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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 21 (October 1981)

Institute for Nonviolence, Education, Research, and Training Staff

Institute for Nonviolence, Education, Research, and Training

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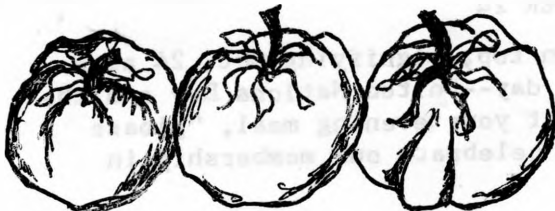
October, 1981

"DAY OF UNITY" FOR SHELTERS

A National Day of Unity for domestic violence shelters has been declared for Sat., Oct. 17 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Its goals are: to remember those (mostly women and children) who were killed as a result of domestic violence; and (cont. next page)

ARE YOU REDLINED? Do you have a red or blue or black circle around your name/address label? Here's what they mean:

If your label is circled in blue, we heard from you in 1980 but not in 1981. We'll keep sending you a newsletter, but we would very much appreciate receiving a 1981 subscription form.



If your label is circled in black, you
are an organization which should be re-
ceiving this information or someone who
has helped us out in some way in the
past. Again, we'll keep you on the
mailing list, but a subscription form
from you would be nice.

If your label is not circled, you have sent us a form this year, and we THANK YOU for your support.

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(cont. from previous page) to support those imprisoned for killing someone while protecting themselves from such violence.

A few coordinated events are planned:
(1) People will wear purple, a symbol of mourning and victory; (2) Churches will be asked to ring their bells at 6 PM in memory of these victims. Local shelters may have additional events. Shelters in Maine include:

York: Caring Unlimited, Box 384, Wells
04090, 985-6272, 800-492-0649.

[illegible]

Susan Aldrich wants to find others to help celebrate the feast in Brunswick in some special way, perhaps with a special supper on the mall or in conjunction with a Cris Williamson concert that night. Contact her at 13 Garrison St., Brunswick 04011, 729-5283 if you would like to help her out.

3 CONFERENCES, CONFERENCES, CONFERENCES, CONFER

A panel discussion on "public Funds for Economic Development," with special emphasis on the proposal to use public money to support Bath Iron Works' expansion plans in Portland, will be a highlight of the Common Cause annual meeting, Oct. 11, Sunday, at South Parish, Cong. Church, State & Church Sts. Augusta (near the public library).

Besides the panel at 2 PM, there will be a light lunch at noon, election of officers at 1 PM, and an auction.

For details or membership: Common Cause, 48 Winthrop, Augusta, 622-5798.

A reminder about two conferences coming up this month. Sat., Oct. 17 is the day for the third annual La Leche League Area Conference at Skowhegan High School. A day long event, the conference offers over thirty topics, as well as speaker Viola Lennon, coauthor of The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding. Contact Carol Bull, 10 Cobb Rd., Bath 04530, 443-5361.

Also, a conference on state-of-the-art solar technology, "SUNWARDS," will take place at the College of the Atlantic, Oct. 15-17. "SUNWARDS" will offer solar professionals and the general public an opportunity to come together to display and discuss real buildings and real systems that can be built and bought by real people. The \$6 registration fee includes General Sessions, the Trade Show, and the Architectural Exhibition. Contact Judy Berk, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, 288-5015.

The Maine Assn. of Handicapped Persons (MAHP) is planning an Equal Rights Conference for Nov. 7 at the Augusta Civic Center. This conference will celebrate the International Year of Disabled Persons, and it will focus on citizen advocacy of handicapped peoples' rights.

For more info or registration forms,
MAHP, 32 Thomas St., Portland 04102,
774-4360. More on this next month.

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 "No radiation without representation."

To help plan for election day petitioning, persons willing to organize the one day effort or to coordinate in their area are urged to attend a meeting at the MNRC office, 335 Water St., Augusta, at 2 PM on Sun., Oct. 4. For details: MNRC, Box 2627, Augusta 04330, 622-4395, or Gr. Portland NRC, Box 4078 Sta. A, Portland 04101, 772-5340.

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READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The Maine Consortium for Food self-reliance has just published a comprehensive report on the Maine Agricultural system. Entitled "The Past, the Present, and the Future Competitiveness of Maine Agriculture", this CSA-sponsored report, as the title suggests, gives a broad view of the competitiveness of Maine agriculture from colonial times to the present, with some predictions of its future.

The report sees agriculture in Maine as essentially a marginal enterprise, with most production inputs as well as distribution outputs being controlled by out-of-staters. Almost 90% of total farm production is in potatoes, eggs, broilers and dairy products--commodities for which Maine is well suited, but which all face severe problems in the future.

The future, says the report, is in diversification, especially in Aroostook County, where most of Maine's unused prime soil lies, and where potato monoculture is steadily depleting the soil. Livestock production for local consumption, especially range-fed beef and lamb would close the land/animal nutrient cycle and anticipate higher meat and grain prices.

There are also smaller niches which imaginative farmers can fit into, such as organic vegetables or greenhouse production of out-of-season vegetables, using industrial waste heat. Willingness of new farmers to accept low incomes in return for the "good life" will be necessary to overcome Maine's inherent disadvantages, and to bring it closer to self-sufficiency.

The report, although long on analysis and short on recommendations, is crucial reading for those interested in self-reliance and Maine agriculture. Sent \$4 to Center for Human Ecology Studies, Richards Lane, Freeport 04032.

[illegible]

"If my soldiers began to think, not one would remain in the ranks". Frederick the Great

"No man with any scruples of conscience is fit to be a soldier." Duke of Wellington

If you suspect someone of dumping toxic wastes call the Environmental Protection Agency at 1-800-424-2743.

HAVING A GAY OLD TIME IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Fredricton, New Brunswick is the site of the 4th Atlantic Community Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men. This annual event is sponsored by several Canadian Gay and Lesbian associations and Northern Lambda Nord, which serves northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick.

Scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 16-18, 1981, the theme for this years conference is "Living Gay/Lesbian". the two guest speakers are Ms. Chris Bearchell, writer for TPB, Canada's monthly lesbian/gay newsmagazine, and Dr. Don Clark, author of Loving Someone Gay, and Living Gay.

The agenda for the conference weekend includes the following: Friday evening, a reception and welcoming; on Saturday the two guest speakers will address the conference. Workshops to be held on Saturday will include "Elitism in the Gay/Lesbian Movement," the "I-am-more-enlightened than you syndrome"; "Gay Men and Womyn Against the Right"; "Coming Out- a lifelong process".

Saturday evening will witness a Cabaret featuring Willie Sordill, a gay-positive entertainer, followed by a dance. An invitation has been extended to all lesbian and gay artists, poets and prose writers to present their work during the conference.

Registration fee is \$20 (Canadian Funds) if you register before Oct. 1st (\$25 after) Make checks payable to FLAG Atlantic Conference and mail them to Atlantic Community Conference, Fredricton Lesbians and Gays, Box 1556, Station A, Fredricton, N. B. E3B 5G2 Canada For further info call the FLAGline any Tue. or Thurs. evening from 6-8 PM (Maine time) at 506-472-9576.

For those in Western Maine seeking similar support, the 2nd Symposium of Lesbians and Gay Men will be held at Pat's Peak, Henniker, N.H. Contact New Hampshire Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men, Box 521, Concord, N.H. 03301.

WALKS AROUND THE REGION

The New Hampshire Clamshell Alliance will conduct a Walk for Safe Energy on Sat., Oct. 3. The walk begins simultaneously in Hansdale (across from Vermont Yankee) and Seabrook. It will end in Concord on Sunday, Oct. 11. People are encouraged to come and do any portion of the walk that they can.

The purpose of the walk is to raise the issues of the dangers and health effects of nuclear power, evacuation problems, economics of nuclear power, and alternative sources of energy.

Presentations will be given in towns along the way, and the Walk will culminate in a rally at the State House in Concord from 1 to 5 PM on the 11th.

To join the walk, contact Nelia Sargent, 15 Old Armory Way, Kittery 03904 or Seacoast Clamshell, 208 Market, Portsmouth, N. H. 03801, 603-431-5942.

If you're closer to New Brunswick and concerned about the nuclear plant at Point Lepreau, you can join the second March for Survival from Musquatch Bridge hydro dam (near Can. Rt. 1) to the plant, near Saint John, on Oct. 17, the last day of Environmental Week in Canada. The march is sponsored by the Maritime Energy Coalition.

The plant, about 30 miles from the Maine border, is scheduled to go on line next spring. Critics have charged inadequate precautions against earthquakes, shoddy construction, a relatively untested emergency core cooling system, and inadequate evacuation plans as reasons for not bringing it on line.

The march will gather at 9 AM (Atlantic time) and walk 15 miles to the plant. Marchers will present a list of questions about the plant's safety and a request that a conditional operating license not be issued.

Maine contacts: Judy Barrows, Box 2204, Augusta 04330, 622-4395, or Mary Dunn/Bo Yerxa, S. Princeton 04666, 427-3459, who can provide hospitality to marchers on their way to Canada.

WOMEN UP IN ARMS AGAINST THE PENTAGON

The date of this year's Women's Pentagon Action, Nov. 14-16, was chosen to commemorate Karen Silkwood, a woman who died under mysterious circumstances while working at Kerr-McGee, a military contractor.

Last year 2,000 women met in Washington, D. C. in a show of solidarity against what they feel is the male dominated U. S. military system, and 143 of them were arrested for acts of civil disobedience at the Pentagon.

Women who came to the action were from the peace, environmental, and feminist movements. The majority were lesbian and at least a third were under 25. The Pentagon was chosen as the focus because, as one woman said at her trial, the Pentagon "is the center of death and destruction of other nations and peoples, and indeed for those of this nation as well."

Planning in New England for an even larger response than last year has begun with a carryover "Unity Statement" and a theme of "weaving." Organizers anticipate having extensive training about civil disobedience and need trainers and trainees. Sheila Garrett is trying to organize in Maine for this year's WPA, but there has to be energy from other people as well for it to happen.

Last year's action began with Saturday and Sunday devoted to feminist workshops and vigils. Monday was the Women's March and demonstration. "The action was really moving to me personally," recalls Sheila. "I experienced almost as much inner growth as the birth of my child."

Monday began with a silent walk through Arlington Cemetery. After a three mile walk to the Pentagon, women created their own cemetery for victims of oppression and women who have died in resistance and mourned them. Tombstones were planted with inscriptions to Karen Silkwood, victims of Love Canal, women of the Nicaraguan Revolution, Marilyn Monroe, and others. The procession

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was led by 12-foot tall puppets from Bread and Puppet Circus. A huge black puppet led the mourning phase of the protest. "It started out as a theatrical thing, but turned into something very real," says Sheila. "It reminded me of a funeral procession in another country when people openly show their sorrow. It was impossible not to feel those feelings."

The red puppet of rage then led the procession closer to the Pentagon. Women beat drums, shouted, and raged at the nucleus of the U. S. war machine. Next, a golden empowerment puppet distributed brightly colored scarves and women linked them in a huge circle around the Pentagon. Shortly thereafter, women started getting arrested for blocking entrances to the Pentagon.

Fifty women from Maine went to last year's action and five of them were arrested, including Sheila. "Going to jail was the natural progression," she commented. Most women were held in Washington jails, but 34 who plead "guilty" or "no contest" were sent to Alderson Prison, a federal penitentiary in West Virginia. Sheila spent 8 days at Alderson and describes it as "bizarre." "It was the nightmare version of a college campus, only where the student center would be was maximum security."

According to federal law, Alderson is a prison exclusively for women serving one year or more. Sara Jane Moore and Lynette Fromme are serving time there for attempting to assassinate a U. S. president. Sending women there for acts of civil disobedience was extremely harsh and shocked even the W. Va. Federal Deputy Marshall.

Civil disobedience usually requires careful thought, planning, and commitment. One does not have to be arrested, however, to support the Women's Pentagon Action. To contact Sheila Garrett, send her a SASE at PO Box 429, S. Harpswell 04079, if you want to be involved in the action at any level. Non-violence training sessions will be initiated soon.

THE SMALL PRESS IS GROWING **

Welcome to another newsletter, "The Small Press News". Beginning this Oct., Diane Kruchkow, editor of "Stony Hills", (the New England Alternative Press Review) will issue Small Press News- a monthly publication (excluding Jan. and July) of national and international small press news and commentary. This will contain information of a more immediate and extensive nature than "Stony Hills" regular 'News Notes' column. Writers, publishers, bureaucrats, etc. are invited to send notices of events, contests, happenings, new and old publications, wanted, gossip, or whatever.

Also look for "Stony Hills", a tabloid publication with a unicorn on the front. "Stony Hills" comes out three times a year and is full of interviews, poetry, book reviews and small press happenings. \$10 will get you 2 years of "Stony Hills" (rates soon to increase) and 1 year of Small Press News. Contact Diane Kruchkow, Weeks Mills, New Sharon 04955.

Two new Maine small press books (Dog Ear Press) are Hymm To Janina Lewandowska by Kendall Merriam and Daughters Without Mothers by lee sharkey. Daughters Without Mothers (poetry and prose) speaks to every one of us as a daughter. It is a testimony song for the mother in us all.

Hymm To Janina Lewandowska is Kendall Merriams tribute to 4300 Polish officers who were murdered en masse by the Russians during WWII. Janina Lewandowska was one of the only women found among the mass graves. Plans are being made to translate and distribute the book in Poland, which is especially timely because of the situation there today.

Several writers and publishers have joined together to form the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance (MWPA) which distributes all of the above mentioned publications and more. Look for the MWPA table at bookfairs and happenings around the state.

FAROG NOT READY TO CROAK

"FAROG Forum" is a monthly Franco-awareness newspaper published by the Franco American Office at UMO. The Literary Forum is a trimestrial supplement to the FAROG Forum and will appear this year in Nov., Feb., and May.

Franco-American writers are encouraged to contribute original works of poetry and fiction; book reviews; interviews of Franco writers; critics and scholars; translations of work from 19th and 20th century writers; cultural essays on the state of Franco writing, arts and consciousness.

The Forum hopes to be able to pay writers for accepted works. Send your queries, poems or stories to Denis Ledoux, FAROG Literary Forum, Fernald Hall, UMO, Orono 04469.

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**MORE AND MORE

Thanks to money from the Onway Trust and the Haymarket People's Fund and especially a \$16,000 grant from the Penobscot Nation, the Wabanaki Alliance newspaper is still coming off the press.

Begun 4 years ago, the Wabanaki Alliance, billed as the only tribal newspaper east of the Mississippi, has covered events monthly of all four of Maine's native tribes--Penobscots, Passamaquoddy, Maliseets and Micmacs,

To get a sample copy or a subscription (\$5/year), write Wabanaki Alliance, 95 Main St. Orono 04473, or call 866-4903.

* * * * *

Hello, my name is Janis Donovan. Dan Marshall and I have been helping Larry with the newsletter all summer. I've been writing the 2 page feature articles and co-editing the rest of the paper. Thanks to a work-study grant from Univ. of Me at Augusta I even got paid to do it. (Most of the typo's this summer have been mine, too.) I need to buy a good, used manual typewriter. Prefer elite type. Contact me at 6 Silver Terrace, Waterville 04901 or call 873-2589.

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ELECT ON ELECTION DAY

On November 3, Maine voters will have a chance to support a referendum which supporters claim will move Maine toward a more affordable and renewable energy future. The proposed Maine Energy Commission will combine the present Public Utilities Commission and the Office of Energy Resources into a single agency, with elected commissioners serving four instead of seven-year terms.

The Maine Energy Commission will have responsibility for both energy planning and utility regulation. In these ways the commission will hopefully change our current system of bureaucratic indifference, technological monstrosities, and institutionalized waste into one which promotes conservation, renewable energy, and more citizen participation in the following ways:

*Energy conservation, imported power, cogeneration, recycling, and renewable energy are a large part of the energy policy of the state.

*Provision is made for possible financing for energy projects that meet the criteria of conservation and renewable energy.

*Commission approval is required before an electric utility can buy into an out-of-state plant.

*Commissioners must take into consideration the effect of proposed new electric plant construction on the environment and public health and safety.

*The provision for election of commissioners will result in a broad public debate over the future of the state's energy policy. The potential for an informed public may be the most significant part of the entire referendum.

An elected system has worked in a number of states, where pro-consumer commissioners keep electric rates lower while still permitting a fair profit to utilities. The Committee for an Elected Maine Energy Commission (ELECT) would like to see the same thing in Maine. They especially need people to give time, to help organize the effort locally, and to give money. Contact them at 122 State St., Augusta 04330. 623-8463.

(Listings with numbers following have more details on that page number)

Oct. 3--Run for Working Women in Old Port Exchange, Portland, 10 AM. WWRP, Maine Civil Liberties Union, 97A Exchange St., Portland 04101, 774-5444.

Oct. 3-11--Walk for Safe Energy in
New Hampshire (6)

Oct. 4--MNRC petitioning meeting (3)

Oct. 9-12--Sumitra at Birdsong and at
Portland benefit concert (5)

Oct. 11--Common Cause Annual Mtg. in Aug. (3)

Oct. 15--Hospice program in Bangor (9)

Oct. 15-17--SUNWARDS in Bar Harbor (3)

[illegible]

RFD 1

Address Correction Requested

Oct. 25--Newsletter circus in Bangor (10)

[illegible]

So far this year, we have received 537 subscriptions and \$2,255.50 toward our goal of 1,000 subs and \$3,800.

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