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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 15 (April 1981)

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Number 15

April, 1981

"HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL," NOW

LD-961. "An Act to Institute the Term 'Sexual or Affectional orientation' in the Maine Human Rights Act." In lay terms, this act, if passed, would make it illegal to discriminate against people in employment, housing, public accommodations, or credit for being lesbian or gay.

The bill is scheduled to come before the Judiciary Committee in late March-early April. Unlike previous years, the committee may recommend its passage this year to the legislature, where it again faces an uphill fight.

People are urged to contribute to public testimony on the bill in numerous ways. Various lesbian/gay groups are collecting signed and unsigned letters to submit to committee chair Dana Devoe. Sen. Gerry Conley (Maine State Senate, Augusta 04333), a sponsor of the bill, is planning to read testimonies (unsigned) about what would happen to people's job or home situations if it were learned that they were gay or lesbian. Personal appearances at committee hearings are also encouraged.

Letters to local representatives and senators is, of course, encouraged. And both NOW (National Organization for Women) and the Social Concerns Dept. of the Unitarian-Universalist Assn. are circulating petitions to be given to the legislature.

NOW, c/o Joanne Dauphinee, 23 March St., Bangor 04401, 942-2830, or Melody Chadbourne, Box 13, Harmony 04942, 683-5252 is helping to coordinate testimony. Contact them to testify or to get one of their petitions.

"Changing Maine"

Donation 30¢ (?)

RURAL MAINE PULLS TOGETHER

It's not easy getting people together if they live in the boonies, but Rural Maine thinks it needs to be done. Rural Maine wants to bring low-income people together to advocate for their needs (jobs, affordable energy, self-sufficiency) and to end social and economic systems which keep many rural people poor.

With help from the Rural Community Education Program of the Univ. of Maine, Farmington, Rural Maine has brought folks from various rural communities together several times to prepare a statement of goals and to begin organizing people locally to meet them.

The group is in part a response to threats from the Reagan administration, which doesn't want to provide much money to small towns through the Block Grant Program. An Agenda for Action in the 80's is being formulated to make elected officials more responsive to small towns. A big event this summer or fall will launch the "Agenda" effort.

Rural Maine meets again on Sat., Ap.
(cont. on page 2)

The Unitarian-Universalist Lesbian and Gay Caucus, 561-D Brighton Ave., Portland 04103, besides circulating a similar petition, is providing counseling, educational materials, space for meetings, and support for gays and lesbians and their parents. It is a daring step for a church to be so openly supportive when other religious groups are silent or actively hostile. They invite gays to become active in the liberal religious community by contacting the Portland office or their local Unitarian or Universalist Church.

(cont. from page 1)

4 at 9:30 AM, North Dining Hall, UMF, Farmington. It will set down an "Agenda for the 80's," a Preamble (statement of purpose/goals) and discuss expanding its membership. Contact John Roman, New Sharon 04955, 778-2526 to get involved.

While Rural Maine is starting to develop its vision, the Maine Consortium for Food Self-Reliance is looking for a new purpose and direction. In conjunction with Rural Maine, the Consortium will sponsor a conference at the Bethel Inn, Bethel, Ap. 11-12 (begin 10 AM) to identify major problems in rural, agricultural Maine, how to solve these problems, and who will help to solve them.

Groups who want to work together for a new self-sufficiency for Maine are urged to send one representative to this gathering. Housing will be available and expenses held to a minimum (subsidies may be available, so no one should stay away for lack of funds. Good meals and fun also provided. Lisa Hawkins, CHES, Richards Lane, Freeport 04032 has more information.

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CAN YOU HEAR THIS?

Ann Fleischer is seeking help in her efforts to initiate a series of courses at the Univ. of Southern Maine, Portland, which would provide a basic education in sign language/deaf culture or provide sign interpreter certification.

Ann has a questionnaire she is asking people to fill out and return to her to indicate the need for and/or demand for at least a few such courses. Although a few courses do exist, they are all non-credited and do not include "deaf awareness."

There are about 600 hearing impaired people in Maine who sign, as opposed to oralists (lip-readers). Oralist advocates want to "mainstream" the deaf, rather than to support and maintain a unique deaf culture.

To get a questionnaire or to offer other testimony in support of these courses, contact Ann Fleischer, RFD 3 New County R., Saco 04072, 282-4388.

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GIVING CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE

People throughout York County may soon have an opportunity to become members of a community development credit union. This CU will be different, however, because its members/voters will be low-income people, and they will form committees for the board of directors, supervision, and credit (loans).

Among the benefits of this "financial cooperative" would be access to loans for poor people, no minimum loan (who needs \$1,000 to buy a refrigerator), and reinvestment of money back into local communities instead of large corporations or out-of-state companies. It will eliminate any potential red-lining, where banks and lending institutions limit their loans to specific (usually well-to-do) parts of a city.

The County Wide Interest Committee (quick?) has begun the 6-12 month process of proving the need for this credit union and obtaining a federal or state charter. They need 300 people to pledge 25¢ or more (which is credited to their account when the CU opens) and to sign a statement of need for and support of the CU. Donations to the committee are also welcome.

To become one of the 300, contact Tom Farrell, 49R Main St., Sanford 04073, or call Don Leuchs, 800-442-6345.

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ANOTHER CONTEST

Where do you put your Maine Statewide Newsletter after you receive it? In the wastebasket or stove? If you read it, does it go into the midst of that pile of papers on your desk? In that special spot in the bathroom or outhouse? In a file folder marked, "MSN"? Tacked to a bulletin board at work or taped to your refrigerator next to a poster that says, "It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber"? Where's the best place to put this newsletter? What's the best way to use it? Give us your suggestions, and we'll pass them on to others. No prize to the winners, though.

WHAT IS THE HLA?

The Human Life Amendment is:

"Sec. 1. With respect to the right to life, the word person as used in this article and in the fifth and fourteenth articles of amendment to the Constitution of the United States applies to all human beings irrespective of age, health, function or condition of dependence, including their unborn offspring at every stage of their biological development.

"Sec. 2. N unborn person shall be deprived of life by any other person; provided, however, that nothing in this article shall prohibit a law permitting only those medical procedures required to prevent the death of the mother."

Some of the major reasons the HLA is being opposed are: (1) All legal abortions would be declared illegal; (2) Abortions or other medical procedures done in cases of rape or incest or possibly even to preserve the life of the mother would be illegal; (3) It would make some birth control procedures, such as the pill and the IUD, illegal; (4) It would deny women control over their own bodies, giving it often to legal entities (usually male-dominated); (5) Women could be investigated and prosecuted if they have a miscarriage or spontaneous abortion.

Readers are urged to write to their congressional representatives for their own copies of proposed legislation. For those interested in working against the HLA, contact Brunswick NOW, c/o Joan Tronto, 11A Maple St1, Brunswick 04011.

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IF YOU'RE DOWNEAST, near Steuben, c'mon over to the next newsletter circus, beginning at 3 PM on Sun., Ap. 26. Terre Orlando and Larry Lack, Rt. 1 Box 74-1, Steuben 04680, 546-7293 are hosts.

Since last month's newsletter, we received 75 additional subscriptions and \$289. Thus far this year, 228 subs and \$879.50 have been received toward our goal of at least 1,000 subs and \$3,800. As we strive personally toward more self-sufficiency, please help the newsletter to do the same!

3

SURVIVING EACH SATURDAY

Although massive blockades and occupations at the Seabrook, N. H. nuclear power plant construction site may have temporarily ended, Seacoast Women for Survival has been maintaining a weekly presence at the south gate to the plant each Saturday from 11 AM to noon. Women and children carry signs, picket, or vigil to show their concern for future generations and to request that plant construction be halted.

They see themselves as a sign of hope for others who have given up the fight against the plant or have gone into hibernation, and they have spoken in schools throughout the Seacoast area. They urge Maine women and children (men can support the group also) to come on Saturdays to the Seabrook site. A large women's and children's demonstration is also planned there for June 6. To find out more: Barbara Hildt, 24 Belmont St., Amesbury, Mass. 01913, 617-388-3647.

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BRING PEACE TO MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day in Maine this year will be observed with a "Celebration for peace" on May 10. Women from throughout the state will converge on Bath for workshops, slide shows, a children's area, and leafletting at Bath Iron Works, Maine's largest military contractor, to publicize connections to the military and to promote conversion of Maine's war industries to peaceful purposes.

To help out locally (this is a state-wide event, to give time, or to give cash (they need it), contact Linda Perkins, PO Box 586, Liberty 04949, 589-4605 or call Sandra at 338-1441.

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Friends of the Earth, Maine Branch, has asked for the use of this newsletter's mailing list. Anyone who objects to receiving information from them should contact INVERT as soon as possible. Those who already asked that their name not be given out to such groups will not receive this information unless they request it from Friends of the Earth, Box 2614, Augusta 04330.

Dear Maine Statewide Newsletter,

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I was dismayed to read, in your March, 1981 issue, an announcement, apparently from the Maine Right-to-Life Committee and other pro-life (sic) groups, asking for support of the Human Life Amendment. To read such an announcement in a newsletter which claims to be progressive, I felt both personally and politically assaulted. Unless I am mistaken, I have yet to read similar announcements in the MSN from pro-nuclear, pro-racist, or pro-arms race groups, to cite but a few examples of what I would also find repulsive.

To print announcements or information in a progressive newsletter from anti-progressive forces can be appropriate when done within a "know thy enemy" framework--for example, to educate people on the positions of such groups so that we can more effectively argue and organize against them. To print a seemingly "objective," non-editorialized announcement from such a group is a statement of support.

The proposed Human Life Amendment, in all its versions, constitutes a serious threat to the life, health and self-determination of every American woman. Further, such groups as the MRLC are notorious for propagandizing misinformation.

If the Maine Statewide Newsletter truly supports the notion of "equal time" (which I doubt), then where are the "objective" announcements from Central Maine Power, the Ku Klux Klan, the Nazi Party and the Defense Department? Exaggeration? I don't believe so.

I, as a feminist, feel betrayed by those whom I considered to be allies. I am tired of women's rights being compromised by liberals in the name of "objectivity." I am tired of believing in unity and coalitions, only to find that all progressive movements are supported except those of women.

I am not going to request that you cancel my subscription, for I do believe in the purpose of the Maine Statewide Newsletter. I do request that you publish an explanation and some statement of editorial policy.

Sincerely,

Diane Elze (and nine other members of the Portland Women's Community)

Dear Diane and others of the Portland Women's Community,

The Feb. 1981 issue of the newsletter listed criteria used for putting articles in the newsletter: (1) Maine-oriented and factual; (2) information on progressive reform and social change; (3) bulletin board for access; (4) no sexist/insulting language; (5) policies could be changed by those who put out the newsletter. One other criterion wasn't mentioned--that articles reflect the interests and opinions of its readers.

The Maine Right-to-Life Committee article was included because it seemed to satisfy all the criteria. However, we confused abortion with the HLA, which seems to have fewer progressive aspects and some oppressive ones (see article on page 3). It was also a mistake to include the "editorial note" after the article to justify its inclusion, since it did imply some support for the HLA.

Our "editorial policy" is not based on endorsements, but rather on reporting progressive activities factually, and to resist the temptation (not always successfully done) to glorify or put down anyone.

It's your job, as readers, to judge what is right or wrong, because the newsletter does reflect significant differences. Notices of various political parties and of both government agencies and groups wanting nothing to do with the government have appeared.

Articles that are pro-racist, pro-nuke, etc. or that discuss groups/issues that are not generally considered progressive will not usually be printed because of limited space and the makeup of our readership, though if one does appear, it should be viewed as "know thy enemy."

The newsletter can't force unity among people, but it can help bring together people with shared interests. It can bring out differences and help people to resolve them or to learn to respect the diversity of others.

Do you agree with this "editorial policy?" Any feedback from readers on this question or on other strengths or weaknesses of the MSN are welcome. MSN

(Diane also provided arguments in a second letter for why HLA should not be considered progressive. Contact her at 15 Deering Ave., Portland 04101 for more info on HLA.)

GETTING RID OF A TOUGH OL' BIRD

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Last month's newsletter included an article about various boycotts. One not mentioned was Perdue Chickens. The United Food and Commercial Workers Union has asked that consumers boycott Perdue, known as the "J&P Stevens of the poultry industry" until Perdue workers are unionized. Many labor violations by Perdue have been cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as the National Labor Relations Board.

Besides helping to support the UFCW, Maine consumers can save money and help a faltering poultry industry by purchasing locally-produced poultry. The Perdue brand is sold at First National and Shaw's supermarkets. For details: Lew Gordon, 13 Goodwin St., Springvale 04083.

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STORE COMBINES FREEDOM AND LIBERTY

The possibility of opening a coop store in the Liberty-Freedom area was discussed at an open meeting on Feb. 16. It was decided by those who attended that a questionnaire should be composed and distributed to determine the community's needs and reactions.

So far, the questionnaire response has been very positive for a weekend operation. However, the return is quite small so far more responses are needed.

A general meeting is scheduled for Mon., Ap. 6 at the South Montville Grange for all interested people. There will be a potluck dinner at 6 PM followed by the meeting at 7:30.

For a copy of the questionnaire or other questions, write: Friends Coop Research, RFD1 Box 192, Freedom 04941

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A COOPERATIVE PRINT SHOP for Oxford County is the goal of an organizing committee based in the Norway area. Besides an offset job press to do printing, local groups could be trained to produce their own materials. To help out or for more particulars: Terry Silber, RFD 2 Box 134, Buckfield 04220, 388-2341.

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"The call to tighten your belt is meaningless to someone who can't afford a belt."

HELPING EACH OTHER TO CONSERVE

Neighbors Assisting Neighbors, the Portland-area energy cooperative, will hold a workshop for persons wishing to volunteer in a program to help weatherize homes. Assistance will be offered to residents who can't perform such energy conservation measures on their own.

The workshop will be on April 4, 9 AM-5 PM at St. Patrick's Church, 1344 Congress St., Portland. There will be training, demonstrations, and a hands-on work session. For details, call 774-2649.

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HAVE I GOT A DEAL FOR YOU!

What do you do if you don't have the cash for needed goods or services? Barter, of course! In the typical Yankee spirit, the New England Barter Group is compiling a book listing names, addresses, and services of those wishing to barter. The book, scheduled for publication in May, will be available at bookstores, drugstores, markets, etc.

For \$5, you can be listed in the directory and get a free copy of the book to boot. The deadline for listing is March 31. To find out more: NE Barter Group, Box 30, Standish 04084, 637-2381.

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THE COUNTY GETS IT TOGETHER, COOPERATIVELY

With \$1,000 in help from the Consortium for Food Self-Reliance, Aroostook food coops and the Maine Federation of Cooperatives will be sponsoring an organizing/education day on Ap. 4, 10 AM-5 PM (potluck lunch) at the Methodist Church, 8 Prospect St., Caribou. Coop representatives from throughout the County will be discussing a possible County-wide newsletter, more coop storefronts (there is one in Presque Isle), and of someone to coordinate volunteer efforts among coops in the County.

To find out more: Cindy Hebert, 10 Park St., Caribou 04736, 498-2760, or Janet Souviney Sirois, Me. Fed. of Coops, Box 236, N. Vassalboro 04962, 872-7930.

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"...Violence is in our hearts and not in the weapons. Guilt is not in the one who pulls the trigger, but in each one of us who allows it."--Yoko Ono

RETREAT FOR THE ARMS RACE

Peaceworkers interested in working with the American Friends Service Committee-sponsored "Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race" petition campaign or in organizing in their local community around issues of militarism and disarmament are invited to a one-day retreat/workshop, to be held on Sat., May 9, from 9:30 AM to 5 PM at Chapin's barn, Montsweag Rd., Woolwich.

Costs will be minimal. For further info: Deb Hibbard, AFSC, PO Box 7097, Lewiston 04240, 784-1278, 772-0680.

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VOICES TO THE CAMPUS

Three members of the White Roots of Peace, Mohawk spokespeople for the traditionist movement from the Akwesasne Notes newspaper collective, will speak in Room 137, Bennett Hall, Univ. of Maine, Orono, at 7 PM on Ap. 2. It is free and open to the public.

Midwife Jeannie Shenandoah, Mike Myers, and, tentatively, Ronnie LaFrance will speak about traditional native culture and roles, environmental concerns, land issues and sovereign rights, international affairs, and long house midwifery. They will also give presentations in various classes during the day.

Contact Vicky Akins, 10 Oak Hill, Indian Island 04468, 827-3262 for details.

Also at UMO, one week later, is a World Hunger Symposium panel, the culmination of International Week. At 7 PM, Ap. 9, in Hauck Auditorium of the Memorial Union, Nicholas Raymond from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Said Shah, from India, and Cheryl Payer, agriculture policy critic, will debate the role of food and hunger in foreign policy.

Films and slides will be shown, along with "Bottle Babies," about the boycott of the Nestles Corp., and there will be time for questions and answers. Contact: Arthur Pritzker, 34 Middle St., Orono 04473, 866-2202.

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"All pipes are peace pipes."

STOP THAT RUNAWAY!

Another important bill in this legislative session is LD-790, the "Runaway Shops" bill. If enacted, it would require employers of over 100 people to: (1) give a 1-year public notice of plans to lay off more than 15% of the work force; (2) make a good faith offer to sell the company to another company, labor union, or community group that wants to buy it for a fair market value instead of simply closing and moving; (3) pay into a technical assistance fund to help a new owner keep the plant going and/or help ease tax losses to local communities; (4) pay severance pay and health benefits for a specified time period to workers laid off.

To circulate petitions in support of the bill or whatever, contact Maine AFL-CIO, PO Box 70, Brewer 04412, 989-3630, or the Committee on Runaway Shops, Box 381, Augusta 04330, 623-2971.

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SUPPORT GOOD NEIGHBORS, the monthly rag (newspaper) or Portland's West End neighborhood, and recycle your old newspapers at the same time. Portland West Neighborhood Planning is having a paper drive, and they will come to pick up old paper in the Portland area after 5 PM on April 14-16. Call Susan or Mark at 775-0105 to make arrangements.

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CONGRESS SEEKS TO RAISE BUDGET

The Congress for Safe Energy convenes for the second time on Saturday, Ap. 11 at Jewett Hall, Univ. of Me., Augusta. It's theme, "Energy Future for Me.," will be reflected in the keynote address and morning workshops (renewable, evacuation hearings, spent fuel hearings, financing alternative energy, and more).

The afternoon will feature sessions to set priorities for the Congress, to decide on followup actions, to do fund-raising, and to elect board members for the Congress. A \$5 registration donation is requested to cover expenses.

For details: Congress for Safe Energy, Box 777, Brunswick 04011.

THE NEXT VIETNAM?

While many people are worried about the situation in El Salvador, not too many are acting on it yet. One who is, however, is Selma Sternlieb, 21 McKeen St., Brunswick 04011, 725-7675, who is organizing a newspaper ad for the Bath-Brunswick newspaper asking that US military aid to El Salvador be stopped. The ad will go in soon (if it hasn't already), so contact her quickly for details or to contribute to the ad.

She is also helping to arrange for the film "Revolution or Death" to be shown Fri., Mar. 27 in Brunswick. Produced by the World Council of Churches and smuggled out by Dutch journalists, the film chronicles brutal treatment of El Salvadorian citizens by the ruling military junta last year, about the time Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated (Mar. 24). It will also be shown in Portland on Sat., Mar. 28. Denny Ewell, 83 Summit, S. Portland 04106, 767-4193 is arranging locations.

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Taxes for War? NO TANKS!

As the deadline for 1040's rapidly approaches, the idea of a protest against Uncle Sam's unwise use of tax money for the military becomes more tempting.

Besides withholding all or the military portion of one's taxes, troubled souls can refuse a token portion (\$1, \$50), file late or pay taxes slowly, make their checks out to the Dept. of Education or US Govt. Escrow Account for a World Peace Tax Fund, or another non-military agency, attach a letter of protest to their return, earn less than a taxable income, pay taxes in pennies, file form 1040X asking for a refund of military portions of their taxes, send letter to newspapers, or leaflet local post offices.

Leafletting will occur at least at the Bangor P. O. Contact Karen Harlan, 33 Forest, Orono 04473, 866-3291 to help.

In Portland, Me. Citizens Against Payment of War Taxes continues to meet. They hope to circulate petitions, develop position papers and information for the public, send letters to the editor, and possibly other actions. Contact Cush Anthony, 165 Margaret, S. Portland 04106, 775-6371, 767-2419.

MORE CALCS TO BEGIN

Maine CALC (Clergy and Laity Concerned) continues its organizing meetings with gatherings in Machias (Mar. 28, Congregational Church), Bangor (Mar. 31, Universalist Church, 120 Park St.), and Augusta (Ap. 2, All Souls, 11 King). The Machias Meeting is at 6 PM, the other two, featuring N. H./New England CALC representative Lucille Gunderson, begin at 7.

To find out what is planned in your locale, contact Pat Tompkins, B x 49, Dennysville 04628, 726-4625; Rev. Rick Floyd, Box 1106, Bangor 04401, 942-4381; Rev. Doug Strong, 11 King, Augusta 04330, 622-3232.

CALC is also publicizing Peace Sabbath, Ap. 25-26, encouraging Maine religious groups to put special emphasis on peace those days in these troubled, war-like times. Suggestions include: special prayers or sermons, petition-signings, fund-raising for peace projects, church/synagogue school discussions, or action projects. To get a special Sabbath set up, contact your local synagogue or church and/or Maine CALC, c/o Larry Dansinger, RFD 1, Newport 04953, 938-2219.

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MORE FROM THE VAFW

The Maine Chapter of Veterans Against Foreign Wars (VAFW) is holding an open meeting on April 8, 8 PM, to discuss the presentation of a media package to high school students that would offer the military experience from a veteran's point of view. They are interested in countering the "hype" that young people receive from military recruiters with testimony (oral and visual) from those who have served in the military. Vets are urged to help put together a message to young people facing conscription. Testimony with slides or tapes is also helpful.

The meeting will be at All Soul's Unitarian Church, 11 King St., Augusta. Doug Rawlings, RFD 1, Mt. Vernon 04352, 293-4940 has details.

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A STUDY GROUP to start an independent school for the Norway area is being organized. They will meet Ap. 5, 6 PM, S. Paris Congregational Church. Contact Lisa Durso, RFD 1, Box 73, W. Paris 04289, 674-2478.

THE GAME OF LIFE

Now available at Northeast Carry, 110 Water St., Hallowell 04347, 623-1667, are non-competitive games from the Animal Town Game Co. of Santa Barbara, Cal. In "Back to the Farm," for example, players barter, buy, and cooperate to build their (organic) farm and acquire necessary tools. "Save the Whales" pits all players against "the system" to collectively save eight great whales. "Nectar Collector" and "Maidson Avenue" are also available, all priced from \$13 to \$19.

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REFORMING A SYSTEM OF (IN)JUSTICE

A series of Monday night films focusing on the weak points of the criminal justice system and what can be done to eliminate them will begin with Fred Wiseman's well-known film, "Welfare," shown at 7:30 PM on April 20 at All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St, Augusta. The film tries to show how the welfare system perpetuates, rather than solves, social problems. A discussion about the film will follow.

The role of civil disobedience in upgrading the criminal justice system is the theme for the following Monday, Ap. 27, "With Intent to Harm," about a strike at Walpole (Mass.) prison, where inmates temporarily ran the prison, and "Holy Outlaw," about Phillip and Rev. Daniel Berrigan, will be shown.

The series will continue the first 3 Mondays in May (4, 11, 18) with "3,000 Years and Life," "Politics of Torture," and "Rape Culture." Efforts are being made to show these films earlier in Bangor, Brunswick, and Portland, and they are available the Tues. or Wed. after the Monday showing in Augusta for other groups around the state. To help arrange a showing locally, contact Justice for All, Box 2521, Augusta 04330, or call All Souls, 622-3232.

Justice for All is also planning an organizer's training session (tentatively scheduled for May 9) for persons interested in organizing around prison issues or in serving as advocates for current or ex-offenders. Contact the above.

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FOR LAND'S SAKE

A dozen people met recently in East Vasslaboro to revitalize and reorganize Sam Ely Community Land Trust, a group which had operated for seven years in Maine providing education and assistance to individuals and groups concerned about land stewardship and the formation of land trusts. Dwindling finances and energy reduced the group to an extremely low profile last year, but there is new energy to pick up the pieces, assume the debts (about \$20,000), find new leaseholders for land in North Monmouth (there is room for three households to settle and put dwellings there), and to again be a statewide source of information on land stewardship and land trusts.

There is much to be done--fund-raising, bookkeeping, a newsletter, reorganizing resources, and finding people interested in putting their land into trust. Rather than trying to organize land trusts from a statewide office, however, Sam Ely will encourage the formation of local trusts.

They meet Mar. 22 and probably will again in April. For more information: Sam Ely, Box 31, Lisbon Falls 04252, or call 353-2472.

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ATTENTION CRAFTSPEOPLE; Unity College needs you to exhibit for their Celebration of Spring Festival on May 16. To reserve a table (\$8) for the event, which includes a parade, music, and puppets, contact Student Life, Unity College, Unity 04988, 948-3131.

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IF YOU'RE LEFT OVER IN BOSTON

For those who find themselves in Boston and want to find out what's going on, get a copy of "What's Left in Boston?", a community calendar of (progressive) political and cultural events. Not surprisingly, there are plays, conferences, demonstrations, and meetings (always meetings) in Boston as well as Maine. (They're not all apathetic down there.) For a sample or a sub (\$5), What's Left, c/o Boston Com. Center, 10 West St., Boston, Massachusetts 02111.

NOT A WASTE OF TIME

On the hazardous waste front, two important events are coming up in Maine. Dr. Beverly Paigen, Buffalo cancer researcher, will speak on "Problems Assessing Health near Hazardous Waste Sites." She has done studies of water pollutants in the town of Gray's water supply and of the health effects of chemicals in the Love Canal area. The Sierra Club and the Maine Health and Hazardous Waste Task Force are co-sponsoring the event, April 3, 1:30 PM, at the Oblate Retreat House, 136 State St., Augusta.

On April 14 at 10 AM in the Augusta Civic Center, there will be a public hearing on the Clean Air Act, a "cornerstone" of environmental policy. The act, used especially in controlling pollution by industries and power companies, is in trouble. To arrange to testify, call Charlene Sturbitts in Sen. George Mitchell's office, 202-224-5344.

For those concerned about Acid Rain, it is the topic of a speech by Dr. Charles Chakoumakas, chemistry prof. at the U. of Maine, Farmington, on April 6, 7 PM at Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston.

Details on all these from Ken Spalding, Box 813, Augusta 04330, 933-4915.

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HELP WANTED: INVERT needs help in putting out this newsletter. While we can't pay someone (maybe we can work out a "profit-sharing" plan), we can offer free room and board in exchange for someone giving a few days a month to help put the newsletter together. It is interesting, educational, and important (we hope) work. Contact INVERT, RFD 1 Newport 04953, 938-2219 for details.

For those wondering what INVERT stands for, it is the Institute for Nonviolence Education, Research, and Training. While its main focus now is this newsletter, it has produced educational pamphlets on nonviolence and consensus decision-making and has facilitated workshops or courses on both.

And, just down the road, the organizing committee for a Maine Coop Loan Fund is looking for a researcher, short-term, to present options to the committee concerning corporate (legal) structures for the fund, operating guidelines (by-laws), and money, banking, and investment procedures. Experience in these areas and background with coops and/or consensus decision-making is desirable. Resumes or letters of inquiry must be received by April 15 by C. R. Lawn, Box 102, Canaan 04924, or call the Maine Federation of Coops, 872-7930.

MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION/FEEDBACK FORM

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- ☐ I like the newsletter but can't give a donation now. Please keep sending it.
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I (do/do not) want my name given out for use by other groups or for special mailings.

What do you like most or least about the newsletter? Can you send us information on topics we don't adequately cover? If there are others who would like to receive this newsletter, please send us their names and correct mailing addresses.

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