



D.C. Women's Center JAN. 77

OO B RIPPED-OFF

Off Our Backs, the feminist news journal located on 1724 20th Street, N.W., D.C., was broken into and robbed on November 26th. The items stolen were two electric typewriters, a tape recording answering service, a new adding machine, a radio and an electric clock, as well as some petty cash. It amounted to a total loss of approximately \$2,000 and the items were not insured.

The robbery has hit the Off Our Backs (OOB) collective hard, but with the support of the women's community it is hoped that the impact of the robbery will be minimized. A clock and a radio have been donated thus far, but at least \$1,400 is needed to purchase two electric typewriters.

The Women's Center proposes that the women's community at large make a concerted effort to display their solidarity and their strength by getting OOB their needed machines before the February issue. In this way we can successfully turn around the ugliness directed at feminists everywhere and, in this case, at OOB directly, and transform it into positive energy that women can feel both

strength and inspiration from. We ask that you visibly support OOB and subscribe to a women's news journal that has long deserved a dedicated readership. We ask that you consider buying a subscription to OOB for a friend's birthday, to celebrate the love you share for each other, or to use this opportunity as excuse to spend some money on yourself. (The cost of a subscription is \$6.00/year; \$10.00/year for a "contributing subscription".)

Some women are interested in organizing a massive benefit for OOB with the cooperation of area women and women's groups. If you have any ideas or energy or money you would like to donate to the cause, please call the Women's Center and leave your name and number.

If we all try to help in some way, this harrassment of an area women's group can be used to start a process which will bond us all with a new awareness of the power of women helping women.

t.w.

poem

feathers float
about
their meeting grounds
bangles baubles and beads colors
earth scents
new moon rising
over
plow worn fields smile
treetops extend
their arms to dancing sparks
flying the bonfire below
a moan, at first low
thrusts its way above the flames
above the treetops
above far above the local hills
pushes itself into the consciousness of
town insomniacs stirring them
from their beds to windows with fear

energy surges from the
26 odd wimmin
manifesting itself in their
chants and songs
dances of egypt-greece-persia
the spirit
faces alive with sweat -
features writhing - playing out
their lives' dramas
the pain
the death
the love
the life
the young old middle aged
all hold hands bodies beautiful
under the cold sky

Only the lonely babbling brook spies
on their rites -
only it knows of the accusations
tortures and slow deaths in store
for these - hunted wimmin
tonight who dance for life - desperately,
frantically
under the moon
waxing stronger
the brook will tell its
tale and centuries later when its
tongue is still
only the rocks will know -
and the moon as it waxes
stronger - ready to rise.

VASHTI 10/7/76

LAMBDA'S SLIPPING

Toni White, former staffperson at Lambda Rising, a gay bookstore in D.C., has filed a sex discrimination complaint with the Human Rights Commission. Toni feels that recent staff changes at the store have resulted out of a distinct bias against women, although this contention is denied by the owner of the store, Larry MacCubbin.

On October 12, 1976, Toni was informed that the manager would be leaving as a result of a mutual understanding and agreement between he and Mr. MacCubbin. The manager, pleased with Toni's work, had recommended her to replace him. Two hours later, Mr. MacCubbin informed Toni that a new man would be filling the position, and that her hours would be cut from 26 hours to 5 hours per week, thus giving the new man a day's overtime. (Apparently, the new manager didn't feel he could live on forty hrs. per week.) Toni questioned Mr. MacCubbin about this arrangement, as the new man had absolutely no retail experience whatsoever. Mr. MacCubbin justified the staff changes by stating that the new man had been hired because of his contacts in the gay rights movement. (Toni, by the way, has been active in the lesbian-feminist movement since 1971 and remains one of eight core staff women running the Women's Center.)

Two days later, Toni phoned Mr. MacCubbin and informed him that she felt she had been treated unfairly and that she had made plans to file a complaint with Human Rights. That same night, upon reporting to work, Toni was fired by MacCubbin, who accused her of "not trusting her employer"!!

The facts speak for themselves. The Washington Area Women's Center urges concerned women and men to refrain from supporting such businesses. In this spirit, an open-ended boycott is being organized in an attempt to display to Mr. MacCubbin the collective disapproval of such sexist practices.

Shop at woman-owned, woman-run stores like Lammas and First Things First-- Let's make ourselves heard as well as help support our struggling sisters.

BCK

IN OUR OWN WRITE is the monthly newsletter of the Washington Area Women's Center. Contributions for the next newsletter are due by Jan. 15th. Please send them to NEWSLETTER, Washington Area Women's Center, Summer School, 17th & M Sts., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. This newsletter is brought to you by: Toni White, Beth Karbe, Karen Wood, Elaine Goodman, Marcy Rein and Sandy Black.

changes

Post-Holiday Blues?? Cheer Up!!!
 It's time for all you closet crossword
 fans to show your full talents... in the
WOMEN'S CENTER COMMON CHARACTERS CROSSWORD
CONTEST!!!!!!

The first fifty women who send in a complete and correct puzzle will be eligible for a drawing to win a \$15.00 gift certificate from First Things First, a Casse Culver tape and a Mountain Moving Day album.

Address entries: Women's Center
 Summer School Basement
 17th & M Sts., NW
 Washington, DC 20036
 Attn: WCCCCC!

DO IT TODAY AND WIN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ACROSS

1. feminist bookstore, _____ First
10. street abbreviation
13. Ms. Tomlin (throb, throb)
14. sups
15. audio-visual (abbrev.)
16. low singers
17. point; line up
18. years old
19. smallest part
21. equal rights amendment
23. hobo
25. negative response (slang)
26. goddess; or feminist press
29. a personality type
31. what color was the menace that Ms. Friedan warned us about?????
34. level
35. nay
37. apple _____ (all-american)
38. Long Island (abbrev.)
39. it's powerful and feels good
43. feminist newspaper (abbrev.)
45. _____ and behold!
46. what's polluted in D.C.
47. other
50. local poet, _____ Lally (hint: rising women)
52. hystorical witch city
53. bullshit (abbrev.)
54. feminist store in SE
58. city in California (abbrev.)

59. traditional academia that threatens women particularly
61. body odor
62. with 57D, meaning "not so good, not so bad"
63. local women's rock band
65. eggs
67. AC-DC
68. pig
69. Casse _____, feminist singer
72. monogram for Elizabeth Cady Stanton
73. mother's little _____
74. Gloria's magazine

DOWN

2. sick
3. author Brown; In Her Day
4. an opening for coins
5. Willie _____, fem. singer
6. what santa says
7. she played with Ms. Christian at All Soul's (so to speak)
8. women's bar guide name
9. steam (abbrev.)
11. mythical climax
12. a liberated cigarette and Lilith's successor
16. lesbian/feminist satire magazine: also, a bird
20. there are thirteen full ones in a year
21. a phallic sea creature
22. a bad or naughty act (usu. assoc. with religion)
24. _____ sex; ie. the liberal view of androgyny
26. hunted mammals (besides women)
27. advertisement (abbrev.)
28. an extra dry deodorant
30. opposite of small (abbrev.)
32. likely
33. compete
36. lubricant
40. matriarchal holiday
41. laugh
42. "oh, no!" in Jewish
44. stomach or dancing
48. something to walk dogs
49. sado-masochism
51. twelfth letter
53. the Phase
55. hovering over
56. slang for "fast worker"
57. with 62A, meaning "not so good, not so bad"
59. Ms. Christian
60. pick up and move
63. sound made by common breathing spasm
64. little one
66. you are (phonetic)
67. form of "are"
70. record
71. bachelor of science (abbrev. hint: same as 53A)

negotiation for improvements, the union has given members access to grievance procedures outside of the personnel board appointed by the county executive.

Local 1691 is still young. Women members are faced with a long process of not only trying to better their conditions, but of gaining equality within the union. Contracts provide for equal benefits, but problems still exist in making the structure receptive to women in positions of power.

Contact: Margo Jansohn in Manpower Administration, Prince George's Co: 336-8900.

The National Committee on Household Employment is a private, non-profit social service agency committed to improving the economic

Women:

poem

feathers float
about
their meeting grounds
bangles baubles and beads colors
earth scents
new moon rising
over
plow worn fields smile
treetops extend
their arms to dancing sparks
flying the bonfire below
a moan, at first low
thrusts its way above the flames
above the treetops
above far above the local hills
pushes itself into the consciousness of
town insomniacs stirring them
from their beds to windows with fear



In the December newsletter, we printed the first half of some information that we've collected on women's efforts to improve their situations at work. Here, as promised, is the rest of the material. Again, we'd like to say that this list is not exhaustive; if you have other information, please pass it on so we can do the same.

marcy rein

Though small, the Women's Rights Committee of the American Federation of Teachers is an integral part of the union's continuing work. The Committee consists of five representatives, each from a different part of the country. It functions primarily as a resource for the membership of the union locals, providing information on laws, regulations, and model contract language as well as developing classroom materials that deal with eliminating sex-role stereotyping. With the AFT membership as a whole, it helps bring the AFL-CIO around to a position of support for the ERA; it also has worked a coalition with CLUW and other groups which share its concerns. Contact: Sally Muravchik: 797-4400

Federally Employed Women was founded in 1968 after a presidential executive order made sex discrimination illegal in the government and Right by government contractors. Chapters exist in 36 states, the Panama Canal Zone, Japan, Okinawa and Korea, with a total of over 5,000 members. FEW's major activities include publicizing the EEO and Federal Women's Programs and consulting with the civil service to improve implementation, informing members of training and job opportunities and lobbying for antidiscrimination legislation in Congress. In lobbying, they have worked closely with NOW, WEAL, Bella Abzug and Shirley Chisholm; they keep track of who votes for legislation that they are backing and run a legislative alert service to mobilize chapter support. Recently, the national organization has directed its attention to passage of the ERA, the Women's Conference Bill (to provide funds for conferences to continue working on subjects raised by the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City), legislation expanding part-time and flexible work schedules, and changes in the Veteran's Preference Bill which would set a limit on the time during which vets would be given preference for government jobs after their release from service- local chapters support the national projects, and use the national office as a resource in their particular struggles. FEW as a whole is a pragmatic organization, dealing with issues as they arise, developing considerable influence in the government.

Contact: Gerry Douglas, FEW National Office, 638-4404

Local chapters of FEW vary considerably in size and focus. Some, like the southern Maryland office, are oriented to one workplace. Since it started a year and a half ago, the chapter has gained forty members, all of whom work at the Indian Head Naval Ordnance Station. Because of the conservative nature of the area, this chapter has had to concentrate on ground-work, spreading awareness of discrimination and remedies, recruiting members, promoting training and encouraging women to upgrade themselves. They have run evening programs on credit discrimination, sex discrimination in education and basic consciousness raising, as well as a series of short noontime sessions to explain specific sets of personnel regulations or show films. Last spring they successfully challenged an attempt to establish a pro-

making changes

fessional council which would have excluded anyone without a degree, regardless of experience or civil service rating. The Military Wife's Club initiated a program exchange with them, and maintains an active liaison; they have also been working with the Station's full-time Federal Women's Program coordinator. As it has grown, the chapter has carried its education and action program beyond the workplace into the community. In January, three members will be speaking to the Women's Studies classes in Suitland High School about their jobs, FEW, the EEO and the Federal Women's Programs. Participating in the local Action for Women Coalition, the chapter has put together programs on battered women, and on Maryland's new rape laws, and helped get the county to appoint a commission for women. Response from individuals has been positive, although many are afraid to become active supporters. As FEW becomes better known in southern Maryland and proves its effectiveness, this problem should diminish.

Contact: Jean Holden, 283-4387.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees is not defined as a woman's organization. But because the overwhelming majority of low-paying, no status jobs in local bureaucracies are held by women, this union is of particular interest. Local 1691 represents some 100 employees of Prince George's County, both clerical and professional. Last year it negotiated the first contract with the county. Major gains were changes in the official work week for clerical employees from $37\frac{1}{2}$ to 40 hrs., and in the method of determining cost-of-living increases. These had been based on a percentage of present income, which discriminated against the employees who earned the least. The union contract provided for an equal annual increase for everyone. At issue this year are cost of living increases, working conditions, break time, extension of maternity leave from three to six months (with the possibility of further extensions under extenuating circumstances) and sick leave. Presently, county employees are limited to thirteen days per year of sick time, and must take their own time if they have to stay home with sick children; the union would like to see the allowance increased and a child care provision added that would apply to both men and women. In addition to

negotiation for improvements, the union has given members access to grievance procedures outside of the personnel board appointed by the county executive.

Local 1691 is still young. Women members are faced with a long process of not only trying to better their conditions, but of gaining equality within the union. Contracts provide for equal benefits, but problems still exist in making the structure receptive to women in positions of power.

Contact: Margo Jansohn in Manpower Administration, Prince George's Co: 336-8900.

The National Committee on Household Employment is a private, non-profit social service agency committed to improving the economic condition of household workers, nurturing the sense of the value of their work and developing more realistic public attitudes towards the occupation. There are 10-12,000 members in 41 local groups. Most members are household workers, recruited through newspapers and media, church and community contacts, but there are support members also. Beyond a minimum program established by the national office, local affiliates are fairly autonomous; the national office acts as coordinator and resource center. NCHE was a major force behind congressional extension of minimum wage coverage to household workers. It is struggling around the country to broaden the legal protections covering household workers and win benefits long since recognized as routine in other fields, such as paid holidays, sick leave and unemployment compensation. Although its non-profit status prevents it from lobbying, it is active in supplying information to legislators and has worked in coalition with a wide range of organizations, from the Urban League, the AFofL-CIO, NOW and the NAACP to women's groups in community churches. A variety of service projects have been organized by NCHE affiliates including worker-run day care and job placement centers, and retraining programs for workers who want to move into jobs in teaching, day care and health. Current NCHE efforts, concentrated on basic improvements of organization-building, are all steps towards the long range goal of unionizing household workers and gaining legislation to protect their rights to bargain collectively.

Contact: Anita Shelton: 291-2422

S M T W T F S

JANUARY 1977

CHRISTINA MARIE
OPENING HER SHOW
ON THE 1ST -
MULTI-MEDIA CALLED
"WOMEN'S FANTASIES"
COME SEE !!

HELP MAKE
'77 A BETTER
YEAR FOR
WOMEN !!
000
+++

1
WOMEN'S
FOOTBALL GAME...
MONTROSS PARK

2

3 RAP GROUP
8:30 pm.

4 SISTER CONNECTION
8pm.
JESSICA RUM
(SINGER)

5 LILLI'S
OPEN HOUSE
671-3762
COFFEEHOUSE AT
GW MARVIN CTR
\$0 & \$8

6

7

8 "WOMEN'S
PRIORITIES IN 1977
CONGRESS" - ASS. DE
REP. CANDIDATE
9:15 AM - 3:00 PM

9

10 WAWC GEN.
MTG. 7:30 pm.
RISING Q'S MTG. 7:30
SISTER CONNECTION
WENDY STEVEN
(POET)

11 VOLUNTEER
MTG. 7:30 pm.
AT THE CTR. !!
COME SUPPORT
YOUR CENTER.

12 LILLI'S
671-3762
FINANCIAL PLANNING
SEMINAR -
881-7000

13 RALLY - Q'S
STATE OF THE
UNION ADDRESS
7-11 pm AT
GW MARVIN
CTR.

14

15

16

17 RAP GROUP
8:30 AT Q'S CTR.

SISTER CONNECTION
8PM - CASSE
CULLVER !!

18

19 LILLI'S
671-3762
WAFT mtg.
8pm at All Souls
965-0971

20

22 MOVEMENT
CLASS AT CTR.
10AM - 1pm - CALL
SARK - AT
232-8405

23

30
DC NOW
OPEN HOUSE
1506 COLUMBIA RD, NW
2-5 PM.

24 SISTER
CONNECTION
8pm. JUDITH
ORTH
(CLOWN)
31
SISTER
CONNECTION
THREE'S COMPANY
(THEATRE)

25

26 LILLI'S
671-3762
RETIREMENT
SEMINAR -
881-7000

27

28 MAXINE
Feldman !!
in concert at
St. Marks 3rd
and A, SE

29

Announcements !

DC NOW is holding an OPEN HOUSE on Jan. 30th, '77 to welcome new members and celebrate the new year! Wine and cheese will be served... 2pm-5pm, at 1506 Columbia Rd, NW, \$2.00 per person...call Joyce at 965-0930 for details. Also sponsored by DC NOW is a seminar on "Women's Priorities in the 95th Congress" on Sat., Jan. 8th from 9:15am-3:00pm at the House of Rep. Caucus Rm., in the Cannon Bldg. on Independence and 1st St.. Lunch will be provided at \$2.50/person.

FREE SEMINARS!! To be held at 7:30 pm at the Bethesda Women's Headquarters, 6921 Arlington Rd, Bethesda: 881-7000. Scheduled are "Financial Planning/Types of Investments" on Jan. 12th and "Retirement/Tax Shelters" on Jan. 26th.

Washington Area Feminist Theatre is scheduling a meeting for Jan. 19th at 8pm at All Souls, 16th & Harvard, NW. WAFT is in danger of demise. They need help to plan and execute series of staged readings, seminars and workshops. They also need womanpower or they won't be able to do it. Call WAFT, 965-0971 for more info!!!

Women's Counseling Group forming out of Chevy Chase, Md.. Fee is \$15.00 per session, no sliding scale. Call Jacqui Leichter, MA in Psychology, at 652-5047 for details.

MAXINE FELDMAN IN CONCERT!!! Maxine Feldman, lesbian-feminist songwriter and singer is performing for the first time in DC on Friday, January 28th at St. Marks Church, 3rd & A, SE at 8pm. Tickets are \$3.00 and are available at Lammas. Maxine is brought to you by the newly born Cantabria Productions and the Washington Women's Building fund... come and support your women's community!!

QUEST: A FEMINIST QUARTERLY is sponsoring a fair to raise money to meet their rent. The fair is scheduled for Saturday, February 12, from 4pm-10pm at All Souls (16th & Harvard, NW). Watch for further details in the Feb. newsletter!!!

Area lesbians interested in writing full or part time for The Blade - call and ask for Kerry at 785-3009 (ans. ser.) or write 2430 Penn. Ave, N.J, Suite 209, DC 20007.

Rising Women Coffeehouse held an interest meeting at the DC Women's Center on Dec. 13th. Where they've been, where they're at, and where they're going was discussed. A good number of women attended, but more are expected at the second scheduled meeting on Jan. 10th (Mon) at 7:30pm, here at the Center (in Sumner School Basement, 17th & M Sts, NW). All area women are urged to attend and show support... they need you!!!

WOMEN!!! Get ready for the New Year's Day Tequila Football Game at Montross Park in DC at 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. Teams are now forming. Call 347-5078 or 462-2988... ask for Elaine.

ARTISTS!!! Women interested in an Art History Workshop or an Art Therapy workshop are requested to call the Center (347-5078) as soon as possible and express an interest. These workshops are tentatively planned for this month (Jan)... their implementation all depends on feedback from the women's community.

Into BODY MOVEMENT AND AWARENESS?? An experienced teacher is interested in starting an ongoing workshop. If you're interested, call Susan at 434-2234 after 5pm.

We need women to coordinate a Teenage Rap Group and a Women in Transition workshop. There has been much interest for both of these sessions, but we at the Center have neither the time nor the skills to implement these particular activities. Women interested in helping out, please call the Center. Thanx.

SISTER CONNECTION Women's Coffeehouse has shows scheduled for every Monday in January, at 8pm at Mrs. Z's Restaurant, Cedar Lane, Columbia, Md. Call the Women's Center for details and directions.

VOLUNTEERS!!! There will be a meeting for women interested in donating some time to the Women's Center. Womanenergy is much needed, and since the first meeting was so successful, we've decided to schedule another to catch all you stragglers out there. The meeting is set for Tuesday, Jan. 11th at 7:30 pm at the Center. Call us for details and directions.

announcements cont.

I.S.I.S. (In Support of Incarcerated Sisters) is a group of six wimmin and one man interested in wimmin in prison. They are working to support these wimmin and to provide them with literature about feminism, lesbianism and the socio-economic history of this country with its patriarchal control. The goals of ISIS are to help the wimmin in prison develop a sense of community and solidarity within the prison. They want to establish an outreach to the community by providing a one-to-one contact with the wimmin. They want to share with them the joys and strengths of wimmin's music. ISIS is hoping to do anything that will give wimmin prisoners a positive sense of self-dependency and love of self. Any support, money or input you can share with them, they would greatly appreciate. ISIS has tentatively planned a fund-raising dance with a wimmin's band at Bread and Roses Coffee House located on 31st and Greenmount in Baltimore. The dance will be given this New Year's Eve. You can get in contact with ISIS by writing or calling Carla Adams, at 317 Birkwood Pl, Baltimore, Md. 21218; phone is 243-8421.

Christina Laurel will be showing her work beginning Jan. 1st at the Center's Art On The Wall. Her works will include six multi-media collages called "Women's Fantasies". Christina will be coordinating and leading the Women In Art workshop to be held at the Center. Call us (347-5078) for further details.

RUBE'S BOOKSTORE... We are here to help you find the spiritual information that is right for you. We have many of the very best spiritual books available; and all are on a consistent 5% discount, with other specials as high as 50% off. Rube's offers Astrology classes for women, and we are interested in helping the community to discover what spiritual symbols such as the Moon and Sun mean for women today. We also do oral and taped horoscope interpretations." Rube's is opened from noon to 6pm, Tuesday through Saturday at 313 7th St., SE (right down from Lammas), or call Sharon Evans at 546-3407.

A Movement Class is scheduled for Sat., Jan. 22nd from 10am-1pm at the Center. There will be a fee of \$5.00. Call Sara at 232-8405.



WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER



Sumner School, 17th & M, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
202- 347- 5078

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit 44937
Washington, D.C.