

# On Our Way

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CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S CENTER NEWSLETTER  
46 Pleasant Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139  
April 1975  
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## FEMINIST



## THERAPY

A Feminists and Therapy Conference is being planned for Saturday April 26 at the Harvard Science Center, sponsored by the Feminist Studies Program at Goddard Cambridge School for Social Change.

A speakers panel, discussions, and 14 prospective workshops will address the questions: "What is feminist therapy?" and "What are the alternative forms of therapy which women can work towards?"

The Women and Therapy Conference coordinators state that the purpose of this event is, "to build a network of communication among feminists interested in therapy, to share the philosophy, skills and problems involved in the practice of feminist therapy and to provide a forum for consumers and practitioners to mutually exchange ideas."

"Women, whether they are clients or therapists, lesbians or straight, are oppressed by the mental health system. We are collectively trying to define feminist therapy and attempting to sort out what is oppressive and what will further liberate women. Therapy should be a process of strengthening women to change society rather than of adjusting to society."

The Conference is designed to be a place where women can establish contact with other feminist clients and therapists. The morning panel will discuss the problems of being a client or therapist and how women can begin to solve problems by expressing them. The panel consists of: Gwen Edwards, Artemis March, Miriam Greenspan, Lesbian Research person, Sally Greaves and Sally Lunt.

The afternoon workshops cover many issues affecting women in the therapeutic process. The prospective workshops are: bioenergetics, gestalt therapy for women, sociodrama, how to interview a therapist, alternatives to the therapeutic experience, fees and professionalism, crisis intervention, obesity and anorexia, women and drugs, legal liability, lesbian therapy, self-help, rape crisis counseling, and therapy for third world women.

The conference coordinators hope that the workshops and discussions will focus on different forms of alternative therapy. Feminist emphasis in the therapeutic experience alters the role of the therapist with the client. The therapist can no longer play the role of demigodess. Along with this equalization the

(CONTINUED ON PG. 9)

# PHONE



## Abortion

Preterm--1842 Beacon St.,  
Brookline. 738-6210  
Crittendon House--10 Perth-  
shire Rd., Brighton.  
782-7600

## Educational

Women's School--595 Mass.  
Ave., Cambridge. Hours  
Tues-Fri:1-3. 492-4845  
YWCA--7 Temple St., Cam-  
bridge. 491-6050  
Educational Exchange--17  
Dunster St., Cambridge.  
876-3080  
Education Warehouse--700  
Mass. Ave., Cambridge.  
868-3560

## Emotional

Focus--182½ Hampshire St.,  
Cambridge. 876-4488  
Pequod--1145 Mass. Ave.,  
Cambridge. 354-6259  
Cambridge Women's Center  
Emotional Counselling  
Group--354-8807 messages  
Elizabeth Stone House--  
128 Minden St., J. P.  
522-3417  
Homophile Community Health  
Center--419 Boylston St.  
Boston. 266-5477  
Women's Counselling and  
Resource Center--Harvard  
Epworth Church, Cambridge.  
492-8568

## Medical

Women's Community Health  
Center--137 Hampshire St.,  
Cambridge. 547-2302  
Somerville Women's Health  
Clinic--373 Somerville  
Ave., Som. 666-5290  
Call 354-8807 for more  
health referrals.

## DEFENSE FUNDS

Inez Garcia: I.G. Defense  
Committee, 722 Alcatraz  
#101, Oakland, CA 94609.

Joan Little: J.L. Defense  
Fund, Inc., P.O. Box  
1003, Durham, NC 27702.

Shoshana: Free Shoshana,  
Inc., 21 Elliott St.,  
Putney, VT 05346.

Ella Ellison: E.E. Sup-  
port Committee, 1151  
Mass. Ave., Cambridge,  
MA 02138.

Kenneth Edelin: Dr. K.E.  
c/o 15 Broad St., Suite  
302, Boston, MA 02109.

Ann McCurry: A.M. Support  
Committee, P.O. Box 344  
Cambridge A, MA 02139.

Susan Saxe: S.S. Grand  
Jury Defense Fund, P.  
O. Box 2011 (Main Post  
Office) New Haven, CT  
06509.



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\*Another general WARNING to peo-  
\*ple who send money to defense  
\*funds of "radical political"  
\*prisoners (e.g. Saxe, Shoshana)  
\*TRY TO AVOID using your name  
\*or address - send a money  
\*order, don't use your own re-  
\*turn address.  
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# BOOK

## Book Stores

New Words Bookstore--419  
Washington St., Cambridge.  
876-5310  
Bryn Mawr Book Sales--373  
Huron Ave., Cambridge.  
661-1770  
Women's Center has a small  
selection of books, pos-  
ters and pamphlets for  
sale--46 Pleasant St.,  
Cambridge. 354-8807

## Entertainment

Bread and Roses Restaurant  
--134 Hampshire St., Cam-  
bridge. 354-8371  
Saints Bar--112 Broad St.,  
Boston. 423-4333

## Other Resources

Women's Law Collective--  
698 Mass. Ave., Cambridge  
661-3850  
CTOC:Tenants' rights--595  
Mass. Ave., Cambridge.  
354-2064  
Nine to Five: Clerical  
workers' rights--140  
Clarendon St., Boston.  
536-7940  
Project Place--32 Rutland  
St., Boston. 267-9150  
Cambridge Hot Line--10 am  
to 2 am. 876-7528  
Feminist Credit Union--  
186½ Hampshire St., Cam-  
bridge. 661-0450  
Cambridge Food Coop--580  
Mass. Ave., Cambridge.  
661-1580  
YWCA Daycare Center--7  
Temple St., Cambridge.  
491-6050  
Vocations for Social Change  
--353 Broadway, Cambridge.  
661-1570  
Rosie's Place: Free food,  
clothes--357 Columbus  
Ave., Boston. 536-4652  
Women's Center--46 Pleasant  
St., Cambridge. 354-8807

# BOOK REVIEW WOMEN OF WONDER

If the only vision science fiction conjures up for you is: macho astronauts conquering the galaxy and rescuing scantily clad, one-dimensional heroines, consider this: Science fiction has its roots in social criticism. An author takes a current condition and postulates a future logical extreme. Consider: science fiction lends itself to creative speculation about positive alternatives. Science fiction stories can portray societies where sex role have been redefined or eliminated, where institutions like marriage and the family have been transformed; where technology serves human needs.



WOMEN OF WONDER, SCIENCE FICTION STORIES BY WOMEN ABOUT WOMEN, an excellent collection edited by Pamela Sargent, (NY, Vintage, 1975.) introduces us to the possibilities that exist for women writers and readers in what has generally been viewed as a pulpy, male, escapist genre. The names of some of the stories are: "The Ship Who Sang," "When I was Miss Dow," "Vaster than Empires and more slow," and "Of mist and grass and sand." The chronological arrangement of the stories shows that, while speculative possibilities have always existed for women in science fiction, a growing feminist consciousness has enlarged the use we can make of these possibilities.

In 1969 Ursula Kroeber LeGuin grasped these possibilities and produced a masterpiece, THE LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS (New York, Ace, 1974). Imagine a world of androgynous humans, absolutely without sexuality except for

four days out of every twenty-six when they are in "kemmer" (heat). Imagine that on one is never consistently male or female in kemmer. Everyone may bear a child. "No one is quite so thoroughly tied down here as women elsewhere are likely to be—psychologically or physically. Burden and privilege are shared out pretty equally, everybody has the same risk to run or choice to make, therefore nobody is quite so free as a free male elsewhere." LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS is a beautifully written book with profound political and social implications:

Similarly, THE FEMALE MAN by Joanna Russ (NY, Bantam, 1975) is probably the best current feminist novel, but odds are you've never heard of it. Contrary to what the title implies, all the characters in this book are women. At times they appear to be not different women, but aspects of a single woman. Jeannine is a pre-WW II "babe". Joanna is a seventies feminist who doesn't always let her consciousness show. Janet is from a future earth where only women exist. Jael is from an earth, not quite so far in the future, with separate male and female societies. Laura Rose is an adolescent in a not quite precise 'now' she is a mathematician and a lesbian. And there is "I", who sees, at different times, from each of their perspectives and from her "own". In THE FEMALE MAN, Russ has expanded the possibilities for both what a science fiction book and what a feminist novel can be.

---Virginia Rankin

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ON OUR WAY, the Cambridge Women's Center Newsletter, asks you to join the women ON OUR WAY by subscribing \$2 per year for 6 issues. Send money and your name, address, & zip to ON OUR WAY 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge Ma. 02139.

The Staff, Lottie, Vicki, and Nancy, ask you to join us ON OUR WAY by working with us writing, drawing, typin or any other way you can. Just leave a message. We publish every two months.

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# PROJECTS

# AND

## ELIZABETH STONE HOUSE

Received a \$10,000 grant for a refuge house, but are now held up by trouble with staffing. CETA positions granted to pay staff salaries have reportedly been frozen pending investigation of government mismanagement.

## INTRODUCTORY

Topics for the coming month:

- |          |                                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| April 16 | Our Fathers                          |
| April 23 | Divorce & Separation                 |
| April 30 | Our Mothers                          |
| May 7    | Values                               |
| May 14   | Guilt, Anger and Depression          |
| May 21   | Women's Work and Women's Identity    |
| May 28   | Housework                            |
| June 4   | Gay/Straight in the Women's Movement |

All are Wednesdays 8:00 at the Women's Center.

Note: Introductory is also starting Consciousness Raising Groups. If you want to join one, come to a Wednesday night Introductory meeting or call Kathy Scheil at 492-2744.

## LIBRARY

The library (located on the third floor of the Women's Center) has grown and is being reorganized by subject to make books easier to find. It has a collection of literature by women writers, books on women's history, abortion, rape, sexuality, skills, and a good beginning collection of newspapers and newsletters from all over the country and from outside the country. A number are early movement papers, no longer in print.

The Library Collective wants people to take advantage of the library: PLEASE return borrowed books. All books, magazines and newspapers in the library are donated, and more donations are welcomed to keep it growing. There's a list for suggestions of books you would like to see in the library. If you want to work in the library, put a note in the Library box downstairs, or in the library.

## SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Started writing groups: poetry on Saturday afternoons, prose Mondays at 5:00 at the Women's Center. Call Peggy 628-0409 for poetry, Heidi 354-7916 for prose.

## STAFF NEWS

The Center is still in need of women who are interested in staffing the office, i.e. answering the phone, talking to people who come in. We would like those who are interested to be willing to come in at least once a week for at least two or three months since it takes a while to learn what's going on. We need women in the office from morning until evening, every day of the week. If you are interested, and can commit yourself for the amount of time mentioned (barring unforeseen circumstances) call the Center, or Fran at home 524-1344. There will be a training meeting for new and old staff Saturday morning April 26 at 11 am, but please call and leave work that you are coming if you haven't staffed before.

Compiled by Nancy Burnett. Send your notices to me at 5 Durham St. #4, leave Attn. Nancy Burnett in On Our Way box at Women's Center, or call me at 266-6677.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## WOMANCRAFT

"I'm a woman, a human being of extraordinary wisdom, strength, and grace." Womancraft is the conscious development of psychic skills we all possess. Call 471-7772. Day or evening classes \$25.

**NINE TO FIVE WANTS YOU IF YOU ARE A FEMALE BOSTON OFFICE WORKER.** 9-5 organizes the fight for higher wages, benefits, equal pay, promotion opportunities and fair regulations. Call 536-6002 or write 140 Clarendon St. Boston, Ma. \$2 for newsletter

## WOMEN'S MUSIC NETWORK

224 East 10 St. NY, NY 10003 Women starting a service to all women composers, performers, producers, etc. Contact for contacts.

**AMAZON POETRY ANTHOLOGY** - Send your lesbian poetry by July 15 to 496 Third St. Brooklyn, NY. 11215

**CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING GROUPS**  
See Women's Center Bulletin  
Boards: 46 Pleasant St.



**BOSTON BAIL PROJECT/ BAIL FUNDS**  
1151 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138  
Phone 491-1575

The Boston Bail Project/Bail Funds is a collective of feminist women who administer bail funds available to indigent defendants (in Suffolk and Middlesex counties) in jail, awaiting their trials, and unable to meet their own bails. The focus of our work is to try to break the vicious cycle of criminalization into which poor people get tracked, in part, through pre-trial detention and the money bail system. A defendant in jail before her/his trial stands a far greater chance of being found guilty and being given a sentence than a defendant with the same charge a prior record, etc., who is bailed before trial. Our long range goal is the abolition of jails and the money bail system.

We have concentrated our efforts on the 10-25 women held at the temporary jail unit at Framingham prison. We welcome volunteers to help with our outreach efforts, fundraising for the bail funds, and to work with women held pre-trial. Contact us at 491-1575 or 354-3073.

## RAPE CRISIS CENTER

This spring, for the first time, the Crisis Center has begun getting involved with legislation to change Massachusetts rape laws

Representatives of the Crisis Center appeared before the Judiciary Committee to testify on several rape bills before the Legislature. Bill S.866, sponsored by N.O.W., goes the farthest to limit the admissibility of a woman's past sexual history in rape trials. The Judiciary Committee, however, has reported out a substantially weaker bill which accomplishes no real judicial reform.

All women in the Commonwealth who would like to help in the struggle to achieve real reform of the Massachusetts rape laws should write their senator IMMEDIATELY in support of the original S.866. If you don't know who your legislators are, you can call the League of Women Voters Information at 357-5880 or (for outside Boston area) 1-800-882-1649.

## WOMEN'S WRITERS' CENTER

Opening September at Cazenovia College, New York. Write Women's Writers' Center Williams Hall, Cazenovia, NY 13055

## COMMITTEE FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

Women's Demonstration in Boston early May, contact Northeastern Univ. Women's Center or Women's School.

**CREATIVE WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP FORMING** eventually developing into a variety of cooperative projects, drawing support from the core group. Write Carol Chapman, c/o Women's Center 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, Ma. 02139

## MOTHER'S DAY DEMONSTRATION AT VATICAN EMBASSY

This mobilization is a direct public challenge to the Roman Catholic hierarchy's attempt to undermine the right of women to control their own bodies. Tax exempt monies have been illegitimately used in efforts by the RC Church to overturn the Supreme Court decision which guarantees women the right to safe and legal abortions. Call Anna Weitz (717) 745-3313.

# Women's Center Money:

## Where It Comes From And Where It Goes

In the interests of demystifying the Women's Center finances, we are presenting the following information:

### Herstory

This Women's Center opened in January, 1972 after a two-year search for a suitable place. Members of Bread and Roses, one of the first radical feminists groups in Boston, began fundraising and house-hunting in the summer of 1970. In March, 1971, after many unsuccessful attempts to locate a suitable building, a group of women seized a Harvard-owned building (a former knitting mill) at 888 Memorial Drive, on the day of a march commemorating International Women's Day. The women held the building for ten days, set up free childcare, gave women free karate lessons; in general put the building to better use than it had ever been before. At the end of ten days, the women were forced from the building, but they had dramatized the need for a Women's Center, and inspired women all over the country. Responding to the action, a group of wealthy Boston feminists donated \$5000 and in June of 1971, we found the present building and bought it.

### Mortgage

The Center's greatest financial asset and liability is the building itself. The building cost \$28,000. A deposit of \$8,300 was made at the time of the purchase of the house. Because of high interest rates (8%) and the system of mortgage payments set up by the banks, we actually pay only about \$40 a month towards reducing the principal. We still owe \$17,400 on the mortgage after 3 years of payments. At this rate, it will take another 17 years to pay off the mortgage. We are searching for other ways to pay off this debt sooner. Any suggestions are welcome.

### Expenses

#### Average Monthly Expenses of the Women's Center

\$156.	Mortgage (\$40 principal, \$116 interest)
20.	Electricity
20.	Gas
100.	Heat (\$1200 yearly total)
60.	Insurance (Fire & Liability - \$700 yearly total)
50.	Maintenance
5.	Telephone
5.	Water
30.	Miscellaneous (office and housekeeping supplies)

\$446. Total Each Month  
(This is without any money for staffers - a much needed expense we cannot afford.)

### Income

The major portion of our income comes from individual contributions. Small grants and benefits have also been a source of income. Our existence depends on everyone's individual donations.

## Tax Exemption

The Center is incorporated as the Women's Educational Center, Inc. After a long struggle and much bureaucratic hassling, we are now fully tax-empt.

## Core Committee

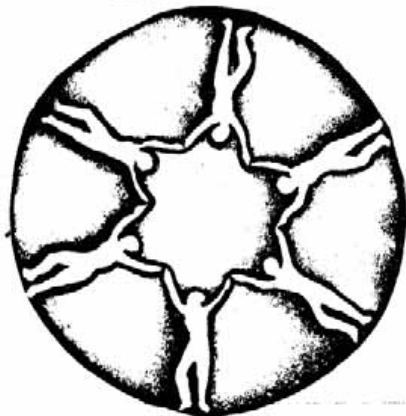
Day to day operating decisions about the Women's Center are primarily the responsibility of the co-ordinating committee, or Core. It is at present composed of eight women, each of whom makes a commitment to work on the committee for a specific period, generally a year.

At present core meetings are closed. The decision to close the meetings came after long soul-searching on the part of people who regularly attended core meetings. When meetings were open (for over two years) it was often hard to get the necessary operating decisions about the Center made. Core meetings sometimes became like introductory meetings to the Women's Center. Other times, suggestions for policy changes were made, but the people who made them were never around to take responsibility for implementing them. Representatives from other Center projects who came to the meetings often felt that they had too little space to discuss what they were doing in the crunch of other general business discussions.

In September of last year, a new structure for Core was proposed. The new structure set up two meetings: one for general center business (core) and one for staff and project representatives. The latter staff meetings are open to anyone interested in how the Center runs. This structure was presented to projects and staff people and approved. Since then, we have been operating under this new system.

Anyone with urgent business concerning the Center as a whole can make an appointment to come to a core meeting by leaving a message at the Center. Staff and project meetings, which are open, are held every other Monday at 8:00 pm. The minutes of all core and staff meetings are posted on the front bulletin board.

Members of Core are:



Libby - House Coordinator  
Mary - Fundraising  
Rochelle - Fundraising  
Jean - Fundraising and Public Relations  
Ann - Public Relations  
Diana - Public Relations  
Lottie - Newsletter  
Judy - Maintenance

We would welcome the addition of new members to core. At present, the position of staff-coordinator is open. Persons applying should have experience working at the Center and have a knowledge of its overall purposes and activities. All members of core volunteer their time.

## Staff

Because of the constant increase in demand for services and Women's Center activities, staff people have been one of our greatest needs. All staff volunteer their time. The constant turnover of staffers has made the creation of a consistent staff impossible. A present goal of fundraising is to acquire money to pay staffers.

## Financial Future

The Women's Center presently has about \$3800 from all previous fundraising efforts. This amount seems to be large and adequate at first, but with our minimum operating budget of over \$400 per month, it will actually last only nine months, barring any unforeseen additional expenses. (We have postponed some needed repairs, especially on the doors, plumbing and the roof and gutters.)

The economic crunch has been felt by our individual contributors. Major fundraising efforts have not succeeded. There is a good deal of competition for the small amounts of foundation and government monies available. Many foundations and government agencies still are ignorant of, or hostile to, the idea of women's centers.

Therefore, BEFORE a total financial crisis arrives and the Women's Center is forced to close, we are giving you this report and making a plea for donations of time and money to keep the Center going.

This is YOUR/OUR/WOMEN'S CENTER. Your support is vital to our existence.

*Please send all correspondence concerning the Women's Center financial statement to Core, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, Ma. 02139, or Call someone on Core 354-8807 Thank you.*



## Women's Center Services

The Women's Center is a place to come to meet women, attend classes, browse in the library, or gather information. There are shelves, bulletin boards and notebooks full of information about women. In the sitting room there are notebooks containing referrals, news about welfare, education, housing, jobs, training and a songbook. On the walls are the latest flyers about women's art, health and self-defense, lesbian news, repression in amerika and rideboard.

In the living room are shelves holding women's periodicals from around the world. The Women's Center also sells several magazines such as Houseworkers Handbook, Second Wave, On Our Way, Gay Community News, Boston Area Day Care Workers Union, women's buttons and posters.

On the second floor are meeting rooms, counseling rooms and a large children's room with jungle gym and toys.

On the third floor is another large meeting room, a library and a chest of free-give-away-recycled clothes. The library lends books on a honor-system basis. (see more about the library in Project News).

In addition to the dozen or more projects who use the Center, many other women come to the Center for other reasons. In general, women are welcome seven days

a week from 11 am to 10 pm. Come to find services, referrals, political action, literature and news of the women's community. There are staffers who answer calls and welcome new women to the Center.



**FBI:**

**we're gonna get you too**



The FBI has recently been more active in its probe of the gay community. In Lexington, Kentucky; in New Haven and Hartford, Conn.; in Philadelphia, Pa.; and in New York City there has been an increase of FBI harrassment of our sisters and brothers. Not only do they knock on our doors - relatives and people we associate with are being called on. People are also being called on to testify at grand juries.

THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS SITUATION SPRINGING UP IN AND AROUND BOSTON IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS LIKELY. IN ANY CASE, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED AND KNOW OUR RIGHTS.

You Do NOT have to talk to the FBI

===Anything you say can be used against you, or your sisters and brothers. Do

not think that you can outsmart them, or that you don't have anything to hide. Any little piece of info might be useful to them, to hurt you or your friends.

+++You have a right to consult with a lawyer before you talk to them, and your lawyer can be present if they do question you.

\*\*\*Even if you do talk to the FBI, you can still be ordered (by means of a SUBPOENA) to testify before a grand jury. This has often happened in other cities. Your rights in front of a grand jury are severely limited. YOU NEED A LAWYER.

IF YOU ARE VISITED BY THE FBI, OR SUBPOENAED TO TESTIFY BEFORE A GRAND JURY CONTACT THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD  
595 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, Ma. 02139  
661-3898.

## Therapy (CONTINUED FROM PG.1)

client can recognize that she can practice self-help or co-counseling as a helpful method. Feminist therapy demands that the traditional concepts of femininity and sexuality must change. Old stock prejudices no longer apply (and really never did apply) to feminists.

Feminist therapeutic communities such as the Elizabeth Stone house are another political and therapeutic alternative. Women can get together, share skills, and substantially help each other. This feminist community can serve as a place of refuge in times of crisis intervention and take the place of hospitalization and institutionalization.

The Feminists and Therapy Conference is from 9am to 6pm. Preregistration is suggested to facilitate planning. Send \$2 and your name, phone # and childcare needs to Feminist Studies 5 Upland Rd., Cambridge, Ma. 02140 or call 492-0700.

## SEYCHELLES

### WOMEN

The Seychelles are a group of islands in the Indian Ocean fighting for their independence from Great Britain. The People's United Party requests aid to establish a "Child Development/Women's Political Center" in Seychelles. The objectives of the SPUP are, "To struggle unceasingly for the total liberation of the people from colonialism...and neo-colonialism, to create a socialist state where the people will have a decent existence, and to gain back our three islands which the British gave to the Americans who are building nuclear bases on them."

There will be a slide show at Goddard Cambridge, 5 Upland Rd., Cambridge, on April 17 at 8 pm. Write Sylvette Frichot or Rita Simon at Women's League, P.O. Box 91, Victoria Mahe, Seychelles, Indian Ocean.

# EVENTS

EAST COAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND PSYCHIATRIC OPPRESSION  
April 18-20 at U. Mass. Boston campus, 100 Arlington St. Preregistration by mail. Send \$2 and your info to Elizabeth Stone House 128 Minden St. Jamaica Plain, Ma. 02130  
The conference will "focus on psychiatric abuse and what we can do to prevent this abuse."

BOSTON 200 WOMEN'S PROGRAM at Jordan Marsh  
Come April 24 to see Women's Center Booth, Gloria Steinam, Pat Carbine, Jade and Sasaparilla, Joan Hamlin and historical fashions.

WOMEN'S SCHOOL OF PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE  
summer session Aug.10-23. Write P.O.Box 311 Shaftsbury, Vermont 05262

WOMEN ON THE MOVE Cambridge YWCA  
Thursday, April 24 at 7:30pm in Hannum Hall a discussion focusing on the woman's role in a changing society.

GOD AND MRS. SATAN  
Playing every Wednesday Night for \$1 at the Boston Repertory Theater at 7:30. About Victoria Clafin Woodull and Henry Ward Beecher. Call 423-6580 for more information.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS  
June 26-29 - organizing women around the country for political action. Write 78 Queensbury St., Boston, Ma.

JADE AND SARSAPARILLA OTHERWAY '75  
2 pm April 20 \$2.50 The Citadel Boston

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS  
Drop by 419 Boylston St., Room 323, Boston, or call 262-1592. Tuesday: 9:30-11:30 am, 6-9 pm, or Wednesday 6-9. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays rap nights.

WOMAN TO WOMAN  
Florence Luscomb Women's Center at Salem State Second Annual North Shore Women Celebrate Spring. Call 745-0556 X451.

WOMEN'S RITE OF SPRING FESTIVAL  
May 23-25 at Camp Alice Merritt, East Hartland, CT. \$10 to hear the New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band--preregister c/o Liza Enagonio, 134 Evergreen Ave., Hartford, CT 06105. (\$2 for kids with tents)

A FEMALE CAREER QUEST  
Conference at Northeastern University on April 26. 204 Churchill Hall, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115.

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CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S CENTER NEWSLETTER  
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June 1975  
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GAY PRIDE WEEK PRESENTS:

## WOMEN'S NIGHT

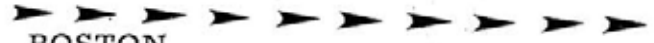
A Women's Festival and Resource Exchange Night will take place Thursday, June 26, at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. Cambridge.

The evening is designed as a sharing time around these women's interests: Political Action, Media, Housing, Funding of Lesbian/Feminist Projects, Performing, Visual Arts & Crafts, Health and Employment.

Women will register at the door and put on a tag saying their name and interest. The parish hall will be sectioned off by signs. Bring cushions to sit on the floor. The evening will be an opportunity for women to make new friends, and also will provide the chance to come together to lay the groundwork, recruit and/or exchange ideas for either ongoing or newly-created ventures.

ALL women are encouraged to bring and share their love, ideas, work, poetry and music. Festivities get underway at 8:30 p.m. There is no admission and free refreshments will be provided for this Gay Pride Week event.

Information gathered at this Exchange will be compiled as to what's happening regarding women's resources in the Boston area.



### BOSTON

June 20

Susan Saxe has been transferred to Boston from Philadelphia jail. Arraignment, held in the Boston Courthouse while supporters cheered outside, was Monday, June 23. Byrna Aronson, Susan Saxe's lover, who was arrested with Ms. Saxe in Philadelphia and then released, will reportedly be in Boston to organize support for Susan.



## FBI COUNTERED

As a result of FBI questioning and grand jury misuse following Susan Saxe's public identification with the lesbian community, two support networks are underway: the Boston Grand Jury Project and a national effort by the Ad Hoc Committee of Concern.

### The Grand Jury Project

The Grand Jury Project (which has just completed a series of workshops on the grand jury process and individual rights) is sponsoring lawyer teams. They consist of one lawyer and one to two people experienced in the women's movement and/or other movement activities. At least one of the members of each team is a woman.

# REFERRALS



## ENTERTAINMENT

Citadel Bar 22 Avery St.  
Boston - 338-9634  
Saints Bar - 112 Broad St.  
Boston - 423-4333  
Bread & Roses Restaura-  
ant 134 Hampshire St.,  
Camb., 354-8371

## ABORTION

Preterm - 1842 Beacon St.  
Brookline, 738-6210  
Crittendon House - Perth-  
shire Rd., Brighton.  
782-7600.



## HOUSING HELPERS

CTOC tenants' rights -  
595 Mass. Ave. Camb.  
354-2064

Project Place Hot Line -  
temp. overnight - 267-  
267-9150

Women's Center Housing &  
Roommates notebook.



## HUMAN SERVICES

Boston Women's Union -  
GPO box 2068 Bos. Ma. 02126

Daughters of Bilitis - 419  
Boylston St., Boston  
262-1592

Self-Defense for Women  
P.O. Box 146 W. Somer-  
ville, MA 02144

Women's Law Collective  
698 Mass. Ave. Camb.  
02139 - 492-5110

9 to 5 Clerical Workers  
Rights - 140 Clarendon  
St. Boston 536-6002

Feminist Credit Union -  
186 1/2 Hampshire St.  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
661-0450

Women's Center - 46  
Pleasant St. Cambridge  
354-8807

Rape Crisis Center -  
492-RAPE.

Project Lambda - advoca-  
cy service for young  
gay women ages 12-17  
227-8587

YWCA Daycare Center -  
7 Temple St. Camb.  
491-6050

Rosie's Place 357 Colum-  
bus Ave Bos. 536-4652

Cambridge Hot Line - 10  
am to 2 am 876-7528



## EMOTIONAL

Focus - 182 1/2 Hamp-  
shire St., Cambridge  
876-4488

Elizabeth Stone Refuge  
House - 524-9827

Women's Counseling &  
Resource Center - 1555  
Mass. Ave., Cambridge  
492-8568

Pequod - 1145 Mass. Ave.  
Cambridge - 354-6259

Cambridge Women's Ctr.  
Emotional Counseling  
Group - 354-8807  
messages.

Homophile Community  
Health Ctr., 419 Boyl-  
ston St., Boston 266-5477



## DEFENSE FUNDS

Inez Garcia - 722 Alca-  
traz #101, Oakland, CA.  
94609

Joanne Little - P.O. Box  
1003, Durham, N.C.  
27702

Kenneth Edelin - c/o  
15 Broad St., Suite 302  
Boston, MA 02109

Susan Saxe - Saxe Grand  
Jury Defense Fund P.O.  
Box 2011 Main Post Of-  
fice, New Haven, CT.  
06509

Ella Ellison - Support  
Com. 1151 Mass. Ave.  
Camb., MA 02138

Shoshana - 21 Elliott St.,  
Putney, VT 05346

Ann McCurry - Support  
Committee P.O. Box  
344 Camb., Ma. 02139

Lexington 6 - Grand Jury  
Defense Fund P.O. Box  
1733 Lexington, KY 40501



## MEDICAL

Cambridgeport Problem  
Ctr., 10 Mt. Auburn St.  
661-1010

Women's Community Health  
Ctr. - 137 Hampshire St.  
Camb. - 547-2302

Somerville Women's Health  
Clinic - 326 Somerville  
Ave. Som. - 666-5290

Call 354-8807 for more  
referrals.



# FBI COUNTERED Cont.

Grand Jury Project cont. from p. 1

After interviewing the caller to discover what happened, the team can act as liason with the FBI. If a grand jury is convened, the teams will be there to help represent the client.

According to Kris Lasker, of the Grand Jury Project, the present level of questioning gives no reason to believe that a grand jury will be convened in Boston. The bulk of questioning has been in Vermont and Western Massachusetts, although a few people have been questioned recently in Boston. No more detailed information is available as the persons questioned wish to avoid publicity. The pattern in other cities has been to convene a grand jury after FBI questioning has failed to uncover information.

Teams will be on call for the rest of the summer and will be expanded in the fall. They are available to meet with anyone who thinks s/he may be contacted.

### Contact

Grand Jury Project:  
Kathy Levine 661-8898  
Kathy is on full time.



Ad Hoc Committee of Concern:  
Unitarian Universalist Office  
of Gay Concerns 742-2100  
This is the switchboard. Ask to be connected with Office of Gay Con.  
Project Place Law Collective - 24  
Hours - 267-6557.

References: Off Our Backs  
April-May issue, 1975  
Boston Globe, Thursday  
April 17 article by Kay  
Longscope & Lucinda  
Smith: "Feminists Charge  
FBI Vendetta in Power  
Search"

### Ad Hoc Committee of Concern

On the national front, an Ad Hoc Committee of Concern was called in New York City on June 18 and 19 concerning FBI harassment and misuse of grand juries.

The National Council of Churches, NOW, New York Women's Union Grand Jury Project, New York Center for Constitutional Rights and the Unitarian Universalist Office of Gay Concerns representatives resolved to activate their local groups, targeting ten cities.

Potentially, their most important responsibility will be to educate church people, who are the very people most likely to be called to sit on grand juries. They will also hold FBI teach-ins to give background and support to those who may be the target of FBI questioning.

A national action is tentatively being planned for September to be staged in key cities with a press conference in Washington. The committee is meeting July 3 to discuss plans in detail.

Finally, the committee hopes to apply pressure for grand jury reform and arouse public sentiment on the issue. With next year an election year when politicians are most sensitive to public opinion, the Committee's potential for wide public contact may hold promise for changing conditions in the United States.

by Nancy Burnett ◀ ◀

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ON OUR WAY, the Cambridge Women's Center Newsletter, asks you to join the women ON OUR WAY by subscribing \$2 per year for 6 issues. Send money and your name, address, & zip to ON OUR WAY 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, Ma. 02139.

The Staff, Lottie, Vicki, and Nancy, ask you to join us ON OUR WAY by working with us writing, drawing, typing or any other way you can. Just leave a message. We publish every two months.

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# BREAD & ROSES

Bread & Roses, the only feminist restaurant in the Boston area, located at 134 Hampshire St., Cambridge, was opened on December 5, 1974. Patsy Hynes and Gill Gane originated the restaurant and, along with Ann Kendall and Gloria Bernheim, are board members. As of last month the full-time workers were Patsy, Gill, Jane Seligson and Claudia Leed, and the part-time workers were Janet Stambolian, Shari Per and Kathleen Kelley.

On May 17, Patsy Hynes fired one of the workers, Claudia Leed on the grounds that she acted in such a way as to alienate large numbers of customers. Claudia and co-workers Janet and Jane attempted to re-negotiate Claudia's dismissal. They claimed that since Claudia had been spoken to several weeks earlier she had changed her behavior. When they were told that the situation was closed to discussion the three walked out together.

A meeting was called of the women's community to air this event. Over 60 women met at the Cambridge Women's Center on June 8<sup>th</sup>, including Patsy, Claudia, Janet and Jane. Issues revolved around cooperative versus

corporate ways of dealing with decision making, specifically regarding hiring and firing.

The three Bread & Roses workers stated that they do not want total collectivity:

"Our aim is still to change the structural relationships within the restaurant, and to broaden the base of power. Hierarchical structures of authority do not create an atmosphere in which new forms can thrive and grow."

On the other side, at a final negotiation session with all the board present, Patsy said that Claudia would definitely not be re-hired and that Patsy would not share hiring-firing powers with the workers.



Claudia, Janet and Jane are continuing walk-out while appealing to the women's community for more negotiations. They can be contacted through the Women's Center Newsletter, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, Ma., 02139.

Bread and Roses will be closed till July first for vacations and renovations.

-- by Lottie Wolfe

## THE GROWING REALITY AND CONSCIOUSNESS OF A WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

Women are becoming increasingly aware these days of news for and about women: health conferences, lesbian events, defense-fund organizing, legislative lobbies for women's rights, and lately, a series of free "FBI & Feminism" teach-ins sponsored by the Women's Union and the National Lawyers Guild.

Although the recent proliferation of women's events draw women together, events do not of themselves create a community. The self-conscious thought, "My actions affect and reflect the women around me" and the self-conscious control of our lives reflects a greater depth of involvement and group consciousness.

The 'visible' women, who join feminist organizations, counseling groups, women's schools and work collectives are growing in numbers, but there are more and more women who though not directly involved, have a greater sense of self-awareness and community survival.

Notice the women around you and their movements. The movement is toward mutual support and conscious control of our lives. Listening to each other and being aware of each other's needs will help to form a real sense of community.

-- Vicki and Lottie



We think the following statement is important and should be more widely known. For these reasons we are reprinting it here in its entirety.

-- Women's Center Core Committee

# Susan Saxe STATEMENT

## June 9, 1975

The most significant point of this plea agreement is that the United States government realizes that I am not and never will be a collaborator. I have made it clear to them that if I am called as a witness in any government proceeding, I will refuse to testify. The government has agreed that I will not be held in contempt for this refusal. In return, I have agreed to enter a guilty plea and receive a ten year and a two year sentence. The length of the sentences is a direct result of my refusal to talk.

Today I am in effect pleading guilty in federal court to charges stemming from a period five years ago when I believed, as I still do, that armed struggle against the Amerikan State was a valid and necessary escalation of the politics of the '60's. I understood at the time that the Amerikan Government was the most dangerous, powerful, organized, violent opponent of people's liberation around the world. I also felt at that time that the liberation of women, to which I was already deeply and personally committed, could best be achieved by our full participation in and leadership of what I then perceived as a worldwide humanistic economic and cultural revolution led by the Third World and aimed against the Yankee Empire.

Over the course of the last five years, four and a half of which have been lived underground in Amerika, I, like many other women who came to politics through socialist, anti-racist, and anti-imperialist causes, have changed, have grown, have emerged a feminist. Like these thousands of other sisters, I am no longer content to be just one strong woman fighting for a revolution which, though it is just and necessary, does not speak to my own highest aspirations, my own most personal and immediate needs. Over the past five years, then, I have emerged a feminist, a lesbian, a woman-identified woman. This was not a "conversion," but a development, a natural process that followed my previous commitment as day follows night.

There have been many women throughout herstory who have taken great risks, put great faith and energy into movements that spoke to our liberation as workers, as poor people, as members of every oppressed race and class, as everything but women. And while many of these struggles have moved our people forward, have improved our real lives in concrete ways, and therefore, by definition been in the interest of women, no struggle but our own, independent of others, and just and necessary in its own right can ever hope to meet all our needs. We have a right to this struggle, a right to self-determination and self-definition as women, for women, a right to a new world of our own creation.

I am only one of many women who have come through these changes in the past several years. Unlike many others, though, a few of us have been brought up sharply, face to face with our past and had to confront our former selves, for better or for worse in the public eye and under rather dramatic and serious circumstances. At the same time and around the same issues, a deep and significant split has developed in the women's movement. On the one hand are women who like Jane Alpert feel that the Amerikan system can peacefully accommodate

## SUSAN SAXE CONTINUED

their feminist demands and that women as women have no obligation to support or protect any peoples' struggle that is not explicitly feminist in ideology or even separatist in practice. These women feel that it is permissible, even desirable, to collaborate with the state in the name of feminism, and that it is in the interest of feminist revolution to dissociate itself from any forces or individuals which are identified as enemies of the state on the assumption that it is we who bring down state repression on a movement that otherwise could comfortably exist within the belly of the beast.

On the other hand, are we women whose growth into feminism has made us even more determined not to give in, not to accommodate ourselves to Amerika, not to collaborate against sisters and brothers who are our natural allies in revolution, not to repudiate our past, cut ourselves off at our own roots. For me, feminism is a commitment to be even more radical, to strike more deeply at the root of our oppression. My feminism does not make me regret economic "crimes" against one institution of capitalism; it makes me even more determined to see that whole system uprooted forever. My feminism does not make me regret the theft of classified documents that exposed the U.S. government's treachery against the people, including U.S. Army O Plan G - Operation Geronimo Bravo - contingency plans for counterinsurgency operations against the civilian population of the Boston area in the event of martial law. My feminism doesn't make me regret the destruction of a single National Guard Armory; it only makes me wish to see every last vestige of patriarchal militarism permanently blotted from the face of the earth.

But most importantly, my feminism does not permit me to collaborate with the Man in order to reduce the amount of time I will have to spend in his prisons. The agreement I am entering into today is made on the condition that I will never testify against Kathy Power or give any information concerning anyone I have known or known about in the past five years. And the ten year and two year sentences are based on the government's understanding that I will give them nothing, ever, not in ten years, not in a hundred years.

My feminism does not drive me into the arms of the state, but even further from it.

My guilty plea is predicated upon my understanding that as of this date the government has agreed to end its investigation in Philadelphia. This means no grand jury, no harboring prosecutions, no legal torture of sisters who refuse to speak to the FBI. The credit for this victory goes to the feminist community here, and to the sisters in New Haven, Connecticut and in Lexington, Kentucky, whose courage in the face of FBI and government harassment has been an example to us all. Their resistance has given us time to prepare to protect our communities, our sisters, and ourselves. The government would never have agreed to end its investigation here if it had any hope of success. We have made it clear to them that we are together and unafraid, that our community is closed to their threats, closed to their lies, closed to divisive tactics, that we will stand together and protect what is ours, our homes, our organizations, our friends and lovers, our private lives. The enemy cannot isolate and terrorize us, cannot walk among us with impunity.

We have shown those few desperate, self-serving terrified women who have urged us to collaborate, to rush to preserve ourselves as individuals, to dissociate ourselves from anyone who poses a real threat to the state, we have shown these frightened women that there is an alternative. When we place the blame for repression squarely on the enemy, not on his targets, when we unite to oppose him, he can be driven away. But when we run to the Man for shelter, when we betray ourselves to appease him, we only expose others to his tactics and increase the danger to us all.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Feminism is not collaboration. Ellen Grusse, Terry Turgeon and Diana Perkins in New Haven, Gail Cohee, Debbie Hands, Linda Link, Jill Raymond, Marla Seymour and a gay brother James Carey Junkin in Lexington have shown us the way. Jill Raymond is still imprisoned in a Kentucky hell-hole and Ellen, Terry, and Diana still face more time in the pastel fascism of Niantic Prison in Connecticut. Write to these sisters, send love and encouragement. Let them know about our victory here and about their role in making it possible. Support them the whole time they are in jail and when they get out, invite them to Philly for a huge celebration. Our victories should be marked and our heras honored.

And now, I'd like to reaffirm the statement I made at the time of my arrest:

First, a greeting of love and strength to all my sisters - courage for our warriors, hope for our people and especially for all my sisters and brothers underground in Amerika. Keep on fighting, stay free, stay strong. I promise you a courage to match your own. I intend to fight on in every way as a Lesbian, a feminist, an Amazon.

The love that I share with my sisters, my people, is a far more powerful weapon than any the police state can bring to bear against us. What else can I say but, once again, that I love you. We are strong and we are not afraid.



## Center Forms New Policy

Staff-projects are currently defining a policy which points out one relation between projects and individuals with the Women's Center as a whole -- that of communication. The rough draft of the policy is:

"Issues which should be brought to staff-projects meetings for discussion:

- 1.) A major change of policy within a project.
- 2.) Dissension or a major disagreement within projects.
- 3.) All projects\* which take in money should agree to policy about disbursement of that money and this policy should be presented to other projects.

\* And project members who take in money for project-related work.

All people involved in the Women's Center are urged to discuss this policy draft and bring comments to the next staff meeting Monday June 30, at 8pm. A final statement will be formulated at that time.

The procedure in the past for internal project policy-making was that they would

use their ongoing decision-making process, occasionally bringing their group decisions to core or staff-projects meetings. Sometimes other projects concurred with the new policy, sometimes not. Often individual project decisions had no forum to be acknowledged or discussed.

This new Women's Center policy would require everyone to share their major decisions, internal disagreements, and/or disbursement of money policy with the rest of the Center.

Also, the Women's Center could be protected from individuals coming in and personally profiting from the Center. A person or project without a sense of community responsibility might take the chance to exploit the Women's Center's resources if there were no method of dealing with money disbursement. Particularly now that projects are accruing money, a clear fully-acknowledged policy should be known to the whole Center.

## CORE COMMITTEE

This is the policy-making body for the Center. Kathleen joined the other eight members: Diana, Lottie, Mary, Judy, Libby, Ann, Jean and Rochelle.

Core is looking for people to loan money to help pay off the mortgage on the Women's Center. They have half of the \$12,000 needed.

See page 7 for new Core policy decisions on the relation of projects to the Women's Center as a whole.

## ELIZABETH STONE HOUSE

The Refuge House has opened, using the first floor of the Elizabeth Stone House. Participants must be over 18. An original contract for stay allows up to three days' residence. Additional stay of up to two weeks is possible. There is 24 hour paraprofessional staff available on the premises.

Policy guidelines state:

Each woman shall maintain ultimate responsibility for herself. No personal possessions will be confiscated and no potentially destructive household items (i.e., razors, glass, aspirin) will be hidden . . .

Under no circumstances will a situation of force or custodial care exist. Everyone is responsible for cleaning up after herself . . .

Immediate decision making responsibility should be relinquished to staff should a woman inflict damage upon herself, other or the facility. The staff retains final responsibility for decisions made during emergency life-threatening situations. For any problem arising a resident/staff meeting will be held. Equal decision-making power will exist for all.

## INTRODUCTORY

Introductory meetings Wednesday 8 p. m.  
Topics for the coming month:

June 25 Helplessness and Vulnerability  
July 2 Fantasies  
July 9 Guilt, Anger and Depression  
July 16 Body Image  
July 23 Role Playing - Women and Men

A note from Introductory:

"We need new Facilitators for the Introductory Committee. We lead discussion groups on Wednesdays and help start consciousness-raising groups. We are very warm and supportive to each other. Leading a group in which women are really open and honest with each other is a real up."

## LESBIAN LIBERATION

Joined the Gay Pride Parade with a double woman's symbol covered in red crepe paper roses, wheeled in a shopping cart. The cost of supplies ran to \$50 and, aside from the \$5 allotted by the Gay Pride Committee, must be made up in donations.

Lesbian Liberation has grown from 10 people in January to 50 at meetings recently. Restructuring or division into various interest groups is likely, to adjust to the new numbers.

## RAPE CRISIS CENTER

The Rape Crisis Center is going on a weekend retreat. With them will be two women from Introductory, to facilitate discussions, and as a step toward greater integration of projects.

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We'll be coming out again in September. If you have news you want published, leave it in the On Our Way box at the Women's Center

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Compiled by Nancy Burnett

HAPPY SUMMER ☺☺☺



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS PAMPHLET

A pamphlet is being written on women's rights in Massachusetts. Anyone who has a specific legal question they would like to see answered in this pamphlet please write to Darla Long, Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, 100 Cambridge St. Room 2108, Boston, Ma. 02202.

## FEMINIST NEWSPAPER

Initial discussion about creating a weekly or daily feminist newspaper will happen when we get together. Call Lottie 354-7916 or write c/o ON OUR WAY at Women's Center 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, Ma. 02139.

## CAMBRIDGE YWCA'S SUM FUN DAY CAMP

Open to all kids 6-12. Swimming lessons, new games, outings around city, drama, arts and crafts, special events. From June 30 to August 22. Kids can sign up for as many weeks as they wish, sliding scale fees. Call Cambridge YWCA 491-6050.

## SELF-HELP COALITION NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Boston Area Self-Help Coalition needs your subscriptions to ensure the continued success of their newsletter, UP FRONT. Please send your checks to Self-Help c/o Project Place 32 Rutland St., Boston, Ma.

## CHILEAN BENEFIT JUNE 28 & 29

"I am, I have been, I will be", a film about political prisoners in Chile will be at the Orsen Welles June 28 and 29 from 1 to 4. Also several speakers will be on hand for this benefit for Chile. \$3. Tickets available at the Women's Center.

## POLITICAL STUDY GROUP

A political study and support group is forming. Please call Kathleen Walton at the Women's Center 354-8807 and leave message.

## RADICAL FEMINIST CONFERENCE

August 25-29

A Women's Community Planning Conference will be from August 25-29. Register before Aug. 15 - \$35, or \$65 if employed, \$12 for children. Make checks payable to CYWCA Corp., P.O. Box 391964 Miami Beach, Fla. 33139. Vegetarian meals, no dope,

## WOMEN'S CAMP PROJECT

Weekends of July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 23, 30. Adult \$25, Pre-school \$6, Elementary school \$12. Possible scholarships. Topics each weekend. Two locations - Sutton, Ma. and Woluntown, Ct. Need sleeping bag. 81 Fairfield St., Worcester, Ma. 01602

## SOUTHERN FEMINIST CONNECTION

Southern women are starting a newspaper and need your donations and subscriptions. Please contact Sunny Frye - 131 - A Broadmoor Lane, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104.

## CHILDREN'S PRESCHOOL

Central School for ages 3 - 5 1/2. 43 Essex St. Call 868-0073. Sliding scale tuition. 9-12 mornings September to June.

## WOMEN'S GRAPHIC COLLECTIVE

needs space. Call 864-4025

## CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING GROUPS

Women over 30 interested in discussing life situations Sylvia 332-1526.

Single mothers. Call Meg 527-1098.

Support groups for women in process of divorce or separation call Polly 623-2273 or Meg 527-1098.

CR Group call Peggy - 628-4819.



BITCHES AND SAD LADIES: An  
Anthology of Fiction By and About Women

Edited by Pat Rotter/Harper's Magazine  
Press/1975/\$10.95

This collection of 35 contemporary short stories is a joy to read - not so much for pleasurable sensations or happy endings, but rather for its ability to deeply move and even shock the responsive reader. Each piece addresses the state of women in transition, in styles ranging from bare realism to surrealism to some of the most perverse and violent prose imaginable. Whether single or married, mothers or daughters, young or old, the women characters run the gamut from "bitches" to "sad ladies;" that is, from independent, aggressive, self-promoting individuals to the kinds of women who are victims of their own needs and insecurities as much as they suffer from male oppression. Often these stories contradict traditionally "normal" attitudes about being and behaving. Love as a motivating life force forms the central motif in many of the works, but it is love without romance or illusions.

The female voices can be harsh, angry, and even sadistic as well as lush and lyrical. Perhaps nowhere else to date has the female imagination shrieked with such power and fury. In "Interstices," a story by Gail Godwin in which pregnancy and marriage have cut short the art career of a young woman, protagonist Lucy Prince suddenly puts down her steam iron and says to a friend: "I can't stand my firstborn. I wonder if all mothers feel that way. I don't mean I hate him. I mean there's too much pressure just containing his existence." Her statement refutes the accepted

reaction to motherhood, just as the woman in "Flotsam & Jetsam," a satire by Sybil Clairborne, defines herself as the sexual aggressor who reduces men to sexual objects unlike standard images of women. "Where are the lovers of yesteryear?" she muses callously, "Scattered like leaves, discarded like no-deposit bottles."



Perhaps most unsettling are those stories which make the ultimate radical departure from social "normalcy." Tough-ass, stream-of-consciousness language reveals "Bertha Schneider's Existential Edge", an extreme position in which author Andrea Dworkin's heroine gives up sexuality on men, women, and young boys, declaring she's "not going to be fucked around anymore" - period. In Julia O'Faolain's "Man In The Cellar," a young wife makes fantasy a reality and chains her restrictive husband to a bedstead in their cellar.

What makes this wonderful collection so impressive is not only the range of content and style, but the fine quality of the writing itself. Whether tough, sensual, or colloquial, the prose is powerful and evocative. No reader should miss the chance to encounter such penetrating literature.  
--by Jill Janows --Sense & Sensibility

ON OUR WAY

Cambridge Women's Center  
46 Pleasant Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139