

♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

autumn '86



Women's Lives Are On the Line

On the November 4th ballot, we face a serious threat to our reproductive rights. If enacted, the anti-abortion amendment, Question #1, would amend the state constitution to allow the state legislature to regulate all activities related to abortion services within the state. This would include terminating Medicaid funding of abortions, prohibiting private insurance coverage for abortions, regulating clinics and hospitals which provide abortion services and making abortion illegal if federal laws change. Remember, the U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld a woman's right to choose by only one vote.

If federal protection is lost, the state could, under this amendment prohibit all abortions even in cases of rape or incest. Abortions to prevent the death of the mother are the only exception.

The legislature has recently demonstrated its lack of support for women needing abortions. By voting 88 to 60, in December 1985, to deny public reimbursement to rape victims for abortions or abortion counseling, the Massachusetts House has sent a strong

message to the women of this state. Don't count on Massachusetts' image as a liberal state if federal protection for the right to choose an abortion is lost.

Question #1 is very confusingly worded, making it difficult to decipher which direction is a "pro-choice" vote. Although a majority of Massachusetts voters are "pro-choice", polls indicate

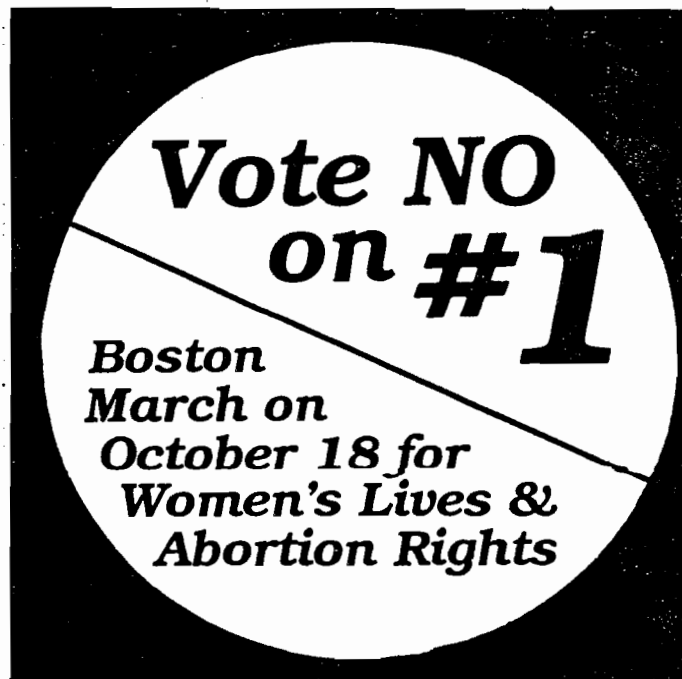
that the referendum stands a chance of passing because of its unclear wording. Extensive mobilization is needed to educate voters that a pro-choice vote is a "no" vote on Question #1. Help to ensure that every woman retains the right to make this extremely personal and difficult choice for herself. VOTE NO ON #1 TO DEFEND WOMEN'S RIGHT TO ABORTION!

&

RALLY!

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER
18TH, ROSIE JIMENEZ

DAY, THERE WILL BE A MAJOR MARCH AND RALLY IN BOSTON TO KICK OFF THE FINAL WEEKS OF THE CAMPAIGN. Rosie Jimenez was the first woman known to die from a back alley abortion after federal funds for abortions were cut off in 1977. As this amendment would hit poor women and women



RALLY

Continued from page 1.

of color hardest, it is appropriate that we commemorate her death with a rally demanding that no more women die needlessly from illegal abortions.

The march will assemble at Copley Square at 11:30 am and leave at 12:00 noon, with a rally at Government Center at 1:00pm. An exciting array of speakers will address reproductive freedoms -- Eleanor Smeal, Rhonda Copelon, Carol Doherty, Iris Garcia, Carter Heyward, Lee Levin, and Gaye Williams. There will be entertainment by Ronnie Gilbert, The Batucada Belles, The Girlillas, Semenya McCord, and Wanetta Jackson. The march and rally are wheelchair accessible and there will be an ASL interpreter.

The Rosie Jimenez Day Committee, organizers of the rally, is an ad-hoc committee of groups and individuals that includes the Alliance Against Women's Oppresion, Boston NOW, the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, Mobilization for Survival, and the Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2). If you have alot of time or a little, please call 782-1056. There is much work to be done to ensure the defeat of Question #1, and the Rosie Jimenez Committee welcomes your support. We are leafletting and tabling both before and after the rally, and need many women to work as peacekeepers and marshals on the day of the march. We welcome donations -- checks can be made out to B.W.H.B.C./R2N2 and sent to us c/o R2N2, Box 686, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, COME MARCH WITH US ON OCTOBER 18, AND VOTE NO ON QUESTION #1.



WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE

EVERY FRIDAY, 8PM TO 12AM

- October 17 featuring music by Luz Elena Baltran
- October 24 A group reading by the Jefferson Park writing group
- November & December events to be announced. Call the Center for more info.

THINKING AHEAD

With unprecedented tenacity, those present at the Sept. 22 All-Center meeting churned out a list of short term goals for the Women's Center. YOU ARE INVITED to come to All Center Meetings (alternate Mondays, 6-8pm) to participate in discussions on these goals:

How to get more women to come to All Center meetings.

Outreach strategy, including setting some concrete goals, beginning work on some specific projects.

Financial strategy re-evaluation, including where we look for funding, how we go about it, and where we invest.

The Newsletter: what changes, large or small, should be made and why.

The Center, an evaluation of what goes on at the Center, and what changes would increase it's value.

How can the Women's Center be more effectively connected to other organizations with similar goals.

The first hour of each All Center Meeting is for discussing these or other topics, which are listed on the agenda. The agenda for the next meeting is always posted next to the staff office. Any woman can come to the meeting; decision-making authority rests with the women present who work at the Center or its projects, in any capacity. If you'd like to get more involved, here are some specific areas where we need your energy.

- Help raise funds
- Join the outreach committee
- Help complete the wheelchair accessibility project
- Help update and track down referrals
- Join the library team
- Volunteer your services as an interpreter, coming to meetings as needed

And so on... if you think of another project for the Center that needs doing, you can build your own niche with your skills and energy.

**THIS IS YOUR WOMEN'S CENTER
WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**

If you have ideas (and some energy to materialize them wouldn't hurt) call or come by to an All Center Meeting.



POLITICAL ACTION HOTLINE

The Women's Political Action Hotline is now accepting calls at the Women's Center. Call 354-6394 and you will hear a recording of upcoming demonstrations, marches and political events as well as information on pending legislation which affects women. Many of us are deeply committed to women's issues, but find our energies for political action are limited to voting for appropriate candidates, a march now and then and occasional consciousness raising with a co-worker or neighbor when the opportunity arises. One thing you could add to your repertoire which isn't too time consuming or expensive is buying a stack of postcards, calling the Women's Political Action Hotline often and writing to your representatives on a regular basis. Representatives do pay attention to the content of their mail. They assume that, for every piece of correspondence they receive, 75 other citizens who did not write, have the same opinion. It doesn't take much time and it's an inexpensive way to let your voice be heard often. If you need to know your representatives and their addresses, contact the League of Women Voters at 357-5880, 9-2 M-F.

-----Clip and Save-----

Women's Political Action Hotline

354-6394

COUNSELING GROUP EXPANDS

The Women's Counseling and Resource Center is pleased to announce that two more therapists have joined the collective. This gives the collective a total of seven therapists and one supervisor. WCRC, housed at the Women's Center, provides women referrals to services and low-cost counseling. Two members of the WCRC recently lead training sessions on crisis calls for the Women's Center staff. In early December, a follow-up session will be offered.

POLITICS OF FAT

A new group has formed to focus on learning self-acceptance, to discuss societal pressures to be thin and the perspective that dieting is self-abuse. The group meets every Wednesday, 7:30-9:30pm at the Center.

FOSTER EQUALITY FOR GOVERNOR

Thomas R. Morse Jr., the Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court, attacked the new state policy that essentially forbids placement of foster children in lesbian and gay homes. This clears the way for the lawsuit challenging the policy to proceed to trial.

Referring to the children that were placed with Donald Babets and David Jean by the Dept. of Social Services, and then abruptly removed from their home two weeks later, Morse noted that the state acknowledged that the children's emotional and physical condition "improved dramatically" because of the "exceptional" care given by the gay couple. He also stated that "it is the children's interests that are paramount and . . . foster parents should be selected on the basis of their ability to provide temporary care and support for the children, not on the basis of an arbitrary factor such as marital status."

The Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee asks voters to protest Dukakis' foster care policy by not voting for Dukakis (since he's virtually assured to win anyway). Instead write in "Foster Equality" on your November ballot. This will send the Governor a clear message regarding his foster care policy.



MENOPAUSE

The Menopause Collective is now in its 7th year. Members of the collective encourage women of any age to come and meet with them, for support and information on menopause. The collective meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 9pm at the Women's Center.

FEMINISTS DISCUSS!

All women are invited to come join in open discussions, Wednesday evenings from 8 to 10pm at the Women's Center.

Upcoming Topics

October 15	Homophobia
October 22	Fear of Women
October 29	Witchcraft, Myths Legends

FAT IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

Every other Wednesday, 7:30-9:30pm, a support group for women dealing with issues around food, body image, and self acceptance meets at the Center. We work on making peace with food and becoming aware of how we use it. We're seeking new members! All women are welcome!

SPIRITUALITY IN MOTION

Ceres Grove (spirituality group) no longer meets at the Center. The group continues to meet elsewhere every other Thursday. Call 497-6809 for more info.

THE CENTER IS OPEN

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm
Friday 10am - 5pm
Friday Coffeehouse 8pm-Midnite
Saturday 11am - 2pm

ONGOING GROUPS AT THE CENTER

MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . 6:30-8pm
- New Women's Chorus 7-10pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's . . . 7:30-9:45pm
Network -Intro Mtg. (bimonthly)
- All-Center Meeting 6-8pm
(biweekly)

TUESDAY

- Rape Crisis Center 7-10pm
- Former Nun Lesbian Support . 7pm
Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)
- Search for Housing/Roommates 6-7:30pm
Support Group (biweekly)

WEDNESDAY

- Support for Battered Women . Noon-1pm
- Menopause Collective 7pm
(second Wed. monthly)
- Feminist Discussion Group. . 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare). 6:30-8pm
- Politics of Fat. 7:30-9:30pm
- Fat is a Feminist Issue. . . 7:30-9:30pm
(biweekly)
- Bad 'Back Support Group . . . 7:30-9:45pm
(biweekly)

THURSDAY

- Lesbian Liberation 7:30-9:30pm
- Incest Resources 7:30-9:30pm
(third Thurs., monthly)
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm
Network (second Thurs., monthly)

LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN

The Lesbians Choosing Children Network has been awarded a community recognition award from the Boston Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance. We are thrilled and touched to be publicly appreciated for our work of the past few years in creating a support and information network for lesbians considering parenthood and for our Spring conference, "Lesbians and Children." The awards dinner is being held on Nov. 2nd. Watch the papers for more info.

Meanwhile, we have been having a difficult time gathering enough energy to have meetings. The coordinating committee has gotten little response to our requests for new members. We haven't had regular monthly meetings since our conference. We know that there are alot of women out there who could benefit from the Network's support. Please help us to continue to provide it. If you are interested in joining the coordinating committee, messages can be left for us at the Women's Center.

SUPPORT GROUP NOTE

The Search for Housing/Roommates Support Group is a place for women to talk about issues and concerns related to changing living situations. Each meeting is tailored to the needs of the participants. The group is a place to:

- Meet potential roommates
- Get support for your search process
- Share your concerns about finding the 'right' situation
- Network towards developing the living situation you desire

We will be meeting from 6 to 7:30 pm (you can stay for all or part of the time) on Tuesday, Oct. 21, and on the first and third Tuesdays of November and December.

BBWN

BBWN holds Introductory meetings at the Women's Center on Mondays of every other month. All women are welcome to attend any and all network activities; one does not need to be sure of a bisexual identity in order to participate! For more info., call Laura at 566-1567 or Mary-Charlotte at 776-6692.

TAKE NOTE!

The Women's School is pleased to announce its workshops and classes for November 1986.

- Nov. 1 Putting the Demo back in
1-3pm Democracy: Grassroots Organizing
- Nov. 1 Demystifying the Mystical: An
1-4pm Introduction to Wicca
- Nov. 7 The Writing on the Wall - Women's
7:30pm Graffiti Slideshow and Discussion
- Nov. 8 Making it in the Workworld:
10am-noon Overcoming Workplace Politics
& Nov 13 6-7pm (Two sessions)
- Nov. 15 How Selfish Can You Get?
1-3pm Getting Love in the '80s
- Nov. 15 Women and Nutrition - or You Are
1-3pm What You Eat
- Nov. 15 c.R.A.S.h. course: A workshop
1-4pm with Rock Against Sexism
AT: Femme Corps Space, 464 Harrison Ave.
(near Dover Station on the Orange Line)
- Nov. 16 "Our Boston Heritage" - Lesbian
noon-3pm History slideshow & discussion
- Nov. 22 Friendship Networks: Alternative
1-4pm Family
- Nov. 22 Non-Violence and Civil
1-4pm Disobedience: Politics of the 80s

All workshops and classes (except as noted) will be held at the Women's Center. To register, please arrive fifteen minutes before the workshop or first class meeting. If you need childcare, you must call the Women's School (354-8807) to make arrangements in advance. Women with special needs are encouraged to call the Women's School in advance.

The Women's School offers classes and workshops free of charge to all women. The facilitators, child care workers and other staff are volunteers. However, we do need money for postage, printing, supplies and other operating expenses. There will be an opportunity to make a donation when you register.

P.S. CALL 354-8807 FOR REMAINING
OCTOBER WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES.

INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources is a non-profit counseling and educational organization committed to promoting public information about incest and adequate services for incest victims and survivors. We sponsor and facilitate a monthly drop-in discussion group for women with histories of incest. This meets on the third Thursday of every month (Sept-June) from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Women's Center. To insure confidentiality and safety, meetings are not open to friends/support people. Upcoming topics are:

October 16 Memories
November 20 Self-Esteem
December 18 Reclaiming Our Bodies

Incest Resources has recently updated our referral and resource book which is available for public use at the Center. The book contains info about individual therapists and therapy groups concerned with incest issues. The format is questionnaires completed by therapists and agencies regarding their services, fees, theoretical approach to incest, therapeutic style and specialized training around incest. This book also contains a networking section to assist in the formation of self-help groups. Referral information is also available from the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, weekdays from 9-5, by calling 492-RAPE.

BATTERED WOMEN

We welcome all battered women. Come and share this all too common problem and learn that you are not alone in what you are experiencing. We can explore options and alternatives and find ways to change the situation to allow you to grow and once again become your own person. The group meets Wednesday mornings at 11:45am and Monday evenings at 6:30pm at the Women's Center.

FEMINIST CLUSTER

Members of the Feminist Cluster affinity group will be peacekeeping at the October 19th MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES AND ABORTION RIGHTS. Meet at 11:30am at Copley Square.

THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.
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NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Public Forum: "Central American Update" with Sister Jeanne Gallo. Thursday, October 23, 7pm at the Central Sq. Cambridge Library (45 Pearl St.) Free admission. Info: 354-0008. Sponsor: Mobilization for Survival.



From Hoes to the Global Assembly Line:
Women and Technology in the Third World

A film and lecture series sponsored by the M.I.T. Anthropology/Archaeology Program and the Women's Studies Program.

- Fri., Oct 24 Women in Post-Revolutionary China.
Thurs., Nov 6 Women in the Nicaraguan Economy: The Revolution and After
Thurs., Nov 13 African Women and Ironworking Technology
Thurs., Nov 20 Third World Women and High Tech Industries

Location: M.I.T., Room 2-136, Time: 4-6pm. All events will consist of a film and a speaker on the selected topic. Info: Joni Seager, 253-8844.



Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, a film about the mothers of the Disappeared in Argentina.

Sunday, Nov. 23, 7pm. M.I.T. Room 2-190. Donation requested.

WOMEN'S CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

WANTED: Women builders, masons, electricians, carpenters, to build a school in Nicaragua. (Organizational work is now beginning. Serious fundraising could provide travel money for those otherwise unable to go.) Other skills needed: Fundraisers, organizers, spanish speakers, health workers, skilled consultants. Please call: Bonnie (413) 586-1125 (work) or 586-7094 (home) or Sandy, 584-4969. Sponsored by Masaya Women's Construction Brigade.

NEWSLETTER

'ON OUR WAY' comes out four times a year. If you have not received it before, and would like to keep getting it, fill out (legibly) the form below. Bring it or send it to the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, MA 02139. There is no charge for the newsletter; donations are always appreciated.

I'd like to be on the Women's Center mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip Code _____