

# on our way

the Women's Center Newsletter  
7 March 72 Volume 1 no. 9  
From 46 Pleasant St. Camb.

FREE  
354-8807

Hey! Hey! Women's Day!



March 8, International Women's Day, will be celebrated this year in Boston by a demonstration and rally on Saturday, March 11. The rally will begin at 12 noon on the Boston Common, opposite the statue of Ann Hutchinson on the State House lawn, and will be followed by a march through downtown Boston, past the Charles St. Jail, the welfare office, and the shopping district, and ending at Government Center.

International Women's Day was first celebrated in this country in 1908. It became an international socialist holiday in 1910. Its celebration in Petrograd in 1917 sparked the first Russian revolution. Today it is celebrated by women all over the world. Last year's International Women's Day march culminated in the seizure of a Harvard owned building as a women's center. The building was held for ten days.

The Women's Day celebration will continue in the evening, with a Women's Rock Concert beginning at 8 p.m. at the Boston University School of Public Communications auditorium, at 640 Commonwealth Avenue. The concert will be a benefit for the Women's Center which has just opened at 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, and for the Boston Feminist Press. Donations will be \$2.00.

Urgent warning: read this!

Dear Sisters:

This is an urgent message.

As a result of reading unauthorized and misleading articles in *Everywoman* (Menstrual Extraction, October 26, 1971, etc.) and the *Spokewoman* (December 1, 1971), many sisters are writing us for "do-it-yourself abortion kits" or menses extraction kits. There is no such thing as a safe "do-it-yourself abortion kit." Much of the information in several of the articles was false and dangerous. The Self-Help Clinic does not teach self abortion and disclaims any affiliation with any group which does.

**WARNING: DO NOT ATTEMPT THESE METHODS.  
SAVE OUR SISTERS PLEASE SPREAD THIS WORD AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.**

Self-Help Clinic  
Orange County Women's Center  
and/or Los Angeles Women's Center

In healthy sisterhood,

## DECISIONS FROM THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Decisions from Coordinating Committee Meeting were:

Maintenance committee will be notified to change locks on front and back doors, and locks for windows.

Fund raising and maintenance committees should send someone to Coordinating Committee meetings to report. Sign up sheets for these committees will be at the Women's Center.

Tape recorder should be brought to meetings for minutes.

Third world and community women's groups have a clear priority in use of the space at the Women's Center unconditionally.

Future coordinating committee meetings should be held at the Women's Center for convenience and discouragement of ingrouping. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 7 at 6:00.

## Decisions From The Newsletter

Some decisions made by newsletter staff were:

— that we consider ourselves a core group committed to putting out a newsletter regularly in the hope that having somewhat the same group will end confusion as to who and how the newsletter gets done. In no way do we feel ourselves to be an exclusive group, and we will continue to welcome any help from other women.

— In general we feel women who wish to write statements in the newsletter should sign their first name. We feel that it is important to know who is saying what, because articles are written by individual women and not nebulous voices. Also, we feel that we should be able to comment on statements and articles either collectively or individually.

— We feel that if an article needs editing, the woman who wrote the article knows best what can be changed and therefore writers should be contacted regarding any changes that staff wants to make. We should also contact the writer if we feel an article is unclear, to try and work out clarification, etc., that because of the amount of work involved in doing the newsletter, any articles over 250-300 words will have to be typed out by the writer or something. It should be done on a composer or super small print typewriter.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Roommate needed for gaywoman living near the Women's Center in Central Square. If you are looking for a place to live, call and we'll talk about it. Carol 661-8961.

If you'd like to join a discussion on radical child rearing, come to the Women's Center Fridays at 7 p.m. For more information call Bev 861-0327. Also if you would like to help set up the child care rooms, contribute equipment, do child care, or help with a party for neighborhood kids.

Lesbian middle class women - consciousness raising and discussion to talk about middle class backgrounds and CLASS in general. Mondays at 8:00 at the Women's Center.

Lesbian liberation meetings are Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at the Women's Center. On March 15 we'll talk about projects, use of space, etc. On March 22 topics for discussion will be "class" and "legal hassles."

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is Friday, March 17 and announcements should be in no later than Sunday, March 19. Articles can be left at the Women's Center office.

Women who would like to develop a library, donate books, or suggest books, call the Women's Center 354-8807.

Meeting to plan a women's assembly - Wed. March 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00 p.m. Call 864-7138

## In The Beginning...



This was written to women who were involved in the 888 Memorial Drive building takeover last year with the idea of evaluating some of what we learned from that experience; but we also hope that what we're saying will be clear to other women and that all women will feel free to respond.

Sisters

It's been a year since our occupation of 888 Memorial Drive, and we've been reminiscing about it. We wanted to share some of our thoughts with you.

The main thing that's struck us over and over since we left 888 is how many women we reached through our struggle. We're continually meeting and hearing about women all over the Boston area who were turned on by the action. A lot of them couldn't come to the building for all kinds of reasons—like having families and jobs that demanded all their time—but dug the risks we were taking in the name of Sisterhood. The fact that we were willing to take those risks, plus the obvious strength of our numbers, gave a real meaning to our claims that "Sisterhood is Powerful." Our seizing a building from big bad manly Harvard illustrated in concrete action what our women's movement is about: taking back control over our own lives, and challenging—and eventually beating—the powers in America that presently seek to control all of us. In our action we also tried to give some reality to our claims of support for the struggles of Third Worldpeoples. In our active support of the Riverside community against Harvard;

After we left 888, we remember people talking about how important it was that our struggle had been real as opposed to symbolic. It's true that we took something we actually needed in our lives, but looking back on that week, we've also been thinking about the powerful ways the action was symbolic. Eventually our actions will be all concrete, but for now, our symbolism shows a vision of the future. Our choice of Harvard as a target was symbolic—we didn't destroy Harvard, but we launched an attack on this microcosm of white american male power.

Our telegram of support to Mme. Binh in Paris was also symbolic—a link between us in 888 and the Vietnamese people. Creating struggles that both symbolically and more immediately and concretely show our hatred of American imperialism and power defines and builds our movement. It's this revolutionary movement itself that's the real, not symbolic, threat to the United States and to any domination of one group of people over another.

Remembering the week in 888 naturally includes remembering the end. Our tactical retreat was definitely a victory, but we also have to think about the run-down of energy that occurred in the last day or so in the building. Exhaustion, cold, and the constant threat of a bust accounted for a lot of it (our opponents in this country are formidable enemies—i.e. shutting off the heat), but we've been thinking that we made a mistake right in the beginning that contributed to the draining of energy at the end. We're talking about the demands we issued on the second day of the struggle, and about the subsequent interminable talks about secret negotiations with Harvard. What we were about was clear before we tried to write it down as demands, and by making written demands we opened ourselves up to temptations from Harvard—hints of offers of buildings and money that had the effect of raising false hopes and obscuring the battle lines. (Harvard tried to separate us from the Riverside community by hinting at offers of a building for us without meeting the Riverside demand to negotiate with Harvard about housing. This did not work!) We finally did beat Harvard by ignoring all that corporate intrigue, but it had already turned a lot of energy away from the work of spreading out from the center to meet and reach new women, and setting up our temporary programs there.

Now that our new Women's Center is getting together, providing some services and an opportunity to meet and work with other women, we felt a need to remind ourselves and others of the history of militancy behind the center. We should constantly be trying to understand and help support the struggles and projects going on around Boston—in communities, schools, and prisons. A large part of defining ourselves as a revolutionary Women's Movement consists of understanding ourselves as a source of concrete support which other groups and individuals can really use. And we can really benefit from the energy and learning we can get from relating to other struggles! The militant tradition of 888 is of primary importance in the Women's Center. We should never stop looking at the center as part of an offensive against the state, and we should always be trying to find new ways to extend that offensive. 888 lives on and on!

"My wish is to ride the tempest,

Tame the waves,  
Kill the sharks,

I want to drive the enemy away to save our people.  
I will not resign myself to the usual lot of women."

— Trieu thi Trunh

Sisters in struggle,

Laura and Joan

Staff for this week:  
Jackie, Margaret, Irene  
Sue, Tina, Myra, Linda  
Elizabeth, Judy.