



D.C. Women's Center APR. 77

Presenting **Cantobria**

In late November of 1976 two women, Anne Ailes and Mary Fridley, formed Cantobria, a company designed to produce women's musical events on the East Coast. With the help of Susan Horowitz and Spots, Cantobria recently produced its first event, the Maxine Feldman concert. Anne and Mary had fronted the money for that production.

Anne Ailes and Mary Fridley have worked together in the past with WAFT and ATHENA, and after experiencing the Michigan Women's Music Festival, they became convinced that there is a need for a unified music community and a focal point for women's music concert production on the East Coast. Cantobria is an effort to begin to meet that need.

As Anne says, the West Coast is a "sophisticated arena of women's music". Although we may not need "polish" and "sophistication" here in the East, Cantobria would like to foster unity here. They are aware that there is a wealth of women performers to be tapped here in D.C.--and performers from here and other areas in the East should be doing concerts rather than importing women from the West (an expensive proposition). Cantobria is particularly interested in drawing in southern performers of bluegrass and country music.

Cantobria is working from a "feminist ethic". They are determined to create events which give women jobs with the pay they deserve. Their productions are by and for women. They are committed also to the de-

mystification of the processes of concert production. Toward that end, they are planning workshops to teach production which will begin this summer. They also wish to make public the costs of production and where the money goes.

Another goal of Cantobria is to broaden the kinds of audiences attending women's concerts. Besides reaching the women's community that normally frequents such concerts, Cantobria wants to reach women who have not had access up to now, e.g. institutionalized women; the deaf and hard of hearing (they hired sign-interpreter, Jane Rizzo, at the Maxine Feldman concert); and women who may read just MS. (as opposed to those who read OOB, newsletters, and similar feminist publications).

When they get the money necessary, Cantobria will become incorporated. Their ultimate goal is to become a self-supporting collective of more women that can give each woman who works in concert production the pay she deserves for her work. As for upcoming events, Cantobria is presenting Margie Adam in concert on April 7th (see announcements inside for details). Mary Fridley has written and submitted a proposal to the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities for money for a women's music festival in September and they are awaiting the verdict.

If you wish to contact Cantobria, leave a message with their answering service at 347-4700.

t.w.

Announcements !

"Is money an important route to the power we need?" Discuss this issue at the WASHINGTON AREA FEMINIST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, April 13th, 1424 16th St., NW., D.C. Call 667-7260, 7-8pm Tuesday and Thursday.

MARGIE ADAM has agreed to do a songwriting workshop as a follow-up to her concert here in April. The workshop will be sponsored by the Washington Area Feminist Theatre, and will be held Saturday, April 9, at the Hand Chapel on Mount Vernon College Campus. Since participation will be limited, interested women should contact WAFT at 965-0971 for details.

GAY WOMEN ARTISTS interested in meeting to share our work and our experience, call Lauren (554-3472), she is in the process of planning regular meetings of a Lesbian Artists Support Group. "Try persistantly, evenings and weekends are best."

THE WOMEN'S EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE is holding a fundraiser celebration for women who have gotten positions in the the Carter administration, April 29. For more info, call Natasha Pearl, 638-4560.

THE WASHINGTON WOMEN'S ARTS CENTER is opening its invitational poetry readings to women in the D.C. area. Women who would like to read in the Fall Program should submit 3 or 4 poems, a self-addressed stamped envelope, and a short bio. including a list of published work. Send material to Barbara Berman, Washington Women's Art Center, 1821 Que St. NW, DC, 20009.

WASHINGTON AREA FEMINIST THEATRE is presenting series of short productions, discussions, and workshops designed to explore the impact of combining theatre with feminist politics. Workshop, Sunday April 3; Sunday April 17, "Theatre as a Political Experience for the Participants"

"I am writing an in-depth article on the difficulties older women face on the job market and looking for housing; if any women can share their experiences in these areas please call" Karen Wood, 389-2863 or 547-6058.

Rumor has it that Alta is bringing her poetry to DC at the end of the month-check with us later to confirm.

MARGIE ADAM IN CONCERT!! Thursday, April 7th, Lisner Auditorium, 21st and H Sts. NW, 8 pm. Tickets cost \$5.00 (\$2.50 for GW Students) and are available at the Women's Center, Bread and Roses, Lammas, and Marvin Center Info Desk. Childcare will be provided. Presented by CANTOBRIA PRODUCTIONS, sponsored by GWU Womenspace. Group rates are available. For info, call 543-4129.

EARTH UNION WOMEN'S THEATRE offers PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS in acting, dance, mime, masks to begin May 1st and run for eight weeks. Performances in late June-early July. Call 667-3785 or 347-4700.

Get your act together for the TALENT SHOW, happening May 14th, performances at 1 and 5pm. Registration fee of \$5.00 entitles you to rehearsal space and personal assistance with your act from staff of Earth Union. Call 667-3785 or 347-4700.

FIRST THINGS FIRST HAS MOVED to a convenient new location: 2427 18th St. NW, near Columbia Road. To celebrate our new, larger store, we are having an OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, April 16 from 11 am to 7 pm. Join us then or call us at 234-2722.

BENEFIT FOR THE RAPE CRISIS CENTER: Magic Lantern Cinema will show "Sexism and Animation" examples of how sexist stereotypes are depicted in animated cartoons, in basement of Sumner School, 17th and M Sts., NW, D.C., Friday, Apr. 22nd, 8pm and 10pm.

THE FEMINIST COMMUNITY FORUM will hold its second meeting on Weds, April 6, at 7 pm at the Institute for Policy Studies, 1909 Que St., NW. For those groups who missed the last mtg. and wish to share ideas and needs and who will send a representative to this mtg., please call Alexa Freeman of Quest, 234-9382 for details.

Trial for the POST strikers begins April 18. Demonstration April 16 at 15th and Ksts NW. For more info, call the Local 6 Defense Committee, 737-2810



waffcu u^{PD}ATE

The Washington Area Feminist Federal Credit Union held its annual meeting on Feb. 26. As of their second anniversary, business is looking up. They passed their audit by the National Credit Union Association and have cut the delinquency rate on loans from around 50% at the end of 1975 to 11% at the end of 1976. Due to their financial reorganization, they no longer have a paid staffer. However, they have hired a collections person to work part time on a consultant basis for three months in an effort to recover the delinquent loans. Federal regulations require that they keep a certain percentage of their money in a "loan loss fund" to absorb the bad loans. Currently this makes it impossible for them to declare a dividend or grant new loans. Members of the Board expect that the tighter lending policy and the work of the collections person will soon change the situation.

One of the main items on the agenda for the annual meeting was election of new Credit Committee and Board members. New Board members are Bernice Weinstein, at-large, and Debby Morris for the National Black Feminist Organization. Virginia Allen, representing NOW, and Doris Spencer from NBFO were elected to the Credit Committee. A Women's Center member is still needed for this committee. Please call WAFFCU if you are interested.

WAFFCU's purpose is to provide access to money to women who would otherwise have difficulty getting it. If they are to continue and do this successfully, they need more community support. They still need to increase their assets by \$30-40,000. Ideally, this should come from numerous small deposits, as that minimizes the risk of sudden large withdrawals. (Deposits are insured by FDIC, so depositors run no risk of losing their money.) Besides money, the Credit Union needs women to share the work of running it. They are particularly anxious to find someone who can do credit counselling, as this service is in demand. Volunteers are also wanted for the newsletter and publicity as well as general office help.

Once a month the Credit Union has been holding discussion groups on economic questions of concern to women and the women's movement. On April 13, the subject will be "Is money an important route to the power we need? How can you control money and how does it control you?" Scheduled for May is "What are the differences in the feminist models for credit unions and what's happening across the country?" These will take place at the WAFFCU office in the Embassy Building, 1424 16th St. NW, at 8 pm.

WAFFCU is open for walk-in business 6-8 pm, Monday and Wednesday; telephone business, 7-8 pm, Tuesday and Thursday. Call them at 667-7260. It may be hard to get in the building at night . . . go around the P St. side, in the service entrance, and up the stairs.

marcy rein



Rocking Chair Mother

Hush, little one,
The old chair whispers.
I will protect you
In your mother's arms.
Warmth and love
Are yours as you
Quietly fall asleep
Under the spell
Of my gentle motion.

Be brave, young one,
The old chair shouts.
I once kept you safe;
I can do it still.
Pour out your tears
And anger as you
Soothe your tired body
Within the confines
Of my fierce motion.

Feel free, strong one,
The old chair sighs.
I am no more.
You have broken
Your chains of bondage.
Safety and love
Lie within yourself.
You have no need
Of an old rocking chair.

Marilyn Braithwaite

S M T W T F S

Women's Center Open House, 347-5078 - All Women (D.C.)
 Lili's Open House, 671-3762, Lesbian (Arlington)
 Paula's Open House, 559-4513, Lesbian (Hyattsville)
 Birdie's Sunday Buffet (free), 332-3006, Lesbian (D.C.)
 Women's Center Rap Group, 347-5078, All Women (D.C.)

APRIL

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|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| 1 ART ON THE WALL LAUREN WEIL PRESENTS "WOMEN I HAVE VISIONED" | 2 WAWC SOFTBALL TEAM PRACTICES 1PM SUN., 11th + I St. SE, D.C. ALL ♀ WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE | 3 MAGIC LANTERN BASEMENT CINEMA DC'S SHOWPLACE FOR POLITICAL, ♀'S + 3RD WORLD FILMS 17th + M STS, NW | | | 1. TEENAGE RAP 4-5:30 PM MAGIC LANTERN 8 PM - "STEELYARD BLUES" | 2 |
| 7 BIRDIE'S BUFFET RESERVATIONS REQ'D WAWC - SOFTBALL PRACTICE - 1PM WATT WORKSHOP 2 PM, ACHESON HALL | 4 WAWC - 8 PM RAP GROUP | 5 | 6 LILI'S ♀♀ WOMEN IN TRANSITION SUPPORT GRP 7 PM FEMINIST COMM. FORUM 9 AM STUDENTS OF Q.W. 8 PM | 7 MARQUE!! ADAM!! LISNER AUDITORIUM 8500 | 8 MAGIC LANTERN TEENAGE RAP GRP 4-5:30 | 9 MAGIC LAN. SONWRITING WORK- SHOP W/ MARQUE ADAM HAND CHAPEL - WATT - 965-0971 |
| 10 WAWC - SOFTBALL PRACTICE - 1PM | 11 | 12 ♀'S MOTOR- CYCLE CLUB MTG WAWC - 7:30 PM | 13 LILI'S ♀♀ WOMEN IN TRANS-7P ♀'S CREDIT UNION DISCUSSION 8 PM | 14 | 15 MAGIC LAN. TEENAGE RAP GRP | 16 NEW S.T.F. Spring Conference ABORTION/WEISS/ST HOWARD CO. 330-5511 14 THINGS 1ST CELEBRATION |
| 17 WAWC - 1PM SOFTBALL PRAC. WATT WORKSHOP + FILM - 2PM POST HALL | 18 WAWC - 8 PM RAP GROUP | 19 | 20 LILI'S ♀♀ WOMEN IN TRANS. 7PM | 21 | 22 MAGIC LAN. SEXISM IN ANIMATION TEENAGE RAP GRP | 23 WAWC - ♀'S NITE OUT 8 PM |
| 24 WAWC SOFTBALL PRACTICE 1PM WATT WORKSHOP 2PM - ACHESON HALL | 25 | 26 | 27 LILI'S ♀♀ WAWC VOLUNTEER MTG - 7:30 PM | 28 | 29 MAGIC LAN. ♀'S Equity Action League Celebration CALL 638-4560 | 30 WAWC - SPEAKER FROM U.S.-CHINA PEOPLE'S FRIENDSHIP ASS'N 2 PM (FREE) |

DC Program Aids Women on Probation

If you're black, age 26, have 2 dependents, have finished the 11th grade, on welfare or earning only \$2.57 an hour in a clerical or service job, you are a typical woman in D.C. Add to that being on probation and you might guess that your odds for success are nil. But not so!

The Supported Work Program (SWP) is the District's only program functioning to meet the work training and employment placement needs faced by women on probation or work release. A 1971 report, "From Convict to Citizen: Programs for the Woman Offender", published by the D.C. Commission on the Status of Women, elaborates on the lack of career training programs for women offenders which train women for jobs where there is a shortage of trained personnel and link these women with adequate placement services.

The Supported Work Program began in 1971 as part of Wider Opportunities for Women as an experimental Program to meet the needs of women referred by the D.C. Superior Court/Adult Probation Division. The SWP philosophy to break the welfare-and-crime syndrome is that a significant proportion of female offenders can be integrated into society through placement in jobs that provide the woman with: (1) a sufficient income so she becomes self-supporting of herself and her family, and (2) opportunities for upward job mobility.

To implement this philosophy, the SWP places women in non-traditional jobs offering a minimal starting salary of \$3.50 an hour. As of January, 1977, women from the Program are being placed in jobs averaging \$4.94 an hour. According to Andrea Cleaves, SWP Director, statistics through January 1977 show the SWP has served one hundred and twenty-four women. Of this total, two of every three are now successfully placed in employment, in job training, enrolled in an educational institution, or are participating in the Program to prepare themselves for a job or training interview.

But the Supported Work Program is more than just a training and job placement program. As the Washington area economy is a service economy, job applicants need math, mechanical and electrical skills, skills which women rarely learn in school. To fill this void, the SWP staff works with employers to design and implement training courses to meet both the needs of the women and the employer. In the construction trades, equal opportunity efforts are necessary to open apprenticeship slots for women. The SWP has been successful in both areas and has helped women become competitive in these job markets. SWP women are now working as: welders, copy machine service representatives,

meat cutter apprentices, auto mechanics, or electrical appliance repairwomen.

The SWP staff also provides extended screening for women and wide range of supportive services for one year to women in the Program. The job screening process involves completing a series of tasks developed with the staff counselor to meet the individual woman's needs. This series of tasks is directed to one goal: helping the woman to become competitive in a broadening job market. Such tasks include: developing a viable child care plan, preparing a resume, preparing for the G. E.D., role playing job interviews and handling the question of having a criminal record, and learning to use available community resources to meet needs in housing, health, social services, recreation, etc. When the woman receives high grades in promptness, attendance and task completion, she is selected for a job or training interview. This task oriented approach helps a woman obtain skills at every step that increase her ability to help herself and her family in the community. This unique Program design has earned the Program a Ford Foundation grant to evaluate the effectiveness of the design for duplication in other communities.

The D.C. Chamber of Commerce has made a commitment to provide sixty jobs in 1977 that meet the SWP standards of \$3.50 an hour and guaranteed upward mobility. Other job areas for this year include: warehouse persons, on-the-job training in auto mechanics, electrical appliance repairs, printing and air conditioning repair and installation. Sixty-eight per cent of the women in the Program are household heads with an average of 1.6 dependents. Forty-eight per cent of these women were on welfare when they entered the Program. The SWP costs about \$170,000 per year or about \$2,800 per woman. When compared to the cost of \$23,000 per year needed to support one woman while she is incarcerated, or the dollar savings to the District in reduced welfare costs; the SWP dollars are well spent. But the sources for this Program are running out. The SWP received its last six months of funding from the D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Board in January. Unless new sources of funding can be found, this unique and valuable program for women in D.C. will have to close in June.

Persons wishing additional information on the Supported Work Program can call Ms. Cleaves at 638-4868 or write her at: 1649 K St., NW, DC 20006.

--Chris Lindberr

Pigs in an ivory tower

Dr. Margaret Cussler has charged five past and present University of Maryland administrators with sex discrimination for their failure to promote her to a full professorship and to grant her an appropriate salary. Dr. Cussler is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Maryland. She received her PhD from Harvard in 1943. During her 20 years at the University, she has written or collaborated on four books and numerous articles, written and co-produced three films, received several research grants, fellowships, and other awards, and served as president of the D.C. Sociological Society. Yet on three occasions, in 1968, 1970, and 1971 she was refused promotion. Several committees investigating the case have found in her favor. When her credentials were compared with those of male full professors in her department, hers were judged equal or superior.

Dr. Cussler's case has now reached the federal district court in Baltimore. Although she is being represented by a noted and extremely capable attorney, Sylvia Roberts, they are hampered by lack of funds. They have not been able to hire technical staff, legal assistants, or full-time clerical help; the number of witnesses they can call has been limited by the expenses of travel and lodging. Dr. Cussler has spent her entire life's savings on legal costs to get this far. By contrast, the University is solidly backed by the resources of the state. Originally their own lawyers were handling the defense; now these have been supplemented by the Attorney General's office, which in turn has hired a private law firm.

This is one of the few sex discrimination cases filed by an individual, and it may be the first jury trial held on such charges against a University. If Dr. Cussler wins, she could be one of the first women to receive monetary compensation for damages from a university for sex discrimination. However, she still has a long row to hoe. Her case proves once again that even when we have legal weapons against entrenched sexism, we are fighting an unequal balance of power--the system can always find new blocks to throw in our path. Any contribution or support you can give to redress the balance is much needed. Please contact Sara Fein at 931-5824, 2317 N. Sibley St., Alexandria, Va, 22311.

CONCERT COSTS

On February 25, Casse Culver, Jeanne Mackey and Barba Kutzner, backed up by Diane DeGraffenreid, Jeb Mayf, and Patty Huntington of Lucha appeared in concert at St. Marks Church. The concert was sponsored by the Metropolitan Ministry with Women. Revs. Monica Styron-Mekig and Jeanne Clark see assisting women artists as an essential part of their ministry. As Jeanne put it, artistic expression is vital means for women "to claim the world"; as a production created entirely by woman power, the concert was an illustration of what we can do. Because money is so often a problem for feminist artists and audiences alike, they wanted to share information about their expenses with the women's community. Following is an itemized list:

PERFORMERS

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| 3 soloists | \$460, total |
| 3 back-up | |

TECHNICIANS

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Interpretor (Jane Rizzo) | \$25.00 |
| Sound, 4 people | \$135.00 |
| Lights, 6 people | \$126.00 |

ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| PR | \$224.00 |
| Space | \$50.00 |
| Set-up/Clean-up | In-kind payment |
| Piano tuning | \$30.00 |

PRODUCTION

| | |
|---------|----------|
| 3 women | 180+ hrs |
|---------|----------|

TOTAL \$1050.00

(300 tickets were sold at \$3.50 each, equalling an intake of \$1050.)

From these figures you can see that any group planning a concert needs \$300 up front for publicity and rent of space. Note also that no costs were listed for production because these were absorbed by MMWW's program budget. If these had been included, everyone's share would have been smaller. They were small enough as it was, especially if preparation time is figured in. Casse, for example, spent at least 40 hours rehearsing with the back-up artists and other soloists. If you add that to the actual concert time, and divide her share (around \$77) by the total, it appears that she received around \$1.32 an hour. At that rate, you are playing for love, not money. . . which is a wonderful thing, but might not pay the rent. So certain fixed costs are necessary to have concerts--who do you want to give your money to?

marcy rein

AT THE CENTER:

"WOMEN I HAVE VISIONED"

During the month of April artist Lauren Wiel will be exhibiting her work in "Art on the Wall" and "Closet Things". The showing, entitled, "Women I Have Visioned", will include oil paintings, drawings and many miniatures of women, plus, finished miniature boxes for storing your favorite small items. All of her art will be for sale. Come down and enjoy the exhibit! See you there.

WOMEN'S CENTER COMMON CHARACTERS CROSSWORD CONTEST!

Congratulations to the winners of the contest!!

1st Prize: Cheryl King
2nd Prize: P.J. Shimmel
3rd Prize: Jennifer Weiss

VOLUNTEER MEETING

The Women's Center is in need of volunteers to help us with a variety of tasks, newsletter writing, and answering the phones. If you have any time you could donate to us, large or small, we would be grateful.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Center, please come to a meeting on April 27th, at the Women's Center, Basement of Summer School, 17th and M Sts. NW, Washington, D.C., 7:30 pm or call us at 347-5078. Thanks!

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT

The Women's Center will be offering a series of "coffeehouse" type events on alternating weekends to come. Women are invited to perform or listen to community women read poetry, jam, play, sing, act, whatever!

The first "Women's Night Out" will take place on Saturday, April 23rd at 8 pm and will feature poetry readings.

If you are interested in performing, coordinating or helping out on this or other nights, please call Karen Wood at 547-6058 or call the Center at 347-5078.

WOMEN'S CENTER SOFTBALL

Building on a winning season last year, the Women's Center Softball team is already practicing weekly and planning various fund-raising events to support the team franchise. Money is needed for the franchise, as well as for equipment. A party and a car wash are being planned to help raise the needed funds.

The team is meeting and practicing on Sunday afternoons at 1 pm, at 11th and I sts. SE. If you are interested, just show up and bring what equipment you may have.

As the season continues, we shall keep the Center's readership advised of playing dates and team statistics.

NEW GROUPS FORMING

Women's Motorcycle Club

If you own a bike and would like to ride with other women on weekends and possibly go camping, come to the first meeting of the Women's Motorcycle Club, Tuesday, April 12th at 7:30 at the Women's Center or call Brenda, 864-7027.

Study Group

Several women have expressed interest in forming a new study group. If you are interested in studying feminist writings, women writers, etc. and discussing them with other women, call the center and leave your name, 347-5078.

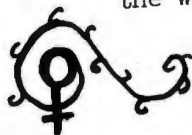
We will coordinate the formation of study groups for women in the areas of socialist/feminism, radical feminism, matriarchy, etc. Just call in your name and we will put you in contact with women with similar interests.

ONGOING RAP GROUPS

Women in Transition Support Group

This group provides an opportunity for women who are making changes in their lifestyles, relationships, careers, etc. to come together and share their experiences and receive support. It meets Weds. evenings; the last session will take place on April 20th; at the Women's Center, from 7 to 9 pm.

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MORE AT THE CENTER...

ONGOING RAP GROUPS (cont'd)

Teenage Rap Group

The rap group for Teenage Women will meet on Friday afternoons, 4-5:30, until April 22nd. at the Women's Center. For more info, call Nan Fry, 652-7260.

Women's Bi-Monthly Rap Group

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Topic: | Date: |
| Motherhood/Parent-Child Relationships | Apr. 4th |
| Ageism-attitudes/Sexuality/Lesbianism | Apr. 18th |

This group meets 8 pm, at the Women's Center.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Women's Center would like to thank Lee Laventhal, Christina Schultz, Sally Shaffer, and Johanna Vogelsang for donating their time, energy, and materials in making the posters seen about town for the dance.

BUILDING SOCIALISM IN NEW CHINA

On Saturday, April 30 at 2 pm Ethel Weichbrod will be speaking at the Women's Center about the social and economic conditions in China. She will also relate this to existing conditions here in the United States. Ms. Weichbrod is a representative of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Ass'n.

L. D. F.

A Lesbian Defense Fund is being started as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization in Vermont. The Fund's first project is collecting funds for a custody case being fought by a lesbian/feminist mother. She and her daughter are part of a living and working collective; the father is more traditional and financially secure. In effect, the mother is being tried for her sexual preference, lifestyle, and politics. Members of the Fund have been travelling all over the country securing support, because any local publicity would be used against the mother in court. It is their belief that, since we are all part of the same struggle, any issue involving state interference with the legal rights of a woman and children affects us all. Please send inquiries, information or contributions to the Lesbian Defense Fund, Box 4, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452.



IN OUR OWN WRITE is the monthly newsletter of the Washington Area Women's Center. Contributions for the next newsletter are due by April 15th. Please send them to NEWSLETTER, Washington Area Women's Center, Sumner School, 17th and M Sts., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. This newsletter is brought to you by: Marcy Rein, Chris Lundberg, Marilyn Braithewaite, Toni White, Beth Karbe, Sandy Black, Angie Carrera, Cynthia Callan.

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER



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