

WASHINGTON AREA

WOMEN'S CENTER

1736 R STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC

232-5145, 232-7533

1973

AUGUST,

NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATE.....CAVORT.....FROLIC.....LEARN.....SHARE.....

WHERE??

Women's suffrage was won on August 26, 1920. On August 25-26, 1973, women will be celebrating while we push ahead for more victories.

The National Capital Area 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 p.m. and will feature feminist musicians, speakers, arts and crafts displays, and skills demonstrations. Women's groups in the area, including The Women's Center, The Self-Help Clinic, several NOW Task Forces, and others, will set up display and information booths.

In the evening of the 25th, a Women's Song and Dance Fest will be held. The gala social event of the year is being held in the George Washington Student Center ballroom on 21st St. between H and I and will sponsor entertainment which must be seen to be believed.

Sunday, August 26, there will be a special preview of the Feminist Theater's original production, "Floury Tails," at Back Alley Theater. If you are interested in attending, telephone Ann Torbush (967-5103 work, 920-2940 home). Actual production starts August 30. An all woman cast will be performing. If you interested in working or desire more information, contact Carol L. Rogers, 961-1511 (office) or 362-8279 (home).

G.A. RISES AGAIN..

Last June 21 about 40 women met in Sophie's Parlor for a spirited General Assembly meeting -- a Women's Center event, since the G.A. has been dormant since May. What brought everyone out of their summer hiding places was news of the Meyer Foundation grant of \$7500. The meeting was called not so much to celebrate our new "wealth" (we had asked for \$47,500), as to decide how to best use the grant considering our much greater financial needs. It soon became clear at the meeting that larger questions than money allocation were at hand, i.e., the politics of the Center, new directions of the Center, new directions in fund raising, and the relationship of the project groups to the Center. Since it was impossible to resolve (or even fully discuss) these issues at one meeting, another G.A. meeting was called for July 30. Unfortunately, the newsletter was printed before this meeting so we can only report on the June 21 meeting.

The main proposal discussed at this meeting was the suggestion that part of the grant be used to pay a woman to work on funding with these ultimate goals in mind: a larger center with more adequate facilities, a paid staff, and a 24-hour crisis center (located at the Women's Center itself) worked by a paid professional and para-professional staff. It was pointed out that we are now very unequipped to deal with many crisis calls that come to the Center because of lack of funds, and therefore, lack of facilities and services. It was also pointed out that women who call do not usually have one isolated problem but a complex of problems that need to be dealt with immediately. A woman who has decided to leave her husband, for example, has not only a "domestic relations" problem but conceivably also housing, health, legal, and psychological problems. It was suggested that a crisis center would meet these multiple and immediate needs of women in our area, would bring the various project groups more in contact with one another, and lend more of a cohesiveness to the Women's Center.

The feeling of the G.A. regarding these proposals was not totally resolved at the June 21 meeting. Some debate was started on the politics of service. It was suggested that if the Center becomes more service oriented, it might be providing "bandaids" to help the system function better. The difficulty of politicizing women when they are in crisis and must focus on their own needs was discussed. Several comments were heard from members of project groups that deal mostly with services. Some felt that their services were effective in consciousness raising. Others pointed out the conflicts between providing services and developing their own politics, and were moving toward developing something more than service. Some people noted that a crisis orientation toward service tends to be extremely energy draining.

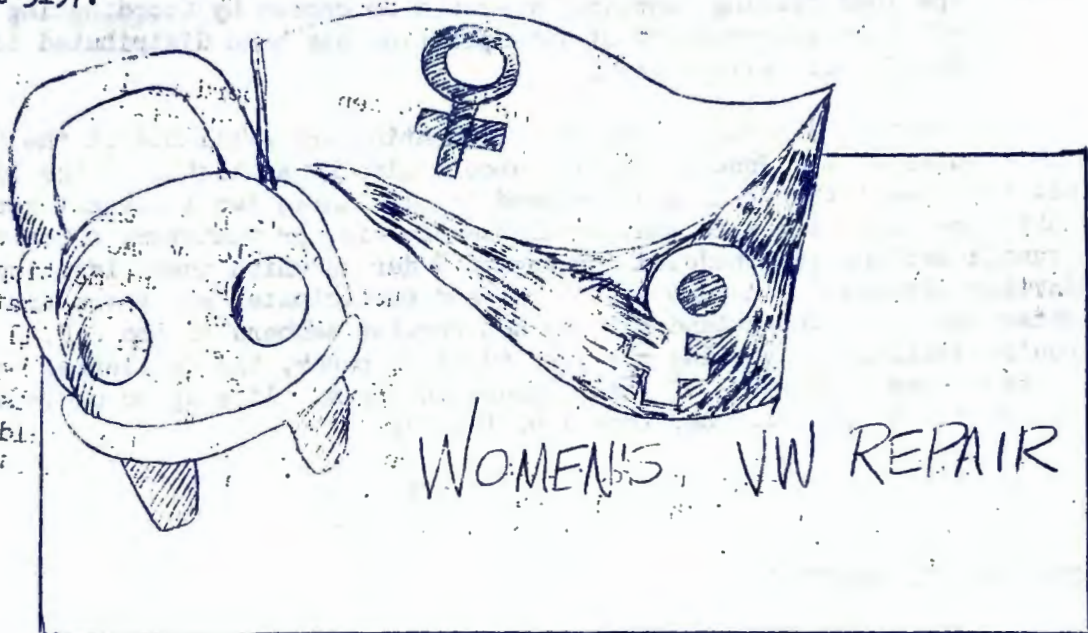
Discussion was also started on the relationship of the project groups to the Center. It was decided that a group be formed to discuss the relationship of the Center and the project groups and to submit proposals to a fund raising coordinator. Alternative methods of funding - such as direct mailing and the hiring of professional fund raisers were also debated. All of these points, along with others, were to be discussed further at the July 30 meeting.

WOMEN'S REPAIR


Women's VW Repair now consists of a few women who split rent on a garage where they work on their own and other women's cars. They hope to eventually evolve into a cooperative of women mechanics who would share the responsibilities of rent and maintenance of the garage, while individually scheduling their own work and setting their own prices. They also hope to work with women mechanics who repair American cars soon.

None of the women are doing repair work full time yet, but as more jobs come in, they hope to be able to support themselves fully as mechanics. They charge considerably less than most auto mechanics and their work is guaranteed.

For information, call Debbie Dwornak at 726-5071. If no answer, call Ruth Terry at 232-5197.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



The RAPE CRISIS CENTER holds regular meetings on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. For directions to the Center and more information, call 333 - RAPE.

We need more women to staff the WOMEN CENTER office late afternoons. Come by the Center and sign up.

With more volunteers, the LIBRARY could be opened in a few weeks. Women are particularly needed to catalog and review books. The more book reviewers we have the more books we get since the library gets free books from the Community Bookshop in exchange for book reviews. If you feel like using your cataloguing or library talents, call Caroline Raschick at 797 - 1147.

G.A. RISES AGAIN, continued.....

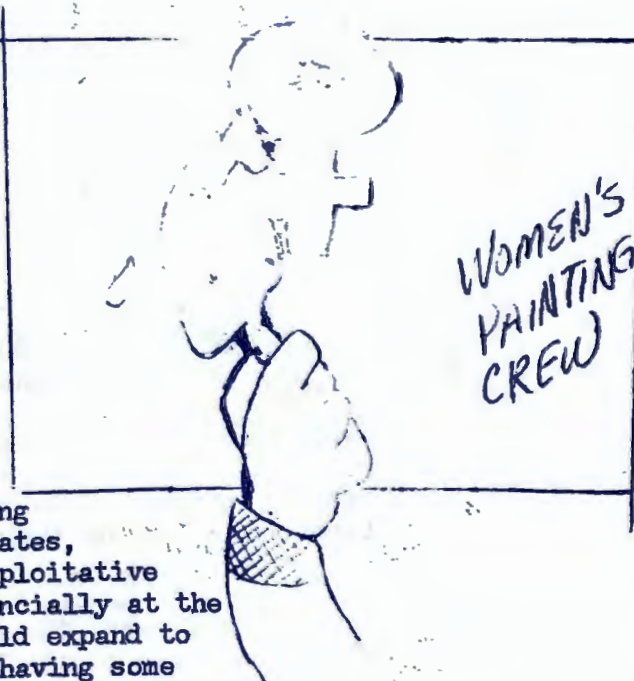
After much debate, largely still unresolved, time was found to vote on some basic proposals. The following passed resoundingly:


- Some of the grant money should be allocated to hire a fund raiser
- A fund raising coordinator should be hired at a salary and hours determined by Coordinating Council
- A third Staff person should be hired in order that the staff can cover evening hours during the week
- The fund raising coordinator should be chosen by Coordinating Council after an announcement of this position has been distributed to women on the Center mailing list.

The entire minutes of the June 21 meeting are available at the Center. The minutes of the June 30 meeting should also be available by the time you get this newsletter. If you happened to miss these two important meetings and have some suggestions to add, criticisms to air, or whatever, a Coordinating Council meeting is scheduled for August 9 during which these issues will be further discussed. Anyone may attend and participate, and there are five open votes for women who attend but are not regular members of the C.C. Also, if you're inclined to sorting out your ideas on paper, the newsletter would like to have some discussion of these issues in Forum. It's up to us to decide what the Center is and will be. (moral of the day)


THE WOMEN'S PAINTING CREW

The Women's Painting Crew was started over a year ago by several women who had been working as painters for a regular paint company. During the past year it has been a constant struggle to find jobs and other women who share the same ideas as to what the crew should be. At the present time the permanent members of the crew are trying to work out ways to integrate new women into the work and to provide 'floating' positions for women who cannot work full-time. The women involved are still in a constant learning process: painting techniques, how to do estimates, evaluating materials, and setting up a non-exploitative business. At this time the operation is financially at the survival level. With more jobs, the crew could expand to involve more women. If you're interested in having some work done, you can contact The Women's Painting Crew at 462-2371.




ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Women's Center needs LIVE-INS again. (Previously chosen live-ins were unable to move in.) It is a 3-month position. Live-ins are required to work 10hrs./week in the office and to attend Coordinating Council Meetings every other Thursday. They are responsible (along with the office staff) for co-ordinating schedules and building maintenance. If you are interested send the following to the Women's Center, c/o bookkeeper: your name and phone number, what you see the role of live-ins to be, and what your involvement with the Center has been.




Ruth Whitney, a FEMINIST CATHOLIC THEOLOGIAN and former NCAQ-NOW Vice President, is speaking at All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 A.M. Sunday, August 26 (the Anniversary of Women's Suffrage).




FOR FREE/FOR SALE - The Women's Center has a couple of typewriters and some "kind of office copier machines" for free and filing cabinets - \$5 each, fiberglass, negotiable.




Another job opening - The Women's Center is looking for a new BOOKKEEPER. If you're interested in a job that has almost limitless possibilities for "creativity" please call the Center and leave your name and number. The Coordinating Council has allocated \$100 per month for a bookkeeper and the books can be done either at the Center or at home. Women interested should have some knowledge of procedures, although the system used is easy to understand.



"How to Make a Woman," a FILM collage of different events in a woman's life, will be shown at NOW's General Meeting, Saturday, August 11, at 10 A.M. at the Dept. of Commerce Auditorium, 14th St. between Constitution and E. (Please note this is different from their usual meeting location). The meeting will also include brief announcements and information on NOW's activities.



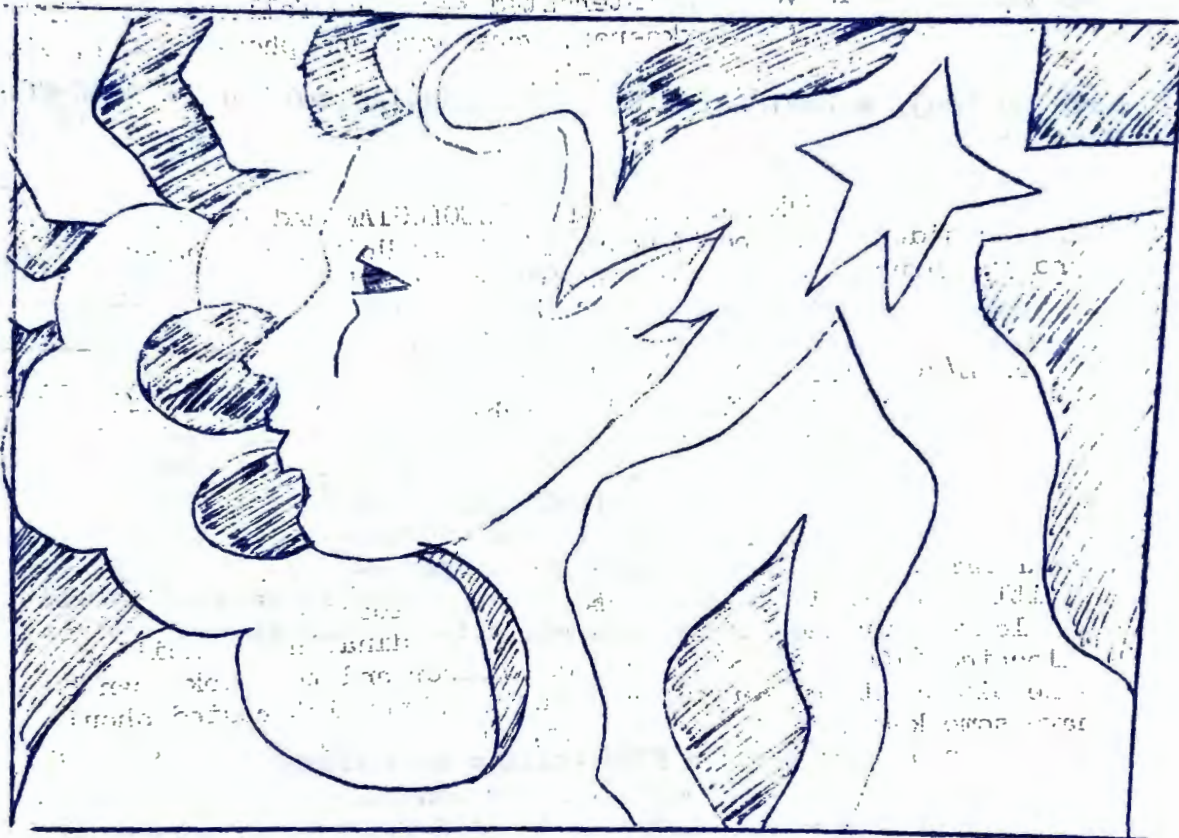
Does anyone know of a group who would give or sell cheaply their ADDRESSOGRAPH machine to the Women's Center? Our mailing list is up to about 1200 women at this point and an addressograph is a necessity for us to keep in touch with you. Please call the Center if you have any leads.



The Women's Center is updating and expanding its RESOURCE FILES to better answer the many calls we receive. If you know of services by or for women, including, but not limited to health information, job help, women with skills (artists, plumbers, etc.), housing for women, child care groups, women's publications and organizations, and legal assistance, call in and share the information with us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, continued...

The deadline for submitting news, announcements, articles, etc. to next month's NEWSLETTER is August 15, the date of the editorial meeting. The collating party is scheduled for August 22 from 6 P.M. on. Come help get the Newsletter out and talk with other women over free beer!



This Newsletter brought to you by:

Co Production Managers -

Marilyn Esterson
Anne Hatfield

Staff

(Reporting, editing, etc.)-

Maureen Horak
Barbara Rellick
Chris Taylor

Artwork and layout -

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.

All articles submitted to FORUM must be signed. The Newsletter will not edit on the basis of political opinion, but may edit on the basis of space or coherency. (If substantial changes in an article need to be made, the author will be informed.)

We hope that FORUM will promote healthy debate at the Women's Center. So get your thoughts together and contribute to the September issue. The deadline is August 15.

THE WOMEN'S CENTER: AN INSTITUTION, OR A PLACE TO STRUGGLE ?

As a volunteer in the Women's Center office since January and a paid member of the office staff since May, I have had occasion to observe an increasing number of crisis calls. The telephone log reveals that 1/3 of the calls over the last two months fall strictly into the categories of emergency housing, immediate legal problems, and crisis emotional counselling.

It is difficult to estimate the exact number of "crisis calls" because logged telephone calls are not explicit often. It is important to distinguish between crisis calls and calls which require immediate, but not on-the-spot action. We need to record the calls more explicitly, and to learn how to determine the actual need at the moment of the phone call, as well as more long-range help for the caller. Sometimes women call the center to ask about the "Women's Movement" or even to criticize "Women's Lib", and end up pouring out their problems as wives, lesbians, mothers, and workers in a world they find hostile and alienating.

In order for us to perceive and act on women's needs we must invest time, energy, and money. The various project groups and the office staffers must analyze the greatest area of need, immediate rendering of services. When a woman in trouble calls an answering service, she may be more harmed than when she began. The women who call the Women's Center while their husbands are at work, feeling "crazy", afraid to have someone from an answering service return a call, need skilled and compassionate people on the other end of the phone ready to offer immediate help.

The overall goals of the Women's Center are in the process of being expanded and reexamined. It is my opinion that we need to be a Center where women can come 24 hours a day and receive services, including a meal and a mattress, as well as counselling. It is only then that we become truly political, because it is then that we say that these economic, social, and emotional crises and problems are no longer personal. We are saying come and

FORUM (Continued)

struggle against this system which oppresses us, because that struggling is the only relief for individual suffering, and the only mode of creating real change in our individual lives. Our goals should include a program for training women to work as counsellors, para-medicals, nutritionists, and child-developers.

We can start along this course towards a seemingly impossible goal by forming a crisis collective which operates out of the office in conjunction with the project groups. We could begin an outreach campaign to see what resources are available. Perhaps there are lawyers, therapists, doctors, who would agree to be called on an emergency basis.

We are hiring a fund-raiser and two additional office staff with part of the \$7500 grant we just received. The office staff can begin to be trained in crisis technique, and perhaps we can recruit one or two emergency staffers from project groups, such as Feminist Counselling, who would be on call. We can open up parts of our building for crisis housing on a limited and structured basis. We can feed a meal at noon for women and children, almost completely using surplus food, as well as recruiting old clothing for women and children. There is no reason why we cannot begin to think in terms of helping out with day care while a woman gets on her feet. The back room could be used as a Transition Day Care Center for women between jobs, or between marriage and single-parenthood.

The possibilities are beginning to emerge at the discussions taking place in the Center. Let's start to work on them. When our fund-raiser writes a proposal for more money, we can make a tremendous case for a 24-hour crisis center in a time when social services and the economy are at such a low ebb. The Department of Human Resources and Social Security call us for help finding crisis housing for women.

The time is ours for acting. If you are interested in any of these ideas, call the office.

LAURIE WRIGHT

CALENDAR * * *

AUGUST 9 COORDINATING COUNCIL 2:30 PM

AUGUST 11 NOW GENERAL MEETING 10 AM
Dept. of Commerce Auditorium

AUGUST 15 NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL
MTG. 7 PM

AUGUST 22 COLLATING PARTY
Free Beer 6 PM

AUGUST 23 COORDINATING COUNCIL 7:30 PM

AUGUST 25 FEMINIST FESTIVAL
15th & E Sts. Noon to 6 PM
WOMEN'S SONG & DANCE FEST
21st between H & I Sts.

AUGUST 26 FEMINIST THEATER PREVIEW
"Floury Tails"
Back Alley Theater

AUGUST MONDAY NITES Abortion Counselors Meeting 8 PM

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!

WOMEN

1974



* if you would like to help type the newsletter -
(1-2 hours per month); contact Chris 277-2350

* **HELP!** WE NEED TO KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS!!
LET THE WOMEN'S CENTER KNOW CHANGE OF ADDRESS
ALONG WITH FORMER ADDRESS.

RESOURCE LIST

CHILD CARE AND MOTHER'S CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING
Laurie 232-5145 (afternoons)
Susan 387-0639

CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING GROUPS
Liz Milbrandt 654-1760

DOMESTIC RELATIONS
Faith Attaguile 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 - RAPE

SPEAKER'S BUREAU
Leave your name and no. at the W.C. office, 232-5145

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC
Bette Goldperson 966-9133
Jamie Agins 244-5617

WOMEN'S LEGAL DEFENSE FUND
Answering Service 232-5293

WOMEN'S PAINTING CREW
462-2371

WOMEN'S VW REPAIR

Debbie Dwornak 726-5071 (if no answer 232-5197)
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Meeting 1152 7/13

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_____ I wish to pledge _____ per month for 6__12__ months and my first payment is enclosed.

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