

# ♀ ON OUR WAY



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

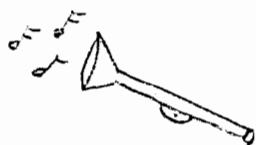
(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

winter 87



15



THE WOMEN'S CENTER'S 15TH BIRTHDAY  
Saturday, January 24, 2 to 5pm

Featuring:

Women in prison at MCI-Framingham:  
an informal presentation of issues facing  
women in prison right now, a videotape  
about MCI-Framingham, and a time for  
questions.

A historical presentation about the  
Women's Center and the contemporary  
Boston area Women's Liberation Movement

The Women's School will talk about  
what it's doing, its history, and answer  
questions about joining the collective,  
giving a workshop, teaching a course or  
whatever.

Members of other groups, including  
'For Crying Out Loud' will participate in  
discussions.

AND Live music by local women artists!

!!!!All women and children welcome!!!!

## Women's Center Hours

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm  
Friday 10am - 5pm  
Friday Coffeehouse 8pm-Midnite  
Saturday 11am - 2pm

## FOR CRYING OUT LOUD

In June of 1986, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, the newsletter for women survivors of child sexual abuse, passed from the founding members to the current collective, who are determined that this very special forum will continue to be published. We are grateful to the Women's Center for bringing us together, and for serving as our meeting place and mailing address. There is no other resource in our community with the Center's strength and commitment to women struggling to empower themselves.

For many survivors of incest and related horrors, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD is the only place where they can feel safe to share their personal histories, their frustrations, and their rage, the sum of which will lead to their ultimate healing.

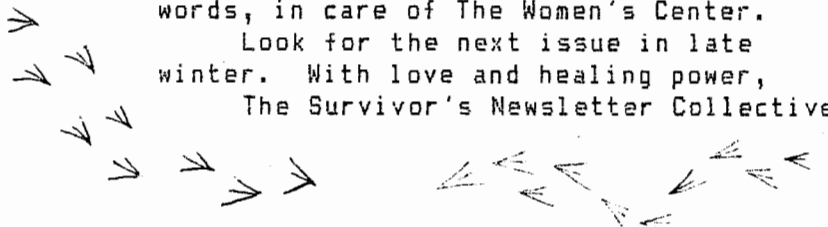
After years of unnamed pain, enforced silence, private shame, and maddening isolation, together survivors of child sexual abuse can cry out loud!

What started as a powerful form of group therapy and support, inspired by Ellen Bass, is evolving into a genuine social movement, and FOR CRYING OUT LOUD is one of the major voices of that movement.

Survivors are welcome to send us their creative outpourings in pictures or words, in care of The Women's Center.

Look for the next issue in late winter. With love and healing power,

The Survivor's Newsletter Collective



## WRITERS SUPPORT GROUP

The Writers Support Group is an open, ongoing group that meets weekly at the Center, Wednesdays at 7:30pm. All skill/experience levels and forms of writing are welcome. If you want to share your writing with other writers, exchange ideas and criticism from a feminist perspective, and are willing to make a commitment to come regularly, come join us. Or call Sylvan for more info. at 547-6766 eves (491-4110 days).

## FORMER NUN LESBIANS

The former nun lesbian support group welcomes all women with current or past affiliation with a religious order. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Center, 7 to 9pm.

While most meetings involve discussion of our "issues", the group has viewed TV documentaries together and shared the group's first year anniversary potluck supper at the Center.

We look forward to welcoming new members! Please contact the Center for more info.



## FAT IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

Every other Wednesday, 7:30-9:30pm, a support group for women dealing with issues around food, body image, and self acceptance meets at the Center. We work on making peace with food and becoming aware of how we use it. We're seeking new members! All women are welcome!

Help is needed with organization of leafletting campaigns and public actions on "The War for Women's Equality is Not Over", "Happy Father's Day--Incest Report", "Veterans of the War Against Women: Rape, Battery, and Murder", and similar actions. Sponsored by the Women's Center. Contact Sharon at 354-8807, days.

## OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Come join us on Wednesday evenings, 8 to 10 pm for informal discussions about our common experiences as women.

### UPCOMING TOPICS

- Jan 28--Isolation in Contemporary Society
- Feb 4---Women of Color: Poetry, Readings, and Discussion
- Feb 11--Feminist Humor
- Feb 18--Coming Out as a Feminist
- Feb 25--Women Taking a Stand in the Nuclear Age

## INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources sponsors and facilitates a monthly drop-in discussion group for women with histories of incest. This meets on the third Thursday of every month (Sept-June) from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Women's Center. To insure confidentiality and safety, meetings are not open to friends/support people. Upcoming topics are:

- February 19 Families
- March 19 Mourning

For more information, call the Center or 492-1818.

## 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. 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 mornings at 11:45am and Monday evenings at 6:30pm at the Women's Center.



## FINEX HOUSE

We at Finex House have much to rejoice about in this New Year, with the recent opening of the first shelter for disabled battered women in the state! Our new shelter is wheelchair accessible, and has a special light signal system for our deaf guests to respond to door bells, baby cries and fire alarms. Finex House services battered women and their children who are not being serviced by the existing shelter network. We are able to shelter 35 people a day. This is twice as many women and children as we were able to accommodate in our previous rented site. Thanks to the contributions of time, money, beds, and other items donated by people like yourself, our dream has now become a reality, making our new building into a home.

This winter, we are desperately in need of financial contributions, which are tax deductible. We also need volunteers who are willing to commit a few hours of their time to ensure that Finex House can give the best support possible to our guests and to those who are still in violent homes. We absolutely need help on evenings and weekends to staff our 24 hour hotline, assist guests in their search for housing, and help tutor guests who want to get their GED or assist children with their homework. We have a particular need for volunteers with Sign Language skills, but even if you don't know sign, we still need YOU! Call us at 436-2002 for further info or to volunteer.

From all of us at Finex House,  
HAPPY WINTER AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR



FINEX HOUSE needs 3 full-time staff members. Prefer women of color and/or Spanish speaking; formerly battered; disabled women. Call Chris, Gwen or Elsa at 436-2002.



## WOMEN'S SCHOOL

The collective is in the process of putting together the spring term (will probably start in April). Potential collective members, teachers, interested women, come to the Center's birthday party or call 354-8807.

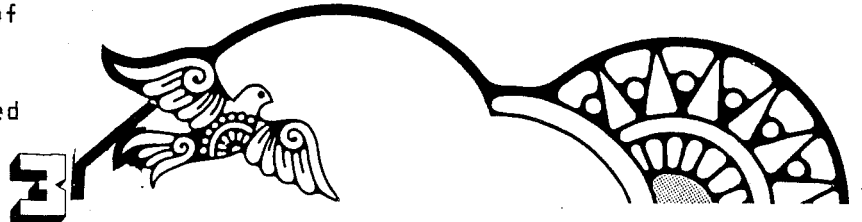
## CONDUITS

Conduit = Pipeline = Women's Center Happily, the Women's Center is in a position to provide technical assistance to many women's projects. By setting up a conduit arrangement with small or newly formed groups, the Center has been able to help many worthwhile services come into being. In the next few issues of this newsletter, we will discuss how conduits work and describe some groups the Center is currently helping. Under a conduit agreement, groups can ask for financial support for themselves to be sent to the Women's Center, thus giving the contributions tax-exempt status.

For example, Boston Women's Community Radio just asked for, and received, a grant of \$2500 from the Boston Women's Fund, which was channeled through the Center. This group of women is producing radio in the Boston area. There are two shows aired on WMBR, 88.1 Cambridge. International Women's Day Radio will be in its 9th year this March; 24 hours of poetry, music, interviews, and commentary celebrating our victories and examining our differences. "Say It Sister" is a weekly public-affairs show, Tuesdays, 7-8pm, with interviews, and audience call-ins. There is also a monthly news magazine covering local, national and international issues of concern to women.

## HOORAY FOR FINEX HOUSE

The Women's Center would like to congratulate FINEX HOUSE on reaching their long awaited goal of opening a shelter for disabled battered women and their children. We commend their energy, determination and commitment to helping women and children in need. The Center was proud to help this dream become a reality by serving as a conduit for donations before Finex House achieved tax-exempt status, providing a mail address and helping with bulk mailing, fund-raising and providing other technical assistance. We wish Finex House a long, happy and healthy life.



## WOMEN'S COUNSELING AND RESOURCE CENTER

The Women's Counseling & Resource Center has grown to 9 therapists. In addition to providing counseling to low income women, we are currently working with staff from the Women's Center to update our referral file on feminist therapists in the area.

### AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER

#### MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . 6:30-8pm
- New Women's Chorus . . . . . 7-10pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's . . . 7:30-9:45pm  
Network -Intro Mtg. (bimonthly)
- All-Center Meeting . . . . . 6-8pm  
(biweekly)

#### TUESDAY

- Rape Crisis Center . . . . . 7-10pm
- Former Nun Lesbian Support . 7pm  
Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)

#### WEDNESDAY

- Support for Battered Women . Noon-1pm
- Feminist Discussion Group. . 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare). 6:30-8pm
- Politics of Fat. . . . . 7:30-9:30pm
- Fat is a Feminist Issue. . . 7:30-9:30pm  
(biweekly)
- Back Pain Support Group . . .7:30-9:45pm  
(biweekly)

#### THURSDAY

- Lesbian Liberation . . . . . 7:30-9:30pm
- Incest Resources . . . . . 7:30-9:30pm  
(third Thurs., monthly)
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm  
Network (second Thurs., monthly)

### WOMEN LOOKING FOR WORK

An ongoing support group for women looking for work is currently meeting outside the center. FREE. Call Abby at 491-8896 for more info.

### SUPPORT GROUP

Women's Support and Visualization Group is forming in the Boston/Cambridge area. Use of relaxation, visualization and discussion to support member's goals and desire for changes in their lives will highlight this leaderless, peer support group for feminist women. FREE. Will probably meet Wednesday evenings. Call Brenda, 742-9460 for more info.

## CELEBRATE OUR VICTORIES

Join us as we celebrate the defeat of Question #1 and reaffirm our commitment to reproductive freedom and the continuing struggle to keep abortion safe, legal and funded.

Thursday, January 22  
(14th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade)  
7:30 PM  
Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St,  
Central Square

Featuring entertainment by Semanya McCord  
ASL -- Spanish translation -- Child care  
Wheelchair accessible

Sponsored by R2N2, Boston NOW, MOBE,  
GLDC, AAWO.

### THINKING AHEAD

The Lesbian and Gay Pride Planning Committee invites the community to come find out what's happening with PRIDE '87. Open House will be held on Thursday, Jan 22, 7:30pm at 34 Edgerly Road, Boston near Fenway Community Health Center (use basement entrance around back). See our slide show, learn how to join us to make this year's Pride Week, Town Meeting, Pride March, and Rally the best ever! For info: 267-2150, Pride Celebrations, Inc., P.O. Box 8916, Boston, MA 02114.

### BATTERED LESBIANS

EDUCATION AND DIALOG ON LESBIAN BATTERING

Readings from Naming the Violence:  
Speaking Out About Lesbian Battering

Sunday, January 25, 3-5pm, at  
New Words Bookstore, 138 Hampshire  
St., Cambridge. ASL interpreted.

Info: 561-0986, (354-8807 TTY)  
Sponsored by Boston Working Group on  
Lesbian Battering.

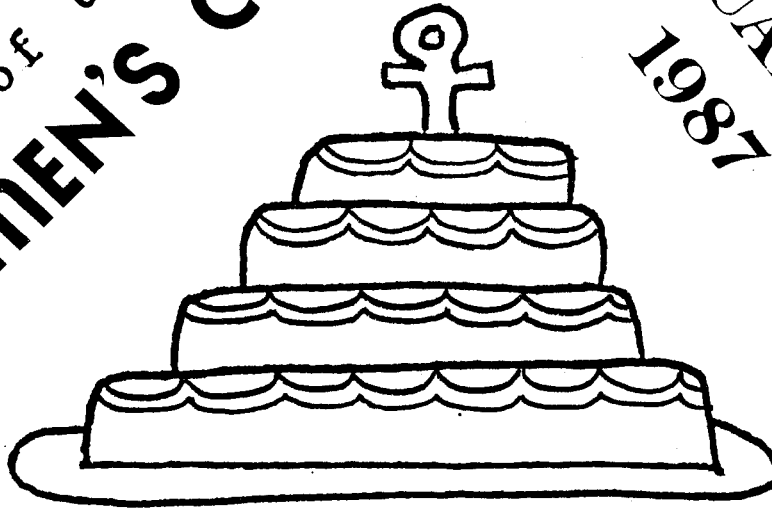
### PAUSE

The Menopause Collective is no longer holding open support meetings every month at the Center. The collective is still active, and will continue to provide information and support to women through other avenues. Watch for announcements.

15<sup>th</sup>  
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
of the

WOMEN'S CENTER

JANUARY 24  
Saturday  
2 - 5pm



**ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
\* WELCOME \***

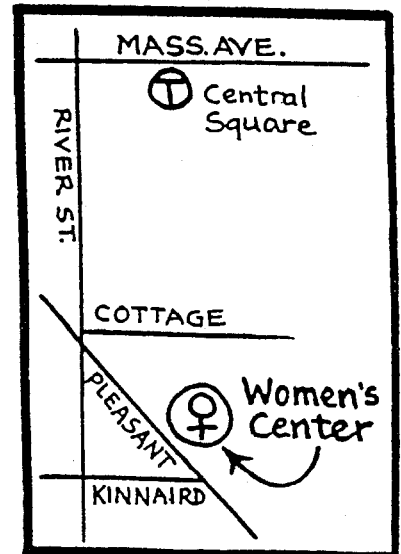
Join us for a variety of  
activities, entertainment  
and refreshments

46 Pleasant Street  
Cambridge

FIRST FLOOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

For more information: 354-8807

TTY and voice



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Address correction requested

### CONFERENCE ON ASIAN WOMEN

An impressive collection of day and evening programs, March 5-19. FREE. Films, panel discussions, theatrical performances, and workshops dealing with personal and global issues of concern to Asian women. All events held at MIT. Sponsored by MIT Women's Studies Program. Call 253-8844 for information, calendar of events.

### PMS STUDY

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has initiated a comprehensive study of Premenstrual Syndrome. We provide precise hormonal measurement and therapeutic relief, at no charge, to women of all ages who suffer from PMS. For more information, please call Roni or Maureen at 253-3087 or -3077

I'd like to be on the Women's Center mailing list:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

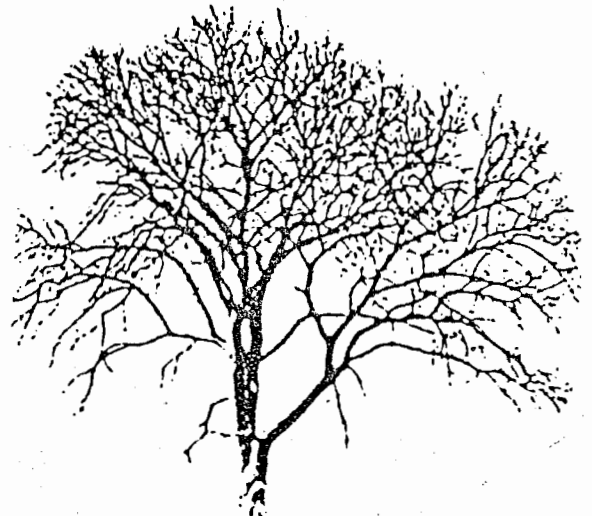
City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### THE COMPUTER

You may have noticed that the past few issues of DN OUR WAY have looked a little different. That's because we are now using a computer to type this newsletter. This has made our lives much easier and, we hope, made the newsletter easier to read. We have also recently put our mailing list on the computer. This has simplified the process of sending out over 900 copies of DN OUR WAY four times a year. Please let us know of any errors/changes in your name or address so we can keep the info coming your way.

The newsletter committee, Judy and Nancy, are always looking for help preparing the bulk mailing, writing articles, etc. Give the Center a call if you'd like to help.



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46 Pleasant Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02139

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SPRING 87



It's very easy, here at the Women's Center, to get immersed in reacting to the day-to-day requests and pressures that stream in, and in the mechanics of maintaining the Center. If we just try to be what people expect of us, we are kept completely busy, and still there's always much more to do than can be done.

The challenge for the Women's Center, now, is to become more deliberate, to focus on what we are doing and why, and what changes we can make to become a place that more clearly, steadily and cohesively moves forward.

You are encouraged to join us at the following upcoming All-Center meetings for, hopefully, thought-provoking discussions and momentous decisions. Written proposals, including suggestions for change, why the change would be good, and how it could be accomplished, are most welcome.

Monday, May 4, 6-8pm: Where is the Women's Liberation Movement now, where do we think it's going and how does the Women's Center want to connect, reflect, uphold, help? (how does the Women's Center fit into the picture?)

Monday, May 18, 6-7pm: We have more and more 'support' groups at the Center lately, and fewer 'action'-oriented groups. Why? What do they accomplish? Are there problems? What, if any, changes should we make in what groups use the Center, or how the groups function?

Monday, June 1, 6-7pm: 'Outreach' - specific plans for what we want to do in relation to the women who do not know about or use the Women's Center. There are lots & lots of options. Considering that we have limited time and money, what should we take on? And how do we best go about it?

Monday, June 15, 6-7pm: Fundraising issues - How do we do fundraising? Do we want to do new things, or old things differently? What and how?

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!  
HELP MAKE THE CENTER BETTER!!

## FUNDING CRISIS

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center is funded through a Federal Block Grant (the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant). Due to cuts in Federal funding, the Block Grant will be cut by \$500,000. This could mean a 24% cut in BARCC's funding. We currently receive \$40,000/year from the Block Grant, and our total budget is only \$46,000. The one other Rape Crisis Center on the Block Grant is CPASA, the Community Program Against Sexual Assault (in Roxbury) which serves black and Hispanic women. All other RCC's are funded with state money.

We are asking the legislature to offset this cut by allocating state funds for us. To do this, they would need to increase our line item in the budget (line item 4513-1000) by \$20,000 (to cover the costs of two RCC's). Please show your support by writing your state legislators at The State House, Boston, MA 02133.

## EXPANDED HOURS

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm  
Friday 10am - 8pm  
(open Fri 5-8pm on a trial basis)  
Friday Coffeehouse 8pm-Midnite  
Saturday 11am - 2pm

## GOOD-BYE, GOOD LUCK TO SHARON

Sharon Stonekey, the Center coordinator, is no longer working at the Women's Center. Sharon began working here in October, 1985. She was able to recruit and train enough women to staff the Women's Center so that, for the first time, volunteers are covering the Center virtually all the time, freeing paid staff to do other work. She participated in the outreach committee and the finance committee. Sharon maintained the Political Action Hotline and was an organizer of the Political Action Group. She attended several local and state meetings as the Center representative including Up From Poverty Campaign and Women's Legislative Network. We would like to thank Sharon for devoting her energy and ideas to Center and wish her well in whatever new directions her life may take.

## NEW THERAPY GROUP AT THE CENTER

A new therapy group begins May 14th. The group will run for 7 weeks, until June 25. Focus: building & maintaining more intimate relationships. The group is designed as a forum to discuss intimacy issues as a direct result of our early training and as a framework to explore intimacy issues through the group process.

Meets 5:30-7pm, Thursdays, May 14th to June 25, at The Women's Center. Contact: Jane Hynes, psychotherapist, Women's Counseling & Resource Center. For more info. and to enroll, 484-8517. As the group size is limited, pre-enrollment is necessary. No charge, but donations to the Center are welcome.

## BOOK ON OVER

### BOOK SALE Extravaganza

The Women's Center Library is having a gigantic BOOK SALE, Saturday, May 30th, 11am to 3pm, at the Center. Hundreds of wonderful books on sale for 25 to 50 cents. Terrific Buys! Prepare now for your summer reading!

The proceeds will go toward the purchase of new books and subscriptions for the Library. We are still accepting donations of books for the sale (up to Monday, May 26th). Bring them to the Center.

## DO YOU STILL THINK YOU'RE TOO FAT?

A tremendous number of women do, no matter what their size. Even though the American Medical Assoc., known for being conservative, tells us that 90-98% of all diets ultimately fail, we women continue to damage our bodies and our psyches by starving, stuffing and guilt-tripping. A year ago, some women who were exhausted and angry from trying to conform to the impossible standard of thinness joined a group at the Women's Center called Fat is a Feminist Issue. The group eventually evolved into the Politics of Fat group and is made up of S-B women of differing sizes, classes and races. We are joyfully and angrily exploring fat oppression and societal pressures to be thin. We believe dieting is self-abuse and we are learning to love and accept ourselves as we are now. We encourage women who share these concerns to join us! We meet every other Wednesday, 7:30-9:30 pm at the Women's Center. Call 354-8807 or Judy at 321-8636 for information. The next meeting is April 29th.

!! WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE !!

## WELCOME SASHA

Sasha Curran, who has volunteered at the Women's Center in many different ways over the last nine years, has just been hired to do the Center's bookkeeping. We greatly appreciate all she has done and are excited that she has agreed to take the job.

The bookkeeping has been done, for the most part, by Jean Rioux, who also does fundraising for the Center. In our recent efforts to get on top of the financial picture at the Center, we decided we should have different people doing the bookkeeping and the fundraising. In addition, the Center books will now be maintained on our computer. Jean has agreed to help train Sasha during this transition period. We look forward to working with Sasha and thank Jean for her work over the years in this area.

## EXPANDED HOURS

!!!! FRIDAYS 5 to 8 pm !!!!

For the next few months, the Women's Center will be open FRIDAYS, 5 to 8 pm.







# MAY LESSONS



\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* !!! THE WOMEN'S SCHOOL PRESENTS !!! \*  
 \* Yet another wondrous \*  
 \* **yard sale** \*  
 \* Saturday, May 9 -- 10 AM to 2 PM \*  
 \* 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

If you have items to donate (clothes, kitchen stuff, books, pictures, TV's ...) PLEASE bring them to the Women's Center when you come to the yard sale. The Center doesn't have any storage space to collect items beforehand. THANKS.

## ONGOING GROUPS AT THE CENTER

### MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . 6:30-8pm
- \*New Women's Chorus . . . . . 7-10pm
- Lesbian Liberation . . . . . 8-10pm
- Narcotics Anonymous. . . . . 7:30-9pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's. . . 7:30-9:45pm  
Network -Intro Mtg. (bimonthly)
- All-Center Meeting . . . . . 6-8pm  
(biweekly)

### TUESDAY

- \*Rape Crisis Center . . . . . 7-10pm
- Former Nun Lesbian Support . 7pm  
Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)

### WEDNESDAY

- Support for Battered Women . Noon-1pm
- 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)
- \*Back Pain Support Group . . . 7:30-9:45pm  
(biweekly)

### THURSDAY

- Incest Resources . . . . . 7:30-9:30pm  
(third Thurs., monthly)
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm  
Network (second Thurs., monthly)
- \*Support Group for Lesbians . 7:45-9:45pm  
with Chronic Back Pain (biweekly)
- \*Women's School . . . . . 7-9:30pm

\* means group is not open to new members

## BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT

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. 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.

Discussing the Unmentionable - Urinary Incontinence -- May 2, 2-4pm

Sun Tides/Moon Tides: Cycles of Life -- May 2, 2-4:30pm

"Our Boston Heritage" - Lesbian History Slideshow and Discussion -- May 8, 8-10pm

Women's Storytelling: Telling the Story of Our Lives -- May 9 & 16, 11am-1pm

Writer's Support Group -- Ongoing, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm

c.R.A.S.H. course: A Workshop with Rock Against Sexism -- May 9, 1-4pm at FemmeCore Space, 464 Harrison Ave. (near Dover Station on the Orange Line)

A Self-Defense Workshop for Women Over 40 -- May 12, 7-9:30pm

The Writing on the Wall - Women's Graffiti Slideshow and Discussion -- May 15, 8-10pm

All events (except as noted) will be at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge (Red-line to Central Square). Childcare will be provided ONLY if you request it in advance.

Registration forms can be obtained by calling or visiting the Center.

The Women's School has been offering free classes and workshops by and for women for 15 years. Facilitators, childcare workers and other staff are all volunteers, but we rely on contributions to cover postage, printing and other expenses. Please contribute what you can afford for your classes and workshops. Donations are tax-deductible.

## INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources sponsors and facilitates a monthly drop-in discussion group for women with histories of incest. This meets on the third Thursday of every month (Sept-June) from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Women's Center. To insure confidentiality and safety, meetings are not open to friends/support people. Upcoming topics are:

- May 21 Healing
- June 18 Letting Go



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RETURN TO SENDER



Our mailing list, made up of individuals and organizations, now totals about 1000. Every so often, we attempt to update our list by putting 'Address correction requested' on our newsletter. If people have moved, the post office returns the newsletter to us with a forwarding address (if available), at a cost of 22 cents for each piece. So, if you have moved and didn't tell us your new address, it cost us nearly 30 cents to send out a newsletter and have it returned by the post office. Plus, you never even received it.

We have been doing our best to keep track of our friends and supporters, but it is just getting too expensive! If you want to keep receiving ON OUR WAY after you move, PLEASE send in your new address, or just call and let us know. If you, for any reason, don't want to continue to receive ON OUR WAY, we'd be incredibly grateful if you'd let us know so we can save our funds for other projects. We do not charge for the newsletter, but of course, donations of any amount are appreciated. (Tax-deductible, to The Women's Center)

\_\_\_ Add me to the Center's 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Staffing at the Center  
\_\_\_ Typing  
\_\_\_ Helping with Mailings  
\_\_\_ Updating Referrals

\_\_\_ Spring Cleaning  
\_\_\_ Repotting Plants  
\_\_\_ Digging up the yard  
\_\_\_ Giving furniture, etc.



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46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

summer '87

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## Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are

On October 11th, 1987, the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights will bring hundreds of thousands of lesbians, gay men, and their supporters to the Capital. There we will demand basic civil rights for lesbians and gays and an end to the discrimination against people with AIDS. We will make it clear that the rising tide of bigotry against the gay community is an injustice that threatens basic freedoms for all of us. And we will do so with hundreds of thousands of others in what is expected to be the largest gay rights demonstration in our nation's history.

The events of the March weekend are designed to draw attention to the multi-faceted discrimination faced by the gay community and by victims of AIDS and ARC. The March and rally on Sunday is the centerpiece; other events, such as lobbying, civil disobedience and even a wedding express the variety of ways in which lesbians and gays are discriminated against and made invisible.

The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights may be the single most important act of protest for all of us this year. Whether we're gay or not, we have a vital interest in fighting for the rights of lesbians and gay men to live openly, in demanding an end to the discrimination against those the US Government and its conservative allies insist are not "normal," and in speaking out for massive increases in AIDS funding and research.

At a time when the attacks on lesbian and gay rights are escalating, those of us who are concerned about liberation must make our voices heard.

National organizing for the March is already in full swing, and support has been forthcoming from a broad spectrum of the gay community, including people of color, disabled people, and even conservative or a-political people who have been convinced that it's time to speak out for gay rights. The March is also being strongly supported by a number of multi-issue and feminist organizations. Mobilization for Survival, NOW, the War Resisters League, and the American Friends Service Committee all sit on the National Steering Committee and are providing financial and/or logistical backing for the March. Locally, a number of multi-issue and feminist groups have joined in the organizing for the Boston-area. The New England Steering Committee has been meeting for several months.

**come out** for yourself  
**come out** for your friends  
**come out** for Justice

NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON  
FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS  
OCTOBER 11, 1987

Boston March on Washington Committee,  
Suite 790, 104 Charles Street, Boston, MA 02114 442-9597

## LESBIANS & CHILDREN FALL CONFERENCE

We're planning a conference for Nov 14 & 15 at Simmons College. We would like the conference to be a safe and informative place for women to discuss such topics as: raising sons, teenagers, foster parenting policy, co-parenting, multi-racial families, artificial insemination, choosing not to have a child, differences between lesbian moms and the divisions within the lesbian community. We envision discussion groups for kids of lesbians, performances, panels, and time to be with kids as well as time apart. We intend to provide quality child-care (pre-registration will be necessary).

We want the conference to be accessible to all women. We want to be as representative & diverse a planning committee as possible. We are organizing outreach meetings and we have questionnaires to get more community input. For further info. or if you want to contribute ideas, time, skills or \$\$ (make checks payable to the Women's Center), call the Center and leave a message for the Lesbians & Children Conference Planners.



### INTIMACY GROUP

A new therapy group begins Aug 27th. The group will run for 6 weeks, until Oct. 8. Focus: building & maintaining more intimate relationships. The group is designed as a forum to discuss intimacy issues as a direct result of our early training and as a framework to explore intimacy issues through the group process. Meets 5:30-7pm, Thursdays, Aug 27th to Oct 8 at The Women's Center. Contact: Jane Hynes, psychotherapist, Women's Counseling & Resource Center. For more info. and to enroll, call 484-8517. As the group size is limited, pre-enrollment is necessary. Donations to the Center are welcome and negotiable.

ANOTHER INCREDIBLE  
YARD SALE  
FOR & BY THE WOMEN'S SCHOOL  
Saturday, September, 19  
10:00am-2:00pm  
at the Women's Center



### WISE UP

The Women's School is pleased to continue its 15th birthday with the Fall term series of workshops, which will be held here at the Center during October and November. Some topics are:

1. Mid-life issues including menopause.
2. Staying healthy as we age, Oct. 17, 10am-noon.
3. Self defense, Oct 29, 7:30-9:00.
4. Acupuncture as a treatment for pain Oct. 17, 11:30am-1:00pm.
5. Jitterbug.
6. Women and their experiences in the military services.
7. Women and our relationship to money.
8. Stress stretching & letting go, Oct. 17, 12-2:00.
9. Women & AIDS.
10. How Apartheid affects us.
11. Apartheid in South Africa and racism in the Boston area.
12. Report back on World Congress of Women in Moscow, Summer of '87.
13. Ageism in our community.
14. Heterosexual feminist discussion.
15. Writing workshop.
16. Finding the women in your family tree. Sat. Nov. 14, 10am-1pm.
17. Tips from the Gay and Lesbian Defense Comm. on campaign organizing.
18. Fat phobia and hatred within our community.
19. Lesbian culture, Nov. 10, 7:30-9:30.
20. Graffiti slide show, Oct. 27, 7:30-9:00pm.
21. How to cut through the red tape and get what you want.

And many more. Please look for a brochure or call 354-8807 to be put on the Women's School mailing list. If you would like to lend time for childcare, distribution or other necessary tasks, call us and leave a message. All classes are free but we need money for printing, postage and office expenses.

## ON THE MOVE

As of August 3, 1987, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center will be located at 99 Bishop Allen Dr., Cambridge, MA 02139 in the same building as Planned Parenthood). We are both saddened and excited at the prospect of moving. The Women's Center has been wonderfully supportive throughout our 15 years here, and we will miss the caring and easy-going atmosphere of the Center. Our new location will allow us to expand both in size and in services. We are still easily accessible to the T and our new counseling office is wheelchair accessible. In addition to our crisis number, 492-RAPE, we will now have a business number, 492-8306. We may continue to use the Women's Center for our Tuesday night meetings and would like to maintain our good contact and warm rapport with the Women's Center.

## DEAF WOMEN'S COUNSELING PROJECT

The Deaf Women's Counseling Project (DWCP) was founded in January of 1987 by representatives of the deaf community, the counseling community, and the feminist community. The goal of the DWCP is to facilitate the healing process for deaf women recovering from sexual, physical and psychological abuse by providing accessible counseling and support using ASL. Through the project, deaf women will have access to consciousness raising needed to overcome oppression, fear, guilt, and isolation perpetuated (caused and maintained) by the traditional patriarchal (male-dominated) social system. The group will be meeting at the Center and using Center space for meetings and for counseling.

## NEW TO THE CENTER

Discussion group in ASL (American Sign Language) for deaf women with incest histories meets on the third Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Women's Center. Free. Sponsored and facilitated by Incest Resources, Inc. Open only to deaf women with incest histories. For more information, call 354-8807 (Voice, TDD, TTY). Starting September 15.

## MY SISTER'S PLACE

Our warmest greetings go out to 'My Sister's Place', a brand new, badly needed drop-in/advocacy center for homeless women and children. Starting this week at 62 Berkeley Street in the South End, it will be open in the daytime on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays during the summer, with expanded hours in the fall. It has been transformed into a very comfortable space, including a community room, a children's area and a kitchen. Best wishes to a very important venture.

## COFFEEHOUSE NEWS

The Women's Coffeehouse is a non-profit volunteer run women's space open every Friday night, from 8pm-midnight at the Women's Center. Its object is to create a women's space which is affordable and accessible for all of us to develop our own culture, to interact with each other, or to just relax in a comfortable atmosphere. For 1 1/2 years now, the coffeehouse has been going with essentially 2 volunteers responsible for planning of events, publicity and staffing of the coffeehouse on Friday nights.

We wish to thank all of you who have performed music or read from their writing over this period. We wish we had been able to correspond, or maintain some contact after you came, but time and energy have been a bit of a problem.

We also wish to thank all of you who have supported or participated in the Coffeehouse. We wish we were able to get a mailing of our upcoming calendar of events to you, but time energy and money are a problem.

Herein lies some very important news -  
WE ARE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR WOMEN  
INTERESTED IN HELPING THE COFFEEHOUSE.

We are in search of six to ten women of various cultures and ages to plan, publicize, fundraise, M. C. and staff the Coffeehouse. We are also looking for financial support and supplies donated. We would like to expand the frequency and variety of events, to improve coordination, to produce more consistent and extensive publicity, and to make cafe-type food available. All of these goals relate to your support and or participation - please help!





## SOMETHING INTERESTING

If you'd like to do something useful and interesting, think about volunteering at the Women's Center. You would answer the phone giving information and support, talk with women who come in, and help with other Center work. We need you!

Right now, open slots include

Wednesdays 2:00-6:00pm; Thursdays 10:00am-2:00pm; Fridays 2:00-6:00pm; every other Friday 6:00-8:00pm and alternate (or so) Saturdays 11:00am-2:00pm.

We ask at least a three month commitment. Please call Judy at 354-8807.

## GROUPS AT THE CENTER

### 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 Mtg. . . . . (bimonthly)  
-All-Center Meeting . . . . . 6-8pm  
  . . . . . (biweekly)  
\*Women's School . . . . . 7:30-10pm

### TUESDAY

\*Rape Crisis Center . . . . . 7-10pm  
-Former Nun Lesbian Support . 7pm  
  Group . . . . . (1st Tuesday, monthly)  
-Discussion Group for Deaf 7:30-9:30pm  
  Incest Survivors  
  (starting Sept, 3rd Tuesday, monthly)

### WEDNESDAY

-Support for Battered Women . Noon-1pm  
-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 . . . . . (third Thurs., monthly)  
-Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm  
  Network . . . . . (second Thurs., monthly)  
\*Support Group for Women. . . 7:45-9:45pm  
  with Chronic Back Pain . . . . (biweekly)  
\*Lesbians & Children Conference 7-9pm  
  Planners (childcare) . . . . . (biweekly)

\* means group is not currently open to new members

## IN YOUR WORDS

(comments from the bathroom graffiti sheets)

"The Women's Center is a place to make connections, find support and, on occasion, a great place for a nap! Thanks for being here."

"More, more! Not just raising consciousness, not just being supportive. If the Center isn't a place for people to learn how to change their lives and their society, what is it?"

"To remind people that 'Post-feminism' is simply not reality. To help us celebrate our strength as women."

"I still think we should have a women's Activist group. That means Action, not protest, not leaflets, not C.R. . . like theatre (why should the United Fruit Co. have all the fun?) Verbal protest, and the like . . we've gotten too compacent. The women's movement has already been divided. Let's unify & ignite!"

"Spread feminist consciousness to the younger generation (teenagers & younger). This is an unbelievably crucial, yet ignored task!!"

"I feel safe. I'm grateful to have found it."

"A very special place!"

## SPACING OUT

You probably are wondering what will become of the room the Rape Crisis Center has inhabited for so many years. First, some speedy sprucing up (cleaning & painting); then the computer, which was quite unhappy in the dampness of the basement office, will ascend to the second floor, accompanied by its pals the typewriter and the copier. What will happen next in the basement where we will suddenly have some space? Stay tuned. That story will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.



## OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Participate in informal discussions about our common experiences as women.  
Wednesdays, 8-10 pm.

### UPCOMING TOPICS

Aug 12 Feminism and Fun--Bring your favorite game!!  
Aug 19 Women's Visions of the World  
Aug 26 Feminist Erotica

Call the Center for topics for September and beyond.

## NEW SPACE NEW NEEDS

Rape Crisis Center's new office needs donations of new or gently used items such as: nice furniture, chairs, tables, coffee tables, lamps, clocks, pictures, bedspreads, throw covers, throw pillows, sofas, etc. Call 492-7273.

## SUPPORT GROUP FOR 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. 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 mornings at 11:45am and Monday evenings at 6:30pm at the Women's Center.



Upcoming Topics for the  
LESBIAN RAP  
Mondays, 8-10pm

Aug 10 Considering Therapy  
Aug 17 Power Dynamics in Relationships  
Aug 24 Adolescence & Lesbianism  
Aug 31 Isolation & Withdrawal

## IN-DECISION

These weeks, there have been lots of suggestions about what kinds of new things could be going on at the Center. Now comes the fun part: PRIORITIZING, and then figuring out HOW (and WHO).

We are feeling overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the (good) ideas, and know that to get more done we need more women-power. We are planning a project starting day this autumn. We'll supply the setting and the agenda, and hopefully you'll find the project of your dreams and help it become a reality. Check your favorite paper for the date and the details.

## BEST WISHES TO JEAN

Our best wishes go to Jean Rioux, the Women's Center's fundraiser and bookkeeper since 1975, who is taking an extended leave of absence from the Women's Center.

Jean is responsible for developing and implementing the fundraising strategy that has gotten the Center on solid financial ground. Not only has there been money to cover operating expenses, but also the mortgage on the house has been paid off, the first floor has been made wheelchair accessible, the wheelchair lift has been purchased and installed, many improvements have been made on the building, and other purchases (computer, couch, chairs, etc.) have helped make the Center more comfortable and efficient. The credit for this good fortune goes to Jean, and to all of you who have responded to the call.

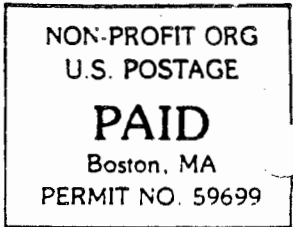
Jean has served as our 'face' to the outside world of charitable foundations and corporations, writing grant proposals and lobbying for contributions. She has succeeded in getting many local businesses interested in supporting the work of the Women's Center. She has also helped many new projects get off the ground by giving them fundraising information and assistance.

In other realms, she has organized day-long open houses on job hunting, has kept the flowers blooming almost year-round in the yard, and was on the committee to purchase a computer. She also kept accurate records of the finances, and, recently, worked with our new bookkeeper, Sasha Curran, in designing the procedure for transferring the books to the computer, as well as giving Sasha all the information she will need to do the bookkeeping and tax forms.

Thanks, Jean, for all you have done for the Women's Center. We wish you well.

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

Phone: (617) 354-8807



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### WRITERS SUPPORT GROUP

The Writers Support Group is an open, ongoing group that meets weekly at the Center, Wednesdays at 7:30pm. All skill/experience levels and forms of writing are welcome. If you want to share your writing with other writers, exchange ideas and criticism from a feminist perspective, and are willing to make a commitment to come regularly, come join us. Or call Sylvan for more info. at 547-6766 eves (491-4110 days).

### WOMEN'S CENTER HOURS

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm  
Friday 10am - 8pm  
(open Fri 5-8pm on a trial basis)  
Friday Coffeehouse 8pm-Midnite  
Saturday 11am - 2pm

### COFFEEHOUSE EVENTS

August 7: Indulgences with food (bring something)  
August 14: Open  
August 21: Improvisational comedy featuring Elizabeth Salkind  
August 28: Open

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors:  
Coolidge Bank & Trust, Bread & Circus, Boston Globe, Firestone & Parson, IBM, Sheraton Commander, Hartford Insurance, and Cambridge Chemical.

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 _____

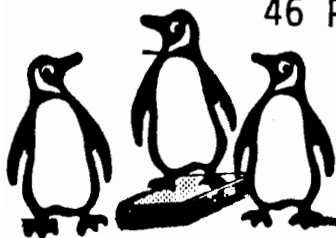
# ♀ ON OUR WAY

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.

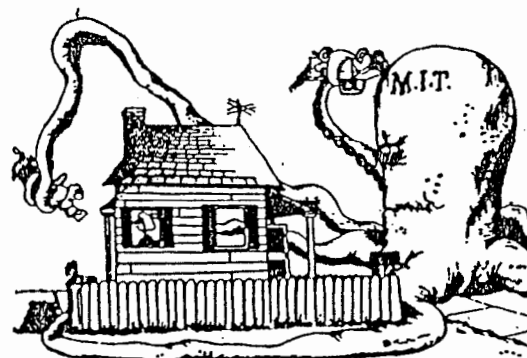
ALL WOMEN WELCOME

## 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

>><<

## I . R . \* O B I C S

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.

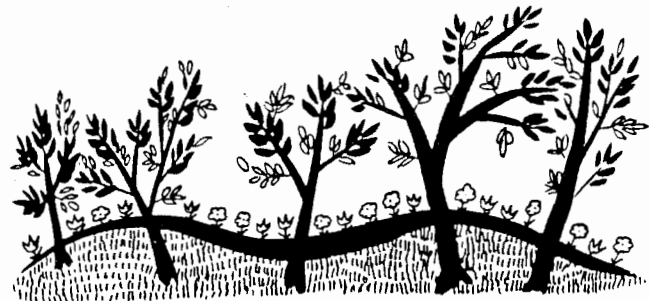
The Collective would also like to thank Becky Tannenbaum for her work, dedication, and sense of humor. Becky is leaving the Collective after working with us for the past two years. We will miss her.

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.

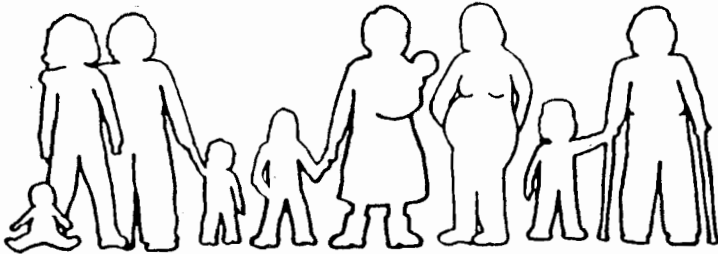
To ensure confidentiality and safety, meetings are not open to friends/support people.



## 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.

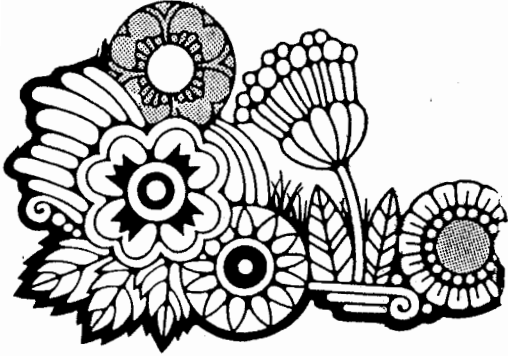
All donations to conduits should be made out to the Women's Educational Center and earmarked for the specific group.





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  
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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  
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**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.

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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 _____