

IN OUR OWN WRITE

a monthly newsletter by the
WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER

1825 18th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009 (202)347-5078
July, June 1979 Issue

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LOOKING TO TOMORROW

How do you feel about growing old? Are you afraid of living a lonely, sexless existence? Will you be financially stable at sixty? How are we now preparing for growing old? These questions and many, many more are faced daily by millions of women and men and were addressed in a recent interview with Mary Ann McCarthy. Ms. McCarthy has been an activist for more than twenty years, is currently a member of Gray Panthers, and is one of the original founders of the National Organization for Women. When asked, "How do you feel about getting old?" She replied, "Hell, I was much too busy to realize I'd become an older woman!"

As women, as feminists, we are concerned with the problems of aging. We are after all, alternative seekers, politically aware, non-ageist as we agree that older women should not be put down, ignored or abused by our traditional society. But let's take a closer look. Have we seriously thought about growing older? Sure, we may have accepted the signs of "maturity" - a few gray hairs, a wrinkle or two - but have we really thought about our lives as older women? Are we prepared for the possibility of financial dependence, societal neglect and the most feared of all - loneliness?

Overcoming financial dependence is more a task of taking control of our own money matters, emphasizing a savings/insurance plan. In this harsh economic world, this is a reality which must be planned for early.

Conquering societal neglect is not quiet as simple. There are very few positive aspects of aging offered by either the young or even the old. Why is this happening when each one of us has some personal experience with older people? When our government itself is the last bastion of the seniority system with a majority of its most respected members over sixty? Why are there appalling reports daily about abusive tactics being perpetrated against the elderly? Why does our society allow the knowledge and wisdom of the old to be trapped inside nursing homes? Why do we segregate the elderly, creating unhealthy and unrealistic communities without benefit of a wide age range? There are questions that require the attention of all people of all ages working together to find solutions. After all, we will all be old eventually.

What about relationships? Is there sex after sixty? Do couples suddenly stop feeling sexual? Do people slip into celibacy in some predestined manner? How do you conquer loneliness when your spouse/lover dies, or divorces you. In our youth oriented society, growing old becomes synonymous with senility and uselessness. growing OLD. Ms. McCarthy, a gray panther, says her favorite saying is "Growth is the only evidence of life." GROWING old. Yet our society decides that emotional growth as well as physical must stop (be unchanged) at a certain age, as if all the wisdom, knowledge and foresight of the universe is inserted at a peak time in our lives and removed immediately by the "ravages" of old age. The death of sexual need is determined by society at a certain age as indicated by the rule of nursing homes that residents are segregated by sex. Surely, they cannot (and therefore must not) be interested in sex. Perhaps the greater fear is that of the "caretakers" who are faced with the task of discussing sexual behavior among the residents or more to the point, their own admission that they too will someday be old.

What about the older lesbian? She faces many of the same problems of straight older women, but does she face other problems as well? Can she find support systems in existing nursing homes? Can she find support among the younger lesbian community? Can a woman-identified community find answers and solutions that the straight community cannot?

The issue of ageism - how can these antiquated ideas be changed? Will we face our "enemy" and find instead a mirror? Where are the women in our lives who we forget, ignore and perhaps fear because we are afraid or apathetic? This article was not intended to answer questions, but rather to raise them.

What are your feelings
about the questions asked?
Do you have answers?

Join us at the Women's
Center lounge on Monday,
July 30, at 7:30 p.m. as
we "look to tomorrow."



WOMEN AND HERBS

Cultivation of plants and herbs was most likely a natural discovery of a matriarchal society characterized by nurturance and harmony with the natural world. When the patriarchy was overthrown, the concept of a relationship with plants was lost, and only witches retained some of the wisdom associated with the healing properties of plants. Empiricist witches relied on their senses and on cause and effect, rather than on faith, as suggested by the church for curing diseases.

As practiced by witches, herbalism is the most ancient of the healing arts. It was men's fear of the witches' skills that led to the witch burnings of the 15th through 17th centuries. The witches' demise coincided with a male invasion of medicine.

However, many of the "old wives' tales" types of remedies remained in existence, and now are used by medical doctors the world over. Digitalis is used to counter cardiac arrest; mayapple is used to treat various types of cancer; and ergot derivatives are useful in treating excessive bleeding.

More importantly, many modern day women have returned to the study of herbalism. Modern herbalists believe that herbal remedies not only cure a specific ailment, but also supply essential nutrients to the body which are useful as preventive medical measures. Goldenseal is used to dry a runny nose and a dandelion and peppermint tonic is used to soothe an upset stomach. Many women douche with any number of herbal remedies, one being lemon juice and water. A clove garlic inserted in the vagina or a douche of equal parts lemon juice and raspberry leaf tea are often used to treat vaginitis. Also, many herbal teas have healing powers, such as sassafras as a diuretic, wild cherry as a tonic, wild mint as an emetic, and chamomile as an antispasmodic.

Today, with a renewed impetus of feminism and a desire for harmony with the natural world, the ancient wisdom of our mother is being rediscovered. This rediscovery has also led women to practice more natural methods of preventing and curing illnesses, which furthers the concept of women's self-dependence and responsibility.

(info from Witches, Midwives, & Nurses; Daughters of Demeter-Women and Plants"; and National Geographic, Sept '74)

--Marilyn Braithwaite



Rainbow

You came into my life and brought with you
A great big beautiful rainbow.
A rainbow with brighter colors and deeper hues
Than anyone could ever know.

There have been other rainbows that have crossed
my path,
Each more wondrous than the one before.
But I have always been afraid of rainbows -
Attracted and repelled, yet forever reaching
out for more.

Yours was the first I ever dared to climb;
To discover what it held inside.
And I looked up, and down, and far, and wide,
And it felt so wonderful and warm
That I wanted to stay and look for more.

But the rainbow ran, afraid for its gold -
Unfortunately it doesn't know
That I have always been a chaser of rainbows,
Although I know there is no pot of gold
Waiting for me on the other side.

LHCC UPDATE

LESBIAN HEALTH & COUNSELING CENTER IN FULL
OPERATION

On Thursday, May 24th the Health Center opened its doors after many months of preparation. Opening night there were flowers on the table, women's pictures on the wall, and a lot of excitement in the air.

That first night went relatively smoothly which is not to say we haven't had some chaotic evenings since. There's still a lot we have to learn from each other, and we also learn from each woman who comes to the center for "health caring". Near future plans include Thursday Evening classes in nutrition, self-help, and basic anatomy. If you would like to take a class or teach one, please contact us.

Our services include nutrition counseling, health assessment, gyn care (pap smears, self-help, VD testing, and tests for vaginal infections), herbal remedies, psychic self-healing, pregnancy counseling, and referrals. We are open every Thursday night from 7-9 PM.

The Counseling group is open every Wednesday from 7-10 PM with peer counselors providing crisis intervention, a weekly lesbian rap group with open topics, support groups, or just an atmosphere to talk.

Of course we still don't have everything we need. If you are able to donate a folding table, picture frames, a small lamp, or stool for a gyn table, bring it on over or call and let us know.

Is there a woman doctor in the house? Though we now provide comprehensive health care, it's still clear that our services could broaden a doctor on our staff or simply on an on-call basis.

The LHCC is located at the Whitman-Walk Clinic at 1606 17th St. NW, and the phone number is 332-5295. All women are welcome.

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POETRY

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A rainbow with brighter colors and deeper hues
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Each more wondrous than the one before.
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TCL

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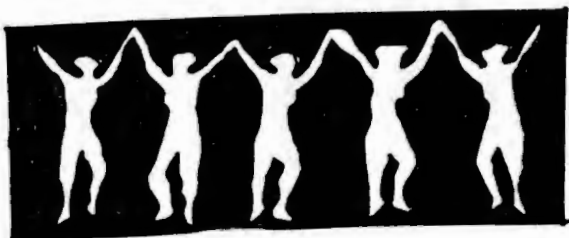
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOUSING FORUM/DINNER: The D.C. Area Feminist Alliance presents a forum on the policies, strategies, and players in the D.C. Housing Game. The forum will be held August 3rd at the First Congregational Church, 10th & G Sts., N.W. Dinner at 7 p.m., speakers at 7:30. Program includes presentations by Marie Nahikian, Margo Karanjai, Arleen Rogan. For more information call 293-1347 (day) and 547-3602 (evenings).

OFF OUR BACKS OPEN HOUSE - OOB welcomes women into their office for "conversation, questions, food & drink," Sunday July 15, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1724 20th St., N.W., 2nd floor. Call 234-8072 for further information.

DISCRIMINATION is rampant in D.C. bars via the system of carding (showing I.D.). Carding is illegal; if it happens to you or someone with you, file a complaint with the D.C. Human Rights Commission, 727-3100.

FEMINIST ALLIANCE AGAINST RAPE publishers of Aegis: Magazine On Ending Violence Against Women, is having an Open House on Wed., July 18th from 7:30 - 9:30 PM at 115 8th St. SE. Anyone who is interested in working with us or who would like to talk with us about the struggles against rape, battering, sexual harassment, etc. is welcome. Call 543-5580 for further information.

THE D.C. AREA FEMINIST ALLIANCE will hold its next meeting on Thursday July 12 at All Souls Church, 16th and Harvard Sts. N.W. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and the main topic of discussion will be racism. For more information call Judy at 783-3410 or Jill at 832-4959.

ADELPHI WOMEN'S CENTER'S July Potluck, July 13 at 7 p.m. will feature a slide presentation by ARM (Abortion Rights Movement). The Center is located in Paint Branch Unitarian Church, 3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi Md. Call YES-5265 for more information on this and other women's programs.

WASHINGTON WOMEN'S ARTS CENTER is having an opening reception for its annual "New Faces" exhibit, 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday July 17. Call 332-2121 for further information.

INTERNATIONAL BRUNCH - This year Mishpocheh (MCT), The Gay Synagogue, will be combining patriotic spirit with healthy appetites with an International Brunch to be held Wed., July 4th at 1:00 PM at Christ United Methodist Church. The brunch will be followed by optional dancing at area hot spots and witnessing of the local fireworks. Cost of the brunch is \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members. Further details can be gotten from the MCT Answering Service at 544-3434.

PARENTS WHO ARE GAY (PWAG) - PWAG is sponsoring a picnic for parents and their children July 15 at 2:00 PM at Carderock Park. For further info call Vern at 232-8855. PWAG also has general meetings the first Friday of each month at Satterlee Hall on St. Albans school grounds.

GALA EXTRAVAGANZA FOR WOMEN! July 13, 10 PM to 3 AM, sponsored by the By Sisters Association. Will be held at the RFK Locker Room, 4th level, Lot 4, F Gate. Tickets must be bought in advance. NO DOOR SALES. \$10 fee covers buffet, complimentary drink, door prizes. BYOL. For ticket info call 638-4672 or 667-5495. Tickets are available at Lammas. "We are established for the exclusive pleasure of women."

Is she tired of proving she's a feminist because of unsightly scanty leg hair?

If so, we have the perfect gift suggestion. Make her more of a woman with our beautiful **FUR STOCKINGS!** Available in all hair colors and sizes.

Ask for "HAIRY LEGS" at better hosiery shops today.



CLASSIFIED

W.A.W.C. CLASSIFIED RATES AND INFORMATION: Personal Ads (housing, individual selling items) - \$1.00 for 30 words. Business & Services Offered - \$2.00 for first 30 words, 10c per word thereafter. Display Ads (camera-ready copy) - \$7.00 for 1/4 page, \$13.00 for 1/2 page. The Staff reserves the right to refuse any ad it deems exploitive/demeaning to women. Check or money order MUST accompany ad copy and be received by the 15th of the month previous to publication. Make all checks payable to the Washington Area Women's Center.

MARRIED WOMAN with two small children wants/needs privacy of room of own to rent two days and nights per week, preferably convenient to Metro Redline. Call Betsy, 277-9287.

JUNE - OCTOBER SUBLET for woman to share furnished house in Hyattsville with two lesbian women. No pets. Beautiful yard, close to U. of Md., Silver Spring and D.C. \$125/month + utilities. 422-9246.

CENTERNEWS

RAP GROUP TOPICS

SPECIAL RAP GROUP

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Please note date changes of the last two rap groups which were indicated differently in last months newsletter. And don't forget the rap group starts at 7:30 PM now instead of 8 PM.

July 2- no rap group (a holiday for us!)

July 9- Wine, Women and Wine - Why is the problem of alcoholism becoming more and more prevalent in the women's community? What do we do as we watch our cherished friends, lovers and sisters in their unhappiness? Can we look at ourselves and our own drinking habits?

July 16- No Longer Together - Separating from a lover would be difficult enough in a social vacuum; living in the women's community further complicates the process. What have the pressures and the problems of "breaking-up" been for you? Where have you found support for getting through this hard time?

July 23- Teenage Women - "We are young and we are the most important resource for the future of the movement but we are being lost to apathy and isolation. What can be done?" - S. Skinner (reprint from May '77 issue of IN OUR OWN WRITE)

July 24- SPECIAL***** see special Rap Group article, this issue. Note: this is on a Tuesday, instead of Monday.

July 30- Looking To Tomorrow - Is there life after youth? What do you see yourself doing, being, needing in your 20's, 30's, 40's....60's and beyond? What are our expectations and fears on growing older? Our youth oriented society does not accept getting older as a process. As a result, young people do not realize that they too will someday be old. We need to re-establish communication among the generations.

SNEAK PREVIEWS

UPCOMING RAP GROUP TOPICS

Aug 6 Planning meeting
13 Staying Healthy in a Sick Society
20 Rape *
27 Body Images

* these titles may change but topic will remain the same.

In response to the membership feedback questionnaire, a rap group is scheduled for Tues. July 24, 7:30-9:30 PM. Proposed by Cathy, she gives the following premises for opening up the discussion:

I define myself as a radical feminist because I believe:

- in working toward the elimination of sex roles
- biology is not destiny
- female and male roles are learned
- oppression of women is manifested particularly in marriage, motherhood, intercourse, church, workplace
- women are victimized by men
- women have been oppressed longer than any other group.

I am a radical feminist and I am married to a man.

Sometimes I have difficulty intergrating what I believe politically and how I live personally. Although my husband is very "liberated," I sometimes find myself angry at him because he is part of the enemy. I am interested in getting together with other straight women who feel similarly.

Some of the issues I personally would like to talk about are:

- living with constant anger toward men in general, but loving some men.
- being feminine without being a sex object.
- choosing motherhood, a traditional female occupation, or housework without feeling like you've sold out to patriarchy.

I have no answers -- just my own feelings and experiences. If you have similar concerns, let's share how we deal with them.

proposed format for group:

- each woman introduces herself and says what she wants from the group.
- issues are listed and group decides which they want to discuss.

For more info call The Women's Center at 347-5078 Mon-Thurs 6-9 PM

memory jogger

DID YOU REMEMBER TO MAIL IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE FROM THE JUNE ISSUE OF "IN OUR OWN WRITE"? If you haven't already, mail it today! We want that feedback, feedback, feedback.....

and more centernews

SPORTS

LETTERS

CONGRATULATIONS again to the Women's Center Team. So far they have won 6 out of 7 games, beating the Jaybirds (see June issue), I.P.G.-15 to 8, Action - 8 to 7, I.P.G. (again)-19 to 6 and Le-roy's Angel's -12 to 4! Join us at the ballpark at 23rd and Constitution Ave., N.W., Field 17 at 7:15 PM on July 5-Jaybirds vs. W.A.W.C and on July 12- W.A.W.C. vs. PLICO. Spectators and cheerers welcome!

WORKSHOPS

Women who are interested in volunteering at the Washington Area Women's Center or current staff members who want to learn more about the office and project operations of the center are invited to come to the following workshops:

July 10 Telephone/Resource Workshop 7-8:30 PM
July 22 Telephone/Resource Workshop 4-5:30 PM

Feel free to drop in at any or all of these!

ART ON THE WALL

ART ON THE WALL IS BACK!! After a short lull, The Women's Center will begin exhibiting local women's art. The first exhibit is scheduled for September '79. Any women artists interested in displaying their work should call Sandy at 521-3199 or leave a message at the Women's Center, 347-5078.

HELP WANTED

NOTE: The Newsletter Staff is made up of any women who are interested in writing, typing, layout, mail-out or any other of the numerous tasks involved in putting out a monthly newsletter. We invite you, the membership/readers to contribute anythings from graphics to stories, articles or letters. Here's a chance to share with our sisters our ideas, art and comments. Interested women should call 347-5078 for newsletter time schedule.



join! WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER

MEMBERSHIP:

\$1.50 per thousand dollars of income per year.

Minimum membership (due to operating costs) is \$7.00.

NEWSLETTER ONLY:

\$4.00 per year.

Dear Sisters,

It was a pleasure to review the completed questionnaire which many of you mailed to us in response to the June issue Open Letter. As we read your replies, we became more and more excited at the prospect of sharing and implementing your ideas.



Your answers tell us that the Rap Group, Women's Nite Out and our dances are, by far, the most popular of our projects with Open House and Center parties being close seconds. Study groups, very popular last year, got few "check-marks", yet we wonder if it is due to lack of interest or lack of good programming. Educational classes, such as bike repair, financial seminars or yoga, have in the past received little support. The one exception is the Lesbian History Class, which is always filled to the rim. We realize that a big part of the problem is our public relation/new release system, which needs a lot of work! However, good fortune has sent us Clarice who plans to re-enforce our P.R. list. She asks that any women interested in "doing PR" with her, call the center. Program suggestions included but were not confined to: formal seminars on women's issues, home security workshop, signing classes (communication with our deaf community) and others. We'll do our best.

We received a lot of compliments and constructive criticism on the newsletter. For that, we are thankful. Few people realize the woman power put into each issue, therefore, it means a lot to us to hear from you about it. (This typist wants to insert here a vote of appreciation to the terrific women who put so much of themselves into each and every issue, especially Sue Valenza who makes each newsletter coordination a special caring experience!) One reader asks what standards are used to judge poetry and what is intended to be the scope of the newsletter. In answer to both questions.... We agree that words strung together in broken lines are not necessarily poetry. However, we don't feel that the purpose of the newsletter is to become a literary publication, with an editorial staff to review, critique, and possibly reject. Instead, we hope to encourage women to open up and share their feelings and skills. If the possibility of being published in the newsletter will help the flow for some women, it would be a shame to take that outlet away. Essentially, the newsletter is an open form for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to women. All women are urged to take advantage of this tool for communication. Inclusion of an article, poem, graphic, etc., is limited only by page space and our printing budget. Our only editorial policy is that we reserve the right to refuse any item which we deem exploitive or de-meaning to women.

cont'd on page 7

JULY • 1979

S m t w t f s

<p>1. DIGNITY EACH SUN. 7:30 PM 3728 #0 ST. WILLIAMS CHURCH</p> <p>WAWC STAFF MTG. 6 PM ALL & WELCOME</p>	<p>2. No Rap Group</p> <p>Self proclaimed holiday for facilitators!</p>	<p>3. GAY SYNAGOGUE - BRUNCH 1 PM #</p> <p>LHCC 7-10 PM</p> <p>W.A.W.C. </p>	<p>4. LHCC 7-9 PM</p> <p>W.A.W.C. * SOFTBALL GAME FIELD #17 7:15 PM</p>	<p>5. GEN. MTG - PARENTS WHO ARE GAY & SHABOAT EACH FRID. 7:30 CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 478 #1, SW</p>	<p>6. COGS ATZUCK 14. 7:30 AM 667-2616</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>	<p>7. COGS ATZUCK 21. 7:30 PM 423-6747</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>
<p>WAWC STAFF MTG. 8. 6 PM</p> <p>All & WELCOME</p>	<p>9. WRG 7:30 PM</p> <p>"DINE, WOMEN & DRINK"</p>	<p>10. TELEPHONE/RESOURCE WORKSHOP - WAWC 7-8:30 PM</p>	<p>11. LHCC 7-10 PM</p> <p>AAL, VA 522-0493 </p>	<p>12. FEMINIST ALLIANCE MTG. 7 PM ALL SOULS</p> <p>W.A.W.C. SOFTBALL GAME - FIELD #17 7:15 PM. *</p>	<p>13. ALLEGRI BARNES CENTER ATZUCK 7 PM #</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>	<p>14. COGS ATZUCK 21. 7:30 PM 423-6747</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>
<p>15. OOB OPEN HOUSE 2-6 PM #</p> <p>PARENTS WHO ARE GAY PICNIC 2 PM CROSBY</p> <p>WAWC STAFF MTG. 6 PM ALL & WELCOME</p>	<p>16. WRG 7:30 PM</p> <p>"NO LONGER TOGETHER" "IN OUR OWN WRITE" NEWSLETTER DEADLINE! Mary O'Brien July 6, 1979</p>	<p>17. OPENING RECEPTION FOR "NEW FACES" EXHIBIT AT WASH. WOMEN'S ART CENTER 6-8 PM</p>	<p>18. OPEN HOUSE - FEMINIST ALLIANCE AGAINST RAPES 7:30-9:30 PM #</p> <p>LHCC 7-10 PM</p>	<p>19. LHCC 7-9 PM</p>	<p>20. COGS ATZUCK 21. 7:30 PM 423-6747</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>	<p>21. COGS ATZUCK 21. 7:30 PM 423-6747</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>
<p>22. TELEPHONE/RESOURCE WORKSHOP - WAWC 4-5:30 PM</p> <p>WAWC STAFF MTG 6 PM ALL & WELCOME</p>	<p>23. WRG 7:30 PM</p> <p>"TEENAGE 8"</p>	<p>24. SPECIAL WRG # 24. WAWC 7:30-9:30 PM</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>	<p>25. LHCC 7-10 PM</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>	<p>26. LHCC 7-9 PM</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>	<p>27. COGS ATZUCK 21. 7:30 PM 423-6747</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>	<p>28. COGS ATZUCK 21. 7:30 PM 423-6747</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>
<p>29. WAWC STAFF MTG. 6 PM ALL & WELCOME</p>	<p>30. WRG 7:30 PM</p> <p>"Looking for Tomorrow"</p> <p>Emily B. 10/18</p>	<p>31. COMING UP 8/3 D.C. AREA FEMINIST ALLIANCE FORUM 1300 CONGRESSIONAL CHURCH SUMMER 7 PM SPARKS 750 MORE INFO 293-1347 (JAY) 547-3602 (GIVE)</p>	<p>26. LHCC 7-9 PM</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>	<p>27. COGS ATZUCK 21. 7:30 PM 423-6747</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>	<p>28. COGS ATZUCK 21. 7:30 PM 423-6747</p> <p>Gay Extravaganza for women!! RPK stadium 10 PM - 3 AM 478 DOOR SALES SO FRS ANNOUNCEMENT!</p>	<p>29. WAWC STAFF MTG. 6 PM ALL & WELCOME</p>

LETTERS CONT'D

In some replies, we were taken to task for our lack of volunteer follow-up (see June issue) and we realize more than ever our need to "stay connected" with members and volunteers who want to be involved with the Center. It is an intense and continuous process.

Support and encouragement came from so many yet there is so much we want to do.

From these questionnaires, we've also ascertained that many of our readers who are straight feminist women need an outlet for feminist discussion pertaining to heterosexual lifestyle. Women interested in such a project should check out the Special Rap Group on the Centernews page. We hope that a balance can be struck in serving all the women in our community, gay and straight, with an emphasis on our role as an alternative space "guided by the needs of the women's community."- statement of purpose.

Before we forget, plans are underway to re-construct Women's Nite Out (music and poetry). Yah! We are targeted to do it in August and hope that any women interested in performing, helping with set-up, etc., or publicity will let us know!

A final note: The structure of the Center encourages all members to participate and direct what happens here. We again invite you to join us any Sunday night, 6 PM at the regular staff meeting. Watch your calendar for exceptions/holidays or call us during regular office hours to make sure! Thanks again for your replies via the questionnaire or letters. It makes so much difference to the well-being and growth of the Center.

In sisterhood and struggle,
the Center Staff

Dear Friends:

Your donation to the Clinic is greatly appreciated. As importantly, your active support of the Lesbian Health and Counseling Center comes at a critical time.

The women who have created, organized, and now staff the LHCC programs have donated many personal hours to bringing health and counseling services to the women's community. But they must now have the continuing support of the community, in donations of funds, volunteer assistance, and patronage of their services, if their dedication is to be rewarded.

The LHCC is a program of Washington area women, as well as a program for women. I am proud that it is also a program of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, but the Clinic Administration serves as maintenance and support. LHCC exists only through the involvement of individual women who will make it a successful service to the community.

Your support means that LHCC has the backing of the women's community. Thank you for making that support visible.

Warmly,
Whitman-Walker Clinic, Inc.

Hello--

Thanks for asking for member feedback. I have been a subscriber for about two years. I have never volunteered nor have I attended any of the Women's Center activities. Part of the reason why I have not is that I am a Ph.D. candidate--and have no time for anything but essentials. But there is another part too. From the activities and newsletter articles, I have felt that the Women's Center is very lesbian oriented. I am straight--and married--but define myself as a radical feminist. I have seen little which is personal to me. I realize as I write this that I have not volunteered to help meet my own needs and possibly the needs of other straight women. And so I don't have much room to bitch. At some less frantic point in my life, I would like to volunteer.

I continue my membership with the Women's Center because I believe in supporting women's activities--if only with my money. And I am interested in and feel it's important to read about what other women are thinking, doing, etc.... I think that the newsletter serves an important function in this way.

I hope that these comments are taken constructively. Good luck!

--C.S.

P.S. As I start to put this in the envelope, I think that I would volunteer for something and would be interested in leading a rap group for women who are straight and radical feminist--discussing difficulties in maintaining relationships with liberated men (while at the same time hating man kind), etc. If you think there would be a response to this kind of group, please call me.

Editor's Note: The staff invited C.S. to our Sunday meeting and discussed the possibility of a group to meet this need. Readers, see Special Rap Group article on page 5.

Dear Washington Area Women's Center Staff,

We, at the Lesbian Health and Counseling Center want to reiterate our thanks for making the 2nd Annual Debutante Ball a shared benefit. With money as tight as it is these days, your generosity is especially appreciated.

Our opening night last Thursday was a great success. It seems that our collective idea of the way health care can be is not so far-fetched at all. There are still many bugs to be worked out, but we are very excited about what we are doing.

The Counseling group is still growing and thriving.

The continued support of the community, such as you all have shown, gives us a much more assured future.

Come by and visit any time.

In Sisterhood,
The Lesbian Health and
Counseling Center

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Lammas Women's Shop.....	546-7292
Lesbian Health & Counseling Ctr.....	332-5295
My Sister's Place (for battered women)	529-5991
Natl Abortion Rights Action League....	347-7774
Natl Assoc of Women Business Owners...	338-8966
NOW - National Organization	347-2279
NOW - DC Chapter.....	387-6895
NOW - Sexuality Task Force.....	466-2934
Off Our Backs.....	234-8072
Quest, A Feminist Quarterly.....	293-1347
Rape Crisis Center.....	333-RAPE
The Printer: Tina Lunsen.....	332-3945
Wash. Area Women's Center.....	347-5078
Wash. Women's Arts Center	332-2121
Wider Opportunities for Women.....	638-4868
Women in Distribution	526-7400
Women's Legal Defense Fund.....	638-1123
Women's National Bank.....	466-4090
Woman Sound.....	332-4220

Do you wish to have your group or organization's activities listed in the announcement section of IN OUR OWN WRITE? Call 347-5078 before the newsletter deadline. Be sure to include the name and number of a "contact" in case we need more details or have questions. Thanks!

IN OUR OWN WRITE is the monthly newsletter of the Washington Area Women's Center, 1825 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. The Women's Center does not necessarily support opinions expressed in articles, announcements, ads and inserts but the staff does reserve the right to refuse any items which are exploitive or demeaning to women. All items are subject to space limitations.

This issue is brought to you by Jan Dixon, Maggie Nash, Sandy Black, Angie Carrera, Sue Valenza and Clarice Martin. Special thanks to all the women who helped with the mailing this month. Thanks again to Tina Lunson, the printer!

QUOTES

From the photographer/government worker/girl's school founder Emma Jane Gay's letter home while "in the field" photographing Nez Percé tribal members:

"Sept. 21, 1890. My dear Jane: 'How do we live?' you ask with an accent upon the do, as if anybody needed to do anything to keep life, once started, on the move. Why! it won't stop; its inevitable ongoing is appalling. Only give the engine wood and water and it surges on over its appointed road, throbbing its irresistible way until the catastrophe comes, and then it is only switched off upon a new track.

"We are not yet switched upon a new track, and our wood and water hold out. Did you ever think how simple the process of living really is, if you divest it of the esthetic element which so complicates it with you?"

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER

Referrals:

Housing
Employment
Physicians
Therapists
Legal
Shelter

Library and periodicals
Dances and special Events
Rap Groups

Classes

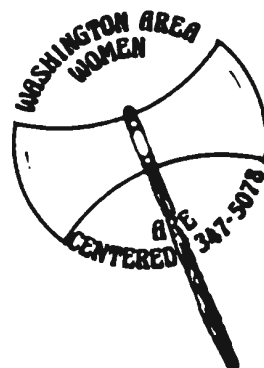
Support Groups:

Music
Poetry and Fiction
General

Art-on-the-Wall

Women's Nite Out

IN OUR OWN WRITE, a monthly newsletter



DEADLINE FOR AUGUST - JULY 15

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