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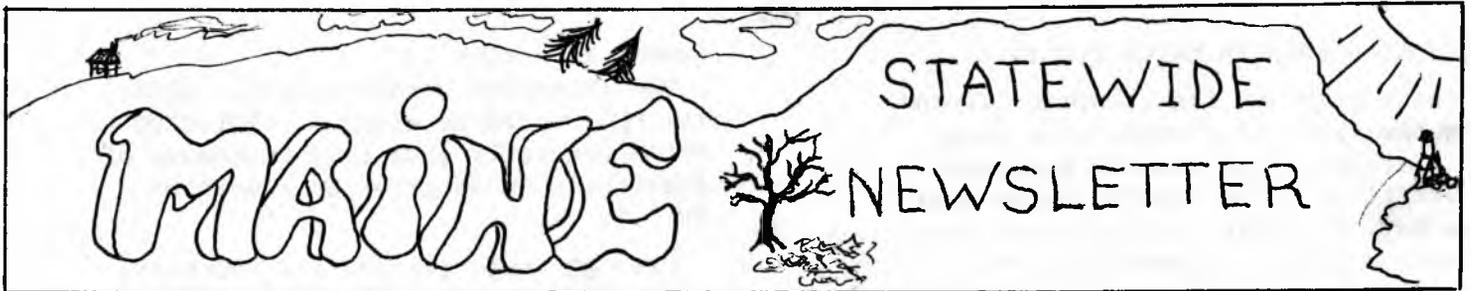
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Number 10

November, 1980

"Unity in Diversity"

Donation 30¢

CONGRESS TO DEBATE ENERGY STRATEGIES

Although the nuclear referendum was defeated, the movement for safe energy in Maine is not dead. Besides a declaration by the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee (MNRC) that it is alive and well and planning for another referendum in 1982, the Congress for Safe Energy is convening a massive "day of organizing" to mobilize safe energy advocates in Maine. Work on many levels is necessary, they believe, to realize the goal of safe, renewable, cheap, and small scale sources of energy.

The Congress is hoping to bring together existing safe energy groups and their supporters--Sensible Maine Power, Safe Power for Maine, MNRC, Natural Resources Council of Maine, etc.--to create a vision of solutions to Maine's energy needs. Besides an update of current efforts and workshops on various energy strategies (two are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter), the Congress will consider workshop resolutions to be presented at a concluding Congress plenary session.

A wide variety of options will be considered in the workshops and resolutions. Immediate and long-range planning, public power, Public Utilities Commission reform, health monitoring, development of energy alternatives, legislation/referendum, corporate education, and abolition of uranium mining are all serious options. The number of people attending the Congress will help determine how many of these strategies are adopted.

The Congress has put out a call to all energy activists to come to Jewett Hall, Univ. of Maine at Augusta on

Fireworks on the Fourth

Besides at least six choices for president (write-ins are also OK) and numerous other local officials and referendum questions to choose from inside voting booths, Maine residents have an additional choice, to collect referendum signatures outside the polling place on November 4.

The unlikely combination of the Maine Woodsmen's Assn. (MWA) and the Maine Municipal Assn are spearheading a petition drive to repeal the Tree Growth Tax Law and are looking for people to collect signatures on that petition on election day.

The law, they feel, puts the tax burden on rural homeowners and small woodlot owners, while giving coastal shore frontage owners and large companies tax breaks. Most land is undervalued because valuations are set by factors controlled by the paper companies. The law does little to promote good forest management.

If you can help collect signatures, contact Dana Drew, HALT, Franklin 04634, 565-3367 or any MWA member.

For the energy-minded, there is the Maine Energy Conservation and Development Act, which would replace the PUC and Office of Energy Resources with the Maine Energy Commission (MEC).
(continued on page 2)

November 22 for the all-day (beginning at 9 AM) event.

John Rensenbrink, RR 2, Bowdoinham 04008, 725-6955 (h) or 729-8731 (w) has more information on plans for the Congress and beyond.

The Acid Rain in Maine Stays.....

"Acid Rain and the Atlantic Salmon" is the title of a conference being organized by the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM), to be held on Nov. 22-23 at the Red Coach Convention Center in Westbrook, near Portland.

The Saturday session will be devoted to an explanation of the causes and impact of acid rain on the environment, especially the fish. Canadian, Norwegian, and American researchers will explain various aspects of the problem. Marshall Dodge will provide evening entertainment.

Sunday's program will focus on what can be done to reduce the impact of acid rain, and how various options for change will affect the physical, social, and political environment.

For a brochure or more details, contact NRCM, 271 State St., Augusta 04330, 622-3101.

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RECYCLED RESOURCES REVEALED

There's a little bit of everything at Everyone's Resource Depot (ERD), and it's all recycled. Thanks to donations of paper, glass, plastics, leather, fabrics, wood products, and many more items from local industries, a lot of worthwhile stuff is saved from the junkyard. Besides these castoffs, there are useful items constructed from these leftovers as well as the usual used books, games, etc.

Besides customers, the depot is looking for people to create new and useful products from the materials, to pick up and sort recycled items, and to work at the depot. It is located in the basement of Franklin Hall on the UMF campus. It is open Monday thru Friday, 3-5 PM and from 10 AM-noon on Saturday.

If you're interested in how ERD is set up (it's a non-profit corporation) or want to help out, write to PO Box 321, Farmington 04938 or call the Energy Resource Center at 778-4944.

(cont. from page 1)

The three MEC commissioners, unlike the PUC, would be elected. (Elected PUC's generally give rate increases of about half those given by appointed PUC's).

The MEC would perform all functions of the OER and, in addition, develop a State Energy Plan to meet statewide forecasted needs, emphasize conservation and renewable energy resources, and finance alternative energy sources. Present deadlines for automatic rate increases would be rescinded.

Deadline for getting 37,500 valid signatures is Jan. 22, 1981. Petitions are available from Bruce Reeves, Maine Citizens for Utility Rate Reform, RFD 2, Gardiner 04345, or call him at 582-5236.

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Hazardous Waste (Project) Brought to Maine

November is the kickoff for the three-point plan of the Maine Health and Hazardous Waste Project. The project, a brainchild of the Maine Health Systems Agency, is hoping to involve persons from the health, environmental, and other concerned communities to expose and eliminate the problem of hazardous waste in Maine.

- Their three point plan includes:
- (1) A public education program, including a speakers bureau and a project bulletin (write to the address below to get on the mailing list).
 - (2) A legislative strategy, which might include a bill for an environmental health program within the Dept. of Human Services or an improved system for collecting data used to correlate hazardous waste exposure to health problems.
 - (3) A project committee, made up of activists, and a health professionals' advisory panel. An initial organizing meeting for the project committee is tentatively set for November 12.

Persons interested in this meeting, receiving the project bulletin, or in more information about the project can contact Tom Andrews, MHSA, 9 Green St., Augusta 04330, 623-1182.

"Silkwood" in Maine

Although Karen Solkwood died in a mysterious and suspicious "accident" in 1974, her spirit lives on in the production, "Silkwood," coming to Maine and New Hampshire in November. It is a one-woman production--written, produced, and acted by Jehane Dyllan--although with considerable behind-the-scenes help from others.

"Silkwood" chronicles Karen's early life, her work at Kerr-McGee nuclear facility, her union activism, and her efforts to bring to light health and safety violations to herself and co-workers. The entire play takes place in the union hall of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union local.

A discussion focussing on the struggles in the lives of working women will follow the play. The death of Karen Silkwood has brought together the anti-nuclear, labor, and women's movements to work together on numerous projects.

The play will be presented in Bangor on Nov. 21 at Peakes Auditorium, Bangor High School. Admission is \$2. Sarah Wardner-Webster, PO Box 1, Orono or John Hanson, Bureau of Labor Education, 128 College Ave., Orono have details on this performance. It will also be offered in Portsmouth on Nov. 19 and tentatively in Portland (Nov. 20) and Bath (Nov. 22). Chris Hastedt, Ringrose Rd., Freeport 04032, 865-6521 is arranging these two showings.

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GROWING YER OWN

The Happy Time Magic Guide to Live Foods is a 7-page production of John Bunker ("bunk" to his friends) and others about the creation and use of "live foods." Live foods include sprouts, wheat grass, and seed yogurt, among others.

Included are directions for sprouting, ways to grow buckwheat grass and wheat grass, how to make rejuvilac, and recipes. The booklet's cover gives us the message, "we all can grow our own."

A donation of 50¢-\$1 (including postage) would probably be appreciated. Write to John at Box 57, Palermo 04354.

JOIN THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JOINED THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

Attention Veterans; The anti-war/anti-draft movement is looking for a few good men (and women). Doug Rawlings is hoping all veterans and their supporters opposed to militarism and the draft and concerned about Maine's veterans will come to his house in Mount Vernon on Saturday, November 8.

The meeting, beginning at 7 PM, will attempt to focus activity of Maine's veterans community on organizing against militarism (maybe through presentations in high schools) and for the protection and exercise of veterans' rights. There will be time for a discussion of other topics and issues. Doug has gotten help and inspiration from New Hampshire's Bill Allen, who helped organize Veterans Against Foreign Wars in that state.

Call or write to Doug at 293-4940 (eves) or RFD 1, Mt. Vernon 04352 for directions to his house or other details.

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Pentagon Peace Protest

The cherry blossoms won't be out, but Maine women will be going to Washington, D. C. anyway, as part of a Women's Action at the Pentagon on Nov. 16-17. They will be demonstrating on the 17th (nonviolent civil disobedience is also planned) to express their belief that money spent by the military (\$500 million per day) ought to be redirected toward human needs like health programs, rebuilding the cities, and providing more jobs for all Americans, especially youth, minorities, and women. They will also be pointing out the connection between the violence the Pentagon represents and the violence women face in their daily lives.

Sunday, Nov. 16, will be a day of education, discussion, cultural events, and preparations for the demonstration. Women from throughout the country will be coming, especially from the Northeast.

A delegation from Maine is going. (A simultaneous action is planned for Boston for those who cannot get to Washington.) Contact Sandy Kaplan, MWNFF, PO Box 4118 Station A, Portland 04101, 775-3849 for transportation or other details.

Taking Stock in Your Local Utility

Would you like to own your very own share of a large corporate monopoly? Due to popular demand, Judy Barrows is again organizing a joint purchase of stock in Central Maine Power Company (CMP) and (if enough people are interested) Bangor Hydro-Electric Company (BH). By purchasing stock together, broker fees are much lower.

A share of stock entitles you to see the company's form 10-K, which is a report to the Securities and Exchange Commission in which they are relatively truthful about the costs of various forms of electrical generation and other things which could affect the economic stability of the company. Being a stockholder also entitles you to attend the company's annual meeting in the spring, and to vote on and introduce resolutions for improved corporate responsibility.

If you are interested in buying a share of stock in one (or both) of these companies, please send Judy your name, address, social security number (so the company can make sure you pay tax on your dividends--about \$1.50 a year now) and \$20 per share by November 10. A phone number is also helpful. Please state which company's stock you want to buy. The actual cost will probably be less than \$20; the difference will be refunded. You'll receive your share around Feb. 1.

There will probably be a couple of meetings for stockholders who feel that nuclear power facilities are uneconomical and want to publicize the fact. Within the format of the stockholder's meeting, the group should probably emphasize that nuclear power does not make economic sense for stockholders.

Persons interested in buying stock or attending these strategy meetings should get in touch with Judy Barrows, Box 774, Camden 04843, or call 236-3610 after 10 AM.

THE FINAL TOUCHES

When you came across the great waters, and dropped your settlements on our coast, we welcomed you with open arms, to share our mother the earth. As the months grew cold and the North Wind froze the Land, we helped you, and taught you how to keep warm, and live through this time of fear and freezing. With the spring we revealed our secrets of farming and hunting so that you might share the bounties of our mother the earth. For a while we shared and lived as brothers should, and then you started to teach us your world and culture. The corn fields our families had used for generations you stole, and forced us into the forests. You spoke as only children would of a possession that you owned, the earth, and justified the theft. You gave us no choice but to fight or flee. Your weapon being superior, those that did not die, fled, from your greed and madness. That was your beginning and it will be your end. Your numbers grew as ants on an anthill. You pushed and spread your cancer in four directions, destroying the bear, the buffalo, the deer, the coyotes, the wolves, the eagles, and the fish. The land came next, with fences, and pits and cow and sheep which uproot the grass leaving deserts. Your putrid factories and concrete and tar covered the earth and polluted the rivers and lakes. The fish did not spawn and the sweet water became so foul you could smell it. Now your cancer has turned to the air, and pretty soon there will be nothing for us and the plants to breathe. And now you put on the finishing touches with your nuclear power plants. What kind of god, I ask, could make people such as you with no regard for the earth or yourselves or your children's future. I feel sorry for your children, the innocent of your sickness. It is too late, White Man, for you are adding the final touch.

Frank Hayes
Shirley Mills

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Full Circle is a monthly calendar of events in northern New England (especially New Hampshire) of interest to women. Listings of cultural events, workshops and conferences, meetings, and actions share the spotlight.

For a sample copy or a subscription (\$7.50/12 issues), write to Full Circle, PO Box 235, Contoocook, N. H. 03229.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES UNITE

Who will speak for the children? Besides the children themselves (unfortunately they generally aren't listened to), there has been no group advocating for children's rights. Efforts are now being made to develop such a "children's lobby" however.

Is there enough interest and willing supporters to get such a group off the ground? Can it have an impact on the legislature, on state government, on the courts, and on the children it wants to help?

The Eastern Maine Medical Center (EMMC) auditorium will be the location of an initial children's rights group organizing meeting, from 10 AM to 3 PM on November 14. Among issues to be discussed are AFDC, health, day care, and juvenile justice.

Nicci Kobritz, EMMC, 489 State St., Bangor 04401, 947-3711 x2556 is a contact person for this meeting.

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Keeping Up with the Legislature

With the election only days away, can the 110th legislative session be far behind? No, in fact, December 3 is its opening session. You too can follow its every exciting or terrifying event by receiving the Weekly Legislative Calendar.

The Calendar lists legislative meetings, departmental activities (such as meetings of the Public Utilities Commission, Dept. of Environmental Protection, etc.), proposed rule changes of state agencies, gubernatorial nominations, and important legislative events.

Copies are mailed free weekly. Write to Ed Pert, Clerk of the House, State House, Augusta 04333 to be placed on the mailing list.

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△ I like the newsletter but have no money to spare now. Please keep sending it.

△ I like the newsletter and want to contribute. Here is \$4 (one year) or \$ _____

△ I would rather not receive the newsletter. Please take my name off the list.

△ I would like to send articles or help produce the newsletter. Please contact me.

The post office charges us 25¢ for each incorrect address. If your address has changed or will soon, please let us know.

My correct mailing address is: _____

Building Housing Coops

While housing cooperatives have become common in some large urban areas such as New York City, they have yet to make an inroad in rural Maine. But that is changing in the Bangor area, where one coop has organized and another is beginning to form.

New-Found-Land is an eight household coop in the Bangor area. After initial discussions, the group has formed itself as a coop, tentatively found land in the Bangor area on which to build individual houses, began plans for an energy-efficient design, and is applying to Farmers Home Administration for financing.

Another group of eight in the Old Town area, organized only since September, is looking at the former Cyr Bus Garage on French Island as a site for a similar cooperative project.

The site is presently owned by the city of Old Town through a Community Development Block Grant. The group hopes to be selected as the developer for the site, but they will find another location if necessary.

Both are projects of Penobscot Area Housing Development Corporation, 51 Main St. #66, Bangor 04401, 947-7404, which is eager for more involvement by Bangor-area people and for sharing its ideas with others around the state.

BREAD LABOR FOR MWL

Want to enter the political area without have to get elected? The Maine Women's Lobby is looking for a lobbyist for the legislature's 110th session.

Quoting from the job description: "The individual will promote legislation beneficial to women and women's rights at the direction of the Board of Directors. The person will be responsible for contacting legislators on the issues as well as organizing/contacting constituent groups to assist in lobbying efforts. This person will be responsible for researching and testifying on the MWL's legislative priorities."

Self-motivation, experience in organizing, lobbying, or advocacy, willingness to work at odd hours, and communication skills are helpful. A salary of \$1,000/mo. is offered. Resumes will be accepted until Nov. 7 by the MWL, Box 15, Hallowell 04347.

With the deadline of mid-December for filing bills rapidly approaching, people are encouraged to write soon with ideas for legislation.

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Or, Labor for Bread at Sunflour

Sunflour Bakery is a whole wheat bakery/household looking for 2-3 more members. Experience with or an interest in baking, carpentry, and/or collective living/working is helpful. Women and minorities are especially urged to get in touch with Sunflour at 122 Cottage St., Bar Harbor 04609, 288-3696.

COMBAT Fights On

Northeast COMBAT (Consumers of Maine Bringing Action Together) has been fighting for the rights and protection of Maine's "little people" since 1971 and has been an influential grassroots citizen/consumer organization. Unfortunately, COMBAT is not sure how much longer it can keep on keepin' on.

Staffed now entirely by volunteers, it has helped thousands of people who were or would have been "ripped off" by business. Besides providing basic consumer education, it was involved in fights against utility rate increases, fraudulent advertising, government waste, and car sales/repair rip-offs.

COMBAT needs memberships, contributions, and volunteers to keep going. Memberships of \$10 or more are especially needed. Even a little money can make a difference. In 1972 one electric utility spent over \$70,000 in a rate increase campaign, but COMBAT, spending only \$262, prevented the increase.

Only broad-based, consumer/citizen advocacy, rather than one-shot or one issue candidates or groups, COMBAT believes, can overcome domination by big business and bureaucratic government. This is what COMBAT wants to do, but it needs volunteers to do consumer assistance, library work, clerical work, telephoning, newsletter production, and membership recruitment/fund-raising.

To help out, contact John Supranovich, COMBAT, PO Box 1183 (189 Exchange St.) Bangor 04401, 947-3331.

FEEDBACK FORM--Feel free to add additional comments on another piece of paper.

I do/do not want my name given out for use by other groups or used for special mailings.

What do you like most about the newsletter?

What do you like least about the newsletter?

What would you like to see more coverage of? Can you send us information on such topic(s)?

If there are other people who would like to receive this newsletter, please send us their names and mailing addresses. Thanx!

Coop Conference. Convenes

Are you a member of a producer cooperative or would you like to become part of one? Whether it's crafts, wood, agricultural, fish, or another commodity, the Conference on Rural Producer Cooperatives, to be held on Nov. 20-21 in Amherst, Mass. (Murray Lincoln Campus Center, Univ. of Massachusetts) may be able to help you and your coop.

Workshop sessions will mix theory with practice in discussing topics like marketing, coop management, alternative structures, financing, and legal issues. Participants will have a chance to meet others cooperatively making similar products so that they can compare their operations with others.

Fees will be on a sliding scale by income, ranging from \$12-18 per day. Registration deadline is Nov. 10. David Vail, 1 Oakland, Brunswick 04011, 729-0879 can provide more information.

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MAINE FILMS HIGHLIGHTED

A special showing of two Maine-made films on crucial state issues will be presented at 3 PM (one showing only) on November 30 by Railroad Square Cinema in Waterville (behind Burger King).

"Cut and Run," by Richard Searls, will portray the struggles of Maine woodworkers in their fight for jobs and for sensible management of the Maine woods. Glorianna Davenport's "Just Blue" describes life in the blueberry barrens and a 1979 strike by rakers against Jasper Wyman and Sons over larger containers (without higher pay). The strikers, with help from legal action, won the strike.

Both of these films are highly recommended and are available for local showings. Contact Railroad Square, Box 945, Waterville 04901, 873-6526 to get help in arranging for such showings.

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"If there is dignity in all work, why isn't there dignity for all workers?"

--Jerry Wurf

HAS THE FUTURE PASSED US BY?

What will the future bring? Or is the question, "What will we bring to the future?" What can we as individuals do to bring on a more safe, sane society? The Haretons, 96 Harlow St. #4, Bangor 04401, have a list of books to help us to do that thinking and doing. Write to them for the entire list (self-addressed, stamped envelope appreciated).

One such book is "The Sane Alternative/ A Choice of Futures," by James Robertson (1979). It is a useful handbook with extensive bibliography concerning the prospects for developing alternative futures. It contains a current listing of dozens of individuals and organizations working for a safe, human, and ecologically sound future.

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"Without a vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18

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Political Refugees Settling in Maine

Although Caribbean and Southeast Asian refugees are common in Florida and in more urban areas, a few have found their way to Maine. Once refugees have gone through Immigration and Naturalization Service procedures, they must be sponsored by an individual or household, usually with support from a voluntary service (generally church affiliated) agency. That support can be money, medical help, or social services.

Over 500 (1/2 of 1% of Maine's population) refugees have recently come to Maine, almost all Vietnamese (434) with a few Cambodians (80), Laotians (45), and Cubans (11). The vast majority have gone to the population centers of Biddeford/Saco/Sanford, Portland, Augusta, Lewiston/Auburn, and Bangor.

Diocesan Human Relations Services (DHRS) has been providing services and assistance to a large number of the refugees. Persons interested in the refugee issue in Maine or wanting to help as a sponsor or supporter should contact Donna Roy, DHRS, 87 High St., Portland 04101, 773-1544.

