

# THE PEOPLES JOURNAL

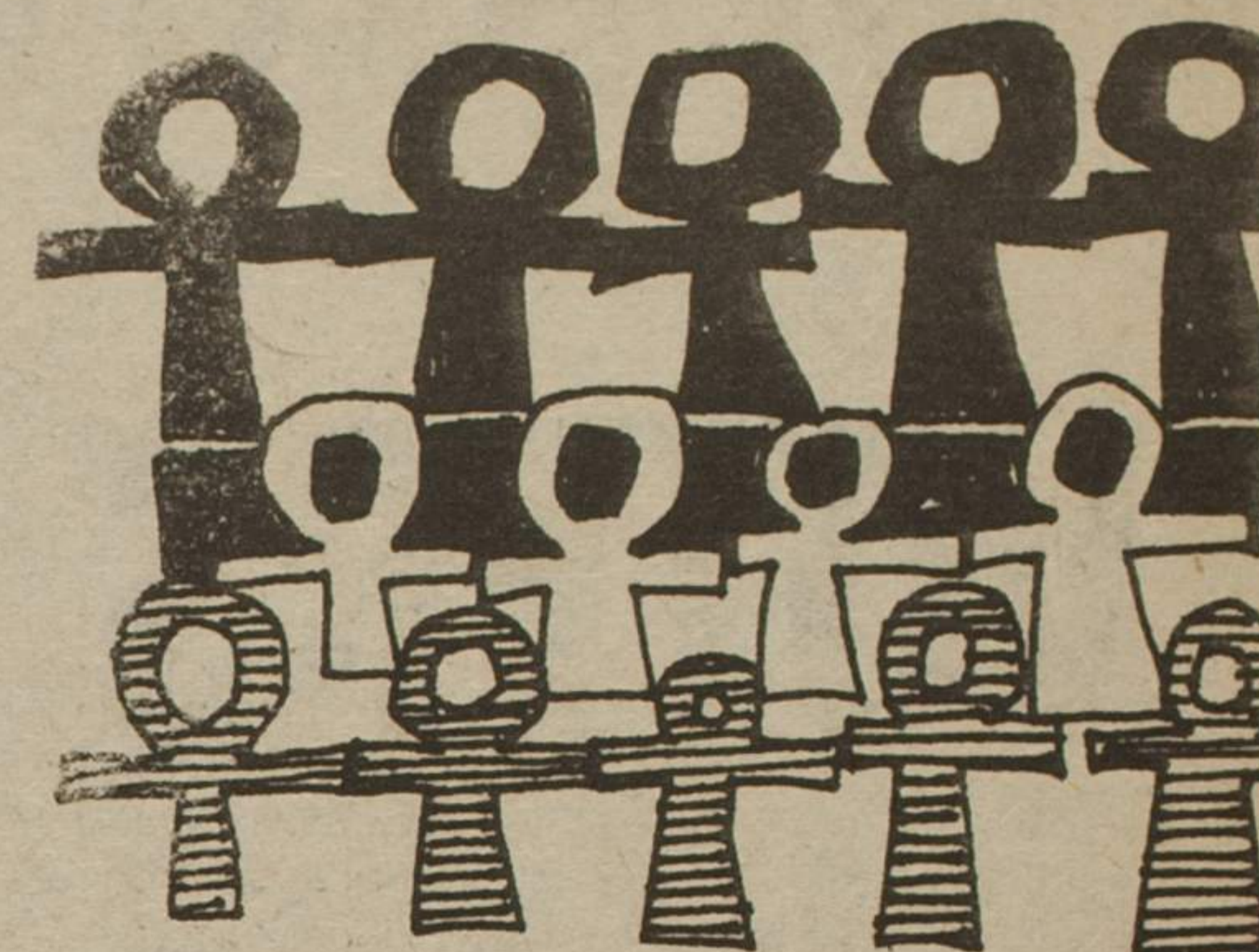


## A Sense of Community

BY KATE DUFFY

CLARA has found support from many women and men in the predominantly student area. One woman, Julie Gordon, emphasized that no one was really an expert organizer in the group. They are just

Visitors are welcome at CLARA meetings. Hopefully, they will use the information to start similar programs in their own neighborhood.



During February, several women were attacked and raped in the area just east of the KU campus. Following those incidents, concerned residents of the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Ohio called a neighborhood meeting; about 30 people showed up.

A second meeting a week and a half later was better attended, with more neighborhood men getting involved. An official name was decided on--The Central Lawrence Residents Association, CLARA. The area loosely covers the blocks east of campus, with an emphasis on Louisiana and Ohio Streets. Members of CLARA drew up a fact sheet explaining the group and suggesting rape prevention aids. These flyers are being distributed around the neighborhood. Plans are underway for a poster which can be put in house windows much like the Block Mother system. If someone is in trouble, she can run to an identified house and receive aid.

concerned folks trying to make the neighborhood a better place to live. Working together in CLARA has given them a strong sense of community, and consequently, they hope to influence area landlords to keep their property in better shape.

During the meeting, neighbors got to know one another, set up a buddy system and planned a "keep-your-porch-light-on-at-night" campaign. A petition for additional street lighting was circulated in the neighborhood. The petition was presented to the city commission; subsequently, commissioners came through with \$5,000 of revenue sharing money for new lights in the area.

In dealing with the rape problems, CLARA has had assistance from Douglas County Rape Victim Support Service. RVSS demonstrated self-defense techniques and showed the film, "No Pat Answer", which was written and directed by Polly Pettit of RVSS.

Additional help can be obtained from the RVSS. Members will attend your meetings and show their film. Contact RVSS at 843-8985, or obtain information through the KU Information Center at 864-3506 or Headquarters at 843-2345.

## A NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHTS BACK !

### Prevent Rape Through Awareness

BY MARTHA COOLEY



-If you are alone on the street, act assertively or possibly rude to any stranger who approaches you. Your manner should thwart his attempts to dominate or frighten you.

-Always let your roommates know where you are going.

-If you are alone at home, do not let a stranger inside your house, unless you have sent for someone, such as a maintenance man. If someone claims he needs to use the phone, make the call yourself while he waits outside.

-Do not hitchhike unless its an emergency or you are with a friend. Even then, hitchhiking can be dangerous for women.

-If someone has maneuvered you into a vulnerable position, demand your way in order to protect yourself.

If you are about to be raped, your best immediate tactic is to attract attention or get away from the rapist. His power over you is not absolute. If he pulls out a weapon, your choices have narrowed, but many women have escaped even under these circumstances. If the situation is aggressively violent, your aim may be to treat him like a human being.

Remember, awareness and sensitivity is not paranoia. Because ultimately, you must rely on yourself.



There is no "right way" to resist a rapist. All methods such as screaming, struggling, physical force, or pleading have worked, even when the assailant has a weapon. But at times, all methods have also failed.

A recently released study on victim resistance completed by the Queen's Bench Foundation in San Francisco has determined that women who have successfully resisted a rape, ultimately tried more methods of resistance than victims.

**SELF DEFENSE**  
is a right.



Contrary to popular assumption, many rapists do not jump out of bushes, but accost their victims casually, even in a friendly manner.

Studies have shown that vulnerable women are perfect targets for potential rapists. A woman may be walking alone, she may be alone in a building, or at a bar or party she may leave alone with someone she has just met. She may place herself under someone's protection; for example, she may trust a friendly stranger who assists with her troubled car.

Be constantly aware of your vulnerability and, as they say, drive defensively. Here are a few points to remember:

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