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Maine Women's Lobby

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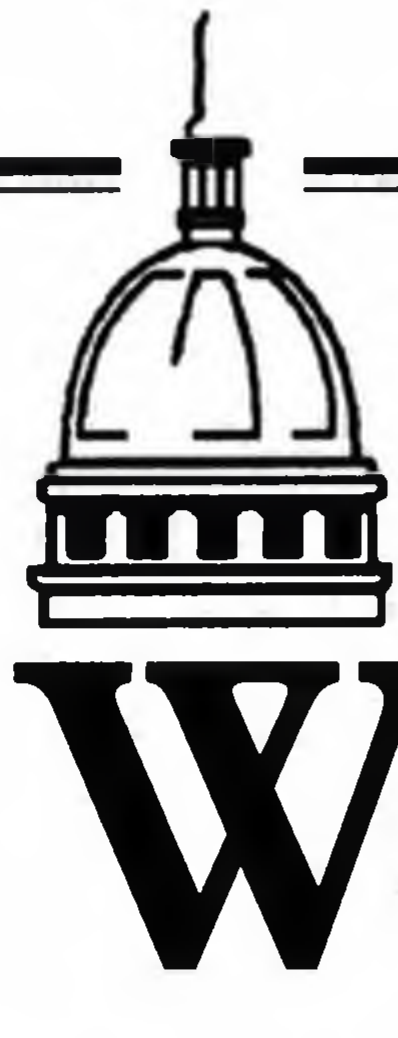
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Maine Women's Lobby

APRIL 1994

NUMBER 7

How Women Fare In The New Global Economy

By Stephanie Sequino

While many in the United States praise the trend towards a global economy, the debate rarely considers how these economic changes affect women and the goal of gender equality.

The globalization of the economy occurs when corporations, goods and money move easily across international borders. The roots of this global economy can be found in the declining corporate profit rates of the late 1960s, which induced U.S. companies to move production to developing countries.

The lure of cheap wages, lax labor and environmental standards and, on occasion, repressive governments that limit

labor union activity combined to ensure higher profit rates abroad. The shift of investment abroad by corporations began a process called the "deindustrialization of America" and has contributed to the loss of hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs in Maine and the U.S.

Large corporations are not *multinational* with production branches in several countries. While we still tend to think of corporations as having nationalities, this distinction has become meaningless. For example, Texas Instruments produces a large percentage of its semiconductor chips in Japan and Hewlett Packard now produces computers in France. As a result, many goods sold as American products are made up of components made almost entirely overseas. The production of goods now spans the globe, a phenomenon that has been called the new international division of labor.

Some regard these changes as a move toward greater economic "efficiency." Others worry, however, that corporations have extended their reach beyond the regulations that once limited their excesses. Indeed, it appears that the rise of capital mobility, which has resulted in increased corporate leverage over workers and policy-makers, has come at the cost of community.

How has this happened? Increasingly, multinational corporations are able to play workers in different countries off against each other by threatening to close up shop

and move to another country when workers insist on wage hikes, improved safety standards or better working conditions. Corporations are also able to pressure local governments to reduce taxes and roll back protective labor and environmental legislation. The recent case in which the city of Willow Run, Mich. agreed to a \$13 million tax abatement for General Motors (G.M.) in return for that corporation's commitment to keep the factory open until the year 2000 is a case in point.

Understandably, many communities have felt it necessary to accede to corporate demands. But the loss of tax revenue results in lay-offs of state and municipal workers, cuts in social services and education spending and higher property taxes. Corporations have also succeeded in lowering their tax liability at the national level with the share of corporate income taxes in total income tax revenue falling from 28 percent in 1955 to 8.2 percent in 1988.

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Lawmakers Make Minor Changes in Maine's Welfare System

Lawmakers refused to adopt Gov. John McKernan's controversial welfare reform proposals that had been labeled "punitive" and "Draconian" by the Maine Women's Lobby and other organizations and made only minor changes to Maine's welfare program that serves low-income women and their children.

Within days of wrapping up their session, lawmakers established a business subsidy for employers if they hired an Aid

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- ❖ Sexual Assault Awareness

How Women Fare...

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Some argue that increased corporate leverage requires Mainers to create "a good business climate" in order to attract new business and jobs. But recent events suggests that today what is required to create a good business economy is in conflict with our needs as workers and citizens.

A telling statistic is the U.S. unemployment rate, which has steadily climbed over the past three decades. In the 1960s, for example, the average unemployment rate was 4.8 percent while the average for the 1980s was 7.3 percent.

Higher rates of unemployment are partly explained by the loss of many well-paid manufacturing jobs to low-wage countries. Recently, G.M., Ford, and Chrysler have opened plants in Mexico, resulting in the loss of an estimated 200,000 jobs in the U.S. auto industry. Those well-paid jobs have not been replaced to any substantial degree by jobs that pay decent living wages. Instead, our economy has generated low-paid jobs in the service sector.

In this environment, corporations engage in a cost-cutting frenzy that forces workers and communities to compete against each other. Unfortunately, Americans are asked to compete with workers whose daily wage may be as low as 50 cents an hour. These workers often labor in unsafe conditions, do not have the right to organize and have no fringe or social benefits. A recent "Dateline" story on the source of WalMart products showed Americans now compete with children in Bangladesh and Pakistan who are paid subsistence wages and are not free to leave their factory jobs. We also compete against women in South Korea who earn 50 percent of the male wage and work the longest work week in the world.

Globalization has been instrumental in the induction of women in developing countries into paid employment. Women are generally employed by companies that manufacture good for export. Exports in developing countries depend on low costs and low wages. Women are paid wages

significantly lower than those paid men. They almost universally work longer hours, in part because women everywhere bear the brunt of household labor. In many countries, women are excluded from high-paid jobs in capital-intensive industries such as auto, steel, and ship building. This results in their being "crowded" into a limited number of jobs in labor-intensive export manufacturing, causing an artificial depression of women's wages. In spite of the rapid growth of female employment, wage differentials between men and women have actually widened in some countries. This is a peculiar reversal of economic logic that would suggest that because women are in such high demand compared to men, their wages should rise rather than fall.

By importing cheap goods from developing countries, we in the U.S. import gender discrimination and labor repression. Indeed, imported goods would not be so cheap without wage discrimination. While we may benefit as consumers from cheaper goods, our well-being as workers and citizens is undermined by these practices. There appears to be a strong connection between the low wages paid women in developing countries and stagnating wages in the U.S. Real wages in America have fallen since 1973 while real average gross weekly earnings in 1992 were *the lowest they had been since 1958*.

Not only are wages lower than 20 years ago but job *hours* are also more insecure. An increasingly number of new jobs are part-time or temporary jobs, which pay lower hourly wages, have less job mobility, and provide fewer social and fringe benefits than full-time jobs. These jobs are concentrated in the service sector but some manufacturing jobs are now organized in this fashion. Since the mid-1970s, the growth of part-time jobs has evolved from an increase in involuntary part-time slots. These jobs are filled by people who would prefer full-time jobs but are unable to find them. Almost 70 percent of part-time work is performed by women. Women are almost twice as likely as men to be *involuntarily employed part-time*. This is a discouraging statistic. Gender equality in large part depends on equal access to income. If women have less access than men to full-time jobs,

their income is less and gender equality remains out of reach.

In the manufacturing sector, some industries have shifted to subcontracting, especially among the garment and electronics industries in New York and Los Angeles County. Subcontracting links established firms to unlicensed shops and industrial home work, where the large proportion of workers are native- and foreign-born Hispanic women. These areas of labor escape governmental regulation with the result that workers are frequently subject to abuse – underpayment or non-payment, hazardous work conditions and sexual harassment.

Firms also rely on overtime to reduce labor costs. While this might seem contradictory, firms save on payroll taxes and fringe benefits by working employees overtime instead of expanding employment. For many workers, overtime work is mandatory. From a gender perspective, the use of overtime creates a problem since it is primarily men (in manufacturing and professional jobs) who are called on to work excessive hours. This makes men less available to contribute to household labor and child care and it widens the gap between male and female earnings.

Another disturbing trend is the growth of earnings inequality among women. Affirmative action programs appear to have had some success in opening doors for women in professional and managerial positions, contributing to an increase in women's *average* earnings in the last 15 years. However, at the same time, the number of women who are low-wage workers (earning less than \$10,000) has risen to almost a quarter of all women workers, up from a low of 16.5 percent in 1978.

Rising inequality among women workers places stress on gender solidarity, which is required to improve all women's economic status. Women's gains in blue collar and service jobs have been curtailed by the recent period of labor cost cutting and lower taxes. These results suggest feminists must give attention to the needs of low-wage workers, including training, education, adequate child care, funded parental leave, a shorter work week for full-time workers, extension of

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Women In A Global Economy...

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pro-rated fringe benefits to part-time workers and the promotion of unionization among service sector workers.

These goals, however, appear difficult to achieve in the current global economy. Communities, worker well-being and gender equality appear at odds with economic growth in this environment.

As an alternative, the U.S. might consider policies that make trade fair so we

do not import gender discrimination and worker repression along with low-cost consumer goods. For example, we might consider attaching a social charter to our trade agreements, similar to the one developed by European Community (EC) countries. This charter would establish the principle that trade should not be based on social dumping, where poor countries follow low-wage, low-regulation strategies to increase exports. Trade agreements must make trade dependent on adherence to universally accepted labor standards, including the prohibition of gender-based wage discrimination and occupational segregation.

The globalization of our economies requires harmonization where wages and living standards equalize over time. We could opt out of this process by adopting isolationist policies, or we could choose to integrate and enact trade policies to ensure that harmonization results in improved quality of life for all, not worsened gender inequality.

Most importantly, we must recognize that the process of globalization is not gender neutral. The impact of trade policies and global integration must be analyzed to consider their impact on gender equity in this country and elsewhere.

Lawmakers Make Minor Changes...

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to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) recipient, but it mandated that the funds should be used for training the worker.

The Legislature also asked the state's Economic Growth Council to look at, "the work force challenges faced by welfare recipients and strategies to address their economic and related needs."

Many, including the Maine Women's Lobby, were relieved that much of McKernan's welfare reform package had been gutted.

Among its more controversial proposals were plans to penalize families who had additional children while receiving AFDC and counting the income of roommates in determining the amount of AFDC to allot a woman and her children.

(Earlier, government officials had actually encouraged welfare recipients to move in together to save money.)

The early plan had also offered a business subsidy of \$3,780 to employers who hired AFDC recipients and called for welfare recipients to "do something" for 20 hours a week or lose benefits regardless of their circumstances.

"While we agree that the welfare system needs to be revamped and reformed, it is our contention that this should be the result of a more thoughtful process, not a hastily-crafted program," points out

Maine Women's Lobby Executive Director and lobbyist Laura Fortman.

The Lobby argued that placing a cap on benefits to families who have additional children merely punishes the children by forcing the families even deeper into poverty. The average AFDC family has 1.8 children, less than the national average.

The Legislature had already cut benefits to AFDC families 8 percent last year and currently provides only \$312 per month for a mother with two children.

In the last week of the legislative session, the Human Resources Committee reached a consensus that some type of welfare reform was needed, after splintering over McKernan's early proposal along bipartisan lines.

The consensus plan that emerged from the committee:

Allows the Department of Human Services (DHS) more flexibility in using ASPIRE (which offers job training and day care to welfare recipients) funds to secure more services.

It did not include the cap on benefits to families or who additional children, nor did it take into account the income of roommates.

It does include the business subsidy, but unlike McKernan's proposal, the employee receives \$3,780 over an 18-month

period, and during the last nine months the subsidy can be used to pay for training for the employee.

The demonstration project of this subsidy will take place in Portland and Bangor.

There are currently 4,000 AFDC recipients on a waiting list to volunteer for the ASPIRE program, but they cannot get into the program because of lack of funds.

The plan also requires the Economic Growth Council, which advises the Governor and Legislature, to look at the work force challenges faced by AFDC recipients. AFDC recipients, advocates and service providers will have a chance to assist the Economic Growth Council in addressing this issue.

"We applaud this explicit recognition that many women must remain on AFDC because there is a lack of economic opportunity for them," said Fortman.

Another proposal requires Maine Quality Centers to tap ASPIRE participants when recruiting for job training.

The issue of welfare reform is still alive and will be addressed by the next Legislature, and by President Clinton.

The Lobby plans to keep working to gather data, interview AFDC recipients and continue research to put forward welfare reform proposals that will help, not punish, poor women and their children.

Celebrate Maine Women With The 1994 History Poster

The 1994 Women's History poster is now available from the Maine Women's Lobby and the Women's Development Institute for only \$5!

The poster features prominent Maine women who have played an important role in the state and nation's history.

Learn about the contributions of Molly Spotted Elk, Fly Rod Crosby who taught Teddy Roosevelt how to fish with a flyrod and Lillian Nordica.

The poster, which is an ideal learning "gift" for school children and teens, showcases the accomplishments of seven Maine women. Buy it for yourself, your daughters or buy several and donate them to area schools, libraries and doctor's offices or display one in your office.

Mary Alice Nelson Archambaud (1903-1977) known in the theater world as Molly Spotted Elk, began life on Indian Island. She cared for her seven siblings after her mother's early death and at age 13 learned traditional Indian dances. After graduating from Old Town High School, she studied at the University of Pennsylvania and contributed to the classic study of the Penobscots, "Penobscot Man: The Life of a Forest Tribe in Maine."

During Prohibition, she performed native dances as Molly Spotted Elk in vaudeville shows while designing her costumes and writing the music. In 1928, she landed the lead in the movie "The Silent Enemy," which documented the Ojibway's struggle before the Europeans arrived.

In 1931, Nelson danced in France in the ballet corps of the International Colonial Exhibition. She returned to the U.S. and starred in several movies, including "The Last of the Mohicans," "The Good Earth" and "Lost Horizon."

Nelson returned to France to dance at the Fontainebleau Conservatory. After her husband, John Archambaud, disappeared while working for the Red Cross during

World War II, she and her daughter escaped on foot over the Pyrenees Mountains into Portugal. They returned to Indian Island where she continued to write and craft Indian dolls until her death at age 73.

Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby (1854-1946) of Phillips caused a stir at the Madison Square Garden Sportsmen's Show in 1896 when she lectured and demonstrated fly fishing techniques in a deerskin skirt that hovered seven inches off the floor, revealing her feet, ankles and legs. This first female exhibitor at the show even designed and built a Maine log cabin to display stuffed animals and hunting and fishing equipment at the convention.

Crosby began hunting and fishing to combat anemia and consumption. She convinced guides in the Dead River region to teach her to fish, shoot a rifle and make her way in the woods.

Crosby became friends with Percival Baxter and taught President Roosevelt to fly fish. She wrote about hunting and fishing for newspapers and the Maine Woods, which is where she first used the nickname Fly Rod.

Crosby was a friend of Annie Oakley and toured briefly with the Buffalo Bill Show. During her later years, she helped build Our Lady of the Lakes Chapel at

Oquossoc. She died in Lewiston and is buried in Strong.

Dorothea Lynde Dix 1802-1887 of Hampden, helped establish 32 mental hospitals and was an early advocate for mental health reform.

In 1814, after a childhood spent keeping her family together while her father traveled as a preacher and her mother took to her sick bed, Dix moved in with her grandmother in Boston and wrote a textbook for young people.

In 1841, at age 39, Dix began the work for which she would become famous. While preaching to women in a prison, she asked to see the rest of the facility and found six women whose "crime" was insanity. She spent the next 20 years crusading to improve the conditions of the mentally disabled.

Beginning in Massachusetts in 1843, states began to respond to her arguments and set aside money for hospital facilities to house the mentally ill.

Dix convinced Congress to set aside land and resources for mentally ill people, but President Franklin Pierce vetoed the bill.

During the Civil War, she became Superintendent of U.S. Army nurses. She died in 1887 and is buried in Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Mass.

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MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY Board of Directors

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Barbara Tribou, Gardiner

Celebrate Maine Women With The Lobby's Poster...

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Kate Furbish (1834-1931) moved to Brunswick as an infant. She collected plants as a youth but did not begin classifying the flora of Maine until she was 35. Her accurate and detailed drawings assured her status as an important contributor to the science of botany.

The Furbish lousewort became renowned when it helped halt the building of the Dickey-Lincoln Dam.

Sixteen volumes of her drawings of plant specimens are at Bowdoin College and 4,000 sheet of dried plants are at the New England Botanical Club.

She died at age 98 and is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery in Brunswick.

Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950) moved to Camden with her mother and siblings in 1904. At age 19, she entered a poetry contest. Millay didn't win, but her poem "Renascence" brought her to the attention of Caroline Dow of the YWCA training school in New York City. With her support, Millay entered Vassar College at age 21.

She wrote poetry and magazine articles under the name Nancy Boyd, and reported from Europe for several years. In 1923, she won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her volume of poems, "Ballad of the Harp Weaver."

Her husband, Eugene Jan Boissevain, devoted his life to giving her the freedom to write without worrying about other responsibilities.

Millay was politically active and protested the execution of Saco and Vanzetti. She and her husband owned Ragged Island in Casco Bay, which they would visit each year.

Lillian Nordica (1859-1914) of Farmington was accepted to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston at age 14. She sang throughout the U.S. and Europe and made her operatic debut in 1879 in Don Giovanni. She sang at numerous European opera houses and was a regular at the New York Metropolitan Opera from 1893 to 1907.

She was a feminist and believed strongly in women's rights. She sang "The Star Spangled Banner" at a women's rights rally in 1911. She died after contracting pneumonia in 1914 and her ashes are buried in the New York Bay Cemetery. A museum in Farmington contains many of her costumes, music and memorabilia.

Samantha Smith 1972-1985 of Houlton moved to Manchester in 1980. At age 10, Samantha wrote a letter to Yuri Andropov to congratulate him on his new

job, tell him of her fears of nuclear war and ask him how he was going to prevent one.

Andropov invited her to the Soviet Union and she and her parents spent several days touring the country. As a result of her trip, Samantha became an unofficial ambassador for peace and worked to promote international cooperation.

She and her father wrote a book, "Samantha Smith: A Journey to the Soviet Union." She advocated the idea of sending the grandchildren of world leaders to other countries, so they would think twice before bombing their granddaughters' friends.

Samantha and her father were killed in a plane crash in 1985. Her spirit lives on through the Samantha Smith Foundation, created to increase international cooperation and understanding, particularly among children.

The first Monday of June is designated as Samantha Smith Day in Maine, and is a time to honor her spirit and courage.

These posters cost \$5 for one and \$3 for each additional poster.

Checks should be made to the Maine Women's Lobby and mailed to P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347.



Match these Maine Women with their achievements:

- Suffragist, international opera singer, sang at a 1911 women's rights rally.
- First woman Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry.
- Botanist, collected and classified Maine flora.
- Maine Guide who taught President Roosevelt to fly fish.
- Internationally known singer, dancer and actress.
- Peace activist, author, Girl Scout and interviewer of presidential candidates.
- Social activist for mental health reform and Superintendent of U.S. Army nurses in the Civil War.

Answers: a. Lillian Nordica b. Edna St. Vincent Millay c. Kate Furbish
d. Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby e. Molly Spotted Tdk f. Samantha Smith g. Dorothea Dix

Women's Development Institute Wins Haymarket Grant

The Women's Development Institute (WDI) has been awarded \$2,000 from the Haymarket People's Fund to address the causes of poverty, disenfranchisement and political powerlessness through community building efforts.

The grant application process was very competitive and 36 organizations applied. WDI's proposal was one of 13 that received funding.

The grant will partially fund WDI's project to analyze Maine's economy and welfare programs to determine why so many Maine women and children are poor, to educate the public about these realities and to formulate a proposal to

allow women working full-time to support their children while staying above the poverty level.

Haymarket funds will be used to build a "welfare reform" coalition to focus public debate on issues of economic justice and to conduct focus groups to better understand the fears, beliefs and values that underlie public attitudes toward the welfare system and proposals to reform it.

WDI is currently raising additional funds for the project. If you are interested in working on the project or would like more information, call WDI at 623-0851.

Great Escape Winners

The Maine Women's Lobby netted about \$2,800 from its Great Escapes Raffle. The drawing was held on Jan. 21.

The winners and their prizes are:

Barbara Jessen — Two nights for two at the Point Fir Bed and Breakfast.

Dr. Vivian Holmes — One night for two at the Maine Roads Bed and Breakfast.

Vivian Wadas — Two tickets to a Boston Celtics game.

Peter Linsey — An Eastern River Expeditions raft trip on the Kennebec River.

Peter and Mary Walsh — A day-long sail on Muscongus Bay.

Gary Lennox — The book *Moving the Mountain: the Women's Movement in America Since 1960*.

Judy Wilson — Two nights for two at the Inn on South Street in Kennebunk.

Thanks again to all the donors and volunteers who helped make this fund-raising event a success.

McKernan Proclaims April Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Gov. John R. McKernan recently proclaimed April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Maine. In his proclamation, he noted that the Maine Coalition Against Rape, through its legislative and educational endeavors as well as its direct services offered at rape crisis centers, has worked toward a society where all men, women and children can live in peace, safe from violence and exploitation.

During April, there are several programs addressing this issue, including a cable show entitled, "Women's Safety: At Issue in Maine."

Other events in area communities include:

April 26 in Auburn. Date Rape Awareness for Parents Workshop, 6:30 p.m. at Edward Little High School.

April 28 in Brunswick. First annual meeting of the Mid-coast Sexual Assault Support Center featuring keynote speaker Jerry Hinton, Brunswick's police chief. His topic will focus on community policing. It is scheduled for 5 p.m. at the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

April 30 in Farmington. Take Back the Night March, 7:30 p.m. at the Franklin County Courthouse.

May 1 in Lewiston. Third Annual Pizza Challenge to benefit the Sexual Assault Crisis Center. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lewiston Armory.

May 22 in Portland. Chocolate Lovers Fling to benefit the Rape Crisis Center. 1 p.m. at Holiday Inn by the Bay.

For information about these and other events, call your local rape crisis center or the Maine Coalition Against Rape at 800-759-9985.

Women's Health Equity Day Educates Lawmakers

Women's Health Equity Day, held March 8 in Augusta, taught the public and state lawmakers about the health needs of Maine women.

The forum, organized by the Maine Choice Coalition of which the Maine Women's Lobby is a member, focused on health care reform. Key note speakers Kitty Kolbert, vice president of the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, and Joanne D'Arcangelo, chair of the Maine Choice Coalition, addressed how women would fare under state and federal health reform proposals.

Kolbert stressed the need for a reform package that would guarantee women's most basic health needs. She urged women to encourage reform, but to be vigilant to how reform would affect women.

Cervical and breast cancer statistics point to the need for a comprehensive health care package. Nearly half of all cervical cancer is diagnosed among women age 55 and older. Meanwhile, 90 percent of all cervical cancer could be

avoided with regular pap smears.

Seventy-five percent of all breast cancers occur in women who are not considered to be at high risk.

Contraceptive services are the point of entry for many women into the health care system. For that reason, and to protect women's confidentiality, these services and their privacy must be safeguarded.

Kolbert urged women to become active in the upcoming U.S. Senate and Congressional elections. There are still about 60 votes in Congress each year on choice issues, ranging from Medicaid funding for abortion to military veterans' access to abortion in military hospitals. These are some of the underpinnings that preserve, or deny, access to safe abortions and comprehensive health care for women.

Access to safe, legal abortions and equitable reform of the health care system will not happen without women's activism, she warned.

Many women spoke during Health Equity Day, lending a human face to these

political issues. One woman told of assisting a friend during the time when abortions were illegal. Another learned she had thyroid cancer when she visited a family planning clinic.

A breast cancer survivor emphasized the need for support and services for breast cancer victims.

Laura Fortman, lobbyist for the Maine Women's Lobby, wrapped up the morning with a workshop to teach participants how to approach their legislators when conveying how they feel about health reform and women's issues.

Participants and the public then had an opportunity to meet with legislators (and lobby them) and view the inner workings of the State House.

Members are encouraged to track, on both federal and state levels, the course of health care reform. Long term health care, from mammogram screening coverage to abortion services, are fundamental rights and must be accessible to all women.

Figure Out Who To Support For Governor

Come ask questions of Maine's gubernatorial candidates in person.

A gubernatorial candidates' reception and forum is scheduled for 7 p.m., Saturday, May 21, in Jewett Hall at the University of Maine in Augusta.

The forum is sponsored by the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance, the Maine AIDS Alliance, the Maine Chapter of the National Organization for Women, the Maine Civil Liberties Union and the

Women's Issues Working Group of the University of Maine.

You can also attend a reception, at a cost of \$25, which will precede the forum from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

To attend the reception, send a \$25 check made payable to MLGPA/Candidates' Forum to 112 State St., Augusta, ME 04330.

For more information, call 236-8941, 621-2924 or 873-0878.

Women's Issues Leadership Council

Thanks Major Donors

The Women's Issues Leadership Council recognizes the many major contributors who have helped the Maine Women's Lobby and the Women's Development Institute, its research and education arm, through their generosity.

Last year, Lobby board member Janet Waldron conceived the idea of the council and ran the first campaign, which solicited donations in excess of \$240. She enlisted 59 contributors and raised more than \$23,000.

During 1993, council contributions supported the work of our lobbyist and contributed to several WDI projects, including outreach in Aroostook County and Lewiston-Auburn, development of a brochure on sexual harassment in the workplace for people with low reading levels, and production of easy-to-read brochures on child care, Medicaid, and Earned Income Tax Credits for women leaving welfare.

Pierrette Kelly and Linda Wilcox are chairing the 1994 Women's Issues Lead-

ership Council campaign and are now soliciting new members. They are also asking 1993 members to renew their commitment.

They invite all Lobby members who are committed to economic, educational and social equality for Maine women to join the council by filling out the combined council and Lobby membership form on page 12.

We wish to thank the following women and men who became 1993 Women's Issues Leadership Council members.

\$1,000+

Anonymous
Linda Dyer
Alice Giovanella
Karen Heck
Lisa Miller
Darrilyn Peters
Charles and Rebecca Ruff

\$500 to \$999

Atkins Printing
George Campbell
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Eleanor Goldberg
Ellen Golden
Mary Hillas
Robert S. Howe
Kennebec Valley Community
Action Program
Gregory Luck
Jackie Potter
Betsy Sweet
Kathleen Urban

\$240 to \$499

Patricia Aho
Kathryn Monahan Ainsworth
Barbara Alexander
Anonymous
Lorraine Ostergren-Anderson
Robert Burgess
Catherine Charette
Liz Crandall
Joanne D'Arcangelo
Downeast Health Services
Jon Doyle
Jill Duson
Rebecca Farnum
Jane Fisher
Carol Ford
Jane Gilbert and Nancy Fritz
Mary Herman
Ann Hill
Rebecca Jackson
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Nancy Kelleher
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Susan Mitchell
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Barbara Reinertsen
Trish Riley
Annee Tara
Barbara Tribou
Janet Waldron
Peter and Betsy Wiley
Linda and Gordon Wilcox
Vendean Vafiades
Sam Zaitlin

Women Urged To Bid On Rehab Work

The Kennebec Valley Community Action Program (KVCAP) has received funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to develop affordable housing for families in Kennebec and Somerset counties whose income does not exceed:

— \$15,600 for a family of three in Kennebec County and \$14,300 for a family of three in Somerset County.

— \$18,750 for a family of five in Kennebec County and \$17,150 for a family of five in Somerset County.

KVCAP will purchase government-owned single-family houses, renovate them and sell them to eligible families.

The program's grant funding helps reduce mortgages to keep the purchase price affordable for low-income buyers.

Anyone who meets these income guidelines and would like to purchase a home should contact Kathy Walker at KVCAP at 873-2122, ext. 245, to find out more information.

Minority and women-owned businesses who are interested in bidding on any of the rehabilitation work should also contact Walker.

Maine Premiere Of The House Of The Spirits To Benefit Lobby

A special matinee showing the film version of Isabel Allende's *The House of the Spirits* will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, June 18, in Waterville. All proceeds will benefit the Maine Women's Lobby.

The showing will be held at the Railroad Square Cinema.

The film stars Meryl Streep as Clara the Clairvoyant. It depicts three generations of the del Valle/Trueba family in 20th-century Argentina.

The book offers a rich tale of strong women, magic and struggle within this South American society.



May 18 is National Women's Reproductive Health Call-In Day

Be part of a national day of grassroots action to protect a woman's right to choose.

On May 18, call your Congressperson and Senators in Washington at 202-224-3121 (the main switchboard) or their nearest district office nearest you to tell them that women's reproductive health services, including abortion, are a vital and necessary part of universal health care.

Universal health care is not universal if it doesn't include women's reproductive health care, including family planning, contraceptive services, abortion services, prenatal care and sex education for all women.

Alert everyone you know and sign up people to pledge to participate in the call-in day.

For more information, call 623-2729.

BALLOT

Maine Women's Lobby Board of Directors

1994-1996

Maine Women's Lobby members may vote for up to eleven candidates. Please mark your ballot, fold it so the return mail panel shows, staple, attach a stamp and mail to the Maine Women's Lobby by May 27.

- ☐ Susan Aaronson
- ☐ Susan Allein
- ☐ Deborah Cummings-Khadraoui
- ☐ Lori Doty
- ☐ Eileen Fingerman
- ☐ Joyce Grondin
- ☐ Dianne Parkinson
- ☐ Elizabeth Reinheimer
- ☐ Rose Scribner
- ☐ Andrew Wilcox
- ☐ Linda Wilcox

Other: _____

Please mail ballot by May 27.

CANDIDATES FOR THE MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUSAN AARONSON

Susan is president and chief executive officer of the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education, a statewide partnership of people from business, education, government, and the community who are committed to achieving fundamental change in public education. She has a long history of advocacy and passionate concern for women's issues, the earliest being reproductive rights and the most recent being breast cancer research. Susan lives in Portland.

SUSAN ALLEIN

Susan is the Waterville Area Coordinator of the Displaced Homemakers Program. Susan would like to join the board so that she can become a more visible and effective advocate for Maine women. She is interested in promoting women's self-sufficiency and economic development that is attune to women and families. Susan lives in Fairfield.

DEBORAH CUMMINGS-KHADRAOUI

Deborah is a consultant in economic development to the Maine Department of Transportation and the City of Portland. She is interested in joining the board because she wants to insure that all women, including women of color, are represented and have a voice in the Lobby and at the legislature. She is a member of the Governor's Commission to Promote the Understanding of Diversity in Maine. Deborah lives in Portland.

LORI DOTY

Lori is a trainee with the Displaced Homemakers Program and is a single parent. She is interested in joining the board so she can speak on behalf of women on issues concerning low income women and their children. She has advocated for women before the board of her local housing authority. Lori lives in Winslow.

EILEEN FINGERMAN

Eileen Fingerman is a family physician at the Richmond Area Health Center. She welcomes the opportunity to work on issues that will empower women to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives. Eileen lives in Oakland.

JOYCE GRONDIN

Joyce wishes to join the board because of her interest in increasing women's educational opportunities, equal opportunity for employment, freedom from abusive relationships, freedom of reproductive choice, and rights to health insurance. Joyce lives in Hallowell.

DIANNE PARKINSON

Dianne Parkinson is a full-time student at University of Southern Maine and a single parent. She has a certificate in pollution abatement from Southern Maine Technical College. Dianne wants to join the lobby board because she wants to become more involved in the politics and workings of public assistance in Maine and the needs of women and children who are forced to become participants in the system. Dianne lives in Cornish.

ELIZABETH REINHEIMER

Elizabeth has worked for the lobby on a project analyzing the change in the economic status of Maine women. In the last legislative session she served as clerk to the Committee on Human Resources. She would like to bring this experience to the Lobby board. She is a single parent. Elizabeth lives in Rockland.

ROSE SCRIBNER

Rose is the president and chairperson of the Penobscot Cultural Center. She is the co-founder of a women's group on Indian Island called Nadabe Sacred Circle. She knows she could be of great assistance to women in the mainstream. She believes it is time for Indian women to become more involved with all women's rights. Rose lives on Indian Island.

ANDREW WILCOX

Andrew is a computer consultant specializing in training and database design. He has volunteered time to the Lobby redesigning and updating the membership database. He is interested in legislation which is effective in solving problems facing Maine women. Andrew lives in North Monmouth.

LINDA WILCOX

Linda is assistant director of Women Unlimited, a training program for women in trade and technical occupations. She has been on the board five years, the last two as chair. She wants to serve another term because of her belief that the Lobby is the most powerful voice in Maine for women and her wish to continue the development of the Women's Issues Leadership Council. Linda lives in North Monmouth.

All members are invited to the Maine Women's Lobby's Annual Meeting, June 1, 1994, at the South Parish Congregational Church on State Street in Augusta. Dinner at 5:30, business meeting at 6:15. Call the Lobby for directions: 622-0851.

**Maine Women's Lobby
P.O. Box 15
Hallowell, ME 04347**

29¢
stamp
required

**Maine Women's Lobby
P.O. Box 15
Hallowell, ME 04347**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I want to help improve the lives of Maine Women and their families.

Maine Women's Lobby

\$100 Sponsoring
\$ 50 Supporting
\$ 25 Individual
\$ 10 Student
\$ Other*

Women's Issues Leadership Council

\$1000 Champion
\$ 750 Benefactor
\$ 500 Sustainer
\$ 250 Contributor

☐ My check, payable to the Maine Women's Lobby, is enclosed.

☐ I would like to pay in _____ installments.

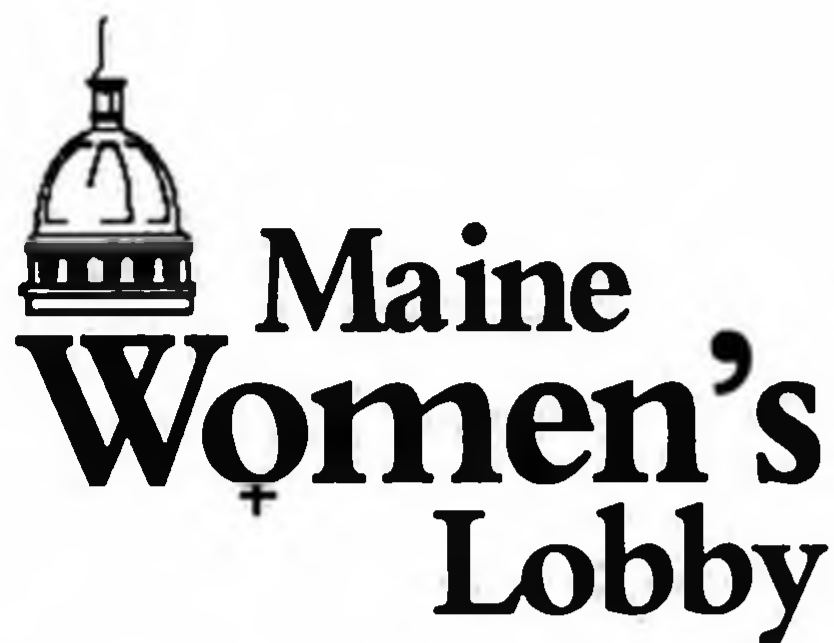
My contribution is \$ _____

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Address _____ Town _____ Zip _____

☐ I do not want my name given to other groups.

* The Maine Women's Lobby is committed to representing women of all economic means. Any contribution you are able to make will entitle you to membership.



P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Maine 04347

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