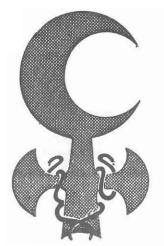
CASSANDRA

radical feminist nurses newsjournal

Vol. 5 No. 1 January 1987

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... To the extent that we resist that will to conquer, and make spirit more and more conscious in us, we are strengthened and nourished by it. We claim our whole-

When we recognize that "body" and "spirit" may be seen as the warp and woof of life's fabric, we can resist being crushed. Spirit escapes all nets. It remains unconfined by walls. It is not obedient to authority. It cannot be taught to march "in step."

-- Elsa Gidlow

CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL is published at the time of the full moon in September, January and May. There are no editors or review board members; the material for each issue is reviewed, selected, and the issue prepared by a local Web which assumes responsibility for three sequential issues. The name of the Web producing each issue and the names of women who contribute to the production of the issue are printed in the "Thrums" section.

The name CASSANDRA is a tribute to Florence Nightingale who wrote an essay titled Cassandra two years before her service in the Crimean War. In it she states: "Why have women passion, intellect, moral activity - these three - and a place in society where no one of the three can be exercised?" Like the mythical Cassandra, Nightingale possessed the gift of prophesy and despaired at not being heard. CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL is dedicated to re-creating the Cassandra myth by providing a place where the passion, intellect and moral activity of women who are nurses can be voiced and heard. The newsjournal is a means for actively preserving and passing on written materials coming from a womandefined perspective. Our hearing one another is critical to establishing a network among feminist nurses who need to be heard in nursing practice, education, research, administration and health care.

MAILING LIST

CASSANDRA's mailing list is confidential and will not be sold or given to any other group. Names and addresses of women who join CASSANDRA are provided to Contact Women in their geographic area; only the names and addresses of Contact Women and Coordinating Crones (women responsible for specific tasks) are published in the Newsjournal. The Newsjournal is distributed to members and friends of CASSANDRA, and to institutions or groups that subscribe to the Newsjournal.

PHILOSOPHY

CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NEWSJOURNAL publishes original works coming from a feminist perspective and encourages exploration of issues that radically affect nurses and women. While opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of CASSANDRA as a whole, we do accept responsibility for what we print. We will not intentionally print material that is harmful to women because of color, sexuality, religious or cultural background, physical disability or economic situation. We reserve the right to edit material submitted, with the intent of remaining true to the author's original material. Insofar as possible, edited material will be made available to the author prior to publication.

ADVERTISING

Display ads will be published for businesses offering products that are consistent with CASSANDRA'S philosophy and purposes. Write to CASSANDRA for rates. Judgments about the suitability of ads for the Newsjournal will be made by the Web responsible for producing the Newsjournal.

CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

We welcome the contribution of articles, information, and letters that are of interest to women who are feminist nurses. Our regular features include nursing history, feminist research, myths influencing women's lives, reviews of books and journal articles, resource information, and notes that promote networking.

Articles should be original work that has not been previously published; preference is given to articles written by women who are members of CASSANDRA. The suggested length of articles, commentaries and reviews is 2-4 pages, typed double-spaced. Manuscripts of articles and book reviews are reviewed and selected by members of the Web that produces the Newsjournal. Manuscripts are evaluated in relation to consistency with CASSANDRA's purposes and philosophy, conciseness, readability, and strength of presentation of ideas and analyses of issues.

We welcome letters, notes and resource information from anyone interested in sharing information with members of CASSANDRA. Letters should be no longer than one page in length, typed doubled-spaced. Notes and resource information need to be very brief, approximately 12 double-spaced typed lines.

All material must be accompanied by the author's name and address in order to be published. We prefer to publish names and addresses, but we will withhold your name and/or address if requested.

Please mail your contribution so that it reaches us by the following lifeline dates:

January issue: November 15 May issue: March 15 September issue: July 15

Our mailing address is: CASSANDRA P.O. Box 341 Williamsville, NY 14221

OUR PURPOSES. . .

CASSANDRA: RADICAL FEMINIST NURSES NETWORK is a gathering of women in nursing practice, education, research and administration. Our primary commitment is to end the oppression of women in all aspects of nursing and health care. We believe that oppression of women is fundamental to all oppressions and affects all women.

Our primary purposes are to:

- Develop and communicate radical feminist, woman-centered analyses of issues in nursing and health care.
- Nurture local, regional, and national networks of women in nursing who are committed to a radical-feminist perspective.
- Provide an environment for communication, support and safety among nurses regardless of race, class, creed, ability, or sexual preference.
- Share and pass on skills of leadership, analysis and communication.
- Take strong public actions on nursing and health care issues.
- Preserve and publish past and present significant works of nurses.
- Publish writings on women's health that are rooted in feminist analysis.
- Support nursing research using a feminist approach.
- Develop feminist educational material for nursing programs.
- Establish a feminist nursing journal.

IN LOVING MEMORY

It is with great sadness that we note the death of Barbara G. Schutt, a Cassandra Webster and dear friend to many of us. Barbara died on December 26, 1986 at her home in Montville, Connecticut after a prolonged struggle against cancer.

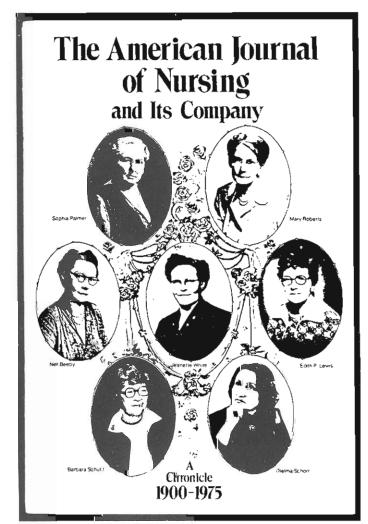
Barbara was born on March 25, 1917 in Ithaca, New York. She was best known to many of us as the editor of the American Journal of Nursing from 1958 through 1971. She was a charter member of the American Academy of Nursing and recipient of the American Nurses' Association Prestigious Honorary Recognition Award.

After her affiliation with the AJN, Barbara was appointed director of the Division of Nursing at Mohegan Community College in Norwich, receiving the Presidential Citation upon her retirement from that position in 1979. She was president of the Connecticut Nurses Association from 1977-1979 and continued to be active in CNA in many capacities.

Barbara was also active in many community affairs. She was a volunteer at Mystic Seaport in the literacy program, and at the Woman's Center of Southeastern Connecticut. She was an early member of the Health Systems Agency of Eastern Connecticut and of Eastern Connecticut's Area Agency on Aging. Barbara was an avid gardener, and provided assistance to other gardeners in her community through the county extension program.

Barbara is survived by her long-time friend, Donna E. Haney, with whom she shared her home, and by her sister, Bettina Jennings of Ithaca, NY.

Donations in her memory may be made to St. James Episcopal Church, RFD 5, Norwich, CT 06360; to the Nursing Department of United Community Services/Hospice, Nursing Department, 77 Town St., Norwich, CT 06360; or to the Connecticut Nurses Foundation, 1 Prestige Dr., Meriden, CT 06450, which has established a nursing scholarship fund in Barbara's name.



Shown here is the cover of an historical review of the American Journal of Nursing Company published in October, 1975 to commercrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the American Journal of Nursing. As editor of the Journal at the time, Barbara Schutt was responsible for the production of the chronicle. Barbara, shown in the bottom left frame, was the sixth editor of the Journal.

National campaign for a Peace Tax Fund

The following news item was sent to us by Betty B. Renshaw, Outreach Coordinator for the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund.

* * * *

Tubingen, in West Germany, was the site of the first international conference concerned with individual conscience vis-a-vis taxation to support war, held Fall 1986. Eighty persons from twelve countries worked together in the three-day meeting on such questions as: the current status of national campaigns working toward re-channeling military taxes for peacemaking purposes; the potential for networking among such campaigns, to share strengths; the position of "freedom of conscience" in the governing documents of various countries, and the relationship of conscientious objection to taxes for military force to the goals of the peace movement. The twelve countries represented at the conference were Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.

The United States' National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF) was represented at the conference by its executive director Marian Franz. To quote Franz, "Those of us gathered came from variety of circumstances in our home countries, but [we came with] one thing in common. We find it a clear violation of conscience to pay the military portion of our taxes and seek statutory recognition of conscience against paying for arms, as an extension of the right to refuse to bear arms."

The campaign for a peace tax fund in this country began when a small band of citizens got together in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1971 to draft a bill. The bill was introduced into Congress in 1972. Support for the peace tax fund concept has grown steadily, until the US Peace Tax Fund Bill in the 99th Congress could claim 55 cosponsors in the House of Representatives and four in the

Senate, as well as more than two thousand members in its national campaign.

The bill would make it possible for conscientious objectors to any form of participation in war to have the military portion of their taxes re-directed into a special fund for peace-enhancing projects. This peace fund might be used to support: retraining of workers displaced by conversion from military to civilian production or activities; research into non-military and non-violent solutions to international conflict; disarmament efforts; international exchanges for peaceful purposes, and improvement of international health, education and welfare.

NCPTF's Franz went from Tubingen to Brussels, where she met with officials of the Quaker Council on European Affairs, which works to get the concept of conscientious objection before the European Parliament. Traveling on to the Netherlands, she visited the offices of the Dutch peace tax campaign. In Switzerland she spent time at a retreat center which facilitates dialogues between pacifists and military personnel, a concept she finds most exciting.

Following her European tour, Marian Franz is traveling in the United States, to share her experience and insights. Topics she works with include: The Tubingen Conference: Insights into the international nature of the peace movements; The US Peace Tax Fund Bill: History of the legislation, its contents, Present status and outlook for the future; and Recent growth of the Peace Tax Campaign Movement in Europe: The impact of the deployment of the Euromissiles.

For more information on the activities of the campaign, membership, details about the the US Peace Tax Fund Bill or to inquire about the presentations mentioned above, write or call NCPTF, 2121 Decatur Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008, or call 202/483-3751.

SCIENCE SEEN THROUGH THE FEMINIST'S LENS Book Review by Sheila Bunting

What is the "real" world like?
This question has been and will be asked by philosophers, psychologists, theologians. We recognize that the answers we receive depend on who is answering the question. We are aware that an observer's world view influences her perception of reality, that Gloria Steinem and Ronald Reagan would sincerely give us radically different answers to questions of personhood, responsibilities, and the value and quality of various human endeavors.

One realm of observation, however, has tended to be considered objective and beyond question. This is the area of science. The conclusions of scientific investigators are treated as facts, not opinions. We trust the reporters who interpret the mysteries of spectroscopy, brain wave studies, cell biology, and animal experiments to give us objective, unbiased answers.

Could it be that the reality of science and the "facts" that we have accepted from gradeschool on up are gender biased along with religion, history, literature, psychology, art, music, etc.?

This question is addressed by editor Ruth Bleier in Feminist Approaches to Science (1986, New York, Pergamon Press). She asks: What explains the absence of a feminist voice in science? What would that voice sound like? How would science be different, given this perspective? How would our perceptions of the natural world, of men and women, be transformed?

Elizabeth Fee, a historian and philosopher of science, traces the progress of scientific inquiry and the traditions that established science as the rational, orderly-male force which seeks to "penetrate" and explain the chaotic disorder of nature (read "female"). The way that feminism responds to this model will be critical. Technologies that are changing politics, communications and warfare are changing the relations between the sexes as well, and a more humanistic (feminine) approach will be

necessary to defeat gender discrimination and for human survival.

Historically, Van Leeuwenhoek and others "saw" tiny humans with arms and legs and heads inside sperm under the microscope in the 17th and 18th centuries because that is what their basic beliefs and orientation prepared them to see. Lest we attribute this bias to the ignorance and primitive methods of the past, Bleier describes recent research in her own field, neurophysiology, in which "evidence" is being collected and interpreted to support a difference between male and female brain structure and function -- the right brain/left brain concept which has caught the imagination of the public. She goes on to critique studies of hormonal influence on fetal brain development and the assumptions and conclusions that have been made on scant or nonexistent clinical data.

Hilary Rose explores the world view and the very language which excludes women from the ranks of science and talks about the present move to recover lost women pioneers in this field.

Primatology is a field in which women's voices have been heard. Primatologist Sarah Blaffer Hrdy examines Darwin's classical theories with their assumption of the sexually aggressive male and the coy, passive female and she points out the influence of the gender of the researcher in what is "seen" in the field and how this is perceived and documented. There are obvious and profound political ramifications of this interpretation of behavior of the primates with which we identify so strongly.

The feminist writers in this volume are optimistic that an alternative perspective can help to create fresh solutions to many problems which face science and humanity in this technological age. They outline approaches which will move us toward the goals of a rational energy plan, ecological progress, and improved communication between peoples.

continued . . .

Book Review, continued . . .

Donna Haraway suggests story-telling as a force in altering the structure and overall impact of primate field studies. She says that "redistributing the narrative field by telling another version of a crucial myth is a major process in crafting new meanings" and that "destabilizing an origin story is perhaps more powerful in the deconstruction of the history of man than replacing it with a more progressive successor." — a sort of dilute and conquer with persistent evidence and without harsh confrontation.

Sue Rosser explores a system of stages or steps by which feminist progress has been made in other disciplines and applies this scheme to the present integration of women and feminist thinking into the sciences. Maiamne Whatley examines this theme and goes on to say that science needs more than an infusion of women; it needs to have some basic changes in the structure of its assumptions. She challenges the search for biological explanations for human behavior and questions the unquestioning belief in experimentalism. She describes methods of classroom teaching which would encourage students

to ask questions rather than accept scientific "facts". Many of her examples such as "family history", "risk factors", and "PMS" apply very directly to nursing.

The book concludes with a bibliography highlighting recent feminist critiques of scientific theory and practice compiled by Susan Searing.

I see this book as a provocative one to be read by nurse theorists and nurse educators. At a time when we are making decisions regarding nursing's body of knowledge and nursing's point of view, the questions in this book are critical. We build much of our research and teaching on the nursing process, which is a direct adaptation of the "scientific method" venerated unquestioningly by educators and by the public.

Bleier's ambitious goals are formidable:

- 1) Change science.
- 2) Win the struggle for the minds of those women who have internalized scientific judgments about our presumed biological limitations.

These are goals worth considering by feminist nurses.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Second National Conference on Violence Against Women will be held March 13 through March 15, 1987 at the Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center, University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The Keynote Speaker for the conference is Cassandran Jacquelyn Campbell. Workshops will be held on topics including rape, battering, sexual abuse, incest, sexual harassment, elder abuse, exploitation of female health care providers, and prevention. The conference

is sponsored by the Nursing Network on Violence Against Women in collaboration with the Division of Continuing Education and the Division of Nursing, School of Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. For more information, contact Judy Wardlaw at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Division of Continuing Education, Goodell Building, Amherst, MA 01003, (413)545-0312.

1987 CASSANDRA GATHERING IN SALT LAKE CITY from the Utah Web

The Utah Web wants you to know we are planning for the June, 1987 Continental Cassandra Gathering to be held in Salt Lake City. So far, we have reserved space and done some initial groundwork related to housing, food and recreational opportunities.

We have reserved space from Wednesday, June 24 through Saturday, June 27 at the Art Barn. The Art Barn is a small art gallery (downstairs) and meeting place (upstairs) which sits on a park close to the University of Utah campus. It also has kitchen facilities we can use. Our gathering room is the upper floor of the Art Barn and no other groups will be using the facility for meetings during our reserved dates. Although there may be some foot traffic downstairs during the day, depending on whether or not there is an ongoing exhibit, the location is rather "out of the way" and we expect the space to be quite private. Also, after hours we will be the only people having access to the building. There is handicapped access to the Art Barn, but a set of stairs must be negotiated to get to the meeting room.

The proximity of the Art Barn to the university campus area means food ser-

vice and housing are within walking distance. Also, recreational facilities (tennis courts, golf course, and the university sports complex) will be accessible. The Art Barn is also close to bus lines which allows for easy travel to downtown Salt Lake. The Utah Arts Festival will also be held during our gathering and so many art and musical events will be occurring in the downtown area.

Our Web is planning a late Wednesday afternoon beginning with agenda setting and a social gathering at the Art Barn. Please let us know what "agenda" items you might need us to consider in advance as we plan here for the gathering. As usual, we expect to generate most of the agenda ourselves when we gather.

If you have special needs, concerns, requests or wish us to provide information related to the gathering prior to the next newsjournal mailing, please let us know. We would be happy to respond as best we can. Carol Ashton, 3685 Palisade Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84109, is the person to write to. Watch for further details in the May Newsjournal, and we hope to see you in Salt Lake City in June!

WHY I'M BECOMING A NURSE by Sydney Spinster

In March of 1988 I will receive my BSN degree from the University of Minnesota. What am I, a radical Lesbian witch, becoming a nurse? Let me tell you why I can't think of anything else I'd rather do.

I am a homeopathic practitioner. I love helping wimmin heal themselves with this effective and non-toxic form of healing.(1) A few years ago I decided that I wanted to practice homeopathy full time and make a living at it. Of course, the practice of healing without a license is a heresy to the religion of male medicine. And there is no separa-

tion between that religion and the State, here in the u.s., so their dogma is enforced by law. So, I decided to get licensed at something legal.

Now, I hate medicine and doctoring, so I didn't want to become one of them. I investigated the P.A. programs and decided that being a "physician extender" was almost worse than being a sawbones. I wouldn't want to be a "pope extender" or a "Reagan associate" either.

I also started investigating nursing, and nurse practitioners. Now, I'd already been through college once and it continued . . .

Why, continued . . .

was disappointing to find out that to become an FNP these days one really needs a Bachelor's (Spinster's) degree in Nursing. And then grad school.

It was hard not to be resentful. All I wanted, after all, was to be allowed to heal. But I tried not to misdirect my anger at the medical empire on to the nursing profession.

So here I am. And you know, thanks to Cassandra and the holistic and progressive voices in nursing, I'm glad I'm becoming a nurse.

Nursing is very compatible with my philosophy of healing as a homeopath and a Lesbian witch. I believe that inside every womon is a source that remembers the ancient power of wimmin. Each womon has the potential to reclaim that spiritual power. Many roads lead her there. The life force (nature, the great spirit, the goddess) inside each of us pushes us toward freedom and health. The forces of patriarchy work against us, attempting to suppress our progress. As each of us have learned, men find life-loving WILD wimmin threatening (and no doubt we are a threat to male pseudo-power). They oppose our vital force in every way possible.

As a Lesbian healer I intend to spark a womon's vital force, and help her remove the obstacles that have caused stagnancy or retreat. I want to call her to come home to herself, and continue on her own special journey on the planet. To embrace life.

I do not aim to control her or any of her life processes. I do not believe in "treatments" or "therapies." I do not believe in removing the outward manifestations of internal disorder, through waging war on germs or our other physiological responses to impaired health

To encourage "compliance" in "patients" is to discourage true

healing. Healing is empowering, expressive, freeing.

Not too far from good old Florence's definition of nursing is it? I still believe, as she did, that healing comes from nature, and that our job as nurses is to put our client in the best position to receive that healing. The emerging feeling that nurses ought to be the leaders of the health care team, and the primary health care providers, is exciting for me to hear. Ideally, I wouldn't want to be on any team with croakers (allopathic doctors) on it, but I think these changes would get things going in the right direction.

And these changes will come! Wimmin are rejecting necrophilic medicine in greater numbers with each passing hour. It's so exciting to sit in the homeopath's chair and hear wimmin tell me they just aren't going to subject themselves to that anymore. They're fed up!

A revolution is happening. It is not, for most wimmin, the Lesbian Separatist revolution I have envisioned. But many wimmin are turning away from the patriarchal death culture, each in her own way. In the world of healing this manifests as empowering themselves to change their own health, and seeking alternatives to the pill-pushing flesh slashers known as physicians.

Nurses can and will be a part of this revolution. And I'm thrilled to be a (future) nurse.

(1) For an introduction to homeopathy see Everybody's Guide to Homeopathic Medicines by Stephen Cummings, FNP, and Dana Ullman, MPH. Los Angeles, Jeremy Tarcher, 1984. For information about the newly formed Homeopathic Nurses Association, see the resources column in this issue of the newsjournal.

LETTERS FOR CONNECTIONS

Sexual Counseling

OOPS! We goofed in the September Newsjournal. Doris Williams' address with her letter in the September issue was "moved" into the wrong column and so it was not recognizable as hers. There was also a grammatical problem in the letter that muddled its meaning -- so we are including it again here, with the correct wording and Doris' correct address.

Dear Cassandra,

I am trying to locate information about sexual counseling for homosexuals as part of rehabilitation post-MI and post-CABG surgery. I have consulted the literature, at least that which is indexed in the International Nursing Index and Index Medicus, and have found nothing appropriate for my purposes. I would appreciate hearing from anybody who knows where I might locate this information.

Sincerely,
Doris M. Williams
703B Village Circle
Newark, DE 19713

Request for participants Dear Cassandra Nurses.

I am a doctoral student in history at the University of Pittsburgh, beginning research on a dissertation dealing with nursing and feminism in the post-World War II period. My thesis is that (a) the feminist movement helps nurses redefine the problems they have throughout the postwar era (education, autonomy, relationship with doctors, etc.) and (b) that divisions among nurses over feminism parallel divisions within the larger society. In order to ascertain this knowledge, I'm hoping to interview feminist nurses, as well as study nursing journals, convention minutes, sex discrimination suits, and anything else which might seem pertinent.

As a former public school teacher with six years experience, the sister of one nurse, and daughter-in-law of another nurse I am extremely interested

in understanding how change over time affects the nature of work and the characteristics of the workers in the feminized professions, as well as the way in which women workers respond to the feminist ideology. As a radical feminist scholar concerned with oppression in both the workforce and the home, I am appalled at the way feminized professionals have been portrayed in much of the standard social science literature, which tends to treat them either as victims or women working for "pin money." I want to write a dissertation showing that nurses are autonomous, intelligent, creative people who choose their professions because of their desire to pursue meaninaful. satisfying work. After encounters with male-dominated health care systems during my infertility treatments I appreciate the struggle on which feminist nurses have embarked.

I am interested in speaking or corresponding with any Cassandra Websters who might want to share their experiences and philosophies with me. I promise to treat all information with confidentiality. No names would be used in the dissertation and I would ask permission before including any of the information with which I am entrusted. I can be reach at this address: 313 Lentz Street, Jeannette, PA 15644, phone 412/527-6446.

In Sisterhood, Susan Leighow

Fear of Firing

To Whom It May Concern:

Much is said and written about the sub-standard and minimal nursing care provided to our elderly in nursing homes. I would like to point out that the majority of the nursing staff in nursing homes is truly caring. They would like to provide a higher level of care which is individualized to each patient's needs and desires.

But, as my case demonstrates, if you object too much to administrative practices that foster poor nursing care, you continued . . .

Letters, continued . . .

are fired. Therefore, nurses have two other options: 1) quit; 2) remain at the institution and do the best you can.

On Sunday, Sept. 21, 1986, at 6 pm, I received a telephone call from Sage Nursing Home Administrator Sam Morris. My employment was being terminated because we were "at odds". I had been employed at Sage Nursing Home as a Registered Nurse for 15 years, the past 13 as Head Nurse of a 90 bed unit.

Friday, November 21, 1986, a Wrongful Discharge Suit was filed in Circuit Court, Milwaukee, WI, State of Wisconsin against Sage Nursing Home, Inc.

The complaints stated are:

#1 I objected to the defendants about allowing an unlicensed person to practice nursing.

#2 I objected to violation of the rights of its patients. The specific objections made were: a) Failure to allow a patient and/or family to participate in the patient's plan of care; b) Insertion of a naso-gastric tube in a patient against the wishes of the patient's family as specifically stated in the nurses and physician's progress notes; and c) Failure to notify that patient's family prior to the insertion of a naso-gastric tube.

These objections are the source for being "at odds".

Nurses must be able to be a patient advocate without the fear of termination. There is little hope for improvement in the care of our elderly without this nursing intervention.

Sincerely,

LaVonne Roselli, RN N95 W19858 Azalea Rd. Menominnee Falls, WI 53051

Patients or People Dear Cassandra,

It was gratifying to read Margaret Nixon's account of her experience in a hospital. I cannot suggest a creative term to describe her role, but would say it was more of that of a client than a patient because of the interactive processes which occurred. There was evi-

dence of others' respect for her right to self-determination and mutuality of goals, both indicative of a clientcentered approach.

I was impressed by the stark contrast her report had with a recent experience of my own while in the hospital for tests. Despite the fact that I was neither ill nor incapacitated, I was subordinated to the role of patient by being told to dress in a hospital gown and required to ride to tests in a wheelchair. Rationale for both directives was that they were "hospital policy". I refused to wear the gown, preferring instead, my own work clothing which in no way restricted the testing procedures. Rumor had it that I then became known as "the one who won't wear a hospital gown". I thought it interesting that, despite many other possible characteristics that I might have been known for, the one chosen to identify me was my lack of compliance with a policy that offended me. I gave in on the wheelchair issue; I had more important things to concern me.

During an EMG for which I had received no preliminary information from the physician administering the test, I expressed extreme discomfort. He stopped momentarily without comment, and reinserted the needle into another muscle of my leq. Having had insulindependent diabetes for 22 years, I am protective of the integrity of my lower extremities and stated my concern about what he was doing to my body. I was told to "just relax" while he inserted the needle into another part of my leg. When I objected, he said "If you'd shut up, we could do this faster". Of course, I was incredulous and demanded that the test stop immediately. He denied that he had said what I heard him say, further angering me. I told him his behavior was unsafe, insulting and totally inappropriate. I reported his behavior to my attending physician who explained it away to a "bad day" and to the fact that he "didn't know you were a nurse"; neither of which were

continued. . .

Letters, continued . . .

acceptable to me. (Subsequently, I reported the physician's behavior to the Chief of Medicine, the administrator of the hospital, and the county board of medicine. I received no response from the first two persons, and a statement that the MD and I apparently had "personality differences" from the board.)

I was emotionally upset upon my return to my room; my dignity had been attacked and I knew the test was an important part of my diagnostic workup. No nurse noted my response despite my verbalization of this unacceptable, upsetting event. Later that day, a young nurse sat with me and encouraged me to tell her what had happened. She empathized with me and indicated that she was aware of similar experiences of other persons on whom this doctor had worked, and that he had a reputation of expecting people to do what he said without asking questions. She was helpful to me because she shared my feelings and helped me put the event behind me for the day. Shortly after leaving, she returned and tearfully apologized for "talking to you about a doctor". She explained that she had shared part of our conversation with her charge nurse who informed her she should not have done that and that she had to return and apologize to me for her "unprofessional" behavior. I assured her that I appreciated her support of me and my feelings, and that she need not feel that she had to apologize to me. I was saddened by the treatment she received from another nurse. Her warmth and genuineness had been painfully discredited.

These experiences emphasized to me that pervasive powerlessness experienced by the person who is seen as a patient both by nursing staff and a physician. Though I was able to exercise my right to stop a test, I was thereby placed in a no-win situation of needing what the physician was allegedly "best in his

field" to supply. Likewise, the young nurse was reprimanded for nursing the person instead of keeping a noninvolved, no-opinion profile.

I was subordinated to the role of "patient" complete with dress and mode of transportation. Later I was subordinated to the role of "object" with no right to be given explanations before the integrity of my body was invaded. The young nurse was subordinated by her charge nurse because she acted in a way that was contradictory to a traditional nursing role.

How can we as women and as nurses deal with situations such as these to alter the direction they take us -- people -- in our hospitals?

Jini Miller
 Morgantown, WV

We are healers Dear Cassandra,

First I need to tell you how much I appreciate our publication. It is like drinking cold, pure water on a hot day.

The other thing I want to write about is this: I believe we need to be very careful about educational issues for nurses.

It is possible, at this point, for nurses to keep going up the ladder and total many years of schooling, with many advanced degrees.

While we all need to know and keep abreast of knowledge, we need to be real aware of the elitist trap we can fall into.

I feel that the key is tapping into our inner resources as well as trusting our healing instincts. We are not technicians, relieving symptoms.

We are healers. Take back the word. It is wonderful and true. It is why I am a nurse.

Barbara Sciacca, RN Box 4432 New River Stage, II Phoenix, AZ 85029

EXCHANGE

CASSANDRA shares our newsjournal with several other groups who in turn send us their regular publications. We have mentioned each of these groups in previous newsjournals, but decided that to begin a column highlighting material of particular interest. If you want to know more about these groups or publications, please contact them directly, and let them know you found out about them in our newsjournal.

A FRIEND INDEED

P.O. Box 9, NDG Station, Montreal, Quebec H4A 3P4.

This newsjournal explores menopause as mythology, as biology, as feelings; offers moral support to those who need it; provides exchange of information from woman to woman; and gathers together in one place relevant information so that women can make knowledgeable decisions. The December 1986 issue focuses on "The Question of Estrogen". The issue also includes information on Hot Flashes and letters from readers.

MINERVA: QUARTERLY REPORT ON WOMEN AND THE MILITARY

1101 S. Arlington Ridge Rd., #210, Arlington, VA 22202, 703/892-4388.

The Summer issue is full of interesting features, information and resources. Each issue we receive contains something of interest for nurses, either from the point of view of nurses in the military or about nursing history in relation to the military.

BROOMSTICK: BY, FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN OVER FORTY

3543 18th St. #3, San Francisco, CA 94110

The November/December 1986 issue contains several feature articles related to computers and experiences of older women with computers -- in addition to the poetry, art, letters, stories and other interesting works by women over forty. This is a magazine well worth reading regularly.

THE LESBIAN CONNECTION WINTER CATALOG

Helen Diner Memorial Women's Center/Ambitious Amazons, P.O. Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48823.

This is their annual special publication, and their largest yet. It is an excellent resource for all women interested in unique products and resources by and for women. Products include menstrual pads, books, cards, jewelry, travel, women-only guest and vacation places, clubs, clothing, sexual aids, films, and much more!

LES EDITIONS COMMUNIQU'ELLES 3585 St. Urbain, Montreal, Quebec, H2X 2N6.

The November 1986 focuses on the 1986 Montreal municipal election with a profile on all of the women candidates. Even though this issue focuses on a local election, the content is of interest to any politically active woman. The campaign messages of the women, and issues addressed and their concerns are presented in interviews conducted with the women of the magazine. This glimpse into the political scene for women in Montreal is inspiring and instructive.

THE ANIMALS' AGENDA P.O. Box 5234, Westport, CT 06881, 203/226-8826.

The November, 1986 issue includes indepth commentary on the new institutional animal committees mandated by law beginning in December 1986 for all institutions conducting research on animals. The article provides details of the Act, the limits of the Act, and how the committees can be used to make a major difference on behalf of animals despite the limits of legislation. This issue also includes feature articles that explore issues related to animal rights such as the fall hunting craze, and activities to protect animal rights.

RESOURCES

THE HOMEOPATHIC NURSES ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 5334, Springfield, VA 22150 Founded in 1985, this organization provides a support group for nurses desiring to promote and utilize homeopathy in their profession. Membership is \$15 annually.

THE 1987 LADYSLIPPER CATALOG AND RESOURCE GUIDE

Ladyslipper, Inc., P.O. Box 3130, Durham, NC 27705.

This annual catalog -- the world's most comprehensive listing of tapes, records and videos by women -- is now available. For a decade Ladvslipper has provided information about and access to recordings by an impressive and expansive variety of female musicians, writers, comics and composers. Each entry in this annual catalog is carefully and expertly annotated with comments from the women of Ladyslipper to guide you in your selections. Listings are arranged by type, including feminist music, comedy, new age, classical, reggae/calypso, punk/new wave, rock, gospel, soul/R&B/Disco, "Girl Groups", blues, jazz, folk/traditional, men's music (gay and other alternative groups), international and children's.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Fran P. Hosken, 187 Grant STreet, Lexington, MA 02173 (Also see ordering information in this newsjournal)

A global communication system by, for and about women that publishes WIN NEWS, a quarterly journal that regularly covers news about women in more than 150 countries world-wide, provides information about events of importance to women around the world with a focus on new activities and change by and for women, and provides names and addresses for each entry to enable you to make your own contacts and follow up on what is important to you. The Network also publishes The Hosken Report, which is a comprehensive work on the history and practice of genital mutilation of females world-wide.

WOMEN MAKE MOVIES

225 Lafayette Street, Suite 212, New York, NY 10012, (212/925-0606).

Founded in 1972 to teach, produce and distribute media related to the history and experiences of women. They distribute more than 75 films and tapes for use by schools, women's organizations, community groups and others interested in social issues. The collection includes media on labor issues, the arts, health and sexuality, Latina concerns, and feature films by women directors. A new release titled "Waking Up to Rape" (35 mins. color; 16mm, 3/4", VHS) is a powerful film that breaks new ground on the issues of rape and rape prevention, exploring the complete cycle of rape: the personal trauma, societal reactions, treatment of the victim, and longterm effects and recovery.

THE MIDWIVES' ALLIANCE OF WEST VIRGINIA NEWS

P.O. Box 266, Hillsboro, WV 24946. Published 3 times a year for \$10/year in March, July and November. The News provides information and articles from national and international sources for anyone who is interested in childbirth and safe alternatives in childbirth.

LEGALEASE

7 Napoleon St., Valparaiso, IN 46383
The Newsletter of Legal Resources for Nursing is issued 6 times a year at \$18 annual subscription fee. It is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information regarding issues affecting nursing practice. The newsletter provides brief, easy-to-read summaries of various cases, court actions and legislation of interest to nurses.

THE WOMAN ACTIVIST

2310 Barbour Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043

Initiated in August, 1984 to enlarge and strengthen communication among political activists. The Action bulletin is published monthly except combined July/Aug and Nov/Dec for \$10/year.

continued . . .

Resources, continued . . .

THE CINEMA GUILD

1697 Broadway, New York, NY 10019, 212/246-5522.

Has recently released several new films and videotapes dealing with issues of particular interest to women. The titles include "Holy Terror" (documentary of the religious new right), "The Ultimate Test Animal" (documentary of the birth control injection Depo Provera), "Personal Decisions" (documentary on the issue of women's right to control her own reproductive life), "Missing Children" (documentary about Argentine mothers and grandmothers seeking to locate victims of the Argentine military junta of the 70s and 80s). Other titles among their extensive list include "Before Stonewall", "Abortion: Stories from North and South", "We Dig Coal: A Portrait of Three Women", "With Babies and Banners:

The Story of the Women's Emergency Brigade", and "Rape/Crisis: The Roots of Sexual Violence in Our Culture".

THE SELF-HELP SOURCEBOOK

New Jersey Self-Help Clearinghouse, St.Clares-Riverside Medical Center, Pocono Road, Denville, New Jersey 07834, 201/625-9565.

The first 1986-87 edition of this National Guide to Finding and Forming Self-Help Groups has just been published by the Clearinghouse. The Sourcebook includes a listing of nearly 450 mutual aid self-help group organizations that the clearinghouse has compiled over the past six years, general how-to's for starting groups, contacts for self-help clearinghouses worldwide, resources for rare disorders, and a listing of toll-free national helplines. The cost is \$8 per copy.



O.K. folks. Where are those articles? Those poems? Those true-to-life adventure stories? Those critical essays? Those cartoons? Those Web reports? All the other stuff you keep thinking you'd like to send for the Newsjournal? We want it ALL! The lifeline for the May Newsjournal is March 15.

See RESULTS of 3 years of NEW RESEARCH on Prunes



HAVE you the very latest information about the nutritive values of prunes—science's new discovery in foods? And are you aware of the wide variety of economical recipes now made possible with this delicious fruit?

As a result of a three-year program of scientific laboratory tests conducted in several American universities, California Prunes are now revealed as a source of heretofore unknown food values. (See column at right.)

Accepted by Medical Association

A summary of this research, accepted by the Committee on Foods of the American Medical Association, is contained in a bulletin just published, "The Nutritive Values of California Prunes."

We will send this bulletin free on request to nurses, doctors, dietitians, and others connected in a professional capacity with recognized institutions Just fill in the coupon below, mail it and this material will be forwarded by return mail.

4 New Aids to Dietitians

Also of interest, to hospital dietitians, stewards, supervisors and others having to do with the planning of patients' meals, is the following material:

WE OFFER THESE FREE BOOKLETS:

- 1. The Nutritive Values of California Prunes: Complete and authoritative bulletin reporting the experiments and results of the recent scientific research on California Prunes.
- 2 Prune Diet Manual: Information on new and wider uses of prunes in the diet based on the recently discovered nutritional values of prunes
- Prune Quantity Recipes: Accurate directions for preparing prune recipes for multiple servings economically planned Of particular interest to hospital stewards and attendants.
- Prunes Add Variety: Twenty-nine new and attractive individual prune recipes, ten beautifully illustrated.

We will send any or all of these booklets free. Indicate in the coupon the material you wish to receive and it will be forwarded immediately. Meanwhile try the suggested recipe shown below You will be arnazed at the deliciousness added to this popular Prune Caramel Rice Pudding by the rich flavor of tender California Prunes.

Prune Caramel Rice Pudding

(Serves 100)

- 31/4 quarts uncooked prunes
- 71/2 quarts cooked rice
- 21/2 quarts granulated sugar
- 5 quarts water

Boil prunes 20 minutes in sufficient water to cover; drain, cut from pits and put through food chopper, using medium knife. Combine sugar and 2½ quarts water in a kettle and boil until a golden brown; add remaining 2½ quarts water, boil until sugar is dissolved, and pour

- 3½ dozen eggs, beaten
- 1 1/2 cups butter 5 teaspoons salt
- 7 tablespoons vanilla

slowly over beaten eggs, beating continuously. Add butter, prunes, rice, salt, vanilla and blend thoroughly. Pour into baking dishes or casseroles and bake in a moderate oven (375 degrees F.) 50 minutes or until set. Stir once after baking 20 minutes. Serve with cream.

Here Is Summary of the Most Recent Research on California Prunes

- 1. PRUMES NOW KNOWN TO CONTAIN AN ACTIVE LAXATIVE AGENT IN addition to THE SMOOTH BULK THEY PROVIDE. No other fruit or food, including all those supplying roughage, is now known to possess the principle present in California Prunes. This makes them doubly effective in stimulating intestinal action
- 2. PRUNES DO NOT AFFECT THE ALKALI RESERVE OF THE BLOOD. As much as 200 grams (18 prunes) per day in the usual diet does not significantly affect either CO₁ combining power of blood plasma or hydrogen ion concentration of the urine. The potential alkalinity of the ash of prunes is 24.4 (cc. normal acid per 100 grams of prune flesh).
- 3. PRUNES CONTAIN IMPORTANT VITAMINS IN SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES. California Prunes (as sold) are an excellent source of vitamin A (500 Sherman units per ounce of flesh); good source of vitamin B (22 Sherman units); and an excellent source of vitamin G (80 Sherman units).
- 4. PRUNES CONTAIN ESSENTIAL MINERALS. Considerable amounts of mineral elements are contained in California Prunes, including calcium, potassium, phosphorus, sodium, iron, magnesium, manganese, copper, chlorine and sulphur.
- 5. PRUNES ARE RICH IN IRON AND COPPER. It has been determined (according to controlled animal study) that prunes are among the outstanding fruits highest in iron and copper content, and are acquiring increasing importance in the dietary because of these two valuable elements.
- 6 PRUNES HAVE HIGH ENERGY VALUE California Prunes are an excellent source of quickly available food energy owing to their high content of assimilable sugars. These sugars, being monosaccharides, quickly provide food energy for relieving fatigue due to lack of energy food or to excessive demands upon stored energy.
- (A bulletin, "The Nutritive Values of California Prunes," describes the above program in greater detail. A copy will be gladly furnished on request. See coupon.)

This ad appeared opposite the table of contents in the February, 1935 issue of Nursing. Mary M. Roberts was the Editor. The majority of the authors were nurses. Aritice included "Dysmenorrhea", "A Menstrual History Chart", "Making Bandages", "The Graduate Nurse in Hospital Service", "A Honolulu Nurses Residence", "It is Children with Whom We Are Concerned", and "Modern Methods in Psychiatry." A CPA authored an article titled "Your Federal Income Tax Return. Other advertisers included Lippincott Books, C.V. Mosby, Snowhite Uniforms, National Biscuit Company Shredded Wheat, Sharp & Dome, Griffin Allwhite Shoe Polish, Massachusetts Accident Insurance Company, and Bard-Parker Surgical Scissors.

ANNUAL REPORT TO WEBSTERS by Mae Jacobs

Preparing this year's budget report, with the attendant scrutiny of expenses, income, and budget categories held no surprises. The figures and graphs which reveal where we have acquired money would seem to need little comment.

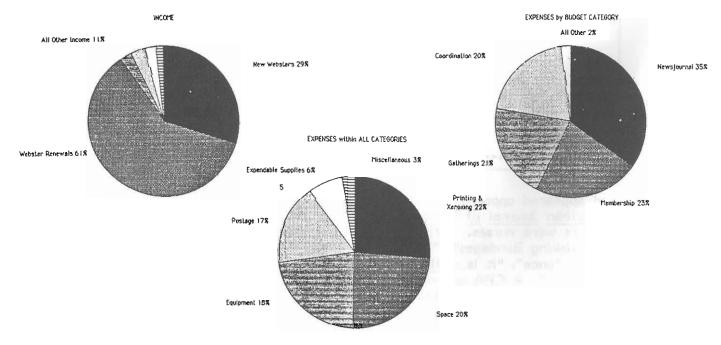
As far as expenses, a couple of details ought to be mentioned. The expenses in the category of "gatherings" were primarily related to having a booth at the ANA in June, 1986. Coordination expenses are also up from last year, primarily because of a large, one-time expense for legal fees incurred with incorporation. Otherwise, expense categories should be fairly clear. As usual, if you have specific questions about where your money is spent, we can provide the detail.

The reimbursement voucher system is working well, and if you forget to submit one with your request for payment, you'll be sure to receive one from me. Although we did ask for budget projections this year, we didn't receive many and those sent were really not useful. Since we now have actual expenditure data for two fiscal years, this can provide information regarding budgeting. Also, we have retained a lawyer to assist wth any questions we have

regarding reporting to the IRS and state agencies in California where we are incorporated.

You might be interest to know that we write about 25 to 30 checks each year! Although this isn't exactly a lot of activity, there never fails to be 30¢ or so missing within the books are to be balanced! It is always found though, after the usual 2-4 hours of scrutiny, and your Cassandra books do balance! Sometimes, though rarely, they balance on the first try -- usually in a month when no checks have been written or receipts received -- a warm and wonderful feeling for this finance coordinator!

As far as future directions, we still have before us the task of writing policies to accompany the articles of incorporation. You will recall we did make some decisions related to finances at the Ann Arbor gathering, with the discussion to be continued at the next Continental Cassandra Gathering. The Utah Web is taking responsibility for initiating further discussion related to finances at the June, 87 gathering in Salt Lake City. If you have particular interests or concerns, please let us hear from you.



ANNUAL BUDGET REPORT

October 1, 1985 - September 30, 1986 by Maeona Jacobs and the Utah Web

<u>Draft Account</u> (available for use)

Balance Forwarded:		\$ 3,249.81
Income:		
Membership: Webster: New Webster: Renew Friends: New Friends: Renew Subscribers: New Subscribers: Renew	\$ 2,310.00 4,737.00 125.00 .00 105.00	
Newsjournal Reprints: Promotional Sales: Donations: Check Interest:	136.00 69.50 .00 196.16	
Total Inco	ome: 7,783.66	7,783.66
Total Uses	able Assets:	\$11,033.47
Expenses: Transfer to WSH Research F Checking Backup Transfer V Research Fund (Acct. Cons Check Charges: Membership: Newsjournal: Cassandra's Action Network Gatherings: Public Relations: Finance: Coordination: Total Expe	MSH 20.00 1,364.91 2,090.59	(6,999.16) \$ 4,034.31
Wilma Scott Heide Research Fund (not available for withdrawal)		
Balance Forward: 13% Webster Dues: Interest Dividends Draft Back-up (acct. consc	olidation)	\$ 2,385.13 955.11 214.98 54.59
Closing Balance:		\$ 3,609.81

CONTACT WOMEN

Names and addresses of all Cassandrans are forwarded to their nearest contact woman; otherwise our mailing list is not distributed. This list is arranged by state alphabetically, so find the location nearest you to connect with the nearest contact woman. There are many cities and states not yet represented by a contact woman, so if you would like to be a contact woman and encourage networking in your area, please let us know. If you are a contact woman and you are not listed, or if the information given here is incorrect, please notify us. Write Cassandra, P.O. Box 341, Williamsville, NY 14221.

Arizona:

CYNTHIA K. RUSSELL 3207 North 53rd Parkway Phoenix 85031

BARBARA SCIACCA Box 4432 New River Stage, II Phoenix 85029

California: SUE DIBBLE

141 Leslie Dr. San Carlos 94070

SUSAN PASTOREK 918 Palm Ave. S. Pasadena 91030

Canada:

MARGARET NIXON 1645 Broadmead Ave. Victoria V8P2V5

Colorado:

LINDA BERGSTROM 1086 Corona #17 Denver, 80218

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ANNE TEITELMAN 17 Grafton St. New Haven 06513

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Ohia:

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> PAMELA CLARKE Rt. 1, Box 93 Irmo 29063

SHEILA REIHING TRUBY 11 Ashwicke Greenville 29615

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CAROL COOK BLEAU 5010 Highland Ct. Austin 78731

Utah:

CAROL A. ASHTON 3685 Palisade Dr. Salt Lake City 84109

West Virginia:

JINI MILLER 103 Ellen Lane Morgantown 26505

Wisconsin:

DOLORES DAWN 1115 Millwood Ave. Waukesha 53186

JOAN KELLER-MARESH 213 3rd Ave. Holmen 54636

THRUMS

(Any loose end, fringe, or tuft of thread; the fringe of warp threads left on a loom after the cloth has been cut off).

This Newsjournal was produced by:

The Buffalo Web. The Newsjournal Staff Nurses who were responsible for production of this issue were Charlene Eldridge Wheeler and Peggy Chinn.

Appreciation to:

- Donna E. Haney for letting us know about Barbara Schutt's death and sharing information so we could prepare an article for this issue.
- Adrienne Roy, who diligently reminded us she is a great proof-reader, and then proof-read the text for this issue with greatly improved results.
- Women of the Buffalo Web who assist with mailing tasks.
- Frigid, the technological wonder, without which all of this would be infinitely more difficult.
 - Elsa Gidlow, for inspiration.

Illustrations:

Unless otherwise specified, the graphic/clip art illustrations are from Jewell Graphics' Feminist Clip Art, P.O. Box 29303, Oakland, CA 94604.

Dover publications: Women: A
Pictorial Archive from Nineteenth
Century Sources (1978), Treasury of
Flower Designs by Susan Gaber (1981),
Banners, Ribbons and Scrolls ed. by
Carol Belanger Grafton (1983), Treasury
of Art Nouveau Design and Ornament by
Carol Belanger Grafton (1980), & Art
Nouveau by E.V. Gillon (1969).

Quote:

The quote on the front cover of this issue is by Elsa Gidlow, in her autobiography Elsa: I Come With My Songs, p. 406, San Francisco, Booklegger Press, 1986, 555 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131. Poet, philosopher, warrior, lesbian feminist pioneer, Elsa Gidlow was born in 1898 and died on June 8, 1986.

Newsjournal Staff Nurses' Notes: Dear Websters.

Congratulations to ourselves! We managed to get this issue of the news-journal printed by the January full moon.

We continue to be concerned about the health of the newsjournal. The numbers of pages is not necessarily a crucial sign of health, but this issue is our slimest ever -- 20 pages including front and back covers.

If you are shy about writing something but think you have something to share, let us know and we will do what we can to encourage and assist you in your project. We ask that every Webster consider something you might contribute. We welcome all sorts of material. Notice the Prune ad in this issue -- we found this and wondered if anyone else has an old journal or book with something to share from it??

Remember, March 15 is the lifeline date for the May issue. We hope to hear from you by then! ~ Peggy and Charlene



WIN NEWS IS OPEN TO ALL PARTICIPANTS INTERESTED IN SENDING WOMEN'S NEWS

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR WIN NEWS XII: 1986 \$30.00 Institutional Check // \$20.00 Individual Check

