

**STRUGGLE**

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administrators also seem to discourage women from returning to college. Kudura said she may have been denied admission to a doctoral program because she is an older student.

"Who knows what went on in the decision-making process, but another woman who was older and applied didn't get in, and I did not get in," Kudura said.

"I know some of the thinking

tended Rousell's group, she said talking with other women is important.

"These people can give you strokes for getting an A on a paper," she said. "Your kids just look at you like 'Yeah. So?' They don't understand what an A in college means."

But Kudura noted that support groups don't always work for these students.

"I tried to do a support group for single parents, but it just didn't work because single parents don't have time to go to groups," she said.

**'These women have it really tough, what with their studies, kids and sometimes jobs.'**

— Liz Sumner

that was going on was that we were almost at the age where they were trying to get their faculty to take early retirement.

"I'm not sorry that it happened that way in the long run," she added. "But I feel like that kind of thinking may be going on as far as graduates go, and I don't think that's fair," she said.

However, Kudura said she has never felt out of place at the University. "I know some women are very conscious of it, and I think it's their own self-consciousness, so probably they need help with that."

Women students can boost their self-esteem by joining support groups and talking with other women about their common trials. Laura Rousell is a graduate teaching fellow who leads such a group for women over 35 through the Women's Center.

"Because they're sharing common problems, indecisions and struggles, they realize that other women are struggling, too," Rousell said.

**Positive strokes**

Although Sumner hasn't at-

"For returning students there's so much pressure in managing your time that as much as they need support, doing that through one more meeting isn't helpful," Kudura said.

Despite all the difficulties and frustrations with going back to school, most women stick it out, Kudura said.

"When you're a returning student, there's almost this added pressure of wanting to improve your situation, to get off welfare or have more job security," she said.

"Part of that is wanting to be able to get a job when you get out, but part of that is also enjoying the process of education," Kudura said.

"These women stick with it because they have a goal: They want to get an education and get a degree, so they can do something they want to do," Sumner said.

"These women who are back in school are working really hard, and they have overcome obstacles other students just can't understand."



Photo by Steve Carr

Liz Sumner tries to find as much time as possible to spend with her children, but carrying a heavy course load complicates schedules.

**Woman graduates continue to earn less than men earn**

(CPS) — Female college graduates earn less money than men who have finished only high school, says a Stanford University researcher.

College-educated women nationwide earned an average of \$25,554 in 1987, which high school-educated men made \$27,293 the same year, said the Women's Research and Education Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization.

Stanford University researcher Deborah Rhode, who authored the section on gender equality for the report, titled "The American Woman 1990-91," speculated the reason for the disparity is that many women are still concentrated in traditionally lower paying jobs, dragging down the average salary.

Most high-ranking jobs in professional fields are still

filled by men, Rhode said.

In other graduate job placement news, the College Placement Council reported that although employers are offering fewer jobs to graduating seniors than last spring, they are paying the people they do hire more.

In all, most starting salaries are up about 4.5 percent over last year, which just about compensates for the rise in the consumer price index, the major gauge of inflation, over the year, said Dawn Oberman, CPC spokeswoman.

Engineering majors once again are getting the highest starting salaries among bachelor's degree earners this spring, reported the CPC, which surveyed 428 campus placement offices to find out the salary offers made to 1989-90 graduates from last September through March 10.

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