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## Spruce Run News (November 1977)

Spruce Run Staff

*Spruce Run*

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SPRUCE RUN ASSOCIATION

*Spruce Run*

NEWSLETTER 11/77

WELCOME TO EVERYONE NEWLY COME TO SPRUCE RUN AND MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE WORKED SO DEVOTEDLY THUS FAR. WE'RE EXCITED AND ENCOURAGED, ELATED BY THE MOUNTING HELP WE ARE OFFERED BY NEW MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS & CONCERNED SUPPORTERS OF OUR EFFORTS.

PLEASE PLAN TO BE A PART OF OUR DAY OF DEFINITIONS AND DIRECTIONS

\* \* \* DECEMBER 4 \* \* \* SUNDAY \* \* \* 10-5 \* \* \*

For members, volunteers, staff. This all day session will include: a summary of Spruce Run efforts to date; defining Spruce Run philosophy, goals & services; setting priorities; electing a new Steering Com (all members are eligible); talking over personal expectations from working with Spruce Run (from everyone's standpoint); exploring and establishing structure for our organization that will use our staff-volunteer-member energy in the most complementary, comprehensive, personally satisfying ways we can figure out.

Lunch for the all day session is pot luck- make it simple and easy: fruit, bread, crackers, cheese, etc. If you have a problem with child care, please call the office (947-0496).

This meeting will be at the CAPEHART COMMUNITY CENTER, 161 Davis Rd.  
10am - 5 pm December 4 (Sunday)

RUMMAGE SALE & OPEN HOUSE AT THE SPRUCE RUN OFFICE- 44 CENTRAL ST, 3rd, floor-

DECEMBER 9 - 9am- 3pm

Please start rounding up donations, ask your friends and neighbors- for such a worthy cause! [Rummage sales and bake sales are our source of operating expenses at present]. We will need help running the sale and having people available to talk with interested people about our services. If you want to help with this, please call Joan (947-0496)

BAKE SALE AT UMO - Advance notice! Our date is DECEMBER 14 (WEDNESDAY) at the Student Union. We will need goodies to sell and some folks who can be at the table to sell them. If someone can offer to coordinate this event- calling people from our card file, arrange pick-up of food, get change, etc. , please tell us (call Joan).

MAINE COALITION FOR FAMILY CRISIS SERVICES- Has just recently formed, including groups from: Portland, Saco, Auburn, us in Bangor, Presque Isle-Caribou. One basic concept for forming the federation is to expand the network of quality services available so that every abused woman and her children can obtain immediate and comprehensive response to their needs locally. Our efforts for funding the coalition have passed the first hurdle! 11/21/77- leadership in the state house and senate have accepted the emergency nature of our proposal for direct appropriations for \$150,000 for the coalition to be divided among the participating groups. The emergency session of the legislature opens in January, we'll keep you informed of the progress and ask for your help, too! Next meeting is 11/28/77 in Augusta

BANGOR CITY WELFARE SHELTER- John Flynn, city manager of Bangor has asked Spruce Run to meet with him concerning allegations we submitted subsequent to our 9/20/77 news conference. The discussion is set for Dec. 2. Lynn Littlefield of the Counseling Center has agreed to attend. In corresponding with Susan Flint of the American Friends Service Committee in Cambridge (she and another AFSC worker helped conduct an intensive investigation into the treatment of clients staying at the Temporary Home run by the State Welfare Dept. of Mass. in Boston) some specific suggestions have become clear that should be recommended for humanizing the Bangor City Welfare Shelter: 2 priorities being that an independent Task Force be formed to review, evaluate and amend present shelter policies and realities with which abused women and their children must deal in using the facility and that all staff working with shelter clients must be trained in crisis intervention. If anyone has further ideas to consider for this meeting please contact Terre.

**VOLUNTEERS-** Our new volunteers have been doing a remarkable job in their crisis work and have been able to help Mary with extensive follow-up. Mary feels that regular supervision sessions are essential to the healthy growth of a crisis intervention service so that all volunteers can vent, discuss, checkout their feelings about their crisis work. She asks that all crisis workers contact her to arrange these necessary meetings.

**Joan needs to hear from each volunteer after an on call shift so that she can include new clients and follow-up encounters in our records. Please make sure you contact her after your shift. She's done an excellent job getting our records into comprehensive and usable shape. This change in record keeping (letting Joan record all crisis calls) helps us keep much better track of our work rather than trying to collect papers from all our volunteers.**

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT WORKER- TONY SPOTTEN -** Crisis workers please record Tony's phone number: 827-3174. Make sure you let all your clients know (whether or not they use the shelter, his services are available. If a mother wants him to work with her children call Tony to give him your understanding of the children's needs. [He's a genuine hit with the children who know him- they respect and respond to him just as we hoped!

**MONTHLY STAFF MEETING-** Tuesday, November 29, 1977 at 7pm. For staff and crisis counselors. Please figure out what days you can and can't be on call before we meet and remember we agreed to allow three hours for this gathering.

**CANADIAN MALISEET WOMEN PROTEST-** Tobique New Brunswick- The 21/2 month occupation of a federal building by protesting Maliseet Indian women at the Maliseet Indian reserve here appeared to have reached an end, as the women, plagued by internal dissension, court injunctions, and lack of tribal support begin to seek other forms of housing with friends and relatives. The protest stemmed from language in the Canadian Indian Act providing that if an Indian man decides to separate from his wife he merely has to order her and their children to leave the house, and that the man retains legal ownership of the house after the wife and children have been forced out. ( One of the occupiers, Joyce Bear said, "We will remain active, but the occupation is over.")

**COURT ORDERS TRIAL IN BATTERED WIVES LAWSUIT-** In July, 1977, Justice Abraham J. Gellinoff of the Manhattan Supreme Court ordered a trial to be held in the lawsuit brought by battered wives against the New York City Police and the Clerk and Probation employees of the New York City Family Court to enforce their legal obligations to protect battered wives. Justice Gellinoff held: "For too long, Anglo-American law treated a man's physical abuse of his wife as different from any other assault, and indeed as an acceptable practice...., in reality, wife beating is still condoned, if not approved, by some of those charged with protecting its victims." The 102 page complaint charges that N.Y. police unlawfully refuse to arrest men who beat their wives and that the administrative employees of the Family Court unlawfully refuse to allow battered women to see judges to ask for Orders of Protection.

**NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (NCN) MERGER WITH FEMINIST ALLIANCE AGAINST RAPE NEWSLETTER (FAAR)-** The NCN and the FAAR newsletter are combining efforts to present a publication making theoretical and practical links between all forms of violence against women. The NCN coordinates information of shelter projects across the nation. We have copies available at the Spruce Run office or you might want to subscribe (\$5/yr.), write: NCN, 584 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102

**WHERE DO FEDERAL WOMEN PRISONERS DO THEIR TIME?** Answer: In the Federal Women's Prison in Alderson, W. Va. (700 are there at present). Nearby is the W.Va. State Women's Prison in Pence Springs. Friends and family of prisoners can stay at the Alderson Hospitality House but there is no public transportation. Amtrak's James Whitcomb Riley train goes through Alderson where there is a station one block from the Hospitality House, but does not stop. The nearest stop is 30 miles away and arrives at 3am. Folks working with the prisoners are appealing to have the train stop in Alderson- If you want to add your support, please write to: Paul H. Reistrup, President of Amtrak, 955 L'Enfant Plaza N., S.W., Wash. DC 20024

**STEPPING OUT-** Maine Public Broadcasting under the Women's Educational Equity Act is presenting 13 1/2 hours of programming in a fast paced 'magazine' format to help make Maine women aware of educational and career opportunities available in the state. It airs on Channel 12 : Orono at 7:30pm Wednesdays, 3:30pm Fridays and 5:00pm Sundays

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