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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 16 (May 1981)

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Number 16

May, 1981

"Nobody's Purfect"

Donation 30¢ (?)

OVERCOMING SOCIETY'S HANDICAPS

Advocates for the rights of handicapped persons, both physical and mental, hope to take their movement a giant step forward with an Open Meeting for the Equal Rights Project, including a catered dinner and a gala party with live entertainment at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords, Portland, beginning at 2 PM on Saturday, May 16.

The event is being sponsored by the Maine Assn. of Handicapped Persons, formerly the Southern Maine Assn., to bring to Maine the importance of 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons. It is open to all handicapped people and to others who support equal rights efforts. Donations of \$2.50 or more for the day are requested but not absolutely required.

In addition to the evening events, the Equal Rights Project Players will present a series of one-act plays for enjoyment and consciousness-raising, and there will be strategizing on how to bring the message of equal rights for handicapped people to Maine's citizens.

"It is society, not ourselves, that really needs rehabilitation," according to spokesperson Tom Andrews. "As far as civil rights for handicapped people is concerned, we are still 'on the plantation,' in institutions, or prisoners in our own homes." They are seeking to end all forms of discrimination, such as lack of accessibility, prejudice in job hiring, education, and housing, and illegal institutionalization.

Contacts for more information are Tom Andrews, 105 Grant St., Portland 04101, 774-6734; Laura Pawle, 774-4360; Gloria Guadagnoli, 786-2406; and Daphne Crocker, 866-4234.

A SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

A Mother's Day Celebration for Peace will be held on Sunday, May 10 in Bath. Women and children from all over Maine are invited to share their concern about increasing military involvement in this country and abroad.

The Celebration will be part of local support for the Mother's Day Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament, which will march and lobby on May 10-11 in Washington, D. C. for a halt to the arms race.

The theme for the Bath march will be "conversion," changing from a military and war-oriented economy and mentality to one of peaceful productivity and mutual support.

The day will begin at 1 pm with a march/parade across the Bath-Woolwich bridge from Woolwich (gather across from the Dairy Queen) to the Bath City Park, where a rally will be held. Marchers are asked to park in the public lots at the corner of Washington & Summer Sts. and shuttle to the other side. Young children may be dropped off at the Bath Courthouse (child care workers will be there), where they will form a group to join the march when it reaches the Bath side. Marchers are encouraged to wear costumes or colorful clothing and to bring banners, musical instruments, and bubbles. At the park there will be speakers, workshops (at Morse High School), entertainment, and information booths.

Their statement reads in part: "As women, we feel a responsibility to protect ourselves and future generations, and to preserve the earth on which we depend. The horror of nuclear holocaust is difficult to conceive, yet we are moving (continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

closer to the possibility as both the US and the USSR plan to increase stockpiles by 20,000 warheads in the decade. We feel we must reverse this trend toward destruction and begin negotiations toward reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons. At this time of limited resources to meet human needs, the expansion of the military is inappropriate. As more and more countries acquire nuclear weapons, the probability of their use increases. We have chosen Mother's Day as a suitable time to join together to call a halt to the arms race. Please come and show your hope for a peaceful world."

Among those acting as local contacts are Mitzi Lichtman, RFD 2 Box 1026, Union 04862, 785-3881, Tortuga Vine, 279 Washington St., Bath 04530, 443-2239, Donna Jones, 22 Cushman, Portland 04102, 780-4044, Linda Perkins, PO Box 586, Liberty 04949, 589-4605, and Nan Stone, RFD 1, Searsport 04974.

Donations are needed and can be sent to Maine Women for a Nuclear Free Future, PO Box 4118 Sta. A, Portland 04101.

Some Maine women are planning to go to Washington DC on May 10-11, when they will gather at the Capitol at noon, march to the White House from 1-2 PM, hear speeches by Helen Caldicott and others, then hold regional meetings. There will be lobbying the next day.

Buses will be leaving from Boston on Sat., May 9. For car-pooling to Boston and other information, contact Pat Jones, Box 126, Kennebunkport 04046, 967-2375.

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YET ANOTHER GATHERING

Symposium VIII, for Maine's lesbians and gay men, will be held May 8-10 in Payson Smith Hall, USM, Portland. It will be a weekend of speakers, films, workshops, a play, a coffeehouse, and a dance--exercise for the body and the mind.

Besides a coffeehouse and registration on Friday night, three films will be shown, "Gay, Proud, and Sober," "A Dinner Party--Judy Chicago," and "Michael, a Gay Son." Keynote speakers Sat. morning are Corinne Krut and Eric Rofes. The afternoon will feature a wide variety of those everpresent workshops.

Following dinner there will be a play, "Star Gays," followed by a dance. The weekend will conclude with a presentation on gay history Sunday morning, giving participants joining the Mother's Day Celebration time to travel to Bath.

Registration fees are sliding from \$5-\$10, depending on income. This include the play, dance, and child care. The location is wheelchair accessible, and housing can be arranged. For registration, write Symposium VIII, PO Box 1742, Portland 04103.

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This month's newsletter was very frustrating, with no room (literally) for articles on the Maine Congress for Safe Energy, the Clark Amendment, the MWPA, (cont. on page 3)

THE ETHICAL MAJORITY MEETS

"The Feminist Ethical Majority" is the theme of the 9th annual conference of Maine NOW (National Organization for Women). The gathering will be May 16, at Coles Tower, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, beginning at 9 AM.

NOW feels that "the majority of American people support the Equal Rights Amendment, the Right to Choose, assistance to victims of family violence, non-discrimination in employment (& housing & credit & education, etc.), equal pay for work of comparable value,...In short, the majority of Americans support either all or most of the Feminist Agenda."

The conference will begin with registration at 9 AM, a keynote speech on the conference theme at 10, and workshops on abortion, the family, and morality in education before lunch.

A quiz panel, "So, You Think You Know Feminism," with noted local and regional woman-experts, begins at 1, followed by two more sets of workshops--racism, feminism and the Indian Nation, feminist men, rural feminists and isolation, lesbian consciousness-raising, and anger--from 2:40-5:30. There will also be entertainment and a dance in the evening.

Preregistration is \$3 (\$5 at the door or pay what you can). Childcare will be provided (please contact in advance if possible). To register: Brunswick area NOW, c/o Joan Tronto, 11A Maple St., Brunswick 04011, 725-7621.

THERE IS FAULT IN REALITY

"Contact" is a newsletter put out by clients of the Tri-County Mental Health Center to serve mental health patients and others throughout the state. The first issue reports on "Medicaid Services in Trouble," SSI information, the Transitional Employment Program, personal testimony, and "I Dare," a poem, part of which is reprinted here:

"...Under constant observation
I lay in bed
Day and night
Being watched for sign of return to reality
I do not return
They jab me
They electrify me
Long hours of therapy
Hey let me out
I hear no voice inside my head
I walk and talk very slowly
But life is building up inside me.
I begin to see the outside world
It does not scare me
A change is rapidly coming over me
I begin to react spontaneously
I face life with challenging eyes
Daring it to bring me down again.

Diane Gelinas
Former client, employee,
Tri-County Mental Health

For a copy of "Contact," write to
Tri-County Mental Health, 73 Pine St.,
Lewiston 04240.

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ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE'S NICARAGUA

For those who are concerned about Central America, especially Nicaragua, two events of note are coming up in May:

A slide presentation by Rich Buchheim on results of an intensive study tour in Honduras and Nicaragua will be shown at 7:30 PM on Thurs., May 21 at the St. Paul Center and Oblate Retreat House, 136 State St1, Augusta. The program will emphasize food and hunger issues.

For further information, contact Peter Micoileau, Appleton 04862, or call 785-4583 (h) or 289-2716 (w).

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(cont. from page 2) "Hamburger, USA," Rural Maine, Spirolina, HLA resources, poetry, Mutual Aid, and a Seabrook nonviolent action. We apologize to the (cont. on page 4)

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ANTI-MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR

Besides Mother's Day events, there will be a May 3 march in Washington, DC and possibly support activities in Lewiston on May 9. The People's Anti-War Mobilization, a coalition of groups as varied as the Black United Front, Clergy and Laity Concerned, and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), is sponsoring a march from the State Department to the Pentagon.

Among its slogans/demands are: stop war buildup, US out of El Salvador, an end to racist violence, stop registration and the draft, an end to sexism and lesbian/gay oppression, and funding for human needs instead.

The Maine CISPES chapter hopes to get a bus or at least assist car-pooling for those who want to attend the march. Write Maine Anti-Draft Network, Box 331, Westbrook 04092, or call Rosanne at 839-6195 or Michael at 324-6292.

For those who can't get to Washington, there is a support action, focusing on the El Salvador situation, tentatively scheduled for May 9, for persons who want to end military aid and the killing there. People will gather at Rep. Olympia Snowe's office in Auburn and walk thru downtown Lewiston to Sen. William Cohen's office. There will hopefully be El Salvadoran speakers.

For firm details, contact Fred Brodeur, 41 Dunn St., Auburn 04210 or Sanford Freedman, 783-8835.

DO YOU FEEL A DRAFT?

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Six geographical areas were represented at a counter-recruiting and anti-draft workshop sponsored by Maine American Friends Service Committee on Mar. 28.

Those present discussed problems, publicizing efforts, and areas of concentration. Projects already in the works are a package of counter-recruitment materials for high school guidance counselors and a slide show produced by Vietnam veterans opposed to the draft. A flyer for young people is also planned.

A second meeting is tentative for the June 5-7 weekend. One of the goals of statewide gatherings is to provide support for people working in isolation.

The Augusta area Youth and Peace group is trying to establish a network of counter-recruiting and anti-draft groups and individuals, draft counselors, and resources. Persons involved in this work or wanting to become involved should send their names to Tom Sturtevant, RFD 3, Winthrop 04364, 377-2370.

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A PAX ZAHN YOU

Well-known sociologist and peacemaker, Gordon Zahn, and Rev. Paul McLaughlin, New England representative of Pax Christi, the Catholic peace organization, will be keynote speakers at a seminar on May 3, 4-8 PM, at St. Joseph's Church in Gardiner. In addition, a mass, a social hour, and a panel discussion, plus a description of Pax Christi will be included.

It is hoped that ongoing peace activities, as a Pax Christi chapter or in conjunction with other peace groups, will be a result of this event. For details, contact Sister Julie Kand, DHRS, 224 Main St., Waterville 04901, 873-1146.

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CROWEING ABOUT PEACE

"Peace is not a static condition, Peace is a dynamic method."--Rufus Jones

"Peacemaking in Your Community," a workshop with Frances Crowe, organizer of the Nuclear Freeze campaign in western Massachusetts, will be held on Sat., May 2 from 9:30-4 PM at Portland Friends Meeting, 1837 Forest Ave., Portland. Cost: \$2-\$8, with soup and drinks provided (bring bag lunch).

For more information, call Tom Tracy at 799-5460 or write him at 56 Pitt St., S. Portland 04106.

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(cont. from page 3) writers and hope to have more room next month. YOUR help is crucial, by sending subscription donations and/or helping with production in Palmyra on May 21-23.

RATING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE PUC

Maine Citizens for Utility Rate Reform (MCURR) is asking for help to defeat two competing measures in the legislature. The two bills are LD 1181 and LD 1279, which are designed to impede passage of the "Elected PUC" referendum, which will be on the November ballot.

The group feels there is not accountability in either of the two bills, both of which advocate an appointed person (by the governor) to represent the public interest in utility rate matters. More taxpayers money will be spent for increased staff. Central Maine Poweris rumored to have had a hand in writing LD 1279.

Write or call your legislators soon, or contact MCURR, RFD 2, Gardiner 04345, 582-5236 for more specifics.

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BEING RESPONSIBLE STOCKHOLDERS

Stockholders going to Central Maine Power (CMP) Company's annual meeting on May 21 will vote on 9 proposals presented by stockholders--more than will be considered at any other utility in the US. Included are proposals to:

- require reports to stockholders on uranium and spent fuel contracts and safety issues affecting plants in which CMP has a share;
- requires no further investment in nuclear plants, withdrawl from ownership or purchase in future nuclear plants, and placing of funds released by divestiture into renewable resources in Maine;
- requires CMP to offer low-interest conservation loans;
- requires CMP to develop a plan for replacing power from Maine Yankee.

To become a stockholder: Judy Barrows, PO Box 2204, Augusta 04330, 622-4395.

PATCHWORK WORKSHOPS

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June 5-7 is the date of Patchwork Farm Homestead School's second Homestead Weekend. The three days will include workshops, discussions on self-sufficiency, how to reverse government and social policies putting small farmers out of business, and strategies for ending hunger. There will be slide shows and a number of demonstrations of various self-sufficiency skills.

Patchwork Farm hopes to give people, especially low-income, the skills to become more self-supporting. Costs for the weekend will be minimal. For more about the weekend or about membership (which gives reduced rates) write Patchwork Farm, RFD 1, Newport 04953.

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FOR THOSE WHO WANTED to be listed in the New England Barter Book but were too late for their April 1 deadline, there is good news. The deadline has been extended to May 30.

Persons interested in bartering items or skills should fill out a form from the New England Barter Group, Box 30, Standish 04084, 637-2381. The form, returned with a \$5 fee, will guarantee a listing plus a copy of the book.

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DEPOTS WITHOUT TRAINS

Sixty coop members attended the first Aroostook Coop Day workshops in Caribou on April 4. The workshop, sponsored by the Federation of Coops, drew lengthy discussion about the formation of regional depots, for food buying in larger collective units and for food distribution. There is also interest in buying produce cooperatively.

Regional contact for these depots are: South--Becky Drew, Rt. 1 Box 310, Island Falls 04747, 463-2372; Central--Carolyn Maple, Rt. 1, Stockholm 04783, 896-3042; North--Dave Caivano, 158 Main St., Ft. Kent 04743, 834-6120. The central region will meet on May 8 at the New Sweden Community Center. No dates for other regional meetings have been set as of this printing. A potential county-wide newsletter and what to do with \$750 available for other projects will be discussion topics at these future meetings.

A TIME FOR SELF-RELIANCE

"Khadi." It means "homespun" or "self-sufficient" in Hindu. "Khadi World" is a new newsletter offering information on self-sufficiency, survival, agriculture, and simple, nonviolent lifestyles.

The Vol. 1, Number 1, Spring 1981 edition, for example, features articles on the meaning of Khadi and the gentler way of veganism (vegetarianism without dairy products). They consider veganism a form of ahimsa--"dynamic harmlessness"--and point out what they see as the violence of constantly pregnant or lactating animals. (What is done to the 50% of male calves born when cows are bred, they ask.)

"The Marvelous Soybean" describes in detail the problems of growing soybeans in Maine. They grow with relatively little fertilizer, can be planted in between other crops like tomatoes, cabbage, or sunflowers, and are disease/pest resistant.

Other articles include "Intensive Forestry," "The Story of Bed 6-B," "Welcome to Khadighar," and recipes from the Khadi Kitchen, especially using the marvelous soybean.

"Khadi World" is published 4 times/year by the seasons. Subscriptions are \$2/year, but, like this newsletter, no one will be refused a subscription for lack of \$. For a copy or to visit the farm in Industry, write Khadighar, Box 1167, Farmington 04938.

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MAY DAY AT NEW DAY

The New Day School, an alternative school in Readfield, will have an open house on May 1 for interested parents and children. It is a small, parent/teacher run elementary and nursery school (certified and licensed).

New Day emphasizes individual attention created by close teacher/pupil ratio and offers a rich, varied curriculum. Tuition is based on a sliding scale, and carpools to get students to school are available. New Day School, RFD 1, Readfield 04355, 685-9053.

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"It is better to vote for what you want and not get it than to vote for what you don't want and get it." Maine NOW Times

SOMEBODY'S ALL WET!

6

The ocean policies determined by the Reagan administration will have a profound effect on world affairs for decades. Less than 48 hours before they resumed negotiations on several final issues, 10 US diplomats to the Law of the Sea conference were fired. The president called for a full review of the booklength LOS treaty, which has evolved over 10 years of negotiations and involves 151 nations.

The administration is under heavy pressure by some US deep sea mining and oil interests, and may stall further progress on the treaty. It provides a comprehensive agreement establishing national and international ocean and seabed boundaries, provides for protection of the living resources of the ocean, and establishes an international organization to manage deep sea mining.

People interested in LOS can write the United Methodist Law of the Sea Project, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, DC, for their newsletter, "Soundings."

Treaty advocate Terry Crawford also suggests writing to Maine's senators and reps. and to Clement Zablocki and Charles Percy, chairs of the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees. Letters to Sec. of State Alexander Haig and his deputy William Clark, Dept. of State, Washington, DC 20520 might also help.

Letters can note (a) a prolonged delay in the review may damage foreign/economic relations; (b) without the treaty, many strategic straits will fall under national jurisdiction, but there will be no rules insuring free passage, thus creating international tensions; (c) some US mining interests support the treaty and delay will hurt their investment and productivity; (d) major changes will result in other nations wanting changes also and will endanger the agreement; (e) endorse the New York Times editorial, "Don't Sink the Treaty," of March 9, 1981. It is recommended that other issues not be mentioned in the same letter.

Contact: Terry Crawford, 229 Cumberland Ave., Portland 04101, 774-4627.

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"Free reign for the oil companies, acid rain for the rest of us."

HELLO TO PORTLAND: We're finally taking the newsletter circus to the big city, Portland, to collate, staple, address, etc. on May 24, beginning at noon. It will be at Preble Chapel, 331 Cumberland Ave., (side entrance). If you can help for part or all of that afternoon, call Barbara Biggs at 772-6698 (before 9 PM).

We are now up to 308 subscriptions and \$1,159.50 in donations toward our goal of 1,000 subscriptions and \$3,800 in donations. Please return your sub. form for 1981, if you haven't already, and, if possible, send a donation to keep the Maine Statewide Newsletter self-sufficient!

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UNTITLED

Friends of the Earth (FOE), Maine Branch, takes to the road in May in hopes of bringing together people from the various environmental movements into organized, area-wide groups. Whether concerned about land issues, the coast, pesticide spraying, acid rain, hazardous waste, or safe energy, FOE hopes many people involved in all of these issues will attend its organizing meetings to find common ground with other environmentalists and conservationists.

Organizing meetings are scheduled for Downeast on May 1, 7:30 PM, at the College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, and May 2, 6:30 PM, in 115 Science Hall, U. of Maine, Machias. Mid/Southern Maine meetings will take place in Augusta on May 7, 7 PM, at Lithgow Public Library and May 12, 7 PM, in Room 417, Portland Public Library. The Northern tour will include Bangor, May 22, 7 PM, at the TIAK office, 14th St. Community Center, and on May 23, 7 PM, at the Public Library in Presque Isle.

For extra copies of the FOE newsletter, local contacts for these meetings, or anything else, contact FOE, Box 2614, Augusta 04330.

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OUR APOLOGIES: A recent mailing by Friends of the Earth was mistakenly sent to some people who asked that they not receive mailings from other groups. Our apologies for this; we'll try to insure that it does not happen again.

ROBIN HOODS BATTLE REAGANOMICS

Various groups are reacting to the possible budget cuts proposed by the Reagan administration. Letter writing campaigns to Congress have begun, and on April 16 over 1,000 people crowded into a room in the Augusta Civic Center to give and listen to testimony on how budget cuts would affect individuals and programs. Only Gov. Joseph Brennan and Sen. George Mitchell made personal appearances and did not stay to hear most of the testimony. Maine's other three congressional members sent substitutes.

Here is a not-so-brief summary of proposed cuts and effects on Maine programs:

Penobscot Area Housing Development, 9 Broad St., Bangor 04401, 947-7404, with help from the Food Research and Action Center and the US Catholic Conference Dept. of Social Development, has analysed the meaning of the proposed cuts of \$87 billion. The cuts are mostly in programs considered to have the largest budget deficits, yet higher energy costs are considered by many to be the cause of most recent inflation. (It was estimated in 1980 by the Congressional Budget Office that reducing the budget by \$20 billion would lower the inflation rate only .1 of 1%.) Other countries, especially Japan and West Germany, have larger deficits but lower inflation rates, whereas England, with a strategy similar to that proposed in the US, has seen both inflation and unemployment rise in the last two years.

Whether tax reductions will help the economy will be determined mostly by what more well-to-do people do with their savings. Persons making \$10,000-\$15,000/year will receive an additional \$350 in the next five years (mostly eaten up by higher social security payments), while those making over \$200,000 would have \$30,000 in tax rebates. About 3/4 of all benefits would go to those making over \$25,000 per year.

It does not appear that corporations will be asked to "bite the bullet" similarly. While corporate tax reductions are also proposed, there may be no requirements as to how the tax savings will be used. Recent trends are to "invest" in mergers and takeovers of other companies rather than in research

or new products, where productivity is increased (and unemployment and inflation lessened). Corporate taxes were 33.6% of all taxes in 1944 but only 15% in 1979.

Some of the largest cuts proposed are in programs affecting most of Maine's low-income people: (1) Food stamps may be cut by \$1.8 billion and \$4 billion for total food and child nutrition programs; (2) \$3.6 billion in CETA titles II and VI and \$700 million in youth employment/training; (3) AFDC will be lowered by \$500 million; (4) Low-income housing construction reduced by 1/3 and all Indian housing programs eliminated; (5) Anti-poverty programs cut by \$2.5 billion, with 40 programs combined into a "block grant system. Legal Services to disappear; (6) \$1 billion in Medicaid to be cut.

Some programs--Social Security, Medicare, unemployment compensation, and veterans benefits may escape the ax, although minimal social security benefits and extended unemployment compensation may not survive. In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration may be severely cut and mass transit funds may be reduced by 40%, among others.

While many cuts are proposed, one category is recommended for about a \$30 billion increase--military spending. "Guns" appear to be winning out over "butter." Numerous studies have seen military spending as inflationary--putting more money into the economy but no usable goods--a classic formula for inflation. Military spending also creates fewer jobs than almost any other kind of spending. For each \$1 billion spent, 24% more jobs would be created by mass transit funding and 95% more jobs if used for public health programs.

Finally, programs such as Energy Conservation, Solar Energy Research and Development, Coastal Zone Management, Water Conservation, and Urban Parks all face significant cuts, while nuclear programs have a proposed increase and the forest service and highway fund are expected to stay at about the same level.

The latest issue of the Maine Food Advocate, published by the Maine Child (continued on the next page)

(ROBIN HOODS continued from previous page) 8
Nutrition Project, PO Box 4770 DTS,
Portland 04112, 773-8084, spells out
the effects of food stamp cuts not only
on Maine's recipients but also on
Maine's business community as well.

They estimate 145,000 recipients, to-
talling \$78 million/year with an addi-
tional \$39 million spent in food sales
to supplement the stamps. Maine farmers
receive an estimated \$7.2 million in ad-
ditional sales thanks to food stamps. A
\$1.8 billion cut nationwide would cause
a loss of \$12 million in stamps in Maine,
\$6.1 million in food sales, and \$1.4 mil-
lion less for Maine's farmers.

An additional proposal to cut food
stamp allowances for children who attend
a school with a school lunch program will,
if enacted, leave those households with
less than \$1 per person per day for food.
There is fear that some of the "truly
needy" will receive fewer benefits, be-
cause about half of all households have
incomes under \$3,600/yr. and 7/8 are
under the poverty level of \$7,100 (3
person household).

There is no estimate of how fewer food
stamps will affect nutrition or health
of recipients nor burdens on medicaid/
medicare, meals programs, or other
social services.

The Maine Human Services Provider Co-
alition, c/o Jack Pronovost, DHRS, 224
Main St., Waterville 04901, 873-1146,
drew up a list of various human service
programs and effects of cuts on Maine.
These changes all depend on proposed cuts
being passed. Here is a brief summary:

Social Services: 362,000 rides lost for
low-income elders; 1,372 people lose
homemaker services; over 400 families
lose child day care--many forced to give
up jobs; over 7,000 lose family planning;
over 1,000 handicapped persons lose inde-
pendent living and rehabilitation ser-
vices; juvenile justice and delinquency
prevention programs eliminated.

Health: 10,000 will lose medicaid;
reductions in health care and drugs for
elders; reduction in community mental
health, alcoholism, drug abuse services.

Energy: 12,500 will lose some fuel as-
sistance. Winterization program ends.

AFDC: Reduced work incentives and re-
duced allowance for child care.

Legal: Pine Tree Legal will close.

Social Security: 1,500 women lose mini-
mum benefits; student and lump sum death
benefits eliminated.

Economic Development: Economic Develop-
ment Administration eliminated, with no
support for the Portland Fish Pier or
Boothbay Fish Storage Coop; National Con-
sumer Coop Bank ended; Farmers Home Admin-
istration funds for small family farms
reduced.

All Community Action Agencies and Vietnam
Veterans Centers would also be closed down,
and subsidies to mass transit systems would
be reduced.

Groups as varied as PAHDC and the Maine
Communist Party (Box 5166 Sta. A, Portland
04101, 774-4067), which also provided a
little of this information, are urging
people to organize to reverse what they
see as subsidies for the rich while those
who can least afford it bear the brunt of
the cuts. Cuts in the military budget in-
stead, price rollbacks, and government
programs to provide jobs are being encour-
aged as a better way to fight inflation.

Although the National Anti-Hunger Coal-
ition has set May 9 as a day of action for
a fair budget, no large actions are planned
in Maine (yet), though there may be local
actions (none definite at press time).

The Providers Coalition is encouraging
personal (not form) letters to Maine's
congressional delegation (Reps. Olympia
Snowe and David Emery, US House of Repre-
sentatives, Washington, D. C. 20515, Sens.
William Cohen and George Mitchell, US Sen-
ate, Washington, DC, 20510), emphasizing
concern about the overall emphasis of cuts
in human services. People may also want
to support LD 1473 in the Maine legisla-
ture, giving community groups in Maine more
say in how block grant funds for services
are allocated.

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WE ARE TRYING to act on two suggestions
from readers. Diane Curewitz asked that
we do more followup on groups and events
mentioned last month. We tried to do that,
and we ask that groups add INVERT to their
mailing list and send us followup reports.
To Judy/Greg Kaminsky's request for more
in depth articles, we will try to set aside
two pages (7 & 8) for that. Such articles
are welcome. Please send them to INVERT,
RFD 1, Newport 04953, 938-2219, before
the 20th of the month deadline.

A BABE IS BORN

BABE (Better Awareness of the Birthing Experience) will be holding a birthing conference at Luther Bonney Hall, USM, Portland on Sat., May 16 from 8:30-5 PM. The fee is \$5 (individual), \$8 (couple).

Such topics as Spiritual Mothering, Parents as Lovers, and Redefining Sexuality, among others, will be offered in workshops, plus films and discussions. Keynote speeches will be by Kathleen McPherson on "The Politics of Women's Health" and Diana Altman on "The Politics of Maternity Care."

For details or registration call 892-9513 or write BABE, PO Box 4051 Sta. A, Portland 04101.

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A NEW GROUP IN THE WIND?

Repercussions of Winday, March 7, when 200 people from all over Maine met at Brown's Mill in Dover-Foxcroft to learn more about wind energy, are being felt.

At the event, Charleston's Neal Carter showed how his wind generator provides all the comforts of home, Peter Talmadge of Kennebunkport demonstrated the importance of site selection, and Anson's Steve Bell discussed a 10 kilowatt model for use in large households.

Wind power users and advocates are attempting to organize to promote wind power in the state. To join: Homeworks, Box 257, Cutler 04627 or Winday, 16 Vaughn St, Brown's Mill, Dover-Foxcroft 04426.

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HIGH CRIMES?

Many law enforcement and public officials consider cannabis (marijuana) to be a dangerous drug, but, according to Citizens for Effective Drug Use Regulations (CEDR), this belief has little or no basis in fact.

The recent (1972) study by the Schafer Commission declared that beliefs about the drug were based on misunderstanding; no such fear was warranted. Consumers Union Reports stated in a 1972 article, "Licit and Illicit Drugs," that alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are more dangerous. Official studies in three countries all recommended control and restriction rather than prohibition.

CEDR feels current laws against cannabis use encourage disrespect for the law, maintain a black market distribution system, costs the state money for legal prosecution and in loss of sales and tax revenues, and endangers the lives of users because of contaminants present in the drug when sold illegally.

It believes the illegality of the drug is more damaging to society than the drug itself. Therefore, it has begun a campaign for legalization, control, and taxation of cannabis. Legalization could combat the problems listed above, could provide tax revenues to aid people with real drug problems, could free police and courts for more important work, could provide another cash crop for Maine's farmers, and could lower the price of cannabis to an affordable level.

To help CEDR's efforts, write them at Box 396, Old Town 04468.

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