

Washington Area Womens Center
1736 R Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

232-5145.....232-7533

July
June, 1973

NEWSLETTER



FLASH ★

The Meyer Foundation has given a grant of \$ 7500 to the Womens Center. The lines are forming and many women are coming up with a variety of ideas on how the money should be spent. Paid staff around-the-clock, crisis consultants on 24-hour call, investing in the purchase of a new facility instead of laying out over \$500 a month in rent and utilities; are just a few of the ideas being talked about.

Future directions of the Women's Center are at stake; important questions about how the Center will function in the coming year need to be thrashed out.

Therefore, a General Assembly has been called for Thursday, July 12 at 7:30. Every woman who is concerned about the Center and its survival is invited to come.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY Thursday July 12 7:30 P. M.

WOMEN IN CABLE

Cable Television Communication is coming to Washington, and
WOMEN IN CABLE
is
here!



WOMEN IN CABLE

WOMEN IN CABLE is a broad-based community group representing women in Washington. We, as women, have many common interests and one of these is a need to communicate with each other. We see Women's Channel as a means for us to share our information and experience.

To August 26, 1981
to commemorate the
Washington Communi-
Chapter of NOW is
August 25, at 4:00
will run
evening

WOMEN IN CABLE is a new organization. We have three major goals: to reach as many women as possible, both individually and through organizations, to share our information on cable with them; to promote the reality of an entire channel for women's programs; and to ensure greater job opportunities for women throughout the cable system.

We have already had an enthusiastic response from representatives of over thirty women's organizations in the District. We have held two noon-time meetings at the District Building to educate women's groups about cable communications and will hold more. On May 24, twenty-five women met with Carol Lynn Yellin of Memphis, Tennessee, to hear about what women's organizations in Memphis have done to secure a Woman's Channel on their future cable system.

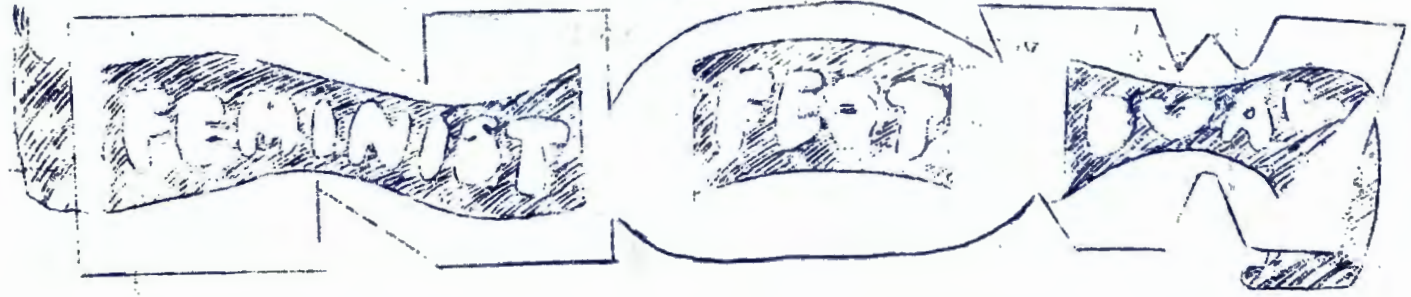
The D.C. City Council, which will be making the major decisions about the shape of our future cable system, will begin a series of public hearings in early July. These hearings will focus on such issues as the question of ownership (profit vs. non-profit, community-owned vs. privately-owned, etc.), the franchise area or areas (will the city have one or several systems, what will be the boundaries of such area or areas), and most important, the vital question of public access to any cable system. WOMEN IN CABLE hopes to make an impact on the kind of ordinance the City Council will pass after these hearings.

WOMEN IN CABLE held an open, public meeting on June 26, 7-9 PM in Room 315, Martin Luther King Library. We will be calling for volunteers for the hard work that lies ahead.

WOMEN IN CABLE
Coordinating Committee
5124 12th St. N.E.
Washington, D.C.
20011

Bettie G. Benjamin * Sally Banks Craig * Raquel Marquez Frankel *
832-4463 362-7192 291-5934

Naomi R. Glover * Lillian Huff
829-4168 526-5895



FEMINIST FESTIVAL PLANNED FOR AUGUST 25

August 26, 1973 marks the 53rd anniversary of women's suffrage. To commemorate the occasion, and to focus the attention of the Washington community on women's issues, the National Capitol Area Chapter of NOW is coordinating a feminist festival on Saturday, August 25, at the President's Park, 15th and E Sts., N.W. The festival will run from noon until 6:00 p.m., with tentative plans for an evening program running until 9:00 P.M.

You might remember last year's Women's Fair on August 26. This year's festival is designed to be even bigger and better, with a greater emphasis on action-type events in addition to art and craft displays and literature stalls. In the planning stages are an employment counseling service, a child care play area, self defense and feminist auto mechanics demonstrations, and feminist musicians and speakers. Many Washington area women's groups are expected to participate, some by setting up information booths and some by having action projects. Especially important is the participation of the Women's Center, which has become such a vital force in the women's community over the last several months.

The festival is intended to be both fun and informative and we hope to have a big turnout from sisters all over the Washington metropolitan area. In addition, ideas for festival activities, as well as willing workers, are very welcome. For further information call Carol L. Rogers, 961-1511 (office) or 362-8279 (home), or the NOW office, 387-6895. An August 26 Task Force meeting is scheduled for July 24 at 7:30 P.M. at Carol's, 3737 Legation St., N.W., Apt. 308. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

WOMEN'S FILM FEST
Janus Films has offered
co-sponsorship of
October. Either
s programming or
(midnights and

IVAL *****
ferred the Women's Center
a Women's Film Festival in
we can have a full week
successive weekends
mornings) at one of

the Janus theatres.

or 35mm, but
on the kinds of
commercial or
pick them! We

We are limited to 16mm
there are no limitations
films that can be shown,
non-commercial. And we
are most interested to

hear from you about films you have
seen or heard about that are by, for
or about women that you think
would attract people to the

cont....

Festival. Since the determined share up with good pro-houses and still can also be con-

Women's Center will of the profits, we grams that will be of high quality. sidered. Please

have an as yet are anxious to attract full Original material call the Center.

232-5145, 232-7533, if you would like inclusion and al so give the running it can be ob- tained, if you have leave your name and phone number if working with the committee.

to recommend a film for time and place from whe. that information. Also you're interested in

Gerri Traina for the Film Festival Committee*****

COMMUNITY LOAN PROGRAM

Strongforce is a community loan program which will provide seed money for new cooperatives in the Dupont Circle-Adams Morgan area. At present a total of \$9200 is available for loans.

Criteria for making loans are as follows: (1) business should be anti-profit, (2) it should adopt non-hierarchical, collective decision making, (3) its meetings should be open to the community, (4) the project should be economically viable and capable of repaying the loan, (5) its benefits to the community should outweigh any detriments, (6) there should be a community need for the product or service, (7) the project should be willing to make its financial statements available for public inspection, (8) it should have a way to share skills and resources with others in the community, (9) it should be able to agree with Strongforce's political statement, and (10) the community should have ultimate ownership of the project's means of production.

Strongforce is also working to establish skill sharing workshops and some apprenticeship programs.

Any women interested in applying for a loan or learning more about Strongforce should contact the Strongforce office at 234-6664 or Barbara, one of the coordinators at her home phone, 387-5971. Regular meetings for Strongforce are held on Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. at 1830 Conn. Ave. N.W. They are open to the community.

* * Submitted by Barbara Lubinski * *

OUR BACKS
STAY ON THEIR
FEET

-5-
Off Our Backs needs writers, artists, and photographers to join our collective. If you have no experience or lots, only a few hours once a week or a few hours everyday, Off Our Backs needs you.

There is all kinds of work to do:

WRITING about:

health
interviews
politics--women's/lesbian movements,
straight (crooked), radical
analysis
book and movie reviews
fiction and poetry
skills
and lots more

EDITING: so it's worth reading

ART WORK AND PHOTOGRAPHY: so all the print doesn't drive you crazy

Off Our Backs is especially interested in finding:

1. 1 or more people to cover D.C. events
2. a poetry editor
3. someone to work with one of our staff members who is desperately trying to build up advertising. She can't do it all herself and needs help. Hopefully a commission can be worked out in the future.

MEETINGS: every Wednesday night, 7:30 p.m. at our
NEW OFFICE - 1724 20th St., N.W. 2nd floor 234-8072

SOPHIE

TAKES A VACATION

Sophie's Parlor, the social area in the basement of the Center, is going through some changes.

As of Friday, June 22, we will have new pinball machines, a juke box, cigarette machine and at long last a new regulation size pool table.

There will also be some changes in the activities for the summer. For the past several months, women singers and songwriters, and women doing dramatic readings, reading poetry, and playing classical duets have appeared in Sophie's Parlor on Fridays and Saturday nights. Due to performers' plans and small membership of the project group, these activities have to be suspended for the summer. Special events over the summer will be

announced through the Newsletter. Sophie's Parlor will still be open for those women who want to play pool or pinball, dance, or talk. In the fall we plan to resume a regular schedule of activities, so don't go away! Anyone interested in helping for the summer or planning for the fall, leave your name and number at the Center.

FEMINISM SPEAKS: THE SPEAKERS BUREAU

New additions to our roster of speakers are always welcome. With a large number of speakers to call on, the burden of filling speaking engagements doesn't fall on an overworked few. If you have had experience in speaking before groups or have had no experience but think you have the ability and are interested in speaking on feminist issues, you should contact the Women's Center main office (232-5145 or 232-7533) and ask that your name and number be put in the "Requests for Speakers" envelope. You will be contacted by the Speakers' Coordinator.

In the past, would-be speakers for the Women's Center have been understandably reluctant to fill speaking engagements because of our-of-pocket travel expenses. The Women's Center had decided on a policy of reimbursing the travel costs of people when they are speaking for the Center.



anyone who would like to teach a course or start a study group -- just pick a time, notify the Women's Center office (232-5145) and put up signs.

The LIBERATION SCHOOL is offering its ever popular course in Auto Mechanics next fall. To sign up, leave your name at the Women's Center office and specify whether you have a foreign or an American car. Also, call in your suggestions for new fall courses -- ideas and energy are needed!

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC ** The WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC is now open every Wednesday night at the Free Clinic, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. (They will no longer be open on Saturday mornings.) They do self-help demonstrations, vaginitis and VD treatment, and pregnancy tests. Be sure to be there at 6:30 to sign in so you can be seen. If you would like to work with the Women's Health Clinic or if you know of any women doctors who might be interested, call Bette at 966-9138 or Jamie at 244-5617.

ABORTION COUNSELORS ** ABORTION COUNSELORS' hours for this month are: Mon. 6-8 p.m., Tues. 1-4 p.m., Wed. 7-9:30 p.m., and Sat. 9:30-11:30 a.m. They provide information on abortion, birth control, V.D., and other women's health concerns, as well as doing pregnancy tests. They welcome new women who would like to become counselors. For more info call 483-4632.

DUPONT OPEN SCHOOL hopes to open in September with 15 kids, aged 6-9, with 2 teachers and community aids. Interested parents should contact Jo Buckley, 667-5917, or Dave Rafter, 387-2243.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION ** The EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION group has cancelled its regularly scheduled hours for the summer and will operate by appointment only. If you think you have been discriminated against because you're a woman and would like assistance in filing charges, call Gayle Salinas at 530-1959 or Nancy Bailes at 338-4708 after 6 p.m.

SOPHIE'S PARLOR ** Feminist singer and guitarist MEG CHRISTIAN will appear at Sophie's Parlor July 6 at 8:30 p.m. Come early to get a seat!

COORDINATING COUNCIL ** All Women's Center policies and practices are subject to review by the Coordinating Council. Any woman with questions or objections should bring them to the Coordinating Council. It meets July 12th and 26th at 7:30 p.m.

NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

At the last Coordinating Council meeting new guidelines for the newsletter were established. Two co-production managers will be chosen by the Coordinating Council for a minimum commitment of three months. If the co-production managers wish to continue their commitment after the 3-month period, coordinating council and the newsletter staff must give their approval; otherwise, new co-production managers will be chosen.

Women working on the newsletter want to function as a collective opened to all women who wish to join. All jobs, including those of co-production managers, will be rotated, and all members of the staff will share equal responsibility for the newsletter. We're trying to work together collectively since we feel hierarchical structures oppress women and perpetuate the system we grew up in.

Editorial decisions will be made collectively by the staff, which consists of anyone who has worked on production and attended editorial meetings for at least one month. The co-production managers will have no more editorial responsibility than the staff members. The co-production managers' responsibilities are to coordinate the various newsletter jobs and to report to Coordinating Council if problems in getting the newsletter out arise or if the staff diminishes to less than three women. A staff member will regularly attend Coordinating Council meetings so the newsletter staff is well informed about events at the Women's Center.

We welcome additional help. We're especially in need of typists able to donate 2 hours/month and women to help collate. The Editorial Meeting is scheduled for July 18 at 7 pm and the Collating Party for July 25th at 6 pm. (FREE BEER!)

Even though we have some Foundation money, WE STILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT. Won't you please check one of the boxes below and return the form to the Washington Area Women's Center:

I'm already pledging but would like to increase my contribution to _____ monthly.

I wish to pledge _____ per month for 6__ 12__ months and my first payment is enclosed.

I can't pledge now; here is my contribution of _____ for the Women's Center.

Checks should be made payable to Washington Area Women's Center, 1736 "R" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. Your canceled check is your receipt. Our telephone number is (202)232-5145.

THANK YOU ! EVEN \$2/MONTH HELPS A LOT !

FORUM

FORUM is intended to provide a means of airing different issues relating to the Women's Center and to feminism in the open. It is written entirely by readers of the newsletter, and the opinions presented should not be considered those of the Women's Center, nor those of the newsletter staff, but those of the individuals who wrote them. At the last Coordinating Council Meeting, guidelines for FORUM were established.

1. Each article must be signed by the woman or group of women who wrote it.

2. The newsletter does not have the right to edit or exclude articles on the basis of the political opinion expressed.

3. The staff may delete or edit on the basis of space or coherency.

4. If substantial changes in an article need to be made, the author must be informed.

5. The newsletter must present both sides of an issue if they are submitted, but need not publish several letters saying essentially the same thing.

We hope that FORUM will promote healthy debate at the Women's Center. So get your thoughts together and contribute to the August FORUM.

* * * * *

OK, FOLKS, LET'S GET IT TOGETHER !

For the past year, we have been spending well in excess of \$500 per month for rent and utilities for the present structure. Here it is, one year later and what do we have to show for it?

What will be our next move? Will we remain content to pad someone else's pocket with money that is all too hard to come by? Will we continue an investment which brings us nothing in return? As women, this is nothing new to us. We have been paying out and receiving nothing for more generations than I care to count. We talk about change. We say the time is now. But we continue the same old patterns of the past.

For us, the time is now... now as never before the time has come to unite for ourselves and for the Women's Center, which represents and serves our needs. The time is now. We can no longer look to the system to do for us. We must do for ourselves.

I call for the women in this area to join together with every resource they can draw upon to make this Women's Center a success.

No more leases for us. Let us look to the future of the Center in a structure that belongs to us. Let us buy a building rather than rent one. Let us insure that the investment we make of our time, ourselves, our money, may grow and not simply go into a pocket other than ours. As women we have been short-changed too long. This era of fraud must be brought to an end.

Carol M. Lloyd

HELP A SISTER

The Women's Center gets many, many calls from women who need a place to stay for a few days or a few weeks. They are often going through changes - leaving husbands, finding jobs, or trying to get on their feet again after a crisis. Our list of women willing to provide crisis housing is small and in the process of being updated. If you can put up a woman for any amount of time - even one night, fill out the following form and send it to us at the Women's Center.

NAME _____ Z TELEPHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ What hours can you be reached?

CRISIS HOUSING

How long can someone stay? _____
What kind of facilities (bed, couch, room) _____
How many can you house? _____ Any age limit? _____
Will you take in children? _____ Do you have any pets? _____
Will you take in pets? _____ What kind? _____
Will you take in couples? Female/Male _____ Female/Female _____
Any men in your house? _____ How many? _____
Can you feed someone that stays with you? _____
Do you have access to a car, pick person up? _____
Policy on alcohol, drugs and cigarettes _____

Other comments _____

-11-

CHILD CARE AND MOTHER'S CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

Laurie 232-5145 (afternoons)
Susan 387-0639

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Faith Attagui 387-7343
Valle Jones 628-0314

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

Gayle Salinas 530-1959
Nancy Bailes 338-4708 after 6 PM

FEMINIST COUNSELING COLLECTIVE

Answering Service 234-3726

HEALTH AND ABORTION INFORMATION

483-4632

LIBERATION SCHOOL

Leave your name and no. at the W.C. office 232-5145

LIBRARY

Caroline Raschick 797-1147

NEWSLETTER

Marilyn Esterson 483-8275
Anne Hatfield 522-3497

N.O.W.

Answering service 387-6895

OFFICE COLLECTIVE

232-5145

RAPE CRISIS CENTER

333- R A P E

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Leave your name and no. at the W.C. office 232-5145

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC

Bette Goldperson 966-9138

Jamie Agins 244-5617

WOMEN'S LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Answering Service 232-5293

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M 2

ABORTION COUNSELORS
MEETING
8 PM

F 6

SOPHIE'S
PARLOR - 8:30 PM

Meg Christian *****

MOTHER'S CONSCIOUSNESS
RAISING
8 PM

M 9

ABORTION
COUNSELORS
8 PM

Th 12

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
& COORDINATING
COUNCIL - 7:30
PM

F 13

MOTHER'S
C.R.
8 PM

S 14

N.O.W. GENERAL
MEETING - ALL
SOULS CHURCH
10 AM

M 16

ABORTION
COUNSELORS
8 PM

W 18

NEWSLETTER
EDITORIAL MTG.
7 PM

Th 19

F 20

MOTHER'S C.R.
8 PM

M 23

ABORTION
COUNSELORS
8 PM

T 24

Aug. 26 TASK FORCE
3737 LEGATION ST
N.W. #308
7:30 PM

W 25

NEWSLETTER
COLLATING
PARTY
6 PM

Th 26

COORDINATING
COUNCIL
7:30 PM

F 27

MOTHER'S C.R.
8 PM

28 29

M 30

ABORTION
COUNSELORS
8 PM

T 31

Meetings are held at the Women's Center, 1736 R St., N.W. unless
otherwise noted.
All meetings listed are open to all women.
For information on meeting dates of other project groups, call
numbers listed for that project.