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Newsletter of the Women's Center 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Telephone: (617) 354-8807

SUMMER 1983

NEW BEDFORD RAPE UPDATE

We, the members of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, wish to voice our anger and horror at the rape of a New Bedford woman in a local tavern on Sunday evening, March 6th, while bar patrons looked on. We are in complete support of the rape survivor's decision to pres charges and of the effort of all New Bedford women and men who speak out in her defense.

We urge the pressing of accessory charges against the onlookers, none of whom acted to stop the assault.

Boston area women who attended the demonstration in New Bedford after the rape were tremendously moved, especially by the wide range of the population represented there: women and men of different ages, races, and classes. "It was the most diverse group I've ever seen at a demonstration", commented one participant.

The rape has received unprecedented media attention. Feminists both in New Bedford and elsewhere have expressed outrage at this crime and have seen this outrage mirrored in extensive, unrelentig media attention. People in every walk of life are appalled by the details of this crime - that a woman was raped in a public place and no one was willing to intervene on her behalf. Women who never felt vulnerable to rape before feel vulnerable now.

As feminists who work in the antirape movement, we agree that this crime is outrageous and is, like all rape, unacceptable. However, we are disturbed by the anti-immigrant

WOMEN'S PENTAGON ACTION Peace Encampment Update

The Seneca Women's Peace Encampment will open on July 4, 1983 and run until Labor Day at or near the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, New York. The Seneca Army Depot is a storage site for nuclear weapons; both the neutron bomb and the cruise missile are believed to be housed at Seneca.

The Peace Encampment has a new name, "The Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice". A poster publicizing the encampment will be ready soon and two offices are opening: one in Geneva, NY, about 20 miles from the Depot and the other in New York city. A caucus of Women of Color has been meeting about the Peace Encampment: Lorenda Fambro at Philadelphia WILPF (215) 563-7110 contacted. The can actual location of the camp is still uncertain and a decision has been made to buy a piece of farmland so that a safe, legal encampment can happen along with a continuous potentially illegal camp at to the entrance base. The purchase price of the land will be about \$35,000 (\$\$ is needed).

The first few organizational. meetings for the Women's Peace Encampment were held in Boston over the last few months. The first, on March 30, was attended by 75 women. It was clear that there is a lot of energy and excitement for this project in Boston. Four local committees formed: Fundraising, been Staff/Office, Media/Outreach, CD/Action. These committees have begun to meet separately but will

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FRAMINGHAM WOMEN'S PRISON Update

In the past several months, there has been a marked increase in harassment (including beatings) of the women inmates at Framingham. Recently a support group has formed in Boston to monitor the situation and publicize what is happening at Framingham.

In late April, the State Police (possibly as part of a "training" exercise) raided one of the cottages at Framingham. Over 50 troopers participated in the raid. No illegal activity was discovered.

Women at Framingham and their supporters in the community are demanding some immediate changes at Framingham, which include:

- •an active Furlough Program. Currently there are no guidelines for women prisoners to go on furlough.
- •Women in the Awaiting Trial Unit (ATC) are not allowed access to the law library nor has there been any process by which they can obtain information about their rights as defendants.
- •Women are being double bunked.
- Some women are being shifted back and forth between the Lindeman Mental Health Center and the Maximum Security Unit at Framingham.
- There is a documented increase in harassment by guards of inmates, including enforcement of petty rules and regulations.

For further information and to get involved and support our sisters at Framingham, contact: Mass. Correctional Legal Services, 294 Washington St., Rm 744, Boston, 02108



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

It now appears that there will be an anti-abortion referendum question on the ballot in 1984. The Coalition for Reproductive Freedom started two years ago in March. In late March of this year, it dissolved into a statewide coalition which is working on trying to stop the state Human Life Amendment, S1711 and the referendum question. The amendment and referendum question reads:

The General Court may regulate or prohibit abortion and may regulate or prohibit private or public funding of abortion or the provision of services or facilities thereof.

While this amendment cannot override current federal laws protecting a woman's right to choose, it would have a serious impact on the people of this state. Massachusetts could become the first state in the country to prohibit abortion under any and all circumstances.

The statewide coalition, mentioned above, has started organizing to try to stop the anti-woman forces in this state from passing the referendum. Some of the former members of the Coalition for Reproductive Freedom and others interested in a broader focus and understanding of reproductive rights questions have formed a new group, a Boston chapter of the Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2). There have been only two meetings so far. The next meeting will be on June 8, 7:30 pm, at UMass, downtown. For more information, contact Linda through the Core committee at the Women's Center, 354-8807.

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Needed: Donation of a gas stove in good operating condition for the Women's Center kitchen. Should have a dependable oven and broiler. Call 354-8807 and leave a message for the Core committee.

Wanted: Donation of perennials, for the Women's Center garden, that can grow in both sun and shade. Call 354-8807 and leave a message for the Core committee.

RAPE! (continued from page 1)

WOMEN'S SCHOOL COLLECTIVE Update

The spring term is going by quickly and we are already looking ahead to summer. This term we offered 6 classes as well as a one day workshop on Women and the Nuclear Threat. Because of the positive response it received, we are planning to offer it again this summer. We are also planning to offer other workshops throughout the summer to give women who don't have the time to take a 10week class the opportunity to come together for day of a weekend to learn from each other. Tentative workshop topics are political music, interracial relationships, women and health, and a lesbian/straight dialogue. Anyone who may be interested in teaching a workshop should leave a note in the Women's School mailbox and we will contact you.

We have recently added three new collective members and are still looking for women who may be interested in joining. We are planning a meeting of women who have either taught and/or taken classes who might be interested in becoming a collective member. The meeting's planned for Wed. June 1 at 7:00 pm at the Women's Center.



WORKSHOP: Resume writing and Discussion about Job Hunting Techniques.
Monday June 6, 6 to 8 pm Call the Center for more information and to reserve a space.

attitude that has permeated reports about this rape. Media coverage pointedly reminds us that the alleged offenders are Portuguese immigrants. Members of New Bedford's Portuguese community report that they experiencing "a psychological state of seige", and that the rape has provoked "anger and embarassment" in their community. Is the nationality of these men relevant to the case? think not. Women are gang-raped every day, often with onlookers, sometimes in public places.

This brutal rape and the condoning of the act by the witnesses yet again illustrates that not only is rape prevalent in our society, but apparently an acceptable form of behavior also.

In the April 18 issue of the City Dorchester advertiser/-Paper, а newssheet, editor Paul Walkowski wrote a column decrying the existence of meter maids in downtown Boston. The column in which he called meter maids "sluts", concluded with these sentences: "Maybe it's time that we took these ladies off the pedestal and put them on the pool table where they belong -- give them a little of what they've been giving us. Hitler's people were just doing their job too, you know."

We, the undersigned, are infuriated that this man can publish such remarks and that advertisers lend their financial support to him. In the face of the horrifying gang rape in New Bedford and subsequent reports of rape statewide, Walkowski's exhortation to sexually assault these female City of Boston employees is unforgiveable. These casual, irresponsible remarks only serve to minimize the well-documented trauma experienced by victims of sexist and racist violence.

We urge area residents to refrain from purchasing this paper and to join us in publicly voicing our outrage at the dangerous comments of Paul Walkowski.

Michelle Chausse Laurie Kaslow

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center

PEACE ENCAMPMENT (continued from page 1)

come together every other week for coordinating meetings. These meetings will continue to provide background information on encampment and serve as orientation for women coming to their first meeting. Contact Meredith at Resist, 623-5110 or Ellie, 864-2805 for more information and meeting times.

A major action, to include civil disobedience, has been planned for August 1. The Regional CD committee will operate out of New York. Susan Pines of the War Resisters League (212) 228-0450 is the contact person. There will also be a local CD/Action committee, contact Nancy, 566-7638, for information and meeting times. Other CD actions may also happen during the summer. Smaller actions, daily or weekly, have been discussed and spontaneous actions will be encouraged. Guidelines have been established so that the safety of the camp will be protected. Women will be asked not to carry weapons, drugs, or alcohol; not to use physical force; and not to engate in activities likely to endanger the security of women at the legal encampment.

The Latest Whitewash Modernization of Apartheid in South Africa. Professor of Political Science and A.N.C. member Mbere will analyze the changes in the apartheid system, and discuss the role of multi-national capital and the Reagan administration in this process. The program will begin with a new film, "The White Laager?", which covers the ideology and practice of apartheid and tries to explain the mentality of the Afrikaners.

This Mobilization for Survival educational will begin at 7:30 pm on Thursday, June 9, at the Mobe office, 727 Mass. Ave. For more information, call 354-0008.

Keep Up To Date on legislation concerning Central America. Call the Central America Legislative Hotline: (202) 483-3391. 24 Hours, automatic 3-minute tape, changed minimally once a week.

MATCHING GRANTS Your Dollar Goes a Long Way

Two years ago, the Center tried a new approach to fundraising, the use of "matching grants". When a foundation or corporation gives us one of these grants, we must match it dollar for dollar with dontions made from the public.

Advantages to Matching Grants: Corporations are more apt to contribute when they see their dollars being doubled. Matching grants also demonstrate that the Center has the support of the community we serve, an important consideration in foundation and corporate giving.

Since Fiscal 1983 began July 1st, we have received a total of \$4900 in matching grants from the following foundations and corporations: Cambridge Savings Bank, the Boston Globe, Royal Insurance, Haymarket People's Fund, Vingo Trust, Baybank Harvard Trust, Hingham Mutual Fire Insurance, and the Hartford Insurance Group.

The Center needs your help to match these and future grants. We welcome your donations large or small. Any amount will help. Please make checks payable to "Women's Educational Center, Inc."

In March, the Center was awarded a 3500 matching grant from Hyams Trust of Boston, with the stipulation that we must raise matching contributions from public donations by July 31, 1983.

To date, the Center has received \$1103. Can you help us by contributing to the remaining \$2397? Remember, every dollar is another step toward reaching this goal.

WOMEN OF COLOR Emergency Fund

One of the current projects of the Women of Color Support Group is a Women of Color Emergency Fund. Applications are being accepted from women of color in need of emergency funds. Contact the Women of Color group, c/o the Women's Center. Women of Color Support Group meetings are open to all women of color, Tuesdays, 7:30 to 10:00 pm.

20th ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH, WASH. D.C.

On June 29, the state Rate Setting Commission will hold hearings to decide what homemakers and health aids will get for pay and benefits in the next year. Last year only 1 homemaker (Annie Ferguson from WEIU) went to the hearings, and before that no homemaker had ever gone.

This year, we plan to have hundreds of homemakers attend so that the State will finally understand what we have always known. WE HAVE TO GET MORE MONEY AND BENEFITS!! It's time we stopped being treated like 2nd class citizens - and get the respect we deserve for the work we do.

In all of our homemaker contracts we have the right to go back to the bargaining table as soon as Women's Educational Industrial Union, Council of Elders and Suburban get more \$\$ from the state. That means we should be back to the bargaining table with all 3 companies this summer. The better we get from the Rate Setting Commission in June, the more we'll have to win at the bargaining table, and in paychecks.

Come to the hearing. For more information, call 266-7103.



- June 18. Lesbian and Gay Pride. 11:15 at Copkey Sq. Kickoff promptly at noon.
- June 17. GCN's 10th birthday party.
 Boston YWCA. 7:30 to midnight.

June 5. Women for Mel King sponsor a women's cultural event. Call 267-3759.

20th Anniversary of the Historic 1963 March on Washington: We Still Have A Dream Jobs, Peace, Freedom. August 27, 1983, Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C. 1) bring together a massive march on Washington on August 27, 1983 to reaffirm the Dream and continue activities on August 28th to unite as never before this New Coalition around specific goals and common objectives; and 2) develop a broad non-partisan coalition to press for basic legislation and turn this nation around in the areas of jobs, peace, and freedom; 3) work for passive of legislation that would designate January 15 as a national public holiday in honor of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr; and 4) work on the state and local level to implement the full agenda of the New Coalition of Conscience.

For more information, contact Mass. 20th Anniversary Mobilization, c/o Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA 02118. Or call 536-0873.

FUND DRIVE OPENS TO MAKE WOMEN'S CENTER ACCESSIBLE TO PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

We have started a fund drive to pay for a mechanized wheelchair lift which will make the first floor of the Center accessible. The Center has sought the advice of architects and various organizations serving the physically challenged in the Boston area. Because there is not enough land to accomodate a ramp, the mechanized chair lift was found to be the best solution.

The lift will cost approximately \$5000 and tax deductible donations can be mailed directly to "Chairlift Fund", the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Successful efforts in early 1982 raised money for a TTY maching, which is now attached to the Center's telephone, making our information resources available to hearing-impaired women.

There are some new groups meeting at the Women's Center now, such as Women Printers, the Women's Spirituality Group, and a Menopause Group. We also have groups working on many other issues like education, violence against women, rape, militarism, and battered women. There are support groups for Women of Color, Battered Women, coming out, mothers, and Jewish Women. Call us at 354-8807 for more information.

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