

## CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

Consciousness Raising is a process in which a woman may begin to examine her life and to reassess what she believes in, what she wants out of life, and how she defines herself. Because of the unique format of Consciousness Raising, we are able to see many facets of ourselves which we either thought of as "innate" or never thought of at all. We can then determine which of these things are in our own best interest and to explore new ways and new forms in ourselves.

Living as we do in a heterosexually oriented, sexist society, it is our belief that Consciousness Raising can provide invaluable tools of awareness to all Lesbians.

The Womens Consciousness Raising Group has been meeting weekly on Sunday at 4 P.M. since Oct. 1972. We have had from 5 to 30 women participating each week. The "Open Group" is to my knowledge a first and I am pleased to report it is I believe a success. It is not meant to replace closed groups but has been a pragmatically inspired experiment. The benefit being that a woman can participate without making an ongoing time commitment to a program she may have little initial understanding of.

Because of the turnover of persons attending, the group does not have the complete selfperpetuation and self guidance by all of the members of the group that ideally it should possess. Some of the regular participants have spoken of starting a closed Consciousness Raising group. This would be, I feel, a good step in the development of the program. I see the "Open Group" as an ongoing "Feeder" into small closed groups which can explore in more depth where they want to go.

There are several women currently who have led the Consciousness Raising Group in the past when Sharon & I have not been available. One of these women has taken on the responsibility of facilitating the group on an ongoing basis in the future.

Mina Robinson and Sharon Raphael

June 7, 1973