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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 17 (June 1981)

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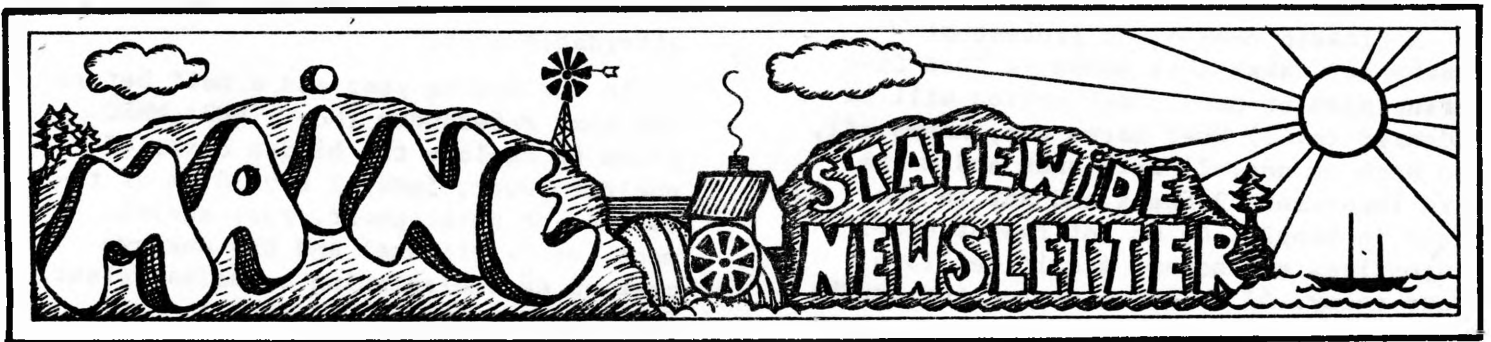
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Number 17

"All The News That Fits"

June 1981

RURAL MAINE STEPS OUT

"Rural Maine," a coalition of low-income, agricultural and other groups concerned with Maine's Rural economy and environment, will make its first big splash at the Troy Grange (it's rural) on Sat. June 13. It will be an organizing and coalition building conference to determine whether such a coalition is needed, and if so, what it should work on.

The agenda begins with a coffee/registration period at 9 AM, then an address by Ellen Fleischman, of the New Hampshire People's Alliance on Rural Organizing, followed by group discussion concerning her speech and an identification of the groups present.

Following lunch, there will be small group discussion on the value of a coalition, and how it would work. Whether or not to hold a Rural Town Meeting at the Common Ground Country Fair in September will also be considered. The meeting will end about 4 PM.

Having met since November, Rural Maine hopes to identify specific problems of Maine's small communities, and to receive their fair share of government expenditures, when appropriate, or to solve local problems cooperatively, without outside funding.

Organizational representatives or concerned individuals are encouraged to contact John Roman, New Sharon 04955, 778-3501 ext.326 or 470 for questions, or by June 5 to pre-arrange lunch (\$2.50) There is no charge for the conference. The Troy Grange is on Routes 9 and 202, half-way between Bangor and Augusta.

KICK-OFF TO KICK OUT MAINE YANKEE

Saturday, June 20, "A Day For A Nuclear-Free Maine, will be the kick-off for Referendum II, as the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee efforts to close Maine Yankee are renewed.

This event in Augusta (Capitol Park) will feature workshops on nuclear power and alternative energy, music, food, political speakers, an auction, a road race, a bikeathon (from Augusta to Wasscasset) and theater. It will be a day for celebration and information sharing, for organizing and supporting the next referendum.

At a press conference in Augusta, May 18, the MNRC disclosed the wording of the new Nuclear Fission Control Act. The law, if passed, would require Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant to cease operation by Nov. 2, 1987.

This referendum law differs from the previous one. A five-year shut-down period will be allowed, to allow time for the development of alternatives, conservation measures and replacement power, as well as to prevent a sudden loss of jobs. Central Maine Power sought to justify the existence of the plant with threats of freezing in the dark, ruined businesses and skyrocketing electric rates if the plant were closed.

So, while it is important not to forget the dangers of a nuclear power plant, this referendum campaign will stress the alternative power already available to us, and that the development of other energy sources and conservation measures will ensure the
(con't page 2)

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(continued from page one)
development of both jobs and safe,
affordable energy.

In the coming year and a half before the next referendum (Nov. 1982) MNRC plans to explore the hidden costs of nuclear power; federal subsidies of research and development, fuel enrichment, waste disposal and the unknown cost of decommissioning a nuclear plant. These costs will be compared to the available alternatives.

While comparing this referendum to the first, it is interesting to note that Maine citizens were not informed about intentions to increase the amount of spent fuel stored at Maine Yankee, until after the Sept. 23rd vote. Maine people were also unaware, at that time, of federal studies that were considering the Wiscasset site for possible expansion of nuclear plant facilities and a nuclear fuel reprocessing center. Had this information not been withheld, the referendum result may have been different.

A warning from Nuclear Regulatory Commission member Peter Bradford, states that, "Mainers should be very worried about a mood in Washington to reduce the NRC's inspection and enforcement activities at nuclear plants." He also noted that Congress is considering legislation that would substantially reduce the public's right to participate in NRC cases, and that the Reagan administration and many members of Congress want to speed up the licensing of new plants, as well as reducing NRC's control.

Physicians for Social Responsibility, (PSR) a nationwide group of doctors, nurses, and other health professionals, hopes to organize a Maine chapter at an organizational meeting on Saturday, June 13, at 12:30 PM, at the Lithgow Public Library, Winthrop and State Sts., Augusta.

There's no time to lose! MNRC needs help with the June 20th Day For a Nuclear Free Maine. Help is needed with local and statewide preparations, as well as on-the-spot help on June 20. People are needed to spread the word, gather things for the auction, set up car pools to Augusta, seek endorsements from local organizations and prominent individuals, put up posters, etc. Also needed are typists, graphic artists, writers, all-purpose workers, carpenters, medical people, food handlers, slides on alternative energy projects, and others.

If you can contribute in any way, contact MNRC 622-4395 or Arthur Lerman, event coordinator 622-9471, or 549-7120. Remember: 42% have already said "YES".

"To the village square we must carry the facts of atomic energy.....from there must come America's voice."

.....Albert Einstein

WHAT AM I BID?

For those concerned about women and alcoholism (or if you are attending the MNRC Referendum kick-off, June 20) New Directions will be holding their Silent Auction fund-raiser on Sat., June 20, 1 to 9 PM, at 8 St. Catherine St. (near Augusta General Hospital).

New Direction's goals are to address the special needs of women with alcoholism problems and with their families. ND, like other social agencies, is threatened with budget cuts, so donations of crafts, white elephants, services, etc. will be gratefully accepted.

The auction is free from 1 to 6 PM, with music, food, and more bidding from 6-9. (Evening admission is \$4 in advance before June 5, or \$5 after that.) To donate items, and for details: Mary Jean McKelvy, New Directions, 8 St. Catherine St., Augusta. 622-6136.

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COLLEGE COURSES YOU CAN AFFORD!

Feminist College opens its first season with workshops in the Portland area. Offering an education that encourages co-operative study and problem solving, the college is based on the premises that feminism begins with the experiences, needs and contributions of women, and that college is a process of learning that lasts throughout life, and begins with a conversation among people.

The workshops offered are "Feminist Resources for Peace" and "Conflict Resolution", May 30 at the Shaler School, 10 AM to 9 PM, \$15. fee. (North St., Portland) and "Food First" June 27, 1 to 5 PM at Harry E. Cummings Neighborhood Center, 134 Congress St. Portland. (No fee.)

To pre-register, send the title of the workshop, name address and fee, to: Feminist College, PO Box 4705, DTS, Portland, ME 04112.

With all the money you saved at the free workshops maybe you can consider spending \$130 for the week of July 19-24, for the 6th Annual Northeastern Summer Institute for Union Women. They have 75 registrations so far, room for 50 more. Contact: Mary McPherson, Bureau of Labor Education, 128 College, Orono 04469 (581-7032).

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GODDESS OF DAWN

AURORA (which means Goddess of Dawn) is the name of a new quarterly newsletter published by Maine Women For A Nuclear Free Future. "Aurora" is an effort to network women all over the state, to organize and have an effect on what is happening in Maine and the world.

The first issue had articles on T.M.I., atomic veterans, women in solar energy, a solar calendar, publication referral and more. "Aurora" welcomes suggestions, articles, poems, book reviews, graphics and letters. They would like to keep informed on issue related events and activities and will try to put you in touch with women in your area, if you need help organizing an event.

For a copy of the first issue, or more information: Maine Women For A Nuclear Free Future, PO Box 4118, Sta.A, Portland, Maine 04101.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Maine's largest women's conference will feature workshops on health, financial planning, credit and investment, small businesses, careers and job search, women in the corporate structure, legal rights in the workplace, and more.

This three-day conference, sponsored by the Junior League of Portland, will present speakers Caroline Bird (author), columnist Niki Scott, the Boston Women's Health Collective members, and other informative and interesting women from a variety of professions.

The conference will be held at Westbrook College, June 11, 12 and 13. A registration fee of \$40 covers workshops, parking, meals, exhibit materials, a participant network list and entertainment. Day-care and overnight accommodations are available at an extra cost. For information about this and day fees, contact Gail Wilcox 829-6285, or Women's Center, Westbrook College, 716 Stevens Ave., Portland 04103.

"Monopoly means never having to say you're sorry."

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"It is easy to be brave from a safe distance."--Aesop

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WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING IN EL SALVADOR?

There is much concern about events in El Salvador and its potential as another Vietnam. What is really going on there? This is a brief review of El Salvador conditions, history, recent events, and what is being done in Maine:

Conditions in El Salvador, about the size and population of Massachusetts, remain very unequal. While 2% of the people own 60% of the land, 90% own only 20%, including 40% who have no land at all. About 8% of the people receive 50% of all income, with 58% making \$100/year or less. In 1979 25% were unemployed.

Salvadoran children have the lowest caloric intake in Latin America, with 73% under 5 suffering from malnutrition. About 60% under 10 years of age in rural areas are illiterate, 40% in urban areas. There are 3 doctors and 17 hospital beds (mostly in San Salvador, the capital) for each 10,000 people. In housing, 200,000 have paper or cardboard huts in San Salvador alone, 53% have no water, only 30% have safe water, and 61% have no sanitation facilities at all.

El Salvador was settled in the 1500's by Spain, but it became independent in 1821. Its economy has traditionally been based on cash crops--cocoa, indigo, and, more recently, sugar, coffee, and cotton. A few huge estates grow these crops and dominate the country's agricultural sector.

The country was very colonial until 1932, when, following the world depression, Faribundo Marti led a peasant insurrection against wealthy landowners. The revolution failed, and about 30,000 people were killed. A general strike in 1944 ended the rule of General Martinez, but the army continued to rule through the 1970's.

U. S. Corporations began to invest in El Salvador in the 1950's, causing movement of workers to the cities. Special tax-free zones for US products were created. City workers and rural peasants organized politically in the 1960's, despite fierce opposition from the ruling military, but their electoral victories in the 1970's elections were overturned by what these groups believe was electoral fraud by the ruling military/landowner groups. General Carlos Romero, "elected" in 1977, was ousted in 1979 by reformist and military forces.

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El Salvador has come into the news especially since late 1979, when Gen. Romero was overthrown and a new junta was installed. In late 1979 and early 1980, however, more moderate members of the government resigned because they were unable to stop the killings of people by government security forces and clashes between those forces and the Salvadorans. Following the resignation of most of these moderates, Archbishop Oscar Romero, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, asked the US to end \$5.7 million in military assistance to El Salvador, claiming that more weapons would increase, rather than decrease, repression and killing.

On March 23, 1980, Archbishop Romero, in his Sunday sermon, broadcast nationwide, appealed to military forces to put down their arms. The very next day he was assassinated. Since that time, killings have averaged about 50 per day, the majority of whom are peasants but including workers, students, teachers, public employees, small businesspeople, and professionals as well. Seven leaders of El Salvador's Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), a coalition of opposition groups, were surrounded by security forces at a meeting in November, 1980, taken outside, and shot. Three American Catholic nuns and a lay worker were killed in early December, 1980, by government forces, prompting a brief suspension of military aid. The aid resumed just before President Carter left office in spite of claims by former Ambassador Robert White that no adequate investigation into the murders had been done.

Three congresspeople--Garry Studds, Barbara Mikulski, and Robert Edgar--went to El Salvador in January, 1981. Following their return, they introduced HR 1509, a bill to stop military aid to El Salvador. Military aid has been increased since the Reagan administration took over, including a small number of military advisors. HR 1509 will be voted upon by Congress soon.

There are a number of crucial issues affecting El Salvador now, including the land reform program, refugees, repression of the church, who has popular support, and who should decide El Salvador's future. 8

The recently announced land reform program makes the Salvadoran government appear more legitimate and liberal. Critics charge, however, that little redistribution has occurred and that the program is used to pacify rural peasants and to wipe out their leaders.

A government technician stated, "The troops came and told the workers the land was their own. They could elect their own leaders, and run it themselves. The peasants couldn't believe their ears but they held elections that very night. The next morning the troops came back, and I watched as they shot every one of the elected leaders."

Only one phase--distribution of grazing land--has been partially implemented. The other two phases, where crop land is distributed and where peasants receive title to land, have been indefinitely postponed.

There are now thousands of Salvadoran refugees. The US has refused to admit most of them and has sent them back home to join 35,000 others. There are also an estimated 35,000 in Honduras and several thousands in each other Central American country.

Besides assassinations of Archbishop Romero and 4 Americans, priests and church hierarchy, which has clearly supported the peasants in this struggle, have been murdered or threatened. An estimated 13,000 people were killed, mostly by right-wing or government forces, in 1980.

Do the peasant organizations have popular support? Refugees have stated this in interviews with reporters. The US Embassy believed that the majority of Salvadorans support the FDR, which claims to represent all major opposition groups--students, workers, peasants, and professional associations.

The Reagan administration is sending military assistance to the Salvadoran government, claiming Communist infiltration. However, this was discounted

by the three Congresspeople who visited El Salvador and who introduced HR 1509. They believe the conflict is internal, one the Salvadoran people must settle themselves, without military assistance.

Self-determination advocates are encouraging support for HR 1509 (a weaker bill was recently passed which limits but does not prohibit military aid) and a similar bill (not yet numbered) in the Senate. They ask others to demand more media coverage (there has been a virtual blackout and even claims of repression of the media), to expose the inadequacy of the land reform program, and to denounce the repression and killing while demanding a peaceful, democratic settlement in El Salvador.

Among those resources available on El Salvador (some of which were used for this article) are: NACLA Report on the Americas, 151 W. 19th St., New York, NY 10011; CISPES, PO Box 525, Astor Station, Boston, Mass. 02123; El Salvador Alert!, PO Box 12056, Washington, DC 20005; AFSC, 2161 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02140; Inter-Religious Task Force on El Salvador, 475 Riverside Dr. #1020, New York, NY, 10115; and Overview Latin America, 9 Sacramento St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

Contacts in Maine on El Salvador include:

Wash. Co.: John Leonard, RFD 1 Box 28C, Addison 04606.

Hancock Co.: Dick Roelofs, Sedgwick Rd. Blue Hill 04614, 374-2423.

Bangor: Rev. Richard Floyd, Box 1106, Bangor 04401, 942-4381.

Dexter: Margie Gilbert, Rt. 1 Box 213, Corinna 04928, 924-3534.

Waterville: Sr. Julie Kane, DHRS, 224 Main St., Waterville 04901, 873-1146.

Augusta: Kathy Mikulka, RFD 2 Coopers Mills, 04341, 623-1667.

Brunswick: Selma Sternlieb, 21 McKeen, Brunswick 04011, 725-7675.

Lewiston: AFSC, Box 7097, Lewiston 04240, 784-1278.

Portland: Denny Ewell, 83 Summit, S. Portland 04106, 767-4193 or CISPES, Box 331, Westbrook 04092, 839-6195.

For other areas, send a postcard to INVERT, RFD 1, Newport 04953, and we'll suggest a contact in your area.

GOING SOLO?

"Going Solo," an alternative for liberal singles, offers a non-threatening environment where women and men can gather for stimulating conversation, superb food, warm music and honest sharing.

Men and women who seek honest, creative relationships are invited to a Pot-Luck supper on Friday, June 5 at 7 PM, party following. Please bring Y.O.B., \$1 for cover, and a food or beverage contribution for the meal. 11 King St., Augusta. 207-622-3232.

MOFGA RUSHES IN.....

Tom Rush and Do'a will be at Portland City Hall Auditorium on June 21st, in concert to benefit MOFGA. Tickets are \$6.50 and \$7.50 at the door, or the MOFGA office in Hallowell, or through Ticket-tron outlets. Concert begins at 7:30 PM.

Folksinger Tom Rush has been performing since the early 60's. His back-up will include piano, violin, mandolin, and guitar. Now performing tunes written at his New Hampshire studio for a yet to be released album, Rush will present a highly entertaining program.

Do'a is two musicians, Ken LaRoche and Randy Armstrong, who perform original compositions reflecting classical, jazz and folk influences, among others. The Boston Globe describes their music as "Powerfully optimistic songs delivered with striking originality."

MAINE POET FESTIVAL

Calderwood Auditorium, 62 Pleasant St. Portland, on Fri., Sat., Sun. (June 12-14) is where the Portland School for the Arts will host the 1981 Poets' Festival, celebrating the art of poetry and attempting to cover the range and depth of Maine poetry. Workshops will be offered for the novice, as well as the experienced.

The Festival starts 5:30 PM on Friday, and ends 5:30 PM on Sunday. For more information, contact Chris Queally, Festival Coordinator, 55 Wood Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107.

The Poets' Festival is being sponsored by the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, which produced "Printing Arts" as the latest issue of the MWPA newsletter.

Whether the goal is a funky "primitive" newsletter like MSN, or something more sophisticated, the MWPA's "Printing Arts" gives many tips on printing methods, as well as a bibliography of other printing resources. Why, there's even a page about the Maine Statewide Newsletter! It's a handy resource for anyone involved with written communication.

To receive a copy: MWPA, Box 143, S. Harpswell, ME 04079. A donation is appreciated.

PASS THE FEEDBACK, PLEASE.....
What do you like most, or least about the newsletter? Can you send information on topics we don't adequately cover? Do you know anyone else who would like to receive the MSN?

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Please return this form with comments/suggestions, articles, and/or a subscription (paid or not). Return to INVERT, RFD 1, Newport, Maine 04953 (938-2219)

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△ Here is a 1981 contribution of \$4 or \$___ or whatever _____.

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

△ I would like to send articles/events (deadline: 20th of each month), help with production in Palmyra (June 24 - 26) or with a collating circus in my area, or be part of a newsletter review committee (please specify).

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

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS (More details on page number following some of the listings)

May 30--Feminist College Course on Peace/Conflict Resolution in Portland (3)

May 31--First Annual Cent. Me. Home Brewers Convention, Fire Tower, Jefferson.

June 4-5--4th Annual Small Schools Round-up at School Around Us, Arundel. New Games, talent, etc. Peter Zack, New Country School, W. Baldwin 04091, 625-4323.

June 5--"Going Solo" in Augusta (9)

June 5-7--Patchwork Farm Homestead weekend. Self-sufficiency discussions, demonstrations, speakers. Patchwork Farm, RFD 1, Newport 04953.

June 6 and/or 7--Polarity workshop (energy balancing), 9:30-4:30. New Life Polarity Center, Box 355, Athens, 654-2636.

June 11-13--Maine Women's Conference at Westbrook College (3)

June 12--Casco Bay Cruise, 8:30-11:30 PM, benefit for Working Women's Rights Project, \$6. MCLU, 97A Exchange St., Portland 04101, 774-5444, 839-6301.

June 12-14--"Lesbians in Transition," workshop in N. Berwick. Cantabrigia Counseling Assoc., Box 1214, Sanford.

June 12-14--Maine Poets' Festival in Portland (9)

June 13--Physicians for Social Responsibility meeting in Augusta (2)

June 13--Rural Maine meets in Troy (1)

June 13-27--SEADS Seminar in Harrington (5)

June 14--"Concepts of Speaking, 10-2:30, Feminist College Course in Portland, led by Native tribal poets Carol Dana and Isobel Shay.

((((()))

INVERT

RFD 1

Newport, Maine 04953

Address Correction Requested

June 20--Referendum II kickoff in Aug. (1)

June 20--New Directions auction in Augusta (3)

June 21--MOFGA benefit in Portland (9)

June 22--Passive Solar Design and Retrofit courses, M&W, 4-6 (solar), 7-9 (ret.). Alternative Energy Summer Institute, UMA, Augusta 04330, 800-452-1947 ext. 232.

June 25--New Life Now ('81 edition) out (6)

June 26--Newsletter circus in Etna (10)

June 27--"Hills Alive" in Harrison (4)

June 27--"Food First" Feminist College Course in Portland (3)

June 27--"Evaluation Day" in East Vassalboro (6)

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IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE ETNA IS, you probably won't come to the next newsletter circus beginning at 1 PM on Friday, June 26, at Gloria Banach and Harvey Lorber's house. But if you want to help out (or just want to find out where Etna is), you can call them at 269-3571.

Although we started off well toward our goal of 1,000 subscriptions and \$3,800, we have now fallen behind, with 336 subscriptions and \$1,294.50 in donations. Having gone thru five issues, we should be at about 420 subs and about \$1,600. We hope the newsletter will not go the way of other worthwhile efforts (assuming you think it is worthwhile), so do try to return a subscription form soon. Remember, for only a few dollars a year, YOU can save the sanity and perhaps prevent the bankruptcy of several hard-working newsletter writers. Do it today!

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