

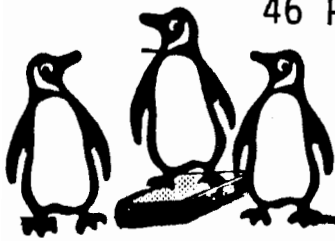
♀ ON OUR WAY

Newsletter of the Women's Center
46 Pleasant Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02139

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

NOV 87



SEE WHAT I SAY

On Friday night, Nov. 13, the Deaf Women's Community Project and the Coffeehouse joined together to welcome 35 deaf and hearing women to an open house for the deaf women's community at the Center. The event began with a tour of the Center. Many of the women then watched the video "See What I Say" featuring Holly Near, 2 interpreters and 3 deaf women. After the video, women crowded into the living room as Libby gave a talk about the history of the Center. Two women interpreted during Libby's talk. Following the talk, several deaf women asked questions about resources for battered women, services for the blind and personal safety. Patti Wilson then spoke about the DWCP. She explained how the project began as a counseling group designed to address problems of deaf women and how now it is focusing on the community, on their needs and goals, not just as deaf people, but as deaf women. She encouraged deaf women to become active members of the project, to bring their energy and ideas to it. The DWCP meets on the third Sunday of each month, 2-4pm at the Center. Sky encouraged women to also participate in the Coffeehouse and stressed that, with two weeks notice, interpreters can be provided for all events and groups at the Center. Deaf women should call the Center's TTY at 354-8807 to make their requests.

+++++++ COFFEEHOUSE +++++++

Fridays, 8pm-Midnight at the Center
Upcoming Events

- Dec 4 - Dark Days, New Life, Jane Strete reads poetry and prose from works in progress
Dec 11 - Featured musical performer to be announced.

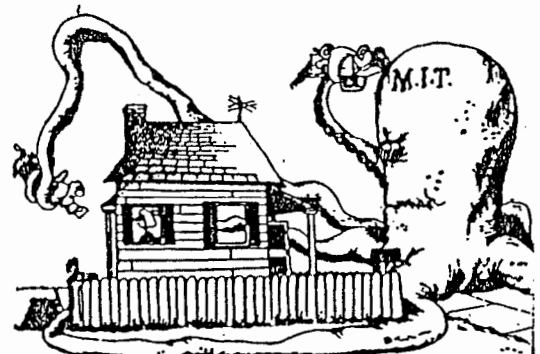
ALL WOMEN WELCOME

TENT CITY

On October 17 and 18, the Women's Center participated in TENT CITY, a protest against MIT's expansion into, and destruction of, Cambridgeport neighborhoods. It was the latest battle in the community's 13 year old fight to require MIT to build a substantial amount of affordable housing, and in other ways keep the area affordable and open to all racial and economic groups.

In the afternoon and evening, there were speeches, entertainment, food, and beverages, including coffee, cider and soda by the Center. Many people, including some women of the Center, pitched tents on one of the many vacant lots that MIT has leveled over the past years for future development, and spent the night. Some tents were left up and about 25 homeless people continued on at the site, demanding that decent housing be available to the homeless.

Sixteen years ago, the Women's Center itself began with a protest against Harvard's disregard for the needs and existence of the neighborhoods that it invaded, when women seized a Harvard-owned building and held it for ten days. We will continue to support efforts against such socially irresponsible expansion. Call 491-2933 to find out what you can do.



LESBIAN RAP

The Lesbian Rap Group is alive and well at the Women's Center. This group, reorganized last March, included a name change: from "Lesbian Liberation" to "Lesbian Rap". This change reflects the progression of our liberation, and by now using the word "Rap," we are able to discuss those issues which are central to our current everyday lives. The purpose of this ever-growing group is to provide a safe, warm, yet fun atmosphere. Many women have made permanent time and space in their lives for our Monday night discussions. Larger attendance seems to occur when the scheduled topics are considered "hot". Some of the topics (chosen by group members) include coming out, monogamy, intimacy, breaking up, lesbians in culture, seduction, relationships with our parents, and issues in the workplace. The range of topics is unlimited. Women with their own special interests are encouraged to facilitate discussions.

The popularity of the Lesbian Rap group indicates that we are interested in our lives as lesbians and we are curious to meet others. Outings to Somewhere Else, parties, and potlucks have been fun ways to get to know others outside of our sometimes "heavy" discussions. By no means is this a closed group; all are encouraged to attend (& bring your ideas!)

>>>> LESBIAN RAP <<<<<

Mondays, 8-10 pm

Upcoming Topics

- Dec 7 Mother/Daughter Relationships
- Dec 14 Issues with Being Out
- Dec 21 Holiday Discussion: How We Celebrate NOTE: 7 to 10 pm
- Dec 28 Our Relationships with Men

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I . R . *OBICS

Therapeutic Aerobics for Women with Incest Histories

Second & Fourth Thurs. each Month
6:15-7:45pm

Cambridge YWCA, Hannum Hall, 7 Temple St.,
Central Sq., Cambridge (617) 491-6050
Fee: \$5 per class

Conceived & choreographed by Elaine Westerlund, Ed.D., co-founder of Incest Resources. Designed to work on issues related to body perception, self-image, anger, and shame. Open only to women with incest histories

RECLAIM YOUR BODY !

WOMEN'S SCHOOL

There are more Women's School courses scheduled for November. Call to register.

- US Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Nov.21 10-2pm
- Where are the Women in Your Family Tree? Nov. 21 10-1pm
- World Congress of Women-A Report on the 1987 Convention in Moscow Nov.21 10-12:30

The Women's School would like to thank all of the facilitators who offered classes and workshops in our 15th Anniversary Term, as well as those who have worked with us in the past.

The Collective would also like to thank Becky Tannenbaum for her work, dedication, and sense of humor. Becky is leaving the Collective after working with us for the past two years. We will miss her.

Of course, with Becky leaving, we are eagerly looking for new members. Come work with the nation's oldest running successful women's school, and have a good time while contributing to our community. Call 354-8807 for info.

DECEMBER FLASH

Rock Against Sexism will be sponsoring a benefit tea dance for the Women's School on December 27th, 6pm-10pm at the 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St. Boston.
\$2 Donation.

Sophie Wessel, Chicago



DISCUSSION GROUP

***** FEMINIST DISCUSSION GROUP *****

Wednesdays, 8-10 pm

UPCOMING TOPICS

- Nov 25 "Isms" in the Women's Community
- Dec 2 Women and Education
- Dec 9 Game Night--Bring your Favorite Game!
- Dec 16 Defining Feminist Therapy
- Dec 23 Holidays and Families
- Dec 30 Family Issues

Participate in informal discussions about our common experiences as women.

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Even though the hurrah and hoopla of the Gay and Lesbian March on Washington is now over, it is not forgotten by those who had the opportunity to participate. I was fortunate to be able to travel to Washington and march under the Women's Center Banner. Throughout the day, many women from the various Women's Center affiliated groups participated in the march under the Center banner. As an organization which has historically represented and lobbied for the interests of all women, it was particularly appropriate that the Center be represented at this historic event.

The long weekend began with the migration of hundreds of thousands of gay men and lesbians. As I drove to the Capitol, I was charged with energy as I saw many other lesbians traveling south on the turnpike. This feeling of excitement increased as we descended on the city. Upon arriving that first night, gay men and lesbians were in evidence throughout; everywhere in Washington you could see signs of a great celebration. Affection was free-flowing and friendliness pervasive, even amongst total strangers. It was an incredibly up-lifting, liberating feeling, knowing you could express affection with your friends and lovers and be assured that for that one weekend it was safe to do so. We were all there to celebrate and rejoice in what we believe in; ourselves and our lives.

Highlights of the weekend included the "Wedding" on the steps of the IRS Building, the compellingly powerful Names Project AIDS Quilt, the March itself, the rally following, and Civil Disobedience. At every event and throughout the nation's capitol, there were gay men and lesbians, inundating the city with our energy, pride, strength and solidarity, making our voices heard.

Now, the march is over and we have returned to our regular lives and standard routines. We have returned with warm memories of the weekend and with a new sense of strength, political awareness, and self-affirmation. We are more determined than ever to demand our rights because we believe in ourselves. **THIS IS OUR LIFE, AND WE ARE NOT GOING BACK!**

POSITIVE THINKING

Women for Sobriety started meeting at the Center in late summer. It is part of a nationwide organization which is the only program in the U.S. by and for women with alcohol problems. The purpose is to help women recover from problem drinking through the discovery of self gained by sharing experience and encouragement with women in similar circumstances. The group focuses on self-esteem and the power of positive thinking to make changes in our lives. Thirteen Statements of Acceptance are read at each meeting, and a specific topic is chosen by the women for discussion. A certified group moderator facilitates each meeting. The group meets at the Center on Tuesdays, from 7-8pm. All interested women are welcome.

***** NEW ENERGY *****

An intern in public relations, Deb Carlson, comes to the Center from Boston University. She's working 10 hours/week on ways to publicize the Center. She is also working on plans for our 16th birthday party in January.

A work-study student, Kathy Sarlson, has been working on all sorts of Center tasks, including updating our referrals and our personnel policy. She has lots of energy for whatever needs to be done. She is going to school at Harvard Divinity School and devotes 12 hours/week to the Center.

INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources sponsors a drop-in discussion group for women with incest histories. It meets on the third Thursday of every month, from 7:30-9:30pm and is free of charge.

Next month's topic is:
December 17 Substance Abuse

An open discussion group for women with incest histories also meets on the first Thursday of the month, 7:30-9:30pm.

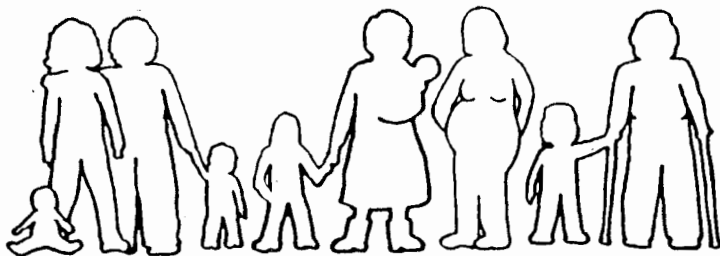
To ensure confidentiality and safety, meetings are not open to friends/support people.



CHILDREN IN OUR LIVES

A Conference about Lesbians, Children and Our Communities will consist of info, workshops, and panels on Motherhood, Living with Children, the Politics of Having Children, and how to impact institutions such as schools and social services for positive change. The conference will be available to all women, as the cost is on a sliding scale. Registration materials will be sent out in mid-November. If you would like to receive them and are not already on the Women's Center mailing list please call the Center.

There will also be a display of Family Photos. If you would like to participate, please send any photos along (even if you can't attend) with a brief description to Children in Our Lives Conference c/o the Women's Center. The conference is being planned for the last weekend in January but the date hasn't yet been finalized.



BATTERED WOMEN

We welcome all battered women. Come and share this all too common problem and learn that you are not alone in what you are experiencing. The Battered Women's Support Group takes a practical approach to the widespread problem of the abuse of women. The lack of job options for women, sexual harassment, discriminatory wages, inadequate childcare, devaluation of women intellectually, exploitation of women sexually and the psychological abuse of women that isolates us from each other and demeans our sense of worth must all be considered as contributory factors to the abusive situation we find ourselves in. We can explore options and alternatives and find ways to change the situation to allow you to grow and once again become your own person. The group meets Wednesday at noon and Monday evenings at 6:30pm at the Women's Center.



CENTER HOURS	
Monday-Thursday	10am - 10pm
Friday	10am - 8pm
Coffeehouse	8pm - Midnite
Saturday	11am - 2pm



ONGOING GROUPS

SUNDAY

- *Deaf Women's Community . . . 2-4pm
Project (3rd Sunday, monthly)

MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . 6:30-8pm
- *New Women's Chorus 7-10pm
- *For Crying Out Loud. 7-9:30pm
- Lesbian Rap 8-10pm
- Narcotics Anonymous. 7:30-9pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's. . . 7:30-9:45pm
- Network-Intro (1st Mon., even #d months)
- All-Center Meeting 6-8pm
(biweekly)

TUESDAY

- Former Nun Lesbian Support . 7pm
Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)
- Discussion Group for Deaf 7:30-9:30pm
Incest Survivors (3rd Tuesday, monthly)
- Women for Sobriety 7-8pm

WEDNESDAY

- Support for Battered Women . Noon-1:30pm
- Feminist Discussion Group. . 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare). 6:30-8pm
- Writer's Support 7:30-9:45pm
- Politics of Fat. 7:30-9:30pm
(biweekly)

THURSDAY

- Discussion for Incest. . . . 7:30-9:30pm
Survivors (1st & 3rd Thurs., monthly)
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm
Network (second Thurs., monthly)
- *Children in Our Lives Conference 7-9pm
Planners (childcare) (biweekly)
- Women's School 7:30-10pm

* means group is not currently open to new members

ANTI-APARTHEID BILL

House 1894, the "Selective Purchase" bill, is currently being considered by the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The bill would prevent the state from purchasing goods and services from companies that continue to do business in South Africa. If passed, H. 1894 would be the strongest state level anti-apartheid legislation in this country.

With strong community pressure, the bill easily passed the House in June. We will need an even greater effort to get it through the Senate and to the governor's desk. WRITE your state senator and ask her or him to support this bill. Send a copy of the letter to Sen. Pat McGovern, chair of the Ways & Means Committee and to Sen. William Bulger, Senate President.

For more info on the bill, or for more ways to help, please call Lee Farris at Mobilization for Survival, 354-0008.

HIRING

In the All-Center Meeting (ACM) we recently decided to hire two women for full-time positions - 1) Outreach/Staff Coordinator, and 2) Fundraiser/Resource Coordinator. The job descriptions were drafted by Judy, our current interim coordinator and finalized by the ACM. We advertised in many local newspapers and were overwhelmed by nearly 35 letters and resumes from interested women.

We began interviewing for the Fundraiser/Resource Coordinator first. The fundraiser at the Center is a crucial position, since without donations and grants, the Center cannot grow and expand our efforts, let alone meet day-to-day expenses. All the women interviewed by the hiring committee (of Judy and Nancy) were committed, energetic and hard-working. After careful consideration and a second interview (with more of the women regularly involved in the ACM) we offered the position to Alice Roberge. She has accepted (Hooray!) and will start Dec 7.

We are still in the process of interviewing for the Outreach/Staff Coordinator (the deadline for letters of interest was October 9, so we can't accept any more, sorry). Hopefully we'll soon be able to recommend one or two women for second interviews to the ACM.

The hiring process is always difficult, on both sides. The hiring committee would like to sincerely thank all the women who put so much thought and effort into their letters and resumes.

ACM UPDATE

We want to welcome Incest Resources to their new space in the Center basement office. In the All-Center Meeting, we decided that the Center will outfit the project with a desk, chair and a shelf for literature. This space will serve as a location for doing IR mailings, dealing with correspondence and storing literature.

Judy and Betty have been working on a new, updated brochure about the Center. This has involved a lot of discussion with the various groups that use the Center to come up with clear, concise descriptions of each group. A brief history of the Center and a listing of resources available here are also included.

WELCOME ALICE!

A warm welcome to Alice Roberge! She has accepted the Fundraiser/Resource Coordinator position at the Women's Center. Right now, she is working at Boston City Hospital for the 'Failure to Thrive' program. She has experience with writing (including grant proposals), public speaking, and organizing, as well as great dedication to women's issues, wonderful energy and lots of enthusiasm.

We're very pleased and excited as we look forward to working with Alice.



>----CONDUITS----<

The Center helps women's groups that, for whatever reason, don't have non-profit status to receive donations under the tax-exempt umbrella of the Women's Educational Center. These groups may be very small, very new, or just organizing for a short-term project. A formal contract is signed by the group and the Center, regarding responsibilities and financial accountability. At a recent All-Center meeting, Libby gave us an update of all the current conduit groups. They are: Children in Our Lives Conference; International Women's Video Network; For Crying Out Loud; Horizons Distribution (for a work/study student from Harvard University); International Women's Day Radio Program; Women's Karate School; Gay/Lesbian Speakers Bureau; Women's Permanent Housing Project; and the International Women's Video Network.

The usual fundraising limit for each group is \$6,000. The women in the All-Center meeting recently approved a special \$10,000 limit for the International Women's Video Network. They are trying to raise that amount to fund production costs and satellite transmission of the International Women's Day Video Festival.

All donations to conduits should be made out to the Women's Educational Center and earmarked for the specific group.



THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.
46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Phone: (617) 354-8807



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!! VIDEOS WANTED !!
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY VIDEO FESTIVAL
Five Hours of Live Programming on
Boston's Public Access Cable Channel - A3

Will also be shown in Cambridge,
Somerville and nationwide.

WE NEED VIDEO TAPES BY & ABOUT WOMEN
IN ENGLISH AND IN SPANISH !!
Call Susan Fleischmann for more info or to
help 522-7330.



MEANINGFUL GIFTS

Make a meaningful human connection
with Central Americans in need! Support
the American Friends Service Committee
GIFTS FOR CENTRAL AMERICA program by
contributing school supplies, small
carpentry tools or selected educational
toys. Materials must be packed in sturdy,
full boxes, which are light enough for one
person to lift. Boxes should be taped
closed with a packing list attached and
clearly marked "Gifts for Central
America". Drop off deliveries at Friends
Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Camb.
before DECEMBER 22. Call 661-6130 for
more info and other ways you can help.

Add me to your mailing list Change my address on your mailing list

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

I want to help the Center. Here is my tax-deductible contribution
\$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 other

I could help out other ways. Call me at _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Staffing at the Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning
<input type="checkbox"/> Typing	<input type="checkbox"/> Painting, maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Helping with Mailings	<input type="checkbox"/> Giving furniture, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Updating Referrals	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Organizing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____