

DECEMBER 1973

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER NEWSLETTER

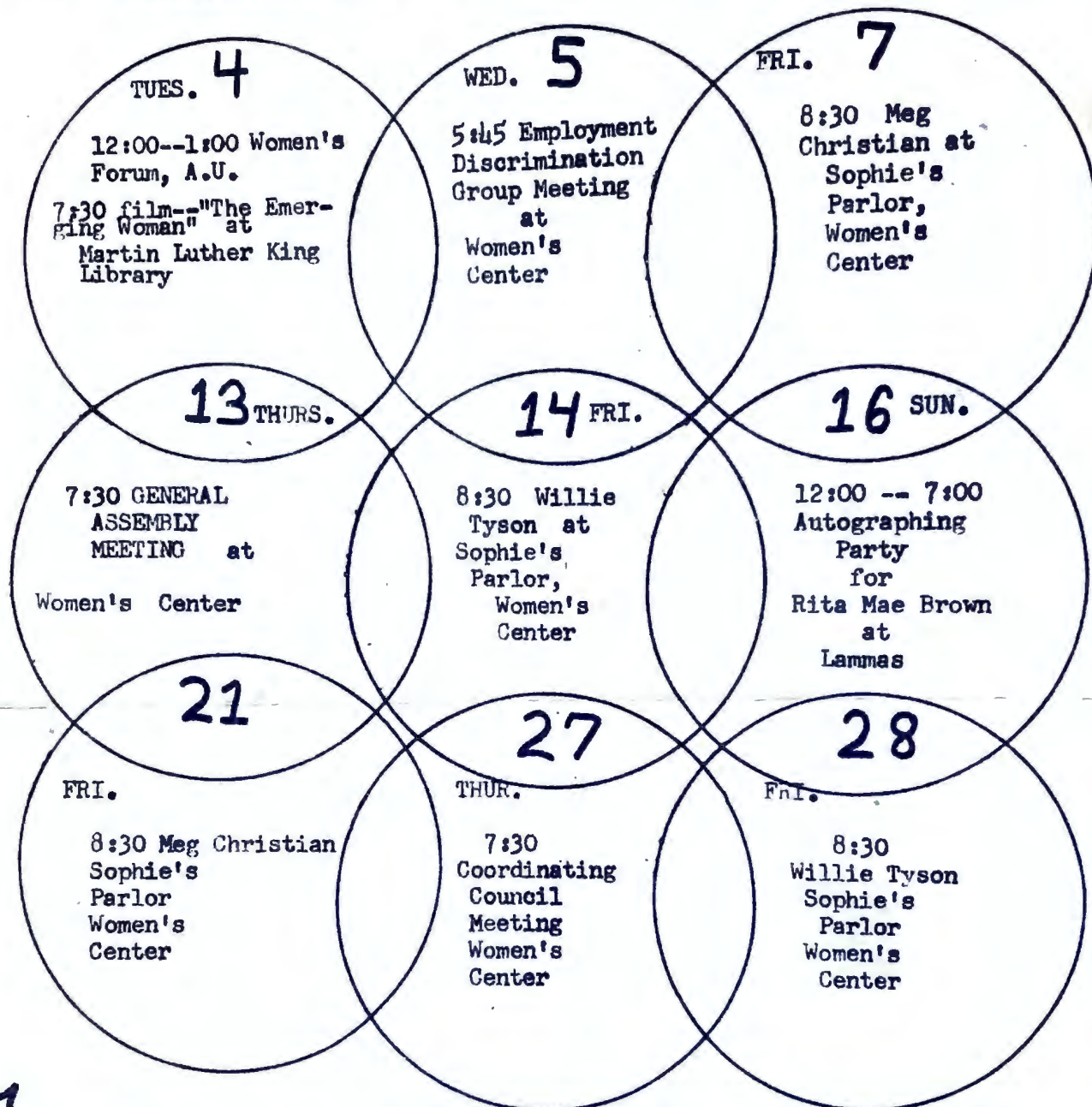
1736 'R' ST., NW, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

232-5415



"What do you mean, 'It's a girl!' ? "

★ December ★ Calendar ★



★ every SUNDAY: 8:00 D.C. Gay Women's Open House, Women's Center, Sophie's Parlor
 every MONDAY: 8:00 Abortion Counselling Group, Women's Center
 every TUESDAY: 6:00 Newsletter Meeting, Women's Center
 every TUESDAY: 7:00 Jazz Jam Session, Sophie's Parlor, Women's Center

★ NOW taskforce meetings are open, but please call first to attend:

Dec. 9, Sun: 2:00, Sexuality, 2631 39th St., NW. Call Eva Freund 333-1387
 Dec. 12, Wed: 7:30, Control of Our Bodies, Women's Ctr. Call Violet Malinsky 773-6136
 7:30, Women and Addiction, 105 E. Melbourne Ave., Silver Spring, Md.
 Call Jan Duplane w/638-2380 h/567-8392
 Dec. 13, Thu: 7:30, Thirty-Niners (deals w/ discrim. against older women), Cleveland Park Library. Call Gilda Schenker 537-1630

★ Please call the Women's Center for events not yet scheduled as we printed this !

FORUM

* FORUM provides a means of expressing different issues in the *
* Newsletter about the Women's Center and feminism. It is written *
* entirely by readers, and the opinions presented should not be con- *
* sidered those of the Women's Center. *
* All articles submitted to FORUM must be signed. The Newslet- *
* ter will not edit on the basis of political opinion, but may edit *
* on the basis of space or coherency. *
* We hope that FORUM will promote healthy debate at the Women's *
* Center. So get your thoughts together and contribute to the January *
* issue. The deadline is Tues., Dec. 18. *

THE CENTER: WHERE IS IT GOING?

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Thursday, December 13, 1973; Major Decision Required

For the last months there has been considerable discussion about the future of the Washington Area Women's Center.

Some believe we should maintain/improve current information, referral and services. Some have dropped out of the Center completely, believing that the present structure is non-political and anti-leadership. Others are excited about the prospect of a future facility that would provide emergency housing and crisis intervention. Some think the latter idea ridiculous, believe we should drop our non-profit status and be militant.

I was hired September 1 with the title of Fund-Raising Coordinator with the stated intention of paying me to raise money to keep the Center alive. My problem has been: alive as what?

It was, and is, my contention that the Center could not get funding from foundations with our present program alone, that we would have to be doing something innovative, meeting a need

not being met elsewhere, in order to secure foundation money. Since September 1, I have been doing the kind of community outreach that we had been unable to do previously because of lack of staff, and learning about programs around the District that attempt to meet the needs of women in crisis situations.

I have spent time with staff persons and executive director persons from such places as Family Services unit of the Department of Human Resources; Emergency Family Shelter; Traveler's Aid Society; Salvation Army; Pilot District Project; Evangeline Residence; YWCA; Community Mental Health Area "A"; Florence Crittendon Home; HUD; Health and Welfare Council; plus speaking by phone with innumerable others.

What is immediately obvious after these many conversations is that housing and services for the unhousable, i.e. the woman in crisis, is the greatest single need for women in the D.C. metropolitan area. All of the above facilities, plus several more scattered about the District, meet a fraction of that need with lim-

Forum, cont.

ited emergency bed space, limited apartments, limited houses, too few counselors, meagre staffs, too little money and too much bureaucracy with almost no accountability.

Very often these women are in multi-problem situations. They need a temporary place to stay while they seek jobs, vocational training or public assistance. They need legal or psychiatric help. They need someone to accompany them to those institutional bureaucracies that manufacture more paper than they can deal with. They need a permanent place to stay that isn't alienating and debilitating. And, most important, they need to know that it is the male-dominated political system in which they live that has broken them--or tried to break them--and that it is not their own incompetence or lack of intelligence that has caused them to malfunction temporarily.

Which of these needs shall a Woman's Center meet? Shall we provide crisis housing? For \$900,000 we could purchase the Evangeline Residence at 13th & L (to be vacated at the beginning of the year). It has 139 apartment rooms, with beds for 220 women, a half-dozen rooms off the main lobby that could be utilized for counseling staffs, and an extensive cafeteria that could double as a meeting room. A staff of 35 would be required, including live-in residence managers equipped to handle all types of emergency situations, plus custodial, culinary, and business staffs.

But are we prepared to go into the hotel business? As I accumulate information and speak to people in social service, I have become convinced that providing housing is not where the Women's Center should be--whether or not it is the correct political thing to do.

And so, what do we do? One of my informants said, "We don't need any more referral services." If we don't provide referral services, should we change into more activist clothing, become a social club, a day care center, a storefront, a women's phone (where, of course, we've been before)...?

Or can we possibly meet the needs of women in crisis through provision of primary services by feminist counselors, paid feminist counselors. Should we seek the kind of financing that will enable us (with a new facility) to hire feminist mental health counselors, feminist paraprofessionals in the health and legal fields, feminist teachers, feminist job counselors, feminist realtors...that is, be political in our provision of services. I believe such funding is attainable (without using the adjective "feminist" for our job categories) and I suggest that this be the direction the Center take in the immediate future.

It is not my decision to make-- I can only share with you the results of my research. If you care, or have cared in the past, I urge you to attend the next General Assembly on Thursday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.

by Gerri Traina

The crisis counseling workshops grew out of a concern felt by members of the office collective. The large volume of crisis calls we have been getting by women have prompted us to seek more effective methods of dealing with crisis situations rather than just giving out hasty referrals or token understanding. The Women's Center is an alternative organization, and we recognize that many women who get in touch with us feel that they have exhausted possibilities open to them through other means, and in many cases, have felt their problems escalate into a greater intensity and urgency even when they have sought help through traditional institutions or counseling centers whose doctors practice sexist methods and often do not exhibit much encouragement to women who are exploring different forms of behavior.

We recognize that many of the problems women exhibit are even symptomatic of this society, which pushes women into stultifying roles and discourages and even condemns them for displaying qualities that are "masculine".

We began several months ago by having meetings to share experiences with each other and to try to develop those techniques we felt worked for us in the past.

We are in the process of trying out methods on ourselves, getting more acquainted with techniques such as active listening, and giving another person effective feedback. It is an exciting moment when someone is able to offer another woman a suggestion that casts new light on her problem and reveals an insight she may not have been able to see without the prompting from someone else.

We distrust tactics that encourage people to be dependent upon others to make their decisions for them. I believe that a much healthier person will emerge after thinking she has just made a new and dramatic decision for herself

rather than having been told by another person how to solve a problem. By asking a person what would be the worst thing she could imagine would happen if she did...such and such...is one way of allowing the person to deal with her feelings deeply, and may force her to confront feelings that she did not know she had.

We encourage righteous anger, and are surprised at the number of women who are guilty, guilty, guilty. We sometimes feel guilty for feeling guilty. I feel that anger is too often turned off in women, and that by getting in touch with that anger, we may use it constructively to deal with our daily lives. Many of us fear angry confrontations. Beneath our fear, hurt, and frustration is a lot of anger. Beneath that is a lot of strength. I dream of women getting comfortable with that strength without necessarily imitating male-oriented domination, aggression, and intimidation tactics.

Our politics are reflected in our work. I no longer make a distinction between personal and political. Personal is political and political is personal. There is nothing abstract or theoretical about politics --it is the complex interaction of people on a huge scale. The neurosis of a nation is reflected in its politics.

We will be meeting monthly, incorporating new ideas and perhaps expanding ourselves to include new members who are interested in staffing the office. We are enjoying the advice of several mental health facilitators who have offered helpful suggestions.

--by Bethia Stone

Crisis counseling workshops meet monthly at the Center. They are formed by and for the women who are committed to staffing the office regularly. Anyone interested in staffing and attending the workshops is asked to call the Center at 232-5145.

JUST A LITTLE EVERYDAY VIOLENCE

Forum, Cont.

A man invaded the Women's Square Dance held at G.W.'s Student Center Ballroom November 16. He leaned against a railing looking out over the dance floor and gawked for half an hour at the women dancing. His presence was sanctified by the blue uniform he wore, although many women knew security guards were not authorized to hang around student functions that long.

A woman named Sheila was heard trying to talk to him. She is a C.W. student and has organized women's dances there before. Her tone sounded polite, even friendly. She was heard to say this was the first appearance of the Women's Jug Band, and that women had come all the way from Baltimore for the event. Those who overheard marveled at her patience in explaining that all the money had been secured, that there was no hard liquor involved, and that there was no need for his continued presence.

He responded first with grunts, later with blows, beating Sheila into the floor. Although she made no attempt to fight back he continued to kick his hatred of women into her. When he let up and ran away, Sheila pursued him, calling for his name and badge number. He ran into an elevator, motioned tauntingly for her to follow, and beat her again to the floor. One or two women ran in, held the doors open, and were hit by some of his wild swings. As more women entered the elevator telling him to relax and cool it, he cowered in a corner. He was never hit once.

Eventually other guards were summoned. Sheila was given the third degree and other women were interrogated. As for the guard who attacked Sheila, his buddies helped him find his hat and made sure his walkie-talkie wasn't damaged.

Later, one of the heads of security discussed having Sheila arrested for disorderly conduct. Several G.W. rent-a-cops tailed her to a hospital emergency room to add to the intimidation.

Incredible, you think? Yes, It was incredible in some ways, compared to the circumstances under which women are usually assaulted.

It was unusual because Sheila doesn't know the man who assaulted her; even many women are assaulted by their husbands, boyfriends, or fathers. The police will not be able to dismiss Sheila's case as a family quarrel if she takes it to court. She doesn't go through the intimidating experience of living with that man or being dependent on him.

It was unusual because it happened in a public place in front of a substantial number of witnesses. Usually men single out women to attack in isolated places: in their own homes or a dark alley. That way, if it ever gets to court, there is only one woman's testimony to invalidate, which is easy enough to do. (Transform victim to the accused: she was asking for it, she provoked it by what she wore, what she said, how she looked.) The voices of ten women are a bit more difficult to ignore.

But for the most part, this incident is very commonplace. It is as everyday as the obscene remarks men make on the streets. It's as ordinary as the leering faces of pigs in porno stores. Because those greasy smirks give way to surly anger when challenged, and anger turns to violence. And it doesn't matter how sweetly you challenge or how smartly you shuffle.

We are naive to ignore the violence of men, or to believe that violence comes only from certain men. We are given "protectors" to watch over us—fathers, husbands, "security" guards. Invariably it is our "protectors" who turn on us, who assault and violate us in our homes, on the streets, in public places.

We must win a turf for ourselves, we must build a place for women in the world. We must expect violence from men and we must build the power within ourselves to face it and overcome it.

Anne Hatfield

MAJOR STEP FORWARD ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS

Whether you're a high school woman looking for a job, a separated woman needing credit, or a mother trying to find housing, you're affected by legislation passed in the District last month. Termed the broadest local anti-discrimination law in the country, Title 34 (The Human Rights Act) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, age, "sexual preference", marital status, family responsibilities, source of income, personal appearance, political affiliation, or place of business or residence, in addition to the traditional categories of race, creed, or national origin.

Also extended are the areas in which discrimination is banned. Previous laws covered only employment, to which Title 34 adds housing, public accommodations (including stores, banks, and other institutions which grant credit), education, and commercial space. Private schools, however, are exempted in this legislation.

Originally conceived by the Office of Human Rights, Title 34's final birth on Nov. 16 followed many months of difficult confinement in the City Council, during which it was continuously threatened by the lobbying efforts of employers, lending institutions, realtors, and other businessmen. Its safe emergence is due partially to the midwifery skills of several vocal women's organizations and other citizen's groups. Thanks are especially due to sisters in the National Organization for Women (NOW) for their testimony and lobbying efforts and to Councilwoman Marjorie Parker, who sponsored the bill.

As a first in dealing with topics of importance to women, such as lesbianism, motherhood, age, and marital status, Title 34 has exciting possibilities. How well its potential will be realized, however, rests largely with the Office of Human Rights, whose responsibility it is to administer.
(cont. on next page)

TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE STEP BACKWARD

In an 8 to 1 vote, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case of Debra Millenson, who was denied service at the men's grill of a hotel in New Orleans. The Court left standing a ruling that women have no constitutional right to be served in a privately owned men's bar.

The Hotel Monteleone advertised that its grill served "lunch for the liberated male," and went on: "Women, Bless them. They're the most delightful creatures on earth. But there are times when a man prefers the company of other men. To discuss business, for instance, politics, sports or, of course...women."

Was it ten years ago that blacks rose up in anger because they were denied service at lunch counters?

Ah, but they were not refused with such sugar-coated words.

(based on a Nov. 6 article in the Washington Post)



Title 34 cont:
ister the law and whose attitude
is open to question.

Mr. James Baldwin, Human Rights Office Director, was taken aback when this reporter asked what kind of training programs he was planning in order to sensitize his employees to the situations encountered by gay people, the elderly, the young, the physically handicapped, etc. He claimed, "It isn't necessary to train people to deal with that. They (the employees of the Office of Human Rights) are professional people." Perhaps Mr. Baldwin is unaware that a large number of employers, realtors, and bankers who are guilty of discrimination are also "professional people".

Mr. Baldwin insisted, "Our job is to investigate discrimination. This is a law enforcement agency. We just enforce the laws, just like the police." He seemed oblivious to the effect his employees' attitudes have on their job performance. In fact,

(continued on the
right)

he said he had no idea whether any of his employees had racist attitudes or not. Under continued questioning, he terminated the telephone interview rather abruptly.

The final test of Title 34 and of the Office of Human Rights will rest with the handling of complaints received. The law authorizes the government to seek conciliation, to issue cease and desist orders, and, if necessary, to take court action.

Although it cannot be guaranteed the experience will not be alienating, we do encourage you to file a complaint (629-5331) if you have been discriminated against any time since Nov. 16 (when Title 34 became effective). One of the women who lobbied and testified for this legislation has offered to monitor complaints from women who are dissatisfied with the way their cases were handled. If your experience with the Office of Human Rights is in any way negative, call Eva Freund at 333-1387.

... ANOTHER STEP IN MD.

Equality in housing was the order of the day for Montgomery County last month when the council approved legislation outlawing discrimination in sales or rental of homes based on sex or marital status.

The county human relations commission had reported more than 350 complaints from divorced or single women last year against real estate brokers and rental offices who refused to sell or rent homes to them.



The council was unanimous in its Nov. 6 vote, and along with the housing law, legislation was approved to outlaw sex discrimination in employment by companies under county government contracts.

Both laws will go into effect Jan. 21, unless vetoed by the county executive--a move which is considered unlikely because he has already given verbal approval to the measures.

INTERVIEW: D.C. GAY WOMEN'S OPEN HOUSE

Newsletter: Why did you decide to form the D.C. Gay Women's Open House?

Renee: Because I've been to a gay women's open house before. It was one of the first places I went when I decided I was gay. I felt the atmosphere was warm and informative--the best place I could be on a Tuesday night that was supportive of me. I felt that the Women's Center was devoid of anything that would reach out and deal with the needs of Lesbians. It was avoiding the whole issue of lesbianism. Since I live here and I'm a Lesbian, I felt it was a contribution I could make.

Ruth: I also felt there wasn't really a relaxed atmosphere in which Lesbians could get together. The open houses in Arlington and Maryland are hard to get to because of transportation. In D.C. the only alternative is going to a bar. We want a place where women can sit and converse or dance. Sophie's Parlor is large enough so that people can dance and have conversation without either one being a bother to the other. That's the way this open house is going to differ from the houses in Arlington and Maryland --there's space to dance.

Renee: If you're a Lesbian, an open house would be much more relaxed and less capitalistic than a bar. I feel it's important to deal with the needs of Lesbians on all levels. No matter what your interest was--art, music, dancing--there would be some space for you since it would be an open house and the focal thing is that you're a Lesbian. I see an open house as a way to demystify lesbianism and take away a lot of that stereotyped nonsense. I see it as a place to provide space regardless of if you're 49 and have known you are a Lesbian for years or if you think you're a Lesbian.

I think it's been backward of the Women's Center not to have something like this. But since I've been coming to the Center for a year or more and I haven't put energy into something like this, maybe I've been backward too. It's important for the Center, period. A lot of women who support the Center are Lesbians. The Lesbian community has had a large input into the Women's Center that ought to be realized.

Newsletter: What kind of plans do you have?

Renee: A lot of ideas I've taken from Lilli's (an open house in Va.). Lots of women would come in there and hold their knees together and not know where to begin, but there was literature. That's a good open for talking. A bulletin board for daily activities would be good; that way we could sponsor things for Lesbians--you know, the immediate things of life, like finding a roommate, or a Lesbian to take care of your cat. On an immediate level, I'd like more literature. I suggest that women who come bring magazine articles or things they'd like to discuss. Also, I see it as a place to make gay women aware of how the Women's Center can serve them.

Ruth: In addition, I'd like to go back to the coffee house atmosphere for the Gay Women's Open House: tables, coffee, card-playing, conversation, dancing. There's ping pong equipment if we can get a table and if there's the interest, we'll get a free pool table and a juke box. For the moment, women will have to bring their own booze and records--we do have a stereo. What we'll do is meet at Sophie's Parlor a couple of times, then we'll ask the women who come what they want. We're open to suggestions.

D.C. GAY WOMEN'S OPEN HOUSE, CONT'D.

Newsletter: What is the relationship of the Gay Women's Open House to Sophie's Parlor?

Ruth: At present we're not part of Sophie's Parlor or the Women's Center--we're just using the space. Personally, I don't want the Open House to be part of Sophie's Parlor, because Sophie's Parlor is supposed to be the social area of the Women's Center, which means that it is to be used for socializing for all women. Some publications including the Gay Blade, Amazon Quarterly, and the Daily Rag have assumed that Sophie's Parlor is a gathering place only for Lesbians. If the Open House became part of Sophie's Parlor, it would enforce this incorrect assumption.

Renee: I don't think it would be bad for Sophie's Parlor if the Open House were part of it. I don't see much difference in this from the jazz sessions in what it requires and what it donates. I keep hearing about this cold war between the straight women and the Lesbians at the Women's Center but I haven't experienced it. Maybe that's because I haven't been to enough meetings...

Ruth: As far as I've seen, there is no logical basis for saying there is a split between Lesbians and straight women. I've found argumentation at the Center encompasses all types and classes of women. I feel that the pickiness of these verbal battles simply mirrors a willingness to fight among ourselves rather than using that energy to fight those who really oppress us.

Newsletter: Would you like to see the D.C. Gay Women's Open House become part of the Women's Center, a project group, for example?

Renee: I don't know...maybe. I think it would be good for the Women's Center to be open to that. If there were Lesbians interested. I consider the fact important that it's being held in the Women's Center and is being held in Sophie's Parlor.

Ruth: That's the second reason I don't want to be part of Sophie's Parlor. I'd prefer being part of the Women's Center over being part of Sophie's Parlor. I feel that we should be part of the Center as a project group, organization or office. However, we'd have to have a definite statement of goals, purpose, and interest to present to the policy-making bodies of the Center. That's why I want to start out independently so we can get this all together. I hope this could become a formal facility for Lesbians because I feel the definite commitment of energy to the Center is mainly by Lesbians without any formal facility for us being here.

Newsletter: Anything else you'd like people to know?

Ruth: Yes, we meet every Sunday at 8 p.m.



SOPHIE'S PARLOR REVIEW: WILLIE TYSON

EARTH ONIONS GROW

Paranoia is your bus driver,
She sits upside down to avoid
the sun.
She eats your bus token,
And then says you didn't give
her one.
And the man in the back that
you complain to
Turns out to be her son.
And you wished that you had
walked,
Cause now you have no place
to run.

"Paranoia" by Willie
Tyson

Folksinger Willie Tyson was the featured entertainer at Sophie's Parlor on October 19 for an audience of about 30 women. Her repertoire included such well known favorites as "Just Like a Woman", "Lay Lady Lay", and "Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands". The majority of her selections, however, were original: "Paranoia", "Gandy Dancer", "I Was Your Ship", "Images", "All the Weary Watchmen", "Postage Stamp", "Asian Horses", and others.

Willie's lyrics and style convey a bitter-sweet philosophy: most of her original songs seem to be lyrical communications of personal experiences. As a musician, I know that constant performing involves a great deal of self-scrutiny and sacrifice. Willie's lyrics indicate that such sacrifice and self-scrutiny often provide the inspiration for her original songs. In the same way, her expressive rendition of "Just Like a Woman" made it seem that she has lived and experienced the song, and therefore chose to include it in her repertoire. That she has "paid her dues" is apparent.

Her flawless guitar and vocals made the performance enjoyable from a purely technical viewpoint, but these can be attained
(cont. next page)

In a movement as diverse in tactics and ideology as the Women's Movement, perhaps the greatest source of power that can give it cohesion is the development of a women's culture. Earth Onion has contributed admirably to this through improvisational performances in various parts of the country and through involvement with Washington area communities.

The theater group directed much of its energies this fall by conducting a number of workshops. They included acting women's experiences and dramatizing dreams, examining male and female roles of professional and non-professional workers, and non-verbal communication. Most of the workshops were held exclusively for women; one was held for Spanish-speaking people, one for a children's free school, and one for a community group. The six different workshops were led by Karel Wesiberg, Joann Zonis, Kathy Lee, Lynn Glixon, Julie Hoff, and Joanne Malone. The groups, which lasted for six weeks, ended in early December; a fee of eighteen dollars was charged for each one. A new series will be offered after New Years. Anyone desiring information can call 232-6147.

The Earth Onion women now expect to expand their community services even further with the aid of a recently acquired grant of \$10,000 from the Expansion Arts Division of the National Endowment of Art. They are also soliciting various other foundations in the hopes of getting their grant matched. A good deal of the money will be used to hold workshops or performances for places such as Regional Addiction Prevention (RAP), free schools, and prisons.

The onions are also working to-
(cont. next page)

Willie. cont:

by most musicians through hard work and dedication. Willie Tyson is much more than a musician--she is an entertainer. Many entertainers seem embarrassed to talk to their audiences in between songs, or else they say anything to "fill the silence". With her informal rapping, Willie used the space between songs to create and strengthen her rapport with those who had come to hear her.

Unsolicited audience participation is one of the most encouraging kinds of "applause" which an entertainer can receive. Such relaxed "applause" flowed easily at Willie's performance. Spontaneous singing, swaying heads, and tapping toes indicated that the audience was enjoying the music and the mood.

Willie Tyson is scheduled to return to the Women's Center on Dec. 14 and 28. She is currently performing at Mr. Henry's Washington Circle (Pa. and 21st St. N.W.) Tuesdays and Wednesdays and has tentative plans to perform at the Potters House on Feb. 10 and March 10. Willie is one of the most promising folksingers in Wash. D.C.---so come and hear her at the Women's Center at 8:30 on Dec. 14.

by M.I. Lomax

This is the first of (hopefully) many reviews, commentaries, and features on events in Sophie's Parlor. Any interested woman is invited to write and submit articles on Sophie's events for publication in this column.

Onions. cont:

gether in exploring their roles as women in different situations in order to develop another show that will match or even surpass the success of their smash hit, Woman Potion, which ran from last fall to spring. They work on this four days a week with each one taking a turn at the responsibility of directing. Although the complete performance will not be ready for quite some time, they might possibly present a work-in-progress performance followed by an audience evaluation around January.

Other future plans of Earth Onion are to continue conducting workshops and eventually give one local performance per week and one week's performance out of town each month.

Earth Onion has accomplished much during its four years of existence. Through their performances and community work in the Washington area and through their tours along the East Coast and the South, they have spread the word of the Women's Movement in an affirmative and creative way to thousands of people.



Elynn
Simons

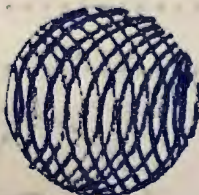
SEE C.C.

Interruptions, shouting, and arguments punctuated the Coordinating Council meeting of Nov. 15. Unfortunately, as our newsletter "went to press", the minutes of this meeting were being typed up and were not available to us. The newsletter staff, which was represented at the meeting, feels it cannot "objectively" report in depth on such a long, controversial, complicated, and important meeting without the minutes.

At least two items discussed are marked for further discussion at C.C. and at the General Assembly Meeting scheduled for Dec. 13:

- 1) The child care co-op which meets in Sophie's Parlor requested that men be allowed to work with the children in the Center.
- 2) A group of women a) requested a financial statement from the bookkeeper listing specifically allocation of funds and the operating budget of the Center and b) want to become a part of the Center in order to analyze structures of other Women's Centers with an aim toward possible structural change here.

As soon as the C.C. minutes are available, they will be posted. We urge everyone to inform themselves about what is happening at the Center before the G.A. meeting.



WOMEN IN CABLE TO TESTIFY

Women in Cable is a non-profit corporation which as of last June has been working to involve as many city-wide organizations as possible in planning for a women's channel for Washington D.C.'s future cable T.V. system. They are also concerned with helping to avoid any discriminatory job-hiring practices throughout the cable system.

The D.C. City Council will hold hearings on cable T.V. around the first of the year. Any individual or organization who would like to help put together testimony for the council hearings can call Lillian Huff at 526-5895.

Women in Cable's communications committee (mailings, telephoning, etc.) also needs volunteers. People should contact Sally Banks Craig at 362-7192.

WANTED: WOMEN'S PRESS RELEASES

NOW members Judi Dean, Ann Terbush, and Emma Trenchi of the Press Monitoring Task Force from the D.C. and Northern Virginia chapters met Friday, Nov. 16 with Washington Post Ombudsman Bob Maynard, Style Section Editor Tom Kendrick, Metro Section's Community Calendar Editor Mike Hill and others to press for better coverage of women's events. The Post people agreed to give receptive attention to women's organizations concerning their events. The NOW taskforce would like to get women's organizations to inundate the Post with releases on events for which they want publicity. For information call Emma Trenchi 966-2534 (eves. or weekends) or Ann Terbush 462-5607 (h) or 967-5103 (w).

41-YEAR-OLD WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE ALIVE AND WELL

Started in 1932, the Montgomery Farm Women's Cooperative was a response by women in the area to the Depression. With high unemployment, the women joined together to earn money for the mortgage payment, the electric bill, for survival. The result was the cooperative, which today functions as a marketplace for products and art made by women.

At the market you'll find everything from country-cured ham to crocheted shawls. For the holi-

day season handmade ornaments, fruitcakes and cookies will be on sale.

Located on 7155 Wisconsin Ave. in Bethesda, the market is opened on Wednesday and Saturday from 7 am until the individual vendors are sold out (usually about 3-4 pm). A word to the wise: get there early because the best is sold quickly.



NEWSLETTER REPLY---LAST NOTICE--IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY RESPONDED, YOU MUST READ THIS TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER!

The amount of time, energy and money being poured into the Newsletter boggles the mind, the body, and the wallet! Our mailing list has grown to 1200; paper, ink, postage run over \$1,000 per year. Many of our machines do not work properly. Some machines we have to borrow month to month resulting in incredible hassle. The Newsletter Staff feels that in order to meet expenditures and continue sending the newsletter, we have to ask a contribution of \$2 a year. If you really can't afford \$2 a year, fill out the form and you will receive the newsletter. This form will also help to update our mailing list.

In order to continue receiving the Newsletter after DECEMBER fill out the following form:

I wish to receive the W.C. Newsletter _____

and my contribution is enclosed _____

but I can't send a contribution at this time _____

I wish to discontinue the Newsletter _____

NAME.....PHONE.....

ADDRESS.....ZIP.....



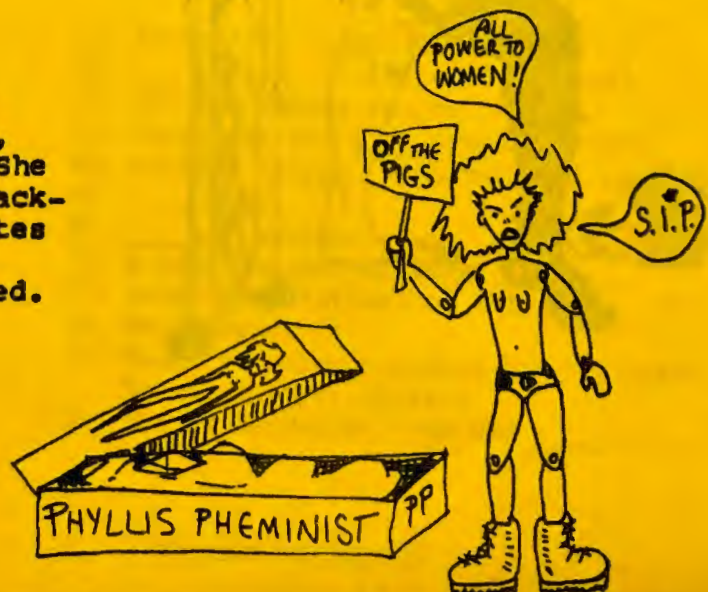
Holiday Gift Ideas

...THAT SPECIAL WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE...
 ...there a liberated woman in your
 life who wears undershirts? If so,
 and we're sure there is, give her one
 of our three special navel scents.
 Our scents not only glorify the navel
 but also eliminate that embarrassing
 odor caused by navel lint--the problem
 of every woman who wears undershirts.
 We offer Navéle for innies and outies,
Umbélique for that mysterious sultry
 navel, and La Belle Buttonne for the
 free-spirited navel. Available at
 better cosmetic counters everywhere
 at liberated prices.

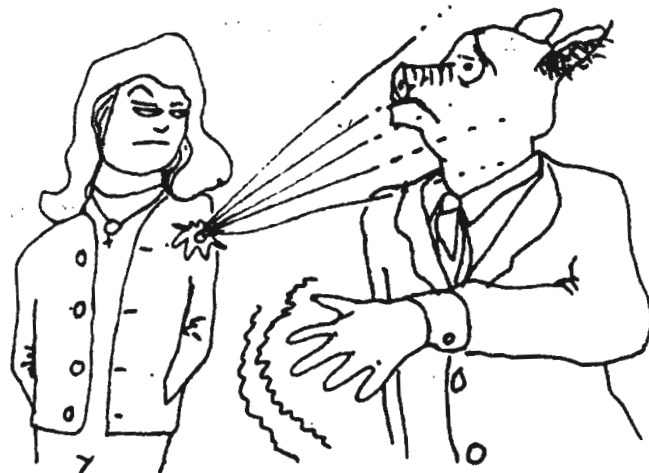


Give her nature's own natural douche
 - For that fresh country flavor:
 pure spring water. Special Christ-
 mas price, \$10 per luxurious bottle.
 Ask for Oh de l'eau at better dime-
 stores everywhere.

Make Christmas a liberation day for
 your child. Give Phyllis Pheminist,
 the new doll put out by FeMattel. She
 screams, she shouts, she carries plac-
 ards, she burns her bra, she castrates
 men. She does everything they said
 she would and more. Fully guaranteed.



Are you searching for that unique but practical gift? If you have a liberated woman on your shopping list, let us make a suggestion. Give her "Squirt-Off" the fantastic pig repellent. This ingenious device, which looks like a flower acts like a squirt gun, has been known for years by circus clowns. You wear it innocently on your lapel and at first sign of a hassle you squeeze the hidden bulb and out comes a stench sure to frighten away any red-blooded hassling male. The secret ingredient? 100% essence of woman. "Squirt Off" pig repellent comes in three attractive designs: daisy, primrose, and violet. And remember, it looks like a flower, smells like pure sweat.

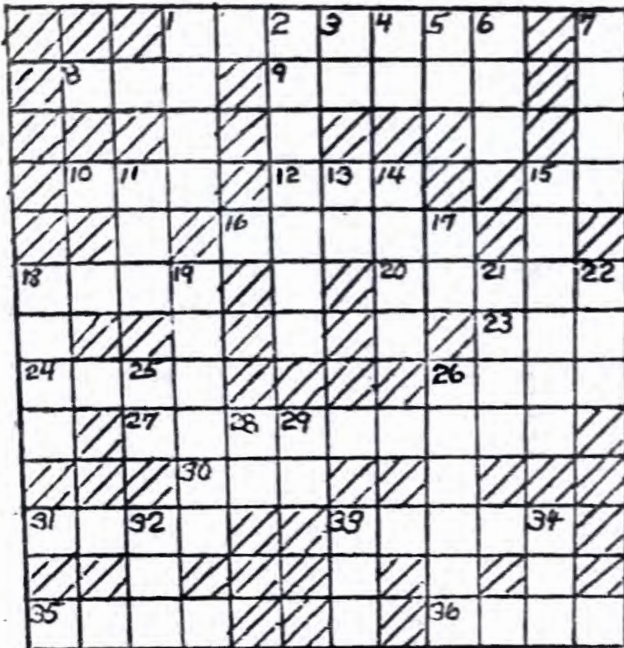


Is she tired of proving she's a feminist because of unsightly, scanty leg hair? If so, we have the perfect Christmas gift suggestion. Make your woman more of a woman with our beautiful fur stockings. Available in all hair colors and sizes. Ask for "hairy legs" at better hosiery shops.

PROMISE HER ANYTHING ... but give her a gift subscription to the Newsletter this Christmas.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

(A FEMINIST CROSSWORD PUZZLE)



Across:

1. She refuses to take out Santa's garbage.
8. Name of a proposed amendment that should have been passed a long time ago
9. Insect, also sometimes refers to a man
10. Now we don our _____ apparel.
12. We need some Christmas stories that are _____-sexist.
15. "Would you like to come up and see my etchings, baby?" "_____!"
16. Sounds like Blixon, has big red nose
18. Sound often made by women at sexist movies
20. Peace on Earth, good will to all _____
23. She never says she's sorry.
24. What women sow, men _____.
26. Mythological pickle eaten by pregnant women
27. Her Daughter
30. They didn't have reservations here.
31. Only crime in which victim becomes the accused
33. Amazon whose alias is Wonderwoman
35. Delightful excess
36. We've been erroneously told women should be _____ and mild.

Down:

1. She conceived of Christmas.
2. How Mary really got pregnant
3. When they saw the infant the three Wisewomen said _____ and behold.
4. Local university (abbr.)
5. In this Playboy world, women are judged solely for their b--t.
6. The First _____
7. "Grapefruit" by _____
11. Would you judge a man by the shape of his _____?
13. In sexist society, a man is compelled to be as strong as an _____.
14. National Organization for Women Elves (abbr.)
15. French for female Christmas
18. _____ help us! (Name of Goddess)
19. She has famous parlor in D.C.
21. Women are the _____ stream of life.
22. Nothing (rhymes with mythical pickle)
25. _____-d.c.
26. _____ rapists
28. A professional midwife
29. Some belly buttons go this way.
32. Male chauvinist
33. House to which husbands are banished by their angry wives.
34. Man is descended from the _____.

. . . answers on page 21 . . .

--- FEMINIST FUNNIES ---



"I HEAR YOU WANT TO DO
A COMIC STRIP FOR THE
WOMEN'S CENTER NEWS-
LETTER! I'D LIKE TO HELP."



"GOOD. I'D LIKE TO SHOW
HOW WOMEN ARE REPEATEDLY
PUCKED OVER BY MEN - AND
WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT
IT."



"FANTASTIK! I'D LIKE TO
WORK ON THE IDEA OF
WOMEN KICKING MEN
WHERE IT COUNTS WHEN
THEY GET PIGGY !!!"



"WELL,... I CAN UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU FEEL, AND I FEEL
THAT WAY MYSELF SOMETIMES,
BUT I HAD MORE IN MIND
A STRIP THAT SHOWS WOMEN
GETTING TOGETHER, AND TRY-
ING TO HELP MEN GET
TOGETHER, TOO."



"ARE YOU GAY OR STRAIGHT?"

(FEMINIST FUNNIES will be a regular
monthly feature in the Newsletter.)

WOMEN'S CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ****** Three jobs available--excellent working conditions, hours to fit your schedule, NEVER a dull moment. Become a part of the Women's Center as an office staffer. Great money: \$2.50 for a 20 hour week. Fantastic benefits: all the coffee you can drink. Two jobs are available the first week of December and one in the second week of December. Contact one of the present office staff: Alice, Ruth, or Maureen*
- *+++ The newsletter is looking for a name that's somewhat more memorable than "The Washington Area Women's Center Newsletter". If you have any suggestions, put them in the envelope in the newsletter room. If we use your suggestion you'll be the incredibly lucky winner of a year's subscription to the _____ (?)*
- ****** Contribute to the Women's culture. The newsletter is interested in starting up a POETRY page or half-page or column or whatever. If you have any poetry, type it up and put it in the newsletter envelope in the newsletter room. Also leave a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want your material returned.*
- *+++ Thanks to Adrienne's organizing efforts and many women's painting skills, the hallway is rid of its seedy looking chipped paint and is beginning to look respectable (in our terms, that is). Since Adrienne is now involved in the journalism course and the newsletter and is looking for a job, she's relinquishing her title as "INTERIOR REFURBIRATION", alias "paint-job" COORDINATOR. Anyone interested?*
- ****** The Women's Center is in dire need of a medium-sized refrigerator for the third floor. Anyone who is able to donate one or who knows of a very cheap one please contact the Center at 232-5145. Also, we may need someone to donate services to move said refrigerator.*
- *+++ The committee concerned with Sophie's Parlor would like to begin a film program, but we are faced with a problem: there are excellent films available at no charge, but we have no 16 mm. projector or screen. Anyone willing to donate or lend a projector and/or screen to us periodically is urgently requested to telephone the Center at either 232-5145 or 232-5197 (the live-in number) and give the info. to Ann Roberts or leave message.*
- ****** Rense and Ann at the Center would like to request that anyone disposing of extra containers (i.e. jars, bottles with lids, etc.) contact us or bring them to the Center.*
- *+++ Needed by the Newsletter: electric typewriter that works, free or close to it!*
- ****** The Center Library is open Tuesday, 12 - 3; Wednesday, 10 - 12 (a.m.); Thursday, 4:30 - 10 p.m. If more people volunteer, library hours may be extended.*

D.C. AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

→ ##### An autographing party for Rita Mae Brown will be held on Sunday, December 16 from noon to 7 pm at Lamma's, located at 321 7th Street, S.E. The party is being held to celebrate the release of Rita Mae's first novel, Ruby Fruit Jungle, by Daughters, a new woman's press in Vermont. The event will also mark the first Christmas season for Lamma's, an arts and crafts shop run by Judy and Leslie, the silversmiths who make Lamma's jewelry. There will be lots of women's arts and crafts on sale for the Christmas season and, of course, Rita Mae's book which costs \$3 in paperback. ←

→ *****The Women's Film Project invites area women to a showing of "THE EMERGING WOMAN", a 40-minute documentary film about the history of women in the U.S. The film will be shown on Tues, December 4 at 7:30 pm at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library Auditorium at 10th and G Streets, N.W. There is parking available and the film is free. ←

→ ##### Tuesday nights the Prince Georges Plaza Community Center, 6600 Adelphi Rd., Hyattsville, is opened to women only. The center will open its doors every Tuesday from 7 to 10 pm for the sole purpose of providing uninterrupted activities for women. Enjoy ping pong, billiards, cards, volleyball, basketball, slimnastics, (!), or trampoline. For more information call 864-1611, 1612. ←

→ *****The University of Maryland Women's Center is compiling a Women's Directory of women's newspapers, services, resources, etc. that are available to women in the D.C. area. Anyone with ideas of items to include or possible contacts that would be helpful should call 454-5411 or write Washington Women's Directory Project, Women's Center, Student Union, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742. ←

→ ##### There is a Women's Forum with different speakers each month held on the first Tuesday of each month from 12-1 at American University. Call 686-2386 for more information. ←

→ *****The Washington Area Feminist Theatre (WAFT) is performing "He and She", a play written in 1911 by Rachel Crothers. The play will be presented November 15 through December 16, Thursdays through Sundays at the Back Alley Theatre, 1365 Kennedy Street, N.W. General admission is \$3.00, and \$2.00 for students and WAFT members. Call 723-2040 to reserve tickets. ←

→ ##### The Women's Graphics Collective in Chicago announces that their Fall 1973 Catalog of hand silk-screened posters and note cards is now available free on request. Their posters are about the Women's Movement and other struggles like the United Farmworker's strike. All posters are \$1.75. For a free catalog write to: Women's Graphics Collective
852 W. Belmont Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60657 ←

PUZZLE ANSWER

MSCLAUS Y
ERA LOUSE O
R O X K
GAY NON NO
S NIXON O
HISS N WOMEN
E O G E ALI
REAP DILL
A CHRISTINE
INN S
RAPE DIANA
I O R P
ORGY G MEEK

CONTRIBUTORS to this issue:

Adrienne Cook, Anne Hatfield,
Barb Strandt, Carol Erlich, Judy Walton,
M. I. Lomax, Mary Karell, Maureen Morak,
Pagan.



Resources

CHILD CARE: Laurie 526-6477 (eves.) Susan 387-0639
CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING GROUPS: Liz Milbrandt 654-1760
D.C. GAY WOMEN'S OPEN HOUSE: *
DOMESTIC RELATIONS GROUP: Valle Jones 628-0314(eves) Nan Hunter 544-8278
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION: Gayla Salinas 530-1959 Nancy Balles 362-1895
FEMINIST COUNSELLING COLLECTIVE: 234-3726 (answ. serv.)
ABORTION AND BIRTH CONTROL INFO. COLL.:
LIBERATION SCHOOL: *
LIBRARY PROJECT: Caroline Raschick 7971147 or*
MOTHER'S CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING: Sharon Holstein *
NEWSLETTER: *
NOW: 387-6895 (answ. serv.)
OFFICE COLLECTIVE: 232-5145, 232-7533
RAPE CRISIS CENTER: 333-RAPE
SOPHIE'S PARLOR: Susan Becker 521-8850
SPEAKER'S BUREAU: Sue Martin 320-5363 or*
WA. AREA WOMEN'S HOME REPAIR: Barb Strandt 829-6186
WOMEN'S COOP AUTO REPAIR: *
WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC: Bette Goldperson 966-9138, Jamie Agins 244-5617
WOMEN'S LEGAL DEFENSE FUND: 232-5293
WOMEN'S PAINTING CREW: 462-2371

* indicates call the Women's Center 232-5145

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER
1736 R Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #44937
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Trudy Cox
23 7th St SE
DC 20003