

♀ ON OUR WAY

Newsletter of the Women's Center
46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Telephone: (617) 354-8807

Spring, 1984



ABORTION RIGHTS

PRO-ABORTION, PRO-CHOICE

legislative alert (S-1711 of 1982). S-1711 reads: "The General Court (i.e., the legislature) may regulate or prohibit private or public funding of abortion or the provision of services or facilities there for.

On January 4, 1983, the Massachusetts legislature passed the antiabortion amendment in Constitutional Convention, 113 to 56. The amendment must be approved a second time in Constitutional Convention, called by May 9, 1984, for it to appear on the November ballot. At that time, if a majority of voters approve the measure, it will become law.

What will happen if it becomes law? The General Court or State Legislature could:

- immediately eliminate Medicaid and health insurance coverage for abortion
- ban abortion entirely should federal laws change
- require parental or spouse consent and/or notification
- require a 24-hour waiting period with "informed" consent based on viewing pictures of fetuses
- subject health workers involved in an abortion procedure to criminal penalties

Currently, both the Massachusetts and the U.S. Constitutions protect a woman's fundamental right to abortion. The federal protection

takes precedence over any state action. Because of the possibility of changes at the federal level, the Massachusetts protection is important. Beyond that, Massachusetts law requires state funding of abortions for low income women under its Medicaid program: the U.S. Constitution has no such requirements.

What can you do?

- Inform people you know and work with of the serious threat to our right to choose if and when we want to have children
- Join the fight to preserve and strengthen our reproductive rights and specifically to defeat an anti-abortion referendum in 1984. Call the Women's Center at 354-8807 or Planned Parenthood at 492-0518 for more information

Women's Art Fund

Susan Bright, a well known local photographer who has exhibited her work at the Women's Center in the past and is currently exhibiting at the Louisiana Worldwide Exhibition, is planning to have another exhibit at the Women's Center's Art Gallery.

From the exhibit a book of photographs will be published and distributed throughout the greater Boston area. Susan will be donating all of the proceeds from the sale of the book to establish a women's art fund through the Women's Center to help other women artists to exhibit their work.

Any contributions to the WomenArts project would be greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

A TIME TO CHOOSE: ABORTION RIGHTS AT RISK IN 1984: a panel discussion and educational forum on the proposed Mass. Human Life Amendment. Panelists include attorney Nancy Gertner, and Leslie Cagan. Wed., May 16, 7:30pm, at the Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St., Boston. \$2 donation requested. for more info call Bonnie at 354-0008.

A NEW SHELTER

PUMA TO OPEN FENIX HOUSE

For 8 years Puma has been providing support services for prostitutes. Some of our services are a bail fund, emergency housing, hot-line, and referrals.

We are going to open a shelter for battered prostitutes in June. The main call for our services has been from street walkers, who comprise roughly 15% of all prostitutes. Most of these women have been battered.

Some concrete ways that you could assist in expanding the spectrum of services available to prostitutes who want to escape from a battering situation are: money (tax deductible), kitchen supplies, office supplies, childcare equipment, volunteers.

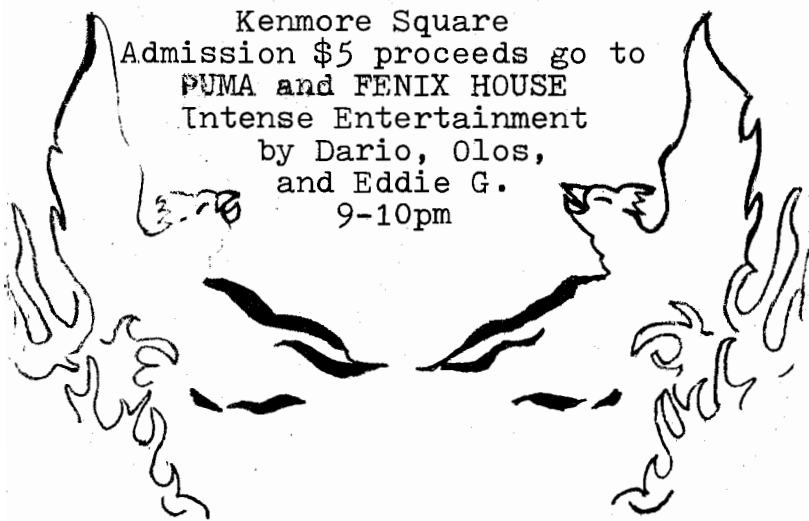
Feel free to contact us at 524-7507 or write to PUMA, c/o the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, MA 02139.

PUMA proudly presents

The Heart's Desire Ball

Monday May 14 8pm
at the Narcissus Club
Kenmore Square

Admission \$5 proceeds go to
PUMA and FENIX HOUSE
Intense Entertainment
by Dario, Olos,
and Eddie G.
9-10pm



THE NESTLE BOYCOTT HAS SUCCEEDED!

Consumer activism organized by the Infant Formula Action Coalition (INFACT) has finally forced the multinational Nestle corporation to discontinue its unethical infant formula marketing practices. "It is people out on the streets of Boston who made this happen," said Nancy Cole, Boston Campaign Center Director, who called the victory a "first in consumer activism."

For the next 6 months, INFACT will be monitoring the implementation of the agreement.

MENOPAUSE COLLECTIVE OPEN HOUSE Wednesday May 9, 5:30-6:30pm.

In many aspects of our lives we have been unprepared. Menopause is something we often have little understanding of. There is much interesting information available, and we hope to explore this and our own feelings about menopause.

We invite english and spanish speaking women of all ages to meet and talk with us at the Center.

WOMEN'S PENTAGON ACTION

Will have a speak out workshop in early May, And an AVCO Action in June. Info: Bonnie Howser at 354-0008.

UPDATE

BATTERED WOMEN'S DIRECTORY PROJECT

You may remember reading our request last December for donations to meet a challenge grant we were offered by the Levi Strauss Foundation. We were raising this money to set up a fund to cover the printing costs of the next edition of the Directory.

Good news! By the end of January we secured the full amount needed to obtain the challenge grant. We have received \$760 in individual donations, \$500 from the Charles & Sara Goldberg Charitable Trust, \$2,500 from the Pittway Foundation and \$3000 from the Globe Foundation.

We thank all of you who have supported us in reaching our goal. Your contribution made the difference between failure and success!

HELP!!

ROSIE'S PLACE

Urgently needs volunteers to work on the dinner shift, and to do over-night shifts. Please call 536-4652.

Would you be willing to provide a temporary home for a child or children of women who need a break? A few weeks rest can allow a woman in crisis, with few resources, to cope with her many responsibilities. If interested, please call the Women's Center at 354-8807 and leave a message for Hilary.

WANTED: YOU

Women's Center groups that are yearning for new members include:
Introductory(choose topics for and facilitate Introductory meetings.)
Core(administrative work, newsletter, fundraising, maintenance.)
Women Against Violence Against Women, Battered Women's Directory, Library

Other Center groups that are open to new members include:
Women's Pentagon Action, Women's School, Emotional Counselling Group, Staff.

If you're interested, call us at 354-8807. If you'd like to start a group and use Center space, come to a Staff/Projects meeting at 9pm(alternate Mondays)

WANTED: Phone answering machine, lawn mower(manual), lamps.

WANTED: Volunteers experienced in doing upholstery to reupholster chairs and couches at the Center. Call 354-8807 and leave your name, number, and the hours you can work. Thanks!

WANTED: Gas stove with burners, oven and broiler in good working condition for the Center's kitchen. If you have one to donate call 354-8807 and leave your name and number for the Core Committee. Thanks!

BOYCOTT SACK THEATRES

BOYCOTT SACK CONCESSION STANDS

For the past five years the Disabled Peoples Liberation Front has been involved in a struggle to gain equal access for physically challenged people to all Sack theatres. Your support is needed.

You can play a vital part in our struggle:

--by not patronizing any Sack Theatre

--if you choose to go in, by not buying snacks at the concession stand.

--by writing to A. Alan Friedburg, Sack Theatres, 141 Tremont Street, Boston, MA, in support of the demands of the Disabled Peoples Liberation Front.

For more info. call 825-7704.

The Center needs your help to match a recent grant of \$4,5000 received from the Boston Globe in December. In order to get this money we must raise dollar-for-dollar matching contributions from the public. All contributions welcome, no matter how small. Every dollar counts! Checks payable to Women's Educ. Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Camb. MA 02139. Please note at the bottom of the check that it is a matching grant donation.

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center is in serious need of donations at this time because of the Reagan administration's decision to levy Social Security tax on all non-profit organizations. The funding received from Dept. of Public Health covers only the salaries of the three part-time staff. The Center's only other income comes from speaking fees and donations. Contributions are tax deductible, and checks can be made out to: Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, c/o the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

AT THE CENTER

BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUPS
Every Monday at 6:30pm and every
Wednesday at 11:30am.

INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSIONS
Wednesdays, 8-10pm, all women welcome.
April 25: addiction. Call 354-8807
for upcoming topics or more info.

LESBIAN LIBERATION
Meets every Thursday, 8-10pm.

FAT LIBERATION
Next meetings: April 24, May 29,
7:30-9pm.

JEWISH WOMEN'S OPEN DISCUSSION GROUP
April 27: Yom Ha'Shoah: Holocaust Re-
membrance Day - an evening of ritual,
song and sharing. May 10: Feedback.
7:30 - 10pm. \$1.50 donation requested.

INCEST RESOURCES
Open discussion group for women with
incest histories, third Thursday of
each month, 7:30-9:30pm, childcare
provided. Topics: May 17: sexuality;
June 21: support.

CROSS-CULTURAL DISCUSSION GROUP
Next meeting, Monday May 21, 7:30-9pm.

COMING OUT GROUP
Mondays, 7-9 pm.

YOUNGER LESBIANS
A support and discussion group for
women 22 and younger, meets every
Tuesday, 6-8pm.

WOZA - WOMEN OF COLOR ORGANIZING
FOR ACTION - has started meeting
at the Center. Call for info.

AROUND TOWN

WOMEN OF COLOR CONFERENCE
Saturday, April 28, 9am-6pm, at
Mass. College of Art, 640 Hunting-
ton Ave., Boston. 445-5900 days.

"FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES"
A conference about AIDS, Sat.,
April 28, 9:30am-5pm, Don Bosco
High, 300 Tremont St., Boston. \$5
registration fee. Info: 267-7573.

U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Developing
Nations: A Senate Candidates Debate:
Senate candidates will engage in a
major debate of U.S. foreign policy
in Central America, Southern Africa,
and the Middle East at Faneuil Hall
on May 2 at 7:30pm. For further info
call Mobilization for Survival at
354-0008 or Haymarket at 426-1909.

ASIAN SISTERS IN ACTION
Saturday, May 5, at MIT. "Empow-
erment for Asian Women", Women and
men welcome. Info: 739-0352.

ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE IN 1984
invites you to attend a "Litany of
Outrage", Saturday May 5, 12-4pm.
Speakers, entertainment, food and
drink, etc. Location to be an-
nounced. Call 266-7100 for info.

RUMMAGE SALE for Mobilization for
Survival, Saturday, May 12, 11am-
4pm, at the Old Cambridge Baptist
Church, 1151 Mass Ave, Cambridge.
Your clothes, toys, appliances,
and furniture are needed. To do-
nate items, or volunteer to help,
call 354-0008.

THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.
46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Phone: (617) 354-8807

PERMIT NO. 59699

Boston, MA

PAID

U.S. POSTAGE

NON-PROFIT ORG