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Maine Division - American Association of University Women

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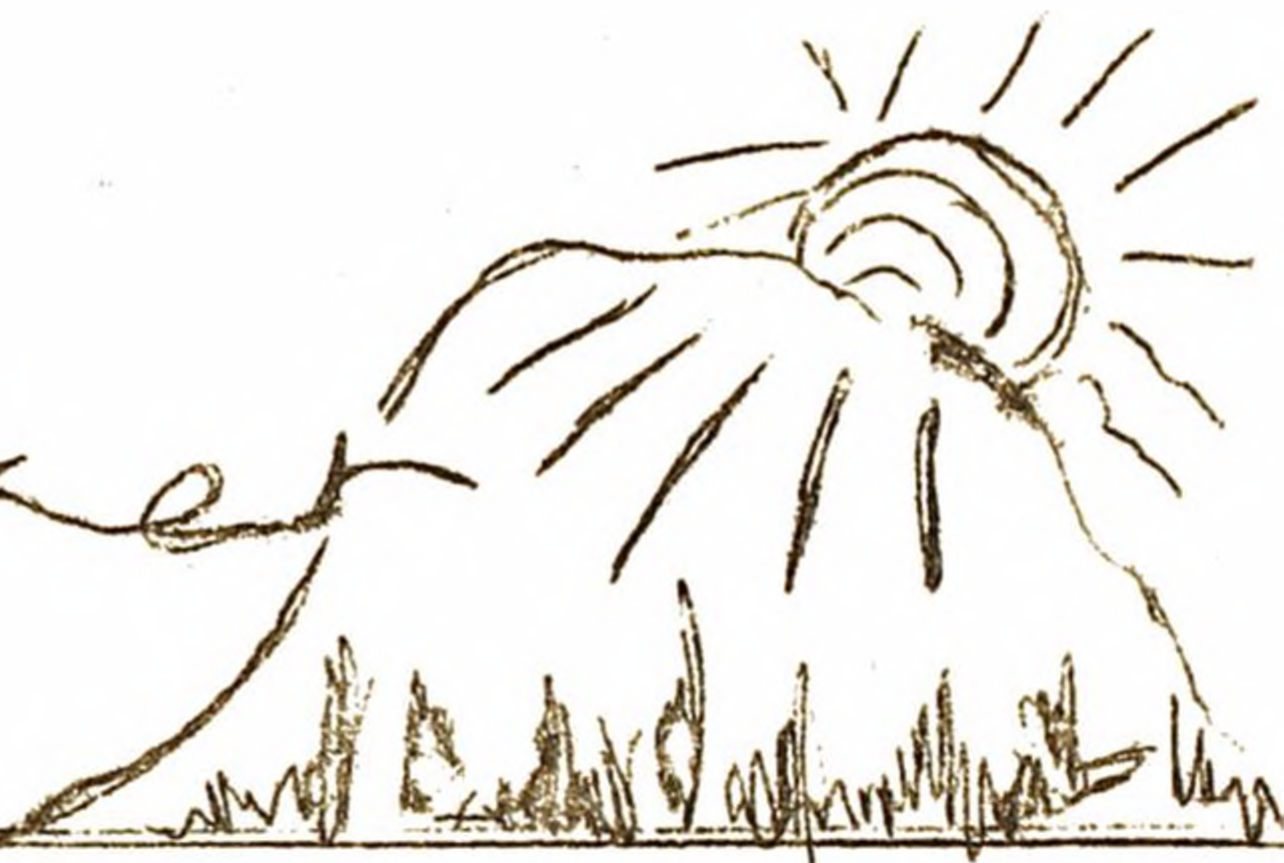
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Dawnbreaker



SPRING 1977

Maine Division, AAUW

VOL. 25, No. 2

LEGISLATIVE DAY

This year our Legislative Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, starting at 10:30 a.m. Registration will be in the Hall of Flags on the second floor of the State House from 9--9:45 a.m. If the legislature is back on their regular schedule, we will attend the sessions of the House and Senate which start at 10 a.m. Those who come early can take a sightseeing trip through the Capitol before the sessions. If the legislature should still be having afternoon sessions, we can all go sightseeing and then split up to attend the hearings.

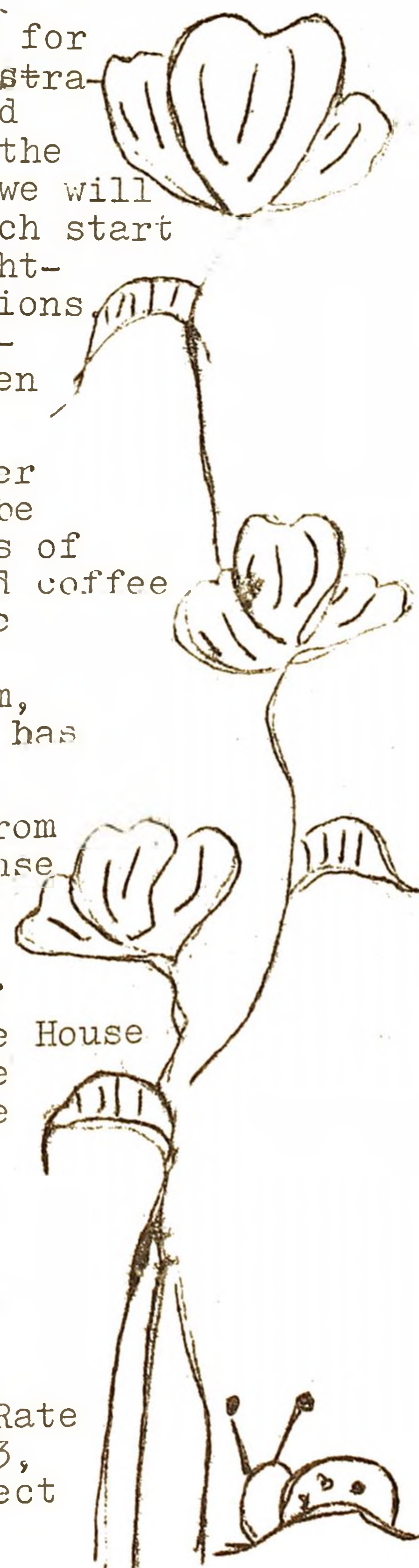
At noon we will go to Hazel Green's on Water Street (five blocks away) for a lunch that may be ordered from the menu. A typical lunch consists of soup, roast beef sandwich (super), salad bar and coffee or tea for \$2.35 plus tax and tip. At this time we plan to have speakers on education, natural resources (Dickey-Lincoln) or the Indian problem, depending on the status of the legislation that has been filed on these subjects.

You might like to invite the legislators from your own areas to join us at lunch at your expense or their own. Many of them have lunch at Hazel Green's anyhow. Let me know ahead of time if you do this so I will know how many to plan for.

Following lunch we will return to the State House to do whatever you wish--more sightseeing, state museum and library, or to attend hearings in the afternoon sessions. Please come!

Senator Curtis' bill to break up the state university system is L. D. 219. I distributed copies to each branch represented at the Winter Board meeting and will send copies to the other branches as soon as I obtain them.

Bills concerning the Uniform Property Tax Rate for Educational Funding are L. D. 16, 81, 91, 93, and 270. There are several others on this subject that have yet to be printed.



Other bills of interest.

L. D. 146 to amend vocational education laws. L. D. 175 to provide supplemental appropriation for instructional TV emergency needed to continue operation in WCBB area (Mrs. Bealieu). L. D. 196 to amend duties of Commission of Education and Cultural Services relating to teaching of Maine studies--history, geography, natural and industrial resources in grades 7 or 8 in all school systems. L. D. 231, an act relating to Adult Education. L. D. 248 increasing pay for substitute teachers from \$20 to \$35 (no raise since 1968). L. D. 285 to increase funding and flexibility in the funding and operation of the vocational technical institutes. L. D. 288, to amend the priority Social Services Program to serve elderly health needs (K. Goodwin). L. D. 183 to revise the Maine Regional Library System (Osher).

Parking should be available at the garage at the corner of Sewall and Capitol Streets.

Marcia Tappan
Legislative Chairman



EDITORIAL STAFF

Jane Geib
Alvira Lagomarsino
Susan McKee
Dorothy Megna

BRANCH PROGRAMS

WATERVILLE

Women's Status--Part of a New Life Style; Betty Robinson and Judy Ferster, Colby faculty members.

BATH-BRUNSWICK

Mark Gartley discussed his job and answered questions. January members demonstrate skills. February arborist-landscaping trees in Maine, diseases, etc.

CAPE NEDDICK

China, slides and discussion of tour of country. A \$25 fee is charged. Marion Fuller Brown, Ram's Head Farm, York, Me. 03909. Halsey Smith, Chrman, Maine Commission on the Future, UM 246 Deering Aveune, Portland, Me. 04102.

LINCOLN-KNOX

Mr. Monks, speaker. Expedition to Pemaquid digs, Mr. and Mrs. Camp, tour leaders. Honey-making, a series of lectures by local authors. Visit to Farnsworth Museum with slide show of historic buildings in Maine by state architect.

AUGUSTA

Debate with John Randaqua and Pat Garrette, Safe Power for Maine. Elizabeth Russell, her experiences as AAUW Fellowship recipient and her work at Jackson Laboratory.

BANGOR

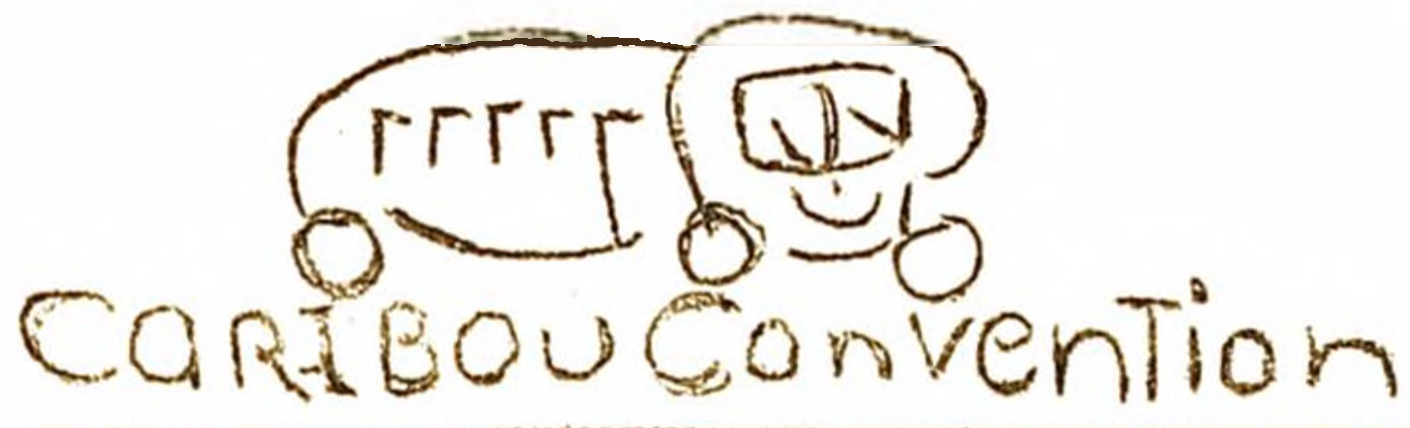
September, panel of community experts (branch members) acquainted members with volunteer, special interest, service, and recreational groups in the greater Bangor area.

ORONO-OLD TOWN

Dr. Arthur Johnson, director for Project for Balanced Growth, UMO. Panel of university trustees with Sen. Ted Curtis debating the merits of the system.

These are some samples of excellent programs that our branches have been having. Some branch chairmen sent me very detailed accounts. Please see me if you wish to read them.

Diane Sanders
Div. First Vice President



Ride the chartered bus to Caribou for the division convention. The bus will tentatively originate in Portland and pick up passengers in Brunswick, Augusta, Waterville, and Bangor. Rachel Dutch, Adams Road, Brunswick 04011, is making arrangements. Contact her for reservations..



Volunteers to study NUCLEAR ENERGY and report at convention in Caribou, May 21 . . . no experience needed. For more information, contact Karyl Condit, 23 Court St., Farmington.



AFOOT IN MAINE ON TV

"So You Think You Know Maine" is the title for a new series based on AFOOT IN MAINE. Every few weeks AFOOT IN MAINE will be given as a prize.

Did you know that AFOOT IN MAINE went into second printing in October? So far, there are 6000 copies in print. Do all the libraries and schools in your area have copies? The Mexico High School is using it as a remedial reading text. The Migrant Worker Program has purchased 250 copies for migrant workers.

AFOOT IN MAINE is a great gift to give to speakers at your branch programs.

Please talk up the book with friends, relatives, tourists . . .

At the state convention in May, Mary Grow, division delegate to the Natural Resources Council, plans to introduce a resolution opposing the Dickey-Lincoln hydroelectric dams. Please try to learn about this issue. Information is available from many sources including:

Natural Resources Council
51 Chapel Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

and

Dickey-Lincoln Project
U. S. Army Corps of Eng.
424 Trapelo Road
Waltham, Mass. 02154

C A L E N D A R

Maine International Women's Year
(Watch for future publicity for dates of local meetings)

Maine International Women's Year
State Meetings
(Watch for future publicity)

Division Legislative Day
Tuesday, April 12, State House,
Augusta. Register 9-9:45 a.m.

Division Convention at Caribou
May 20 - 21

Association Convention
Minneapolis, Minnesota
June 25 - 29

MAIL BALLOT

- I favor keeping the University of Maine system intact.
- I favor breaking up the University of Maine into 7 separate public institutions with separate boards of trustees and separate budgets.

Please mail IMMEDIATELY to
Velma K. Oliver
3 Allen Road
Orono, Maine 04473

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF THE AAUW UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR

As you no doubt have read the publicity releases about the seminar, I thought I would give you a few impressions as seen by the sole delegate from Maine - not appointed - just accidental, I can assure you. The two days were jammed with fascinating talks and almost as interesting exchanges with other delegates. The speeches ranged from the formal keynote address of Neville Kanakartne of Sri Lanka (who, by the way, spoke beautiful colloquial English) to a panel of women UN delegates from Jamaica, Sierra Leone, and Singapore. Thus we were given perspectives from the overall point of view of the United Nations as a body to make general policy as well as the more detailed one from members of individual countries.

Half of the population of the world lives in the Third World-- South America, Africa, and Southern Asia. Thus the important dichotomy today is not East vs. West, but North vs. South. This in turn means the rich nations vs. the poor nations. The people of the Third World are becoming more desperate and more alert to the problems facing them. They are clamoring for international justice, a change to make some of the policies, especially those which affect them, and they want help with their agonizing economic and political problems.

Although the women speakers noted a common universality of all women, they did consider that the conditions of poverty throughout the Third World make their lives different from the women of the North. They want to keep their traditional roles as wife and mother of the family, which they consider basic to their societies. The economic deprivation is so all-encompassing that it affects everything in their lives--education, nutrition, and all basic needs. They implied that if they had more opportunity to educate themselves, there was a chance that they could overcome some of their other problems provided they were not exploited by other factions while they were learning.

The United Nations has many working conferences which address themselves to this situation. Secretaries of two of these conferences spoke to us. One concerns itself with halting the creeping deserts of the world which would help immeasurably in making some of the hungry populations self-sufficient agriculturally. Overgrazing is one of the major offenders here, and education could help. The other conference secretary spoke on water. The available water in the Third World is being used up rapidly. Much of it is fossil water and when it is gone, there will be no more to take its place. It is not renewable as is the water of much of the Northern Hemisphere.

One of the delegates from Minnesota (married to a man from Maine) fled from Czechoslovakia to England with one suitcase, neither money nor friends, and a school girl's knowledge of English. She was a trained psychologist and survived by doing menial tasks in English hospitals until she could qualify in her field in English. What stamina and grit! A young woman from Virginia began to query me about what we thought in Maine about nuclear energy. On my response that the disposal of nuclear waste seemed to present serious problems, she wondered what we would think about shooting this waste into the sun where it could do no harm. This seemed a far-out solution to me until another woman said that NASA was actually working on this and that both their husbands were deep into the problem for NASA.

Without a doubt, the mind is expanded by quantum jumps at such a seminar. Next year I hop I won't be the only delegate from Maine and New Hampshire. It is too exciting and worthwhile for the rest of you to miss.

Anne Armstrong
President, Lincoln/Knox Branch

FROM

THE DIVISION



PRESIDENT...

During the fall I had a marvelous time visiting with the Augusta, Cape Neddick, Franklin County, Gorham-Cape Elizabeth, Orono-Old Town, Portland, Waterville, and York County branches. Meeting with so many wonderful AAUW people is most enjoyable..

In addition to my coming to visit your branches, I hope that many of you will take the time to come to the Division Convention in Caribou, May 20-21. We are hoping that women from Canada will be able to join us too. If you really want to effect the policies that will guide Main AAUW for the following year, if you want to know more about AAUW, and if you want to meet some marvelous people, this is your big opportunity!

I hope, too, that you are making plans to send delegates from your branches to the Association Convention in Minneapolis, June 25-29. The convention theme is "Bridges to Equality." It promises to be an educational, stimulating, exciting, outstanding group of days in June!

During the next few months, there will be meetings for women in Maine for the observance of International Women's Year. The purpose of these meetings will be for women to express concerns. The dates are still to be determined. Please be alert to publicity. I am representing AAUW on that planning committee and would be happy for any ideas that you would like to see included in this venture.

I hope to visit with more of you before the Caribou Convention, all of you in Caribou, and as many as possible in Minneapolis.

Louise S. Smith

THE ENERGY PROBLEM



“Senator Muskie says we should talk about the permanent energy problem, instead of the short-term energy crisis, because there will be no solution as long as people make increasing demands on the planet's finite resources.

Time magazine announces reinstatement of its Energy section “to give the subject the enlarged and intense coverage it requires.”

Despite the politicians, despite the media--or perhaps because of the barrage of words from these ever-verbose boys forever crying wolf--few people act as though they believe the earth can run out of energy. To most of us, the problem is abstract and remote. The statistics are unreal--who can visualize 15 billion BTUs of coal? -- and contradictory, more mind-blocking, the consequences of no energy are unthinkable. When there is no petroleum, Maine families living in oil-heated houses miles from a grocery will freeze or starve. Such a disaster is unbelievable; therefore, “they” won't let it happen.

Our mental evasions cannot change the fact that sometime here will be no oil, or natural gas, or coal. We do not and cannot make more fossil fuels as we use them; the total supply was fixed eons ago. Eventually the reservoirs will be irrevoably empty. As Dr. Tom Eastler of Framington says, “If there's no oil in the ground, thinking about it won't solve the problem.*

If fossil fuels will not continue to serve us, then technology will find substitutes? Dr. Eastler is skeptical, particularly questioning the direction of government research. His own proposed solution is hydrogen as an energy source. So far, very little government attention has been given to hydrogen.

The use of nuclear power and of water power to generate electricity are two alternatives to fossil fuels of particular current interest to Maine people. Although Central Maine Power Company's suggested nuclear plant at Sears Island has been cancelled, a second Maine Yankee at Richmond remains possible for the next decade. And the federal government is considering Maine as a site for a nuclear dump, a place to bury used fuel rods and other radioactive waste from the nuclear power plants now in operation. The Army Corps of Engineers, under Congressional mandate, is planning two dams - at Dickey and at Lincoln School - on the St. John River to provide hydroelectric peaking power. Each proposed project has complicated energy, environmental, and economic consequences. Each has vociferous defenders and vociferous opponents, adding to the weight of words already expended on energy questions.

The single aspect of the energy problems which might benefit from more words is the area of national energy planning. Except for brief statements of intent, the federal government has so far said little.

An energy plan must begin with a documented and realistic appraisal of present resources, then evaluate possible future strategies and advocate the most promising. The absence of long-term, national policies makes assertions about the usefulness of any single energy project or approach meaningless.

Looking at the chaotic energy situation, Senator Muskie and Dr. Eastler agree on one palliative: energy conservation. Dr. Eastler is not optimistic about this temporary measure, either; too many people, he says, do not believe in a permanent energy shortage, do not recognize the need to change their life-styles. Failing voluntary sacrifices of comfort and convenience, he sees two alternatives: stringent limitations enforced by a totalitarian government, or a redistribution of dwindling food and fuel by violent revolution. As the French and Russian aristocracies, among other groups, have shown, mental evasions can be fatal.

Mary Grow
Division Delegate
Natural Resources Council

VOTE
ON U OF M



The University of Maine Study Committee of the Maine AAUW Division unanimously opposes any legislation aimed at breaking up the present University of Maine system. At the Winter Board Meeting in Orono, February 12, Velma Oliver, speaking for the committee, gave the reasons for its position.

First, the previous system of having seven separate campuses competing for funds at each legislative session was undesirable and should not be revived.

Second, the separate campuses have made adjustments, often beneficial, to fit into the "super-U"; to undo these changes would be difficult and perhaps detrimental.

Third, returns from the questionnaire which was circulated in as many Maine AAUW branches as possible in November and December 1976 showed 80 members favoring retention of the present system, 12 opposing it, and 15 with no opinion.

The Division will take a position on L. D. 219 "An Act to Reorganize the System of Public Post-secondary Education in Maine" sponsored by Senator Curtis of Penobscot depending on the tally of mail ballots. Please IMMEDIATELY mail your ballot (on PAGE THREE) to Velma K. Oliver, 3 Allen Rd., Orono, Maine 04473.

*Steve Sherman, "When (Not If) the World Runs Out of Oil," Yankee, 41:2 (February 1977), pp. 75 ff at p. 76. See also the follow-up article by E. William Ranck, "A Proposal: Hydrogen for New England Via Iceland," ibid., p. 107



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