Johns Hopkins University.

"The Sporting Woman: Insights from Her Past" was exhibited at the C.I.T. Building for the month of November. This beautiful series of visual images

shows that women have indeed had a sporting history, and did include recreational and competitive sports in their daily lives beginning in antiquity. All who viewed this exhibition were surprised and impressed by the number of sporting activities represented – from arm-wrestling and boxing, to football and basketball – and the wonderful quality of the images. The Brown Sports Foundation and Brown's Center for Information Technology cosponsored the exhibit with the Pembroke Center.

A packed house at List Auditorium on Friday evening March 6, enjoyed an interesting and entertaining performance by the V-Girls. Co-sponsored by the center, as part of the Jenner series, and the Visual Art Department, this study and performance group presented a satirical panel discussion on "The Question of Manet's *Olympia*: Posed and Skirted." The five V-Girls are artists, writers, directors, and teachers in the New York area, and have appeared at The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The California Institute of the Arts, and Columbia University, as well as other universities.

"State/Local Politics in the 90s: Where the Action Is?" was the title of a panel discussion on March 13 cosponsored with the Taubman Center for Public Policy. Sally Dowling, Director of Policy



October 19: Centennial Weekend 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Pembroke Center: (counterclockwise) Lecia Rosenthal '91.5; Anne duCille '91 Ph.D.; Alumnae enjoy speaker at Pembroke Center Celebration





October 23: Dinner preceding the second annual Ruth Burt Ekstrom Lecture: (l to r) Anne Fausto-Sterling '70 Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Ruth Burt Ekstrom '53, Karen Newman, Director of the Pembroke Center



November 4: Opening reception for "The Sporting Woman: Insights from Her Past", (l to r) Arlene Gorton '52, Associate Director of Athletics, Mary Holburn '50, Margaret Dolan '39, Sally Fox, Curator of the Exhibit

and then Legal Counsel for former Rhode Island Governor DiPrete, Brooke Kruger Lipsitt '63, Alderman in Newton, Massachusetts, Stephanie Sanchez '89, newly-elected member of the Representative Town Meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut, and Myrth York, Rhode Island State Senator, addressed such issues as whether a politician can be more effective at the state/local level, implications for women as serious social problems have been shifted onto state/local levels, and how to raise money for a campaign.

On April 2, Deborah Pickman Clifford, a writer from Middlebury Vermont, presented a talk entitled "Adventures in Biography." Ms. Clifford's latest biography of Lydia Maria Child is due for publication in early spring by Beacon Press, whose director, Wendy Strothman '72, alerted us to this interesting book. Child is best known as an impassioned anti-slavery writer during the mid-eighteen hundreds, but she also published novels, histories and poems, and edited the first American children's magazine.

## New History of Women at Brown

A lively discussion at brunch during the October centennial weekend might have been responsible for the successful sales of *The Search for Equity* (see bookstore ad). Polly Welts Kaufman '51, Editor, and chapter authors Lyde Cullen Sizer, Louise Newman, Linda Eisenmann, Charlotte Tomas and Martha Gardner spoke about their research and writing and answered many questions from interested alumnae in the audience. Joan W. Scott, who wrote the preface, had the following to say about the book: "Not only all those wonderful hidden sights on the cover, not only the production of the book which is very beautiful, but the high quality of the essays. This is a serious and analytic set of essays. You learn a lot reading it and your level of understanding of women's history as an enterprise is raised." The book is priced at \$34.95 for hardcover and \$19.95 for softcover plus \$2.00 for handling and shipping. Checks can be made payable to Brown University and orders sent to Christine Love, Director, Alumni Relations, Brown University, Box 1859, Providence, RI 02912.

## Associates Cosponsor Rewarding Trip

by Rosemarie Boyd '92

Brown undergraduates Gentle Blyth, Eleanor Brown and Rosemarie Boyd attended the four day CAWP (Center for the American Woman in Politics) Forum for Women State Legislators in San Diego, California, last November. Funding for their trip came from the Pembroke Center, the Center for Public Service, Sarah Doyle Women's Center and the Office of Student Life. CAWP, a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, was founded in 1971 to serve as a clearing-house for information on women in public life and to facilitate collaboration among women working in politics. CAWP compiles information and publishes reports about women in government and politics, studies and monitors the status and prospects of women in public life and promotes communication among women. The Brown students were among forty women from colleges across the U.S. who attended as participants in the CAWP Forum Internship Program. Interns spent between six to ten hours over the four days assisting with forum production and had the remainder of their time to attend sessions and workshops, debate issues, meet with women leaders and peers

planning careers in politics, and have fun in San Diego.

The 1991 Forum was attended by more than a thousand women with diverse backgrounds in politics, business, media and academics from all regions of the United States. Additionally, twenty-one international women leaders from the former Soviet Union, Japan, Germany, Poland, Brazil, South Korea, Taiwan and Mongolia, came to discuss the challenges facing women working in public life.

Anita Hill, Professor at the University of Oklahoma College of

Brown Bookstore's list of hot books and the top ten best sellers for the month of October 1991. Courtesy of Brown Bookstore, 244 Thayer St., Providence, RI.

### TOP TEN

1. **The Search for Equity: Women at Brown University, 1891-1991**  
Polly Welts Kaufman
2. **Possession**  
A. Byatt
3. **General in His Labyrinth**  
G. Garcia Marquez
4. **Den of Thieves**  
J. Stewart
5. **Jump**  
N. Gordimer
6. **Best American Short Stories 1991**  
A. Adams
7. **Six By Seuss**  
Dr. Seuss
8. **Savage Inequalities**  
Jonathan Kozol
9. **Lila: An Inquiry Into Morals**  
R. Pirsig
10. **Atlas of the Difficult World**  
A. Rich

### HOT BOOKS

Michel Foucault/Didier Eribon  
Earthing Poems/Alice Walker  
A Time for Tea/Jason Goodwin

Law, Linda Wertheimer, Host of *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio, and Constance Berry Newman, director U.S. Office of Personnel Management, were among the many well known public figures who participated. Local public officials Senators Rhoda Perry and Myrth York, and Representatives Barbara Burlingame and Linda Kushner also attended.

The following are some personal comments reflecting on my experience



*Members of the Women's Committee of the Brown Club of Southern California at the home of Devra Breslow '56 for a talk by Joan W. Scott. (see p. 6)*

at the conference:

On November 15, 1991, when I stood among more than a thousand women (and a few men) to hear Anita Hill speak, I felt as if I were in a woman's army! When Ms. Hill stood to speak I stood at attention (as I do for Tae Kwon Do) in my high-heeled boots and watched hundreds of pink napkins whirl through the air while the women who swung them cheered ceaselessly.

Ms. Hill told of letters she has been receiving from women all over the country, including mothers and grandmothers, who have been finding the courage (as they said themselves) to speak about instances of sexual harassment which occurred in their childhoods, in some cases, and in their adult lives. The discussion, followed by questions and answers, addressed many different and sometimes conflicting views held among women, but the focus was on the shared goals of equal rights and fair treatment.

I would like to extend warm thanks to all those who made it possible for me to attend this conference. I met and talked with women, old and young, who work in business, media, politics and academics throughout the United States. I also met Bulgan Horloo, a Representative from Mongolia, and

Mitsuko Watanabe, a Prefectural Assemblywoman from Japan. Topics discussed included how to find campaign funding, and how the collapse of the Soviet Union will continue to affect the economies of Mongolia, Japan, the United States, and the world economy. My favorite part was contributing in a discussion of public housing policy among women who went back to work the following week to do something about it.

## Center Helps to Fund New Course

The Theatre Outreach for Youth (TOY) course was offered as a pilot project during fall 1991. Twenty-three Brown students — from freshmen to seniors, graduate, MAT and Resumed Education students — worked closely with 30 sixth graders from two Providence schools, teaching them theatre, dance, music and visual arts and creating a performance piece which was then presented both at Brown and to elementary schools in the area. The project was a huge success and there will be a follow-up program called 2ND STAGE which will enable the children to continue to work together on theatre programs in-school and after-school. Brown Theatre Arts professors Julie Strandberg and Rosalind Clark will help run the programs.

The project has also received funding from the Providence School Department, the Mayor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and Brown's UTRA program; the Providence Public Library has contributed space. Other funding applications are in process and the successful course, cross-listed with Education and Theatre Arts, will be offered again next year.

## Calendar of Events for Spring Term 1992

**January 23:** The Pembroke Research Seminar on "Scientific Knowledge and 'Difference,'" 9 am – 12, Crystal Room. Seminar continues throughout the academic year.

**February 5:** The Susan Ball Visiting Scholar, Mary Poovey, Department of English, The Johns Hopkins University, 8 pm, Crystal Room.

**February 26:** Pembroke Center Associates Membership Phonathon. 6 – 9 pm, Crystal Room.

**March 5 – 6:** Research Seminar Roundtable: "Inscribing Science: Image/Technology/Text."

**March 6:** V-Girls, a performance group, present a satirical panel entitled "The Question of Manet's *Olympia*: Posed and Skirted." 8 pm, List Auditorium. Part of the Jenner series.

**March 12:** First lecture in centennial exhibit series on women's higher education. Professor Joyce Antler, Brandeis University, 4:30 pm, Annmary Brown Memorial, followed by a reception.

**March 13:** Friday Forum. "State/Local Politics in the 90s: Where the Action Is?" 12 noon, Crystal Room.

**April 2:** Women's History Month celebration. Lecture by Deborah Pickman Clifford, biographer of Lydia Maria Child, 4 pm, Commons Room, followed by a reception.

**April 3 and 17:** Postdoctoral Fellows presentations, 12 noon, Commons Room.

**April 10:** Research Seminar Guest Lecturer Nancy L. Buc '65, "Women and Clinical Trials." 9 am, Bio-Med 217.

**April 15:** Opening of centennial exhibit. Lecture by Professor Mari Jo Buhle, Brown University, 4:30 pm, Annmary Brown Memorial, followed by a reception. Exhibit runs through Commencement weekend; hours 1 – 5 Monday through Friday, and Sundays, April 26, May 17, May 23 – 24.

**April 30:** Centennial exhibit lecture by Todd Gernes, graduate student at Brown University, 4:30 pm, Annmary Brown Memorial, followed by a reception.

**May 4:** Centennial exhibit lecture by Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, University of California, 4:30 pm, Annmary Brown Memorial, followed by a reception.

**May 23:** Associates Council meeting; Commencement forum and reception.

## Medicine Balls, Not Basketballs!

Verna F. Spaeth '30 corrected the error on the postcard invitation announcing the opening reception for the exhibit on women's athletics. The coordinator of alumnae affairs incorrectly identified weighted medicine balls as basketballs. Indeed, the two are completely unrelated. Since this activity was phased out of the physical education program in the late 20s, we decided Mrs. Spaeth's description of "toning up" with medicine balls could be a learning experience for many of you.

The young women, garbed in bloomers and middy tops, lined up in rows with legs apart and a medicine ball in front of the line. Each snapped the heavy ball between the row of legs, the first in line walking to the rear and the others moving forward until all had toned their back, shoulder, and arm muscles with this exercise. Other complicated exercises toned other parts of the body: lifting the ball overhead and

pulling arms back to lift the chest; waist bends to the left, then to the right, all with the heavy ball in hand and always passing the ball to the next in line.

To quote Mrs. Spaeth, "One was pretty well loosened up at the end of the medicine ball exercises!" Thanks to Mrs. Spaeth for setting the record straight.

## Brown Women on the West Coast

Rosalyn Laudati '71 sent information about the January 21 quarterly meeting of the Women's Committee of the Brown Club of Southern California. The meeting was held at the home of Devra Breslow '56. The guest speaker was Joan Wallach Scott who presented a very dynamic and interesting history of women at Brown, beginning with the seven women admitted to the Women's College in 1891. Turnout for this meeting may have been the largest ever!

The Pembroke Club of Northern California held its annual white-elephant auction in December and, as

they have done for the past several years, donated the proceeds to the Pembroke Center. From all of us here on the top floor of Alumnae Hall, thanks for your support over the years.

We hope some of you had the opportunity to see a performance of "Going a Hundred", sponsored by the Pembroke Center through a grant awarded us by the Rhode Island Committee on the Humanities, as part of the centennial celebration. Written by Theater Arts professor Lowry Marshall and Colby Moss '93, the performance opened the October 18 - 20 centennial weekend on campus and was selected as the annual traveling student group for Alumni Relations. The five student performers had a very exciting trip and appeared for Brown clubs in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix and St. Louis. They will perform in Providence again on April 22 as part of the exhibit program.



**Pembroke Center**  
for Teaching and Research on Women  
Brown University / Box 1958  
Providence, RI 02912

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