

♀ ON OUR WAY

Newsletter of the Women's Center
46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Telephone: (617) 354-8807

Winter 1982

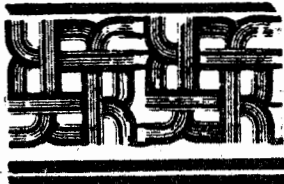
WE ARE TEN YEAR'S OLD!

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR 10th
BIRTHDAY Saturday January 23rd

The Center's 10th birthday/anniversary is January 21st. We are celebrating this important date with an open house and party on Saturday January 23rd, from 11am to 5pm. A Party will follow in the evening at the Center. All women and children are invited. Projects of the Center and other Boston area women's groups will be participating. Workshops, slide show presentations and other activities will be scheduled during the day and there will be food and childcare available. Participating groups include the Boston area Rape Crisis Center, the Women's School, Women Against Violence Against Women, the Boston Bail Fund, Mothers Support Group, the Emotional Counseling Project, Introductory Committee, the Cambridge Women's Oral History Project and many more!

The Women's Center herstory is rooted in the early contemporary Women's Liberation Movement. In March of 1971 over 100 women marched from the Boston Common to a former knitting Mill at 888 Memorial Drive, Cambridge. The building was owned by Harvard University and along with MIT, the major landowner/landlord in Cambridge. The women occupied the building for ten days, setting up childcare, classes and generally putting the building to better use than its former occupants. After ten days the women left the building having shown their determination to make the need for a Women's Center recognized. Many women continued to work towards realizing this goal and in December of 1971 the present Center was bought and officially opened on January 21st, 1972. Since then the Center has been a focal point and given impetus and support to many women's activities and groundbreaking services.

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR SURVIVAL



THE WOMEN'S SCHOOL

The fall term of the Women's School is underway and six courses are meeting weekly. We're real glad that "The Nuclear Menace", a course being offered for the first time at the school (which was almost cancelled because not many women signed up to take it) is meeting regularly. Given the current political and military climate, we feel it's very important to educate ourselves about the impact and consequences of nuclear arms and nuclear power. We hope to offer "The Nuclear Menace" again in the Spring and hope that more women sign up for it.

The School is looking for women to join the collective and help run the school. The current collective has gradually shrunk from 15 to 8 members, and, for the first time in the almost two years we've been together, we are actively seeking new members. We've been having discussions about diversity within the collective, and how to bring in new members. If you're interested, please call us at 492-4845.

Like many other tenants in Cambridge and elsewhere, the Women's School's rent went up this past fall. We don't use our office very much during the day and are interested in sharing it with other individuals and/or groups. So call us if you're looking for a space.



INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources is run by four women on a voluntary basis. The organization has been functioning for a year now. Our activities come under two main headings:

I. Counseling

We try to provide good non-sexist counseling for women with incest histories by 1) organizing and facilitating self help groups at the Cambridge Women's Center; leading paid support groups outside the Center. There is presently a twelve-week support group being run by Susan Lees from Incest Resources and Janet Yassen from the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center. We will organize another self-help group, but the date for that depends on being able to find two co-facilitators to lead it. 2) Incest Resources has organized a support group for women who lead incest groups in nearby cities and in Rhode Island. There may be a second such group starting this winter. 3) We provide counseling, information and referrals to counselors, incest survivors, and families of survivors through our phone, 232-2062.

II. Public Information

We are attempting to get good information about incest to the public through our brochures, public speaking, writing, TV and radio. We are very excited that our organization (and the feminist perspective on incest in general) will be represented at a National Psychiatric Convention in Toronto next spring.

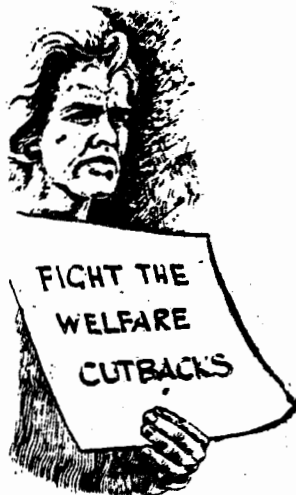
Incest Resources is always looking for volunteers to help with typing, fundraising and education.

STAFF

In these times of spiraling health care costs, lack of medical insurance is a health hazard. At present, due to difficulty in obtaining grants for staff-related costs, paid staffers at the Women's Center (right now one 1/2 time staff coordinator and one 1/2 time fund raiser) have no medical coverage. We'd like to appeal to the community for donations, however small, toward a health insurance fund for paid staff (please specify "staffing fund" when making contributions).

Compounding the problems of paid staff is the fact that, although the Center relies mainly on the work of volunteer staffers to function, there are simply not enough women volunteering on a consistent enough basis to cover Center hours. The result is that the paid staff puts in a considerable number of extra hours each week. We really need more women who can volunteer to staff on a regular basis. This, along with donations to help cover the costs of staffing the center (CETA used to pay staff salaries), are crucial to our operation.

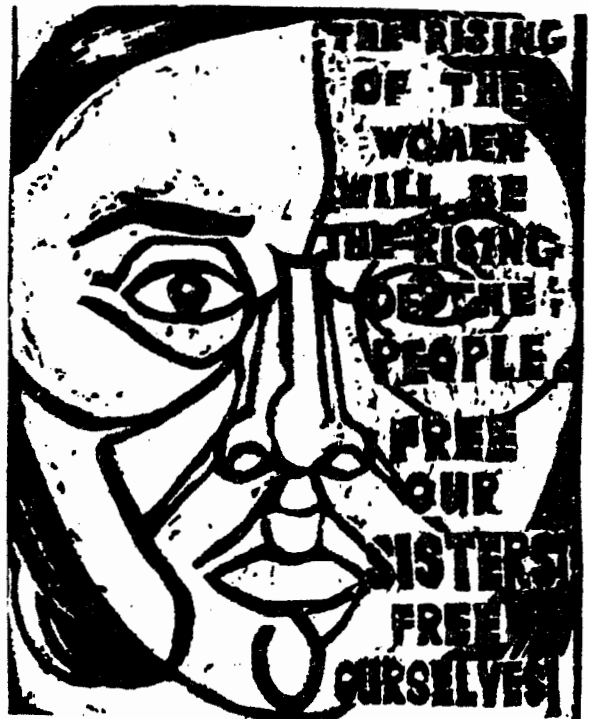
Spare time and/or money are not things most of us have much of, but remember that the Women's Center belongs to all of us. Help keep its staffing policies fair, and help keep it open.



The ad hoc coalition of Boston-area feminists has been meeting for several months now and is presently involved in formulating guidelines for the organization. A major and ongoing goal of the coalition is to insure the involvement of women of color, poor and workingclass and other-abled women.

General membership meetings are held the third tuesday of the month (Jan, 29th at 7:30pm at 805 Columbus Ave., South End), and any suggestions for a meeting space that is centrally located, wheelchair accesible, near public transportation and affordable is very much appreciated!

Presently some 16 Boston area women's groups belong to the coalition. Individual woman who are presently not part of a group can also belong and participate in the coalition. For further information about the coalition and its work contact Charlotte Laffin at the Women's Center.



WANTED:

The Center desperately needs new, or used, carpeting or rugs. Must be clean and in good condition. Large pieces if possible. Indoor-outdoor carpeting also needed. Please call leaving particulars and where carpeting can be obtained: 354-8807.

WAWAW has lost three old members to graduate schools and relocation. We are now six plus one on temporary status. Throughout November we carried on an educational leafleting effort at the Nickelodean where BEAU PERE, a Bernard Lier film about a 13 year old girl who 'seduces' her stepfather is being shown. Members of Incest Resources aided our education on incest.

We continue to participate in the Ad Hoc Coalition of Boston Area Feminists (see article elsewhere in this issue), and one of our members has joined the newly formed Women's Access Committee of Cablevision/Boston (240 Bowdoin St., Dorchester 02122), a committee that will determine programming needs of Boston women. Some of us will be attending the women and pornography conference in NYC on Jan. 23rd and hope to share that information in the spring along with a showing of the new Canadian film, NOT A LOVE STORY. Finally, we continue to show slideshows to community groups, schools etc. We are interested in reaching new audiences so please let us know if you know of a group who might be interested.

RAPE CRISIS CENTER

The Rape Crisis Center is in its ninth year of operation. We have received well over 10,000 phone calls and continue to function as a 24 hour on-call service. At this point, we are able to function without specialized funding from outside resources.

We do public education and political work, in addition to working with women who are sexually assaulted or fear sexual assault.

As a result of the recently publicized rape cases, i.e. MD rapists, and the Judge Abrams decision, a large focus of our work has been political and media oriented. In July, 1981, we held a press conference in response to the media's coverage of this rapist/physician case. This drew major network response and newspaper releases.

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The Center is having a raffle at our 10th Birthday open house January 23rd

The Center is having a raffle to raise money to buy a T.T.Y. A T.T.Y. is a machine used by deaf people to communicate using the telephone. the machine has a keyboard like a typewriter and instead of talking, the person types what she wants to say. The other person must also have a T.T.Y. in order to receive the message which is shown either on a little screen or printed out on a paper, depending on the model. Giving information out over the phone is an important part of what the Center does. Women call to ask what we do here or when we're open. They call to get a referral for services offered either at the Center or all over the Boston area. They call to find out about meetings and Women's events. For hearing women finding out about these things is usually a simple matter of picking up the phone, but not for deaf women. By having a T.T.Y. we hope to change this. Since the T.T.Y. will be at the pay phone in the office, it will also be available for deaf or hearing women at the Center to make phone calls, such as to arrange a meeting or a ride somewhere, as hearing women now do. In this way, too, we hope the Center will become more accessible for all women.

There is often a barrier between deaf and hearing women caused by communication difficulties. These problems are sometimes made worse, though, by cultural differences and lack of knowledge about deaf people on the part of hearing women. We want to have some awareness workshops for the staff of the Center and members of the projects who may be interested in learning about deafness, the Deaf Community and communicating with deaf people. At this point we are still looking for women to lead these groups, but we do have some contacts. We will have flyers about the dates and times when we have the workshops organized.

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The raffle tickets for the T.T.Y. fund cost \$1.00 each and are available at the Center. The drawing will be Sat., January 23rd at the Center's 10th Birthday Open House.



The RCC sponsored the public premier of "Primal Fear", by Canadian film maker Anne Claire Poirer, which graphically portrayed the rape of a woman and the emotional aftermath, as well as its political implications for women in general.

This Fall, we successfully did outreach to the Boston area colleges: information in orientation packets and follow-up speaking engagements. Another part of our public education includes working on the chapter on violence against women for the new edition of "Our Bodies, Ourselves".

Being a collective, we constantly struggle for efficiency. We have broken down into several task forces which enable us to enhance our productivity with more personal communication. The counseling task force would like to mention

that there is an ongoing group for women who have been raped and might benefit from the support of others.

To enhance our unity and promote public awareness of RCC, we are working on a T-shirt design and logo. If anyone has ideas, please send them to us, along with any illustrations.

Anyone interested in joining us as a volunteer, please call: 492-RAPE.

WOMEN OF COLOR SUPPORT GROUP

The Women of Color group began in March 1981 to bring us together to discuss our lives, commonality and differences. It started after the Racism Conference at Simmons College and the Socialist Feminist Conference because Women of Color realized that we need a space to connect and share.

The group is an open group but we expect issues discussed in the group to remain in that space. Confidentiality is important. Individuals should feel free to remind the group that things they are sharing are especially personal.

Although this is an open group, we expect commitment and that women who cannot attend will get a message to the group that they will not be there. We also hope that women who decide to leave the group permanently will give the group feedback about what motivated them to leave. We expect women to feel that they can give criticism/feedback about the ongoing work of the group. At the end of each meeting, we will have a summary discussion in which each member can share her feelings about the meeting.

Continued on page 6

ON OUR WAY is an irregular publication! We would like to have it come out on a more regular basis, but we need your help to do this. Please contact us if you would like to help.

**I am a woman
and if I live
I fight and
if I fight
I contribute to
the Liberation
of all woman
and so victory
is born even in
the darkest hours**



cpf/women: a journal of liberation

WOMEN OF COLOR (Con't)

The Women of Color group meets every Tuesday night from 7:30 to 9:30 on the third floor of the Women's Center. The first Tuesday of each month will be a planning and introductory meeting. For the benefit of new members who have come in the previous couple of weeks, each member will say a little about herself and why she became interested in the group. We will also plan the issues to be discussed at the meetings for the second and third Tuesdays of that month. The fourth Tuesday will be a social event. We welcome women of color to attend any of the meetings.

At this time, there are not enough women in the organizing committee to continue to do all of the work involved to keep the Cambridge Safehouse Network operating. We are asking all interested women to consider working with the organizing group in order to keep SafeHouse functioning in Cambridge. We hope to have a core group of 10 or more women to make a commitment to SafeHouse. If you are either interested in working with us or need more information, please call us at 876-7015. Thank you for your support.

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CAMBRIDGE SAFEHOUSE NETWORK NEEDS YOUR

H E L P!

We are a group of women who have organized a network of neighborhood homes in Cambridge to provide immediate and temporary refuge to women in danger in their homes and on the streets. Since we first began in 1979, we have worked to build up the number of homes participating in the program and to bring the issue of rape and sexual assault and domestic violences into public awareness. Our work has focussed on outreach and publicity through public speaking, door to door canvassing and attendance at community events, as well as monthly training sessions and self defense classes for women who wish to have their home a Safehouse.

Continued on next column

TRANSITION HOUSE SUPPORT GROUP FOR
BATTERED WOMEN

The transition House Support Group for Battered Women held at the Women's Center is now in its Fourth Year. During this time many dynamic, courageous women have graduated from it - to go on to better things. We meet every Monday night at 7:30 PM and every Wednesday morning at 11:30 AM. All battered women are welcome. Participants can to either or both groups as they please. For more information contact the Women's Center: 354-8807.

MORTGAGE DRIVE - WINTER 1982 UPDATE

As of January 1982 we only owe the bank \$2,597. This is a considerable reduction from the \$14,787 we owed in late 1979. It is very important that the mortgage be paid off as soon as possible. In just nine years time the Center has paid over \$11,000 in interest in return for borrowing \$18,700 to purchase the Center. Our hard-earned dollars should be going to benefit women--not increase banker's profits. Let's celebrate the Center's 10th Birthday by burning the mortgage in 1982! Send contributions to the Women's Center and note on your check "For the Mortgage Drive".

EMOTIONAL COUNSELLING GROUP

E.C.G. has undergone some exciting changes in the past few months. Sadly, we have lost a few of our old and important members -- women who have left to take on new jobs or to involve themselves in other new and important commitments. However, we are pleased to say that after a few months of re-examining and reevaluating our group we have taken seven new members into our group. Among our new members are women who have private practices as feminist therapists, women who work in private and public institutions, and women whose daily work is in fields other than mental health. Our process of re-formation and reorganization is an engaging one.

Although E.C.G. has undergone some significant changes in the last few months, we continue to offer the same type of services -- free and low cost therapy services to women in the Cambridge-Boston area. Clients interested in exploring or using our services can call the Women's Center and leave a message. Our group meets on Wednesday evenings. At that time members in E.C.G. discuss clients' calls and agree upon who will return an individual call. Depending upon a client's financial situation and her issues and concerns, we will either refer a client to a therapist within our group or one outside. If you wish to begin or continue therapy, or if you wish to just talk with someone in the group about therapy or related matters, please give the Center a call.

HEAT CONVERSION: WARMER AND CHEAPER

In 1981, the Center received part of the needed funding to carry out a Heat Conversion Project which included conversion from oil to gas heat and enclosing the front porch to stop heat loss from the building. The fuel conversion was done for several reasons: 1) Cambridge residents purchase gas from Commonwealth Gas (considerably cheaper than Boston Gas) and there is a projected saving of 32% over the current price of oil. 2) Our steam heating equipment was so inefficient that much of the money we spent on heat was wasted. 3) And, after spending all of this money (\$1,949 in 1981) the building was still quite cold! 4) The new heating system should correct the above problems and should pay for itself in 3 to 4 years with fuel savings. The first phase of the Heat Conversion Project -- renewal of the heating system and conversion to gas -- was completed in Fall, 1981. Enclosure of the porch will be completed as soon as funds are available.



FINANCIAL REPORT: WHAT IT COSTS TO RUN THE CENTER FOR ONE MONTH:

<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>
Mortgage	\$162	Insurance	\$99
Heat	162	Publications Purchase	72
Gas	18	Maintenance supplies	35
Electricity	30	Household supplies	20
Phone	35	Corporate Fees	4
Staff (2 part-time @ \$4/hour supplementary staff when needed)	640	Publicity	26
Health Insurance for staff	113	Newsletter	17
Postage	6	Yard Maintenance	4
Office Supplies	6	Printing & Xerox	15
		Miscellaneous	5
		TOTAL:	<u>\$1,469</u>

MATCHING GRANTS ---YOUR DOLLAR GOES
A LONG WAY!

One of the most difficult tasks of fundraising has been to get money for general operating expenses. So, in 1981, the Center tried a new approach: "Matching Grants." If a corporation or foundation gives us operating expense money, we promise to raise an equal amount from the general public. This means that the corporate donation is more effective: every dollar they give us is doubled, and it also demonstrates that the Center has support of the community, an important consideration in foundation and corporate giving.

So far we have received a total of \$5,200 in matching grants.

The Center needs your help to match these and future grants. We welcome your donations, large or small. Any amount will help. Please make checks payable to "Women's Educational Center, Inc."

If you work for a corporation which would be willing to take part in our Matching Grant Program, please contact our fundraiser:

Jean Rioux
547-9030 or
354-8807

Many thanks.

NOW YOU CAN HAVE YOUR CAKE AND...

Yes, it's now possible to contribute to the Center and still keep your money!

How? By making an interest-free loan to the Center for any amount and for any length of time you choose. We will hold your money in our interest-bearing account and will return it to you whenever you need it. So, don't hold that vacation money until you plan to take off. Loan it to the Center in the meantime!

If you want to make an interest-free loan, just fill out the form (see next page) and return it, or call 354-8807 and leave a message for the Core Committee. We will contact you and arrange for the transfer of money. A Loan Agreement will accompany each transaction.



INVEST IN YOUR OWN FUTURE ---

INVEST IN WOMEN!



The Women's Center

46 Pleasant St.
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Tel. 617-354-8807

YES, I WANT TO INVEST IN WOMEN! Here is my tax-deductible contribution to the Center.

\$5 \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

I would like to cover the _____ EXPENSE (see page eight) for _____ month(s).

Please donate this \$ _____ to the MORTGAGE DRIVE.

I would like to make an INTEREST-FREE LOAN to the Center. Please contact me.

Rather than contribute now, I would like to PLEDGE \$ _____ per month for _____ months, starting _____.

Please send me a monthly pledge reminder.

My employer wants to take part in the Center's Matching Grant Program.
Employer contact: _____

VOLUNTEERING helps save the Center money. Please consider giving your time for such work as staffing and helping in the Library.

I would like to volunteer for work at the Center. Please call me at _____.

IN-KIND DONATIONS help us to defray costs. Please indicate if you or the place where you work can donate the following or any other items:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household cleaning supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Xeroxing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee & Tea | <input type="checkbox"/> Printing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Light bulbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bags | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture: couches, tables, chairs, lamps, <u>rugs!</u> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of an out-of-town residence for retreats | |

The Center will give you or your employer a receipt for donations to use for tax purposes. Please request if needed.

NAME _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street City State Zip Code

My suggestions for making the Women's Center self-supporting are on reverse side.

ARCHIVES OPENS

The Center has recently opened an Archives of the Boston Area Women's Liberation Movement on the third floor. These Archives are composed of documents from a number of contemporary women's groups located in the Boston area. Included in the Archives are the papers of Bread and Roses, an early Socialist/Feminist organization (1969-1971); Cell 16, publishers of the theoretical journal, NO MORE FUN AND GAMES; Boston Women's Music Collective (1975-1978); SISTER COURAGE, a women's newspaper; Female Liberation (1970-1974) and the papers of the Abortion Action Coalition, as well as many of the projects spanning the nine-year history of the Women's Center.

Women's history has often been lost to us in the past. The papers of our political and personal lives stored in the Archives will furnish women with firsthand records of our struggles and growth as a movement. The Archives, we hope, will be a repository for documents from current and future women's groups as well as organizations of the 1960s and 1970s.



If you have any papers, leaflets, journals, letters etc. which you would like to see housed in the Archives, please contact us at the Center. We would particularly like to encourage Boston area women's groups to remember the Archives when they have papers and group materials they want to store. We would be happy to preserve them for you.

We are also looking for more women to join the library and Archives collective. Please let us hear from you.

