

♀ ON OUR WAY

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

SUMMER 1983

NEW BEDFORD RAPE UPDATE

We, the members of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, wish to voice our anger and horror at the rape of a New Bedford woman in a local tavern on Sunday evening, March 6th, while bar patrons looked on. We are in complete support of the rape survivor's decision to press charges and of the effort of all New Bedford women and men who speak out in her defense.

We urge the pressing of accessory charges against the onlookers, none of whom acted to stop the assault.

Boston area women who attended the demonstration in New Bedford after the rape were tremendously moved, especially by the wide range of the population represented there: women and men of different ages, races, and classes. "It was the most diverse group I've ever seen at a demonstration", commented one participant.

The rape has received unprecedented media attention. Feminists both in New Bedford and elsewhere have expressed outrage at this crime and have seen this outrage mirrored in extensive, unrelenting media attention. People in every walk of life are appalled by the details of this crime - that a woman was raped in a public place and no one was willing to intervene on her behalf. Women who never felt vulnerable to rape before feel vulnerable now.

As feminists who work in the anti-rape movement, we agree that this crime is outrageous and is, like all rape, unacceptable. However, we are disturbed by the anti-immigrant

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WOMEN'S PENTAGON ACTION Peace Encampment Update

The Seneca Women's Peace Encampment will open on July 4, 1983 and run until Labor Day at or near the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, New York. The Seneca Army Depot is a storage site for nuclear weapons; both the neutron bomb and the cruise missile are believed to be housed at Seneca.

The Peace Encampment has a new name, "The Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice". A poster publicizing the encampment will be ready soon and two offices are opening: one in Geneva, NY, about 20 miles from the Depot and the other in New York city. A caucus of Women of Color has been meeting about the Peace Encampment: Lorenda Fambro at Philadelphia WILPF (215) 563-7110 can be contacted. The actual location of the camp is still uncertain and a decision has been made to buy a piece of farmland so that a safe, legal encampment can happen along with a continuous potentially illegal camp at the entrance to the base. The purchase price of the land will be about \$35,000 (\$\$ is needed).

The first few organizational meetings for the Women's Peace Encampment were held in Boston over the last few months. The first, on March 30, was attended by 75 women. It was clear that there is a lot of energy and excitement for this project in Boston. Four local committees have been formed: Fundraising, Staff/Office, Media/Outreach, and CD/Action. These committees have begun to meet separately but will

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FRAMINGHAM WOMEN'S PRISON Update

In the past several months, there has been a marked increase in harassment (including beatings) of the women inmates at Framingham. Recently a support group has formed in Boston to monitor the situation and publicize what is happening at Framingham.

In late April, the State Police (possibly as part of a "training" exercise) raided one of the cottages at Framingham. Over 50 troopers participated in the raid. No illegal activity was discovered.

Women at Framingham and their supporters in the community are demanding some immediate changes at Framingham, which include:

- an active Furlough Program. Currently there are no guidelines for women prisoners to go on furlough.
- Women in the Awaiting Trial Unit (ATC) are not allowed access to the law library nor has there been any process by which they can obtain information about their rights as defendants.
- Women are being double bunked.
- Some women are being shifted back and forth between the Lindeman Mental Health Center and the Maximum Security Unit at Framingham.
- There is a documented increase in harassment by guards of inmates, including enforcement of petty rules and regulations.

For further information and to get involved and support our sisters at Framingham, contact: Mass. Correctional Legal Services, 294 Washington St., Rm 744, Boston, 02108



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

It now appears that there will be an anti-abortion referendum question on the ballot in 1984. The Coalition for Reproductive Freedom started two years ago in March. In late March of this year, it dissolved into a statewide coalition which is working on trying to stop the state Human Life Amendment, S1711 and the referendum question. The amendment and referendum question reads:

The General Court may regulate or prohibit abortion and may regulate or prohibit private or public funding of abortion or the provision of services or facilities thereof.

While this amendment cannot override current federal laws protecting a woman's right to choose, it would have a serious impact on the people of this state. Massachusetts could become the first state in the country to prohibit abortion under any and all circumstances.

The statewide coalition, mentioned above, has started organizing to try to stop the anti-woman forces in this state from passing the referendum. Some of the former members of the Coalition for Reproductive Freedom and others interested in a broader focus and understanding of reproductive rights questions have formed a new group, a Boston chapter of the Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2). There have been only two meetings so far. The next meeting will be on June 8, 7:30 pm, at UMass, downtown. For more information, contact Linda through the Core committee at the Women's Center, 354-8807.



Needed: Donation of a gas stove in good operating condition for the Women's Center kitchen. Should have a dependable oven and broiler. Call 354-8807 and leave a message for the Core committee.

Wanted: Donation of perennials, for the Women's Center garden, that can grow in both sun and shade. Call 354-8807 and leave a message for the Core committee.

WOMEN'S SCHOOL COLLECTIVE
Update

The spring term is going by quickly and we are already looking ahead to summer. This term we offered 6 classes as well as a one day workshop on Women and the Nuclear Threat. Because of the positive response it received, we are planning to offer it again this summer. We are also planning to offer other workshops throughout the summer to give women who don't have the time to take a 10-week class the opportunity to come together for day of a weekend to learn from each other. Tentative workshop topics are political music, racism, interracial relationships, women and health, and a lesbian/straight dialogue. Anyone who may be interested in teaching a workshop should leave a note in the Women's School mailbox and we will contact you.

We have recently added three new collective members and are still looking for women who may be interested in joining. We are planning a meeting of women who have either taught and/or taken classes who might be interested in becoming a collective member. The meeting's planned for Wed. June 1 at 7:00 pm at the Women's Center.



WORKSHOP: Resume writing and Discussion about Job Hunting Techniques.

Monday June 6, 6 to 8 pm
Call the Center for more information and to reserve a space.

RAPE! (continued from page 1)

attitude that has permeated reports about this rape. Media coverage pointedly reminds us that the alleged offenders are Portuguese immigrants. Members of New Bedford's Portuguese community report that they are experiencing "a psychological state of seige", and that the rape has provoked "anger and embarrassment" in their community. Is the nationality of these men relevant to the case? We think not. Women are gang-raped every day, often with onlookers, sometimes in public places.

This brutal rape and the condoning of the act by the witnesses yet again illustrates that not only is rape prevalent in our society, but apparently an acceptable form of behavior also.

In the April 18 issue of the City Paper, a Dorchester advertiser/-newsheet, editor Paul Walkowski wrote a column decrying the existence of meter maids in downtown Boston. The column in which he called meter maids "sluts", concluded with these sentences: "Maybe it's time that we took these ladies off the pedestal and put them on the pool table where they belong -- give them a little of what they've been giving us. Hitler's people were just doing their job too, you know."

We, the undersigned, are infuriated that this man can publish such remarks and that advertisers lend their financial support to him. In the face of the horrifying gang rape in New Bedford and subsequent reports of rape statewide, Walkowski's exhortation to sexually assault these female City of Boston employees is unforgiveable. These casual, irresponsible remarks only serve to minimize the well-documented trauma experienced by victims of sexist and racist violence.

We urge area residents to refrain from purchasing this paper and to join us in publicly voicing our outrage at the dangerous comments of Paul Walkowski.

Michelle Chausse
Laurie Kaslow

Boston Area Rape
Crisis Center

PEACE ENCAMPMENT (continued from page 1)

come together every other week for coordinating meetings. These meetings will continue to provide background information on the encampment and serve as an orientation for women coming to their first meeting. Contact Meredith at Resist, 623-5110 or Ellie, 864-2805 for more information and meeting times.

A major action, to include civil disobedience, has been planned for August 1. The Regional CD committee will operate out of New York. Susan Pines of the War Resisters League (212) 228-0450 is the contact person. There will also be a local CD/Action committee, contact Nancy, 566-7638, for information and meeting times. Other CD actions may also happen during the summer. Smaller actions, daily or weekly, have been discussed and spontaneous actions will be encouraged. Guidelines have been established so that the safety of the camp will be protected. Women will be asked not to carry weapons, drugs, or alcohol; not to use physical force; and not to engage in activities likely to endanger the security of women at the legal encampment.

The Latest Whitewash - the Modernization of Apartheid in South Africa. Professor of Political Science and A.N.C. member Aggrey Mberu will analyze the changes in the apartheid system, and discuss the role of multi-national capital and the Reagan administration in this process. The program will begin with a new film, "The White Laager?", which covers the ideology and practice of apartheid and tries to explain the mentality of the Afrikaners.

This Mobilization for Survival educational will begin at 7:30 pm on Thursday, June 9, at the Mobe office, 727 Mass. Ave. For more information, call 354-0008.

Keep Up To Date on legislation concerning Central America. Call the Central America Legislative Hotline: (202) 483-3391. 24 Hours, automatic 3-minute tape, changed minimally once a week.

**MATCHING GRANTS
Your Dollar Goes a Long Way**

Two years ago, the Center tried a new approach to fundraising, the use of "matching grants". When a foundation or corporation gives us one of these grants, we must match it dollar for dollar with donations made from the public.

Advantages to Matching Grants: Corporations are more apt to contribute when they see their dollars being doubled. Matching grants also demonstrate that the Center has the support of the community we serve, an important consideration in foundation and corporate giving.

Since Fiscal 1983 began July 1st, we have received a total of \$4900 in matching grants from the following foundations and corporations: Cambridge Savings Bank, the Boston Globe, Royal Insurance, Haymarket People's Fund, Vingo Trust, Baybank Harvard Trust, Hingham Mutual Fire Insurance, and the Hartford Insurance Group.

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."

In March, the Center was awarded a 3500 matching grant from Hyams Trust of Boston, with the stipulation that we must raise matching contributions from public donations by July 31, 1983.

To date, the Center has received \$1103. Can you help us by contributing to the remaining \$2397? Remember, every dollar is another step toward reaching this goal.

**WOMEN OF COLOR
Emergency Fund**

One of the current projects of the Women of Color Support Group is a Women of Color Emergency Fund. Applications are being accepted from women of color in need of emergency funds. Contact the Women of Color group, c/o the Women's Center. Women of Color Support Group meetings are open to all women of color, Tuesdays, 7:30 to 10:00 pm.

SUPPORT THE HOMEMAKERS.

On June 29, the state Rate Setting Commission will hold hearings to decide what homemakers and health aids will get for pay and benefits in the next year. Last year only 1 homemaker (Annie Ferguson from WEIU) went to the hearings, and before that no homemaker had ever gone.

This year, we plan to have hundreds of homemakers attend so that the State will finally understand what we have always known. WE HAVE TO GET MORE MONEY AND BENEFITS!! It's time we stopped being treated like 2nd class citizens - - and get the respect we deserve for the work we do.

In all of our homemaker contracts we have the right to go back to the bargaining table as soon as Women's Educational Industrial Union, Council of Elders and Suburban get more \$\$ from the state. That means we should be back to the bargaining table with all 3 companies this summer. The better we get from the Rate Setting Commission in June, the more we'll have to win at the bargaining table, and in our paychecks.

Come to the hearing. For more information, call 266-7103.



STRUGGLE,
STRUGGLE,
STRUGGLE!

- June 18. Lesbian and Gay Pride.
11:15 at Copley Sq.
Kickoff promptly at noon.
- June 17. GCN's 10th birthday party.
Boston YWCA. 7:30 to midnight.
- June 5. Women for Mel King sponsor a women's cultural event. Call 267-3759.

20th ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH, WASH. D.C.

20th Anniversary of the Historic 1963 March on Washington: **We Still Have A Dream** Jobs, Peace, Freedom. August 27, 1983, Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C. 1) bring together a massive march on Washington on August 27, 1983 to reaffirm the Dream and continue activities on August 28th to unite as never before this New Coalition around specific goals and common objectives; and 2) develop a broad non-partisan coalition to press for basic legislation and turn this nation around in the areas of jobs, peace, and freedom; 3) work for passage of legislation that would designate January 15 as a national public holiday in honor of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr; and 4) work on the state and local level to implement the full agenda of the New Coalition of Conscience.

For more information, contact Mass. 20th Anniversary Mobilization, c/o Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA 02118. Or call 536-0873.

FUND DRIVE OPENS TO MAKE WOMEN'S CENTER ACCESSIBLE TO PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

We have started a fund drive to pay for a mechanized wheelchair lift which will make the first floor of the Center accessible. The Center has sought the advice of architects and various organizations serving the physically challenged in the Boston area. Because there is not enough land to accommodate a ramp, the mechanized chair lift was found to be the best solution.

The lift will cost approximately \$5000 and tax deductible donations can be mailed directly to "Chairlift Fund", the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Successful efforts in early 1982 raised money for a TTY machine, which is now attached to the Center's telephone, making our information resources available to hearing-impaired women.

There are some new groups meeting at the Women's Center now, such as Women Printers, the Women's Spirituality Group, and a Menopause Group. We also have groups working on many other issues like education, violence against women, rape, militarism, and battered women. There are support groups for Women of Color, Battered Women, coming out, mothers, and Jewish Women. Call us at 354-8807 for more information.

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 following SPECIFIC EXPENSES for _____ month(s).

Please donate this \$_____ to the CHAIRLIFT.

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

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

Please send me a monthly pledge reminder.

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

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Fall, 1983

Women's Center Open House



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5th
2-5p.m.

- Refreshments!
- Childcare provided
- Get involved with projects
- Start new groups!
- Meet, talk and share with other women

All Women Welcome

Many of the groups and projects at the Women's Center originated at an Open House held early in the Center's existence.

Women came, talked, and formed groups to address specific areas where women are oppressed.

We hope this fall's Open House can again be an opportunity for women to start new groups and for lots of women to become involved or reinvolved with the Center.

Many of the Center Projects would welcome the energy of women who'd like to join. For example, Women Against Violence Against Women, Introductory, The Battered Women's Directory, Women's Pentagon Action, The Library, and Core (administrative stuff) are some of the projects wanting new members. Current members of these and the other groups and projects associated with the Center will be on hand.

PUMA presents

The Hooker's Ball all hallow's eve

NARCISSUS CLUB, KENMORE SQUARE

\$5 at the door

- Entertainment
- Dancing
- Prize for best costume

Sponsored by PUMA and
FINEX HOUSE, a refuge
for battered prostitutes

CENTER GROUPS

THE MOTHER'S GROUP

The Mother's Group, which meets every other Thursday evening, exists to give support to all mothers. We originally began as a group for single mothers (and still find the bulk of our attendees to be single), but expanded our vision when we saw how this society gives lip service to the ideal of motherhood but has little desire to deal with the reality, with the nitty-gritty day to day problems of moms and kids.

Specifically, we schedule general raps, topic raps, and activities. The Women's Center provides us with the money to hire childcare, which has been a great help in holding uninterrupted meetings. The children's room is where the childcare is provided, and we've found it to be a good space.

We meet from 7-9p.m. at the Center. Our next meetings will be on November 3 and 17. Anyone interested can call the Center for meeting dates, or call Jan at 284-8537 or Sasha at 524-7507 for more info.

BOSTON WOMEN'S PENTAGON ACTION

Our major project now is working with the Campaign to Stop the Euromissiles to protest the projected deployment of missiles in Europe this December. Our actions include participating in a civil disobedience protest at Avco Corporation in Wilmington, Mass, makers of the guidance systems for the Cruise and Pershing II missiles.

We now meet every other Thursday, 7-9:30p.m. at the Women's Center (next meetings are Nov. 10, 24). We are looking for new members. Call Ellie, 628-9395, for details.

DROP-IN DISCUSSION GROUP FOR WOMEN WITH INCEST HISTORIES will meet the third Thursday of every month, beginning in October. Topics: Nov. 17, Self-Image; Dec. 15, Trust. Meets 7:30-9:30p.m. Sponsored by Incest Resources, 492-1818.

YOUNGER LESBIANS, a support and discussion group open to women 22 and under, meets every Tuesday, 6-8p.m.

COMING OUT GROUP meets every Monday, 8-10p.m.

INTRODUCTORY, an open discussion group, meets every Wed. at 8p.m. at the Center. It's an opportunity to learn about the Center's resources and participate in informal discussions about our common experiences as women. Topics: Nov. 9, Incest Resources; Nov. 16, Ending Relationships; Nov. 23, Loneliness; Nov. 30, Rape Crisis.

THE JEWISH WOMEN'S OPEN DISCUSSION GROUP meets every other Friday from 7:30-10p.m. Nov. 4: Jewish women and class (we will break down into small facilitated groups of mixed class backgrounds); Nov. 18, feedback and evaluation session; Dec. 2, Chanukah celebration. For more info call the Center.

BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP is open to any battered woman. Mondays 6:30p.m. and/or Wednesdays 11:30a.m.

CO-PARENTING GROUP FOR LESBIANS will be starting soon. Keep in touch for dates and times

WOMEN OF COLOR, LESBIAN LIBERATION, AND LESBIAN MOTHERS are not meeting at present. We hope they will start up again. Call the Center or come to the Open House (Nov. 5, 2-5p.m.), to help get any of them started or to express your interest.

AND WHAT'S NEXT???? Come to the Open House with your ideas for new groups, especially if you're willing to put in some time to make them happen!

Rape Crisis Center

Time has passed but our horror has not. As attention to the brutal rape of a New Bedford woman fades with time, it is easy to lose sight of our anger and outrage. That may be the goal of the judge who continued the case to a January court date. Perhaps the hope is that our memories will soften, our anger abate, and our attention be diverted.

We cannot allow that to happen. The New Bedford rape received unprecedented media attention, and deserves our continued awareness. One way to offer ongoing support is to continue the struggle to end the rape and harassment which occurs daily in our lives.

Over the past few months there have been some encouraging developments. The Lt. Governor's office sponsored a state-wide conference on "victims of violent crimes" in the spring. An outgrowth of this conference was the establishment of the "Rape Working Group", a group which includes prosecutors, rape investigators, victim/witness advocates, rape counselors, health care professionals, and others. The function of this group is to formulate and recommend to the Governor's Anti-Crime Council measures which the state government could adopt to help prevent sexual assault, aid the physical and emotional recovery of sexual assault survivors, and improve reporting, apprehension, prosecution, and conviction of offenders.

One bill which has already been signed into law is the extension of the rape shield law (first passed six years ago). This law exempts a rape victim's past sexual history

from being admissible in court. The new law extends this exemption to victims of sexual assault and attempted rape.

Hopefully, a law permitting rape counselor confidentiality will also be passed soon. Please call your representatives and senators in support of the bill.

Changes such as these represent progress in a culture which has failed to condemn rape and sexual violence. Our Governor is quoted as saying: "This society of ours is almost obsessed with sex". When will they hear us say that rape is not sex but violence, not passion but power.

For more information on what can be done, call 492-RAPE.

March on Washington

Reagan's ability to increase our military presence there has been limited by deepening anti-war sentiment internationally and in the United States. However, recent Administration policy statements show that the only strategy envisioned by our government is a military solution to the conflicts.

The November 12 march on Washington will demonstrate the American people's desire for peace and non-intervention in Central America. Support for the march comes from a wide range of individuals and groups.

Ideas, energy, and financial support are needed. Please call 492-8699 for more information.

Chairlift Drive

In August, the Women's Center received a \$1500 challenge grant from the Cambridge Commission on Handicapped Persons, to be applied toward the purchase price (\$5000) of a mechanized chairlift. The Chairlift Fund drive began in January, and was prompted by requests from physically-challenged women in the area who would like to participate in Women's Center activities.

In order to receive this grant, the Center was required to raise a matching sum of \$1500 from other sources prior to January 1, 1984. We are very happy to report that, thanks to the generosity of many, we have now received enough money to match the grant!

We now have \$3000 of the \$5000 required to purchase the lift. We need your help to raise the remaining \$2000. It's possible that the lift could be installed by the end of this year!

Please send your contribution to:

"The Chairlift Fund"
Women's Center
46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, MA. 02139

Checks should be made out to the Women's Center. Donations are tax deductible.

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

Phone: (617) 354-8807

The Women's School

The fall term of the Women's School has started. There are still some unfilled workshops/classes. Call the Center if you'd like to register: it's not too late! (354-8807)

Workshops:

Demystifying the Arms Race: A Feminist Perspective
Saturday, Oct. 29, 1-5p.m.

Breast Conditions

Sat., Nov. 12, 10a.m.-4p.m.
(This workshop will present an overview of normal and abnormal breast conditions, along with traditional and alternative treatments.)

Food and Hunger

Sat., Nov. 19, 10a.m.-4p.m.
(We will explore our own perceptions of hunger and our relationship to food through images, exercises, and discussion. What does it mean to have enough; to not have enough?..... What is the connection between our sustenance and our survival?)

Class:

Dialogue Between Lesbian and Heterosexual Women Through Literature

Tuesdays, 7-9p.m.. for 5 weeks, beginning Nov. 8.

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