Sisters in Struggle: Women in the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975

By Robin R. Harris
Law Library

Think for a moment of the national Civil Rights Movement and its dynamic leaders. If you are like most people, striking images of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and perhaps veteran Congressman John Lewis as a young man spring immediately to mind. Why do so few women come to mind? While Rosa Parks is familiar to almost everyone for her refusal to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery bus in 1955, most people do not realize that during 1963’s historic March on Washington only one woman, civil rights activist Dorothy Height, shared the stage as Dr. King delivered the legendary “I Have a Dream” speech.

Now think locally of the struggle for civil rights. You may know about women like the courageous Anne Braden, author of The Wall Between and subject of the recent biography Subversive Southerner, by UofL professor Catherine Fosl. Or you may have heard about the tireless efforts of Kentucky’s first African American female legislator, State Sen. Georgia Davis Powers, author of I Shared the Dream. What you may not realize is that countless other heroes of the movement, both nationally and locally, were in fact women.

An exhibit in the Ekstrom Library Lobby aims to bring women out of the shadows and enlighten those who see it by filling in some of the blanks in local history. Sisters in Struggle: Women in the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975 honors female involvement in the Louisville racial justice and civil rights movement. The display features historical photographs and clippings highlighting women’s leadership in the movement in the years before busing.

Sisters in Struggle was the brainchild of Circulation’s Jami Allen. “The credit definitely goes to Jami,” says Archivist Kathie Johnson, another key member of the Ekstrom Design and Exhibits Committee team that created the exhibit. “The display was her original idea. We (the exhibit team) loved the concept because it combined themes of both Black History Month and Women’s History Month in a meaningful, creative way. What we didn’t know when we started was that gathering the information would take a lot more digging than we thought. There were so many more women than we realized, so many from one period or another, working behind the scenes to affect change.” Johnson and Allen spent time going through box after box of papers in the University Archives and Records Center, tracking down the hidden stories of female civil rights activists. Johnson notes that
the hidden nature of these stories is “typical of women’s history research,” with much of it recorded haphazardly, if at all.

Jami Allen’s idea focused on women and their many roles in the movement. “I wanted to bring women to the forefront of the discussion. So often we think of men’s contributions. In this exhibit I wanted to focus on women as the true backbone of the movement.”

David Horvath, Head of Media and Current Periodicals and Chair of the Exhibits Committee found that “it was in fact stunning to look at the photos of local events through the years, and to see how many of the activists were young women.” While many of the photographs of the more well-known women (like Anne Braden and Mae Street Kidd) came from Ekstrom’s Photographic Archives, Horvath also spent time in the The Courier-Journal archives, sifting through the collection there.

It will come as no surprise that another contributor to the creation of the display was Dr. Blaine Hudson, who helped fill in some of the missing pieces in the local civil rights story. According to David Horvath, Dr. Hudson (Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and a well-known activist himself) played a pivotal role. “One of the treasures of working on this exhibit was talking with Blaine. He had first-hand knowledge of the events.”

One courageous young woman Dr. Hudson talked about was Renelnda Meeks (now Higgins-Walker), sister of local politician Reginald Meeks. “Blaine said she was one of the most consistently active women in the local movement. She was actually carted off to jail with Blaine from the sit-in at the UofL Administration Building (now Grauwemeyer Hall) in the late Sixties . . . Her activism really cost her something. She lost her scholarship and had to leave school.” Now the Head of Public Affairs at Harlem Hospital in New York City, Ms. Higgins-Walker’s story shows “the very clear cost, in terms of sacrifice that these women made.”

Sisters in Struggle will be on display in the Ekstrom Lobby through March 31. On March 7 at 3:00 p.m., in the Ekstrom Auditorium, four women featured in the exhibit will take part in a panel discussion about the civil rights movement. Anne Braden, Benetha Ellis, Georgia Davis Powers, and Deanna Tinsley will share their recollections of this tumultuous time in our community. The event is free and open to the public.
The new wing construction is moving along and is now much more visible. The new café will be called the Tulip Tree Café and will feature Starbucks coffee drinks, food from Au Bon Pain and Outakes and pastries from Double Treat Bakery.

Budget planning for 2005-2006 is progressing. As usual, the Libraries have many funding needs related to library materials, technology and facilities. These needs have been presented to the Administration and we hope to receive at least partial funding for these important items.

The SAALCK (State-Assisted Academic Library Council of Kentucky) met on February 11. Discussion continues to focus on training workshops and consortia negotiations with Wiley, with a possible inclusion of LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe - http://www.lockss.org/). The LOCKSS system, developed at Stanford University, preserves access to authoritative versions of web-published material by caching multiple copies at distributed locations, using polling and a reputation system to repair damage and prevent corruption. Most of the SAALCK libraries are proceeding in the reduction of their subscriptions with Elsevier and Wiley.

Since tenure for library faculty has been reinstated, a faculty task force is working on processes for individuals to obtain tenure.

The Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries (FSCOL), chaired by Elaine Wise, met on February 9 and discussed the Libraries Strategic Plan, the Libraries Diversity Plan, repositories, and digitization of dissertations.

Planning for the 33rd national LOEX conference to be held in Louisville May 12-14 (for the first time in a Southern state) continues under Anna Marie Johnson and her committee’s excellent guidance. Approximately 270 participants are expected from the U.S. and from other countries as well.

On February 10, I chaired the meeting of the Metroversity Library Council at the new Indiana University Southeast Library. Bruce Keisling, Library Director for the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, organized a very interesting program on Digital Initiatives. Eric Weig, Head of Digital Programs at the University of Kentucky, spoke about Institutional Repositories, followed by a talk by Brad Baumgartner from Endeavor Systems. Keisling will take over the leadership of the Metroversity Library Council at the next meeting in April. — Hannelore Rader, Dean, University Libraries

Thank You

Alice Abbott-Moore
Bill Carner
Gwendline Chenault
Carolyn Gertler
David Horvath
Marcia Kottlinski
Jan Kulka
Weili Liu
Hannelore Rader
Mike Smith
**Library News**

### Ekstrom Library Office of Libraries Technology

#### Windows XP Upgrade Update

The Windows XP upgrade with Active Directory (AD) is being rolled out earlier than expected. Thanks to the hard work of Sheila, Mioshi, Mike, Leon, Calvin, Tamer and some PC Support Team members, the majority of PCs with Windows 2000 have been upgraded to Windows XP with AD. Only a few areas with PCs connecting to image scanners or with some special applications have not yet been upgraded. If your PC was missed from our upgrade list, please let us know. For those who have been upgraded, please test it out and should there be any problems submit your reports via your PC Support Team member or OLT’s HelpDesk at [http://staff.library.louisville.edu/depts/olt/olt_helpdesk.asp](http://staff.library.louisville.edu/depts/olt/olt_helpdesk.asp).

With AD, logging onto your computer vs. logging on to the Intranet or your network folder has changed. Detailed instruction, “AD Login Procedure” can be found on the Intranet main page under “Computing Info.”

#### MetaLib Implementation Update

The three-day training is complete. The tentative target date for internal release is early April. More specific information will be available as time approaches. To see who is on the team and for more information, please visit the Libraries’ Intranet at [http://staff.library.louisville.edu/er/mtabib/](http://staff.library.louisville.edu/er/mtabib/) or go directly to [http://www.library.louisville.edu/olt/metalib/metalib.stm](http://www.library.louisville.edu/olt/metalib/metalib.stm).

#### SFX Implementation Update

The date for public release with full implementation of version 2 has been postponed. To check on the implementation progress, please visit the implementation site at [http://www.library.louisville.edu/olt/sfx/sfx_beta.stm](http://www.library.louisville.edu/olt/sfx/sfx_beta.stm). This link is also available on the Libraries’ Intranet, “Newsletter, etc.” section. You are encouraged to review it and send us your suggestions and comments.

### Office of the Dean

#### Personnel News

The UofL Board of Directors has appointed Neal Nixon, Interim Director, Kornhauser HSC Library to Director effective March 1, 2005.

Jason Friedman has accepted the position of Library Assistant in Distance Learning effective March 7, 2005. Jason is currently a student assistant in Distance Learning.

### Ekstrom Library Events

#### Panel discussion: “Voices of the Participants” with Louisville civil rights activists Anne Braden, Georgia Davis Powers, Benetha Ellis and Deanna Shobe Tinsley

**Ekstrom Library Auditorium, 3:00pm, March 7, 2005**


#### Real Chick Flicks: A Feminist Films Marathon

**Ekstrom Library Auditorium, 4:00-11:00pm, Tuesday, March 15, 2005**

A series of women-centered movies and documentaries. Titles to be announced

#### Ekstrom Library Annual Women's History Month Poetry Event

**Ekstrom Library Lobby, January 17 - March 31, 2005**

Poetry, music and dance make up only a few of the many different ways that humans express themselves. Women, as a group, can put their own unique spin on things. Our host will be Dr. Karen Hadley of the English department. There will be poetry reading by faculty, staff and students, music by renowned local guitarist Susan Wood, and a dance exhibit by Terri Holzce, among others.

**Ekstrom Library, Bingham Poetry Room, 1:00pm, March 24, 2005**

### Special Collections

#### Carner Curating

Bill Carner has curated *Native American Portraits by Edward S. Curtis and his Contemporaries* for the Speed Art Museum to complement the exhibition, *Capturing Western Legends: Russell and Remington’s Canadian Frontier,* currently on display in the Speed’s traveling exhibition gallery. The photographs for the Native American portrait exhibit were borrowed from several local collections. Ekstrom’s Special Collections: Photographic Archives loaned four Edward S. Curtis prints to the exhibit. Many people do not realize that Curtis’ twenty-volume set, *The North American Indian,* was not published as just a series of picture books, but rather as an illustrated ethnographic study with histories of the tribes, their myths, musical transcriptions of the songs and vocabularies with the equivalent Native American phrases for common English words. Ekstrom Library has a 1970 reprint in the stacks (E 77 .C98). A Spanish-language reprint is available as well. Western photographers A. C. Vroman, William Henry Jackson and Frederick Monsen are also represented in the exhibit. *Native American Portraits by Edward S. Curtis and his Contemporaries* continues through Sunday, May 22. And remember: UofL faculty, staff and students get free admission to *Capturing Western Legends: Russell and Remington’s Canadian Frontier,* an $8 saving!
Kersey Library
Farm Show
Pat Waters and her husband attended the annual Farm Machinery Show put on by the Tobacco Growers Association at the Fairgrounds in February. This show covered the entire grounds of the Fair and Expedition Center. BIG SHOW!

Law Library
Women’s History Classroom Reception
On Thursday, March 10, from 3:30-5:00pm, all libraries employees are cordially invited to attend a reception celebrating the Women’s History Classroom (Room 177) in the Brandeis School of Law. Festivities will begin at 3:30pm in Room 175 in the law school Commons Area. Everyone is welcome, but you must RSVP by March 7 to Robin Harris (robin.harris@louisville.edu or 852-6083), so we’ll be sure to have enough food!

Exhibits

Art Library
Belknap Gallery
Kathleen Olliges/Jim Chambliss/Colis Marshall/Mary Yates: MA Thesis Exhibitions

Covi Gallery
Paper & Image
Terry Taylor, curator – paper from the Twinrocker Paper Co. Collection

Gallery X
Nathan Hayden
February 24 – March 20, 2005
When you’re visiting the Galleries in Schneider Hall, plan to stop by the Art Library to see more artwork. Drawings, prints, watercolors and sculpture are interspersed throughout the 80,000 volume collection. Highlights include a collage by nationally known artist Alma Lesch and several works by UofL faculty, past and present.

Ekstrom Library
Lobby
January 17 – March 31, 2005

Lower Level Lobby
A Healing Journey: An Art Exhibit
Funded through grants by Kentucky Foundation for Women and led by Pat Sturzel, UofL Alumni, this exhibit offers a chance for a group of women who struggle with mental illness and trauma to share their experiences through art created on their healing journey.
March 3 – 31, 2005

Music Library
Online Audio Reserve News
The Music Library’s online audio-reserve service is expanding beyond the School of Music. Dr. Diane Pecknold’s “Popular Music and American Identities” students are accessing their listening assignments online. (Dr. Pecknold is the Post Doctoral Teaching Scholar in the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society.) Students who used the service previously in the School of Music recommended it to Dr. Pecknold.

New folks
Music Library Public Services welcomes new student assistants Deepak Santhana-Krishnan and “New” Lou Wolf.
Once, I went through some dental treatment that required me to avoid any staining drinks or foods for at least two weeks. This included coffee, tea, and other items that may include tannins. I was not prepared for this, since I had not weaned myself off caffeine. I am one of these people who rely somewhat on caffeine. While I am not a huge consumer of caffeine, I typically consume some on a daily basis—at least enough to experience severe headaches if I don’t consume caffeine fairly early in the day.

So, the hunt was on. I needed to find something I could drink to help prevent such headaches, or at least hold them at bay until I weaned myself off caffeine. I searched the web and found out some really interesting information about the amounts of caffeine not only in drinks and some foods, but in other things that people ingest often (and probably unknowingly).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caffeine Content of Selected Foods and Drugs</th>
<th>Serving size(^1)</th>
<th>Caffeine (mg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Over-the-counter drugs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excedrin</td>
<td>2 tablets</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anacin</td>
<td>2 tablets</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coffees</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee, brewed</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee, instant</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee, decaffeinated</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starbucks coffee grande</td>
<td>16 ounces</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teas</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea, leaf or bag</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapple Iced Tea</td>
<td>16-ounce bottle</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipton Iced Tea, assorted varieties</td>
<td>16-ounce bottle</td>
<td>18–40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea, green</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea, instant</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celestial Seasonings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbal Tea, all varieties</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soft drinks</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Dew</td>
<td>12 ounces</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet Coke</td>
<td>12 ounces</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coca-Cola</td>
<td>12 ounces</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Pepper</td>
<td>12 ounces</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunkist Orange Soda</td>
<td>12 ounces</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepsi-Cola</td>
<td>12 ounces</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-UP or Diet 7-UP</td>
<td>12 ounces</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minute Maid Orange</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda</td>
<td>12 ounces</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprite or Diet Sprite</td>
<td>12 ounces</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-Eleven Big Gulp cola</td>
<td>64 ounces</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frozen desserts and yogurt</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben &amp; Jerry’s No Fat Coffee Fudge Frozen Yogurt</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Häagen-Dazs Coffee Ice Cream</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dannon Coffee Yogurt</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonyfield Farm Cappuccino Yogurt</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chocolates or candies</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hershey Bar, 1 bar</td>
<td>1.5 ounces</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa or hot chocolate</td>
<td>8 ounces</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)Serving sizes are based on commonly eaten portions, pharmaceutical instructions, or the amount (Center for Science in the Public Interest).
In the United States, around 80% of the adult population consumes caffeine, and about 20% of these people consume over 350 milligrams daily, a level that has been determined to cause physical dependency. In fact, many regular consumers of caffeine experience difficulty when they try to quit using caffeine. Such dependence is reflected as withdrawal symptoms and can occur after only 6-15 days of exposure to 500-600 milligrams or more daily, which is around 5 cups of coffee, 10 cola drinks, or 8 cups of tea (General Conference Nutrition Council & Caffeine).

For persons who have become addicted to caffeine, withdrawal symptoms usually occur 12-24 hours after stopping the consumption of caffeine. Some symptoms include headache, fatigue, irritability, apathy, sleep problems, depression, work difficulty, and possibly anxiety (John Hopkins Bayview Medical Center). Usually, withdrawal symptoms peak at 36 hours and will be gone at the end of one week, depending on whether or not detoxification is occurring partially or totally.

Research has shown that coffee and tea reduce iron absorption by 40 percent and 60 percent respectively (General Conference Nutrition Council). Also, caffeine affects calcium absorption, due to loss via urine. Coffee also relaxes the esophageal sphincter muscle, leading to acid reflux and heartburn.

For many adults, high consumption of caffeine can cause aggressive and sometimes psychotic behavior. Children who consume high amounts of caffeine display hyperactive behavior (General Conference Nutrition Council).

So, like anything else, moderation seems to be the key; caffeine used to excess can have negative short-term as well as long-term effects. Knowledge of the caffeine content in drinks and foods can aid in the moderation of consumption.

Sources:


“I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and perseverance in keeping Kornhauser’s ILL running fast and smooth during Kathy Roger’s absence on medical leave. A big thanks to: Destiny Minton, Joan Nailon, James Adler, John Chenault, Jane Bottoms, (Janet Meyer, Paula Mattingly and Angela Elliot for Circ Desk coverage), and all our great student assistants: Debbie Black, Sun-Rye Yoo, Tiffney Gibson, Eric Supplee, Salah Ali, Lam-dien Bach, and James Calvert.” —Denyse Anger

“I would like to send a big THANK YOU to Mike Purcell and Sheila Birkla for their prompt actions after the recent event that necessitated moving ahead on the Windows XP and Active Directory upgrade. Also, I want to extend my gratitude to Mioshi Cobble, Leon Leydershnayder, Calvin Miracle, Tamer Khalaf, and those PC Support team members who helped with this process for their hard work on fixing and upgrading the Libraries’ PCs.

I also want to thank everyone who received a PC upgrade for their patience, understanding, cooperation and support on this upgrade process.

“I would like to thank the SFX Implementation Team, especially Calvin Miracle, Mark Paul and Judy Wolff, for their hard work on the implementation.” —Weiling Liu

“I would like to thank Vivian Harrison for all her help and assistance the past few months. I have been peppering her with numerous serial-related questions. She is always friendly and kind and always responds immediately. Thank you, Vivian!” —Marette Irwin