Warming Center

Crumpled newspaper stuffed inside clothing helps create dead air space and more warmth.
Warming Center
(January 26th - February 16th, 2001)

Winter Clothing
Comfortable Surroundings
Instant Soup
Shiatsu Treatments
Reading Material
Plastic Tarps
Hot Coffee

All the drawings in this booklet were taken from Tom Brown’s Field Guide to City and Suburban Survival, 1984.
The first fire can I saw was on a hill outside Whitewater, Wisconsin. I was escaping the doldrums of junior high summer camp, and saw it: metal barrel, brilliant flame. No shoe tracks in the mud nearby, no trail marking sticks on the ground. It was a well-made fire, but why was it burning unsupervised and why was I the one who discovered it? My twelve-year-old mind imagined the worst as I freaked and ran back to the cabins.

Museums make me nervous. I truck into sterile empty rooms in search of the rare and great and often find myself alone. There is not even the click of an underpaid guard’s heels. White ceilings and glossy floors betray the marketing departments’ claims: it appears as though no one has ever entered these rooms. What happens after hours? Do roaches and water bugs invade, holding hands and discussing lofty ideas? What is the point of a warm, well-lit room when no one sees the objects that are diligently preserved? The presence and quantity of humans change the nature of these artificial spaces. A museum after hours is just a beautiful waiting room.

For four weeks, Temporary Services changes: not in name, but in designation. Sit in our chairs and leaf through books, eat noodles and drink tea, chat about the lofty and the low-down dirty. Please remember to take extra clothing and reading material with you. Your presence is payment for these simple gifts.
Use discarded CTA Transit Cards to open up ATM lobbies at banks. This will provide you with a heated space - an instant warming center. The transit cards are identical to ATM and credit cards. The transit cards are the same size as the credit cards. The location of the metal strip is also the same. The devices you swipe the cards through only scan the metal strip—they do not check for personal information. This is why the cards open the security doors. Cardboard transfer cards will not work. Only the plastic cards open security doors. Please remember that you will be warming up on private property, and may be considered a trespasser.
Chrisdian Wittenburg performing Shiatsu Massage. Chrisdian will offer free massage treatments for two days while the Warming Center is open.
Happiness is knowing how to insulate.