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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 22 (November 1981)

Institute for Nonviolence, Education, Research, and Training Staff

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November, 1981

EQUAL RIGHTS

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

(cont. from page 1) handicapped people? is the major question participants will try to answer.

Eight workshops will be offered: Images of Handicapped people; Theater: A Tool for Organizing; Health Care; Civil Rights and Political Action; Community Living; Family Life; Education; and Youth Issues. Frank Bowe from the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities and Shirley Starr of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill will give keynote speeches.

There will also be evening entertainment, a time to form local action groups, and a "rally" (whole group gathering). A registration fee of \$5 is requested, but no one will be denied access.

Transportation coordinators/contacts are:
Portland: Laura Pawle, 774-4360
Biddeford: Kathy McInnis, 283-3834
Bath/Brunswick: Linda Cofske, 725-2337
Bangor/Orono: Daphne Crocker, 866-4234
Wash. County: Edith Wood, 255-3641
Rest of State: Call 800-452-1948 or write Maine Assn. for Handicapped Persons, 32 Thomas St., Portland 04102.

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FREEZE WEEK HEATS UP

No matter what the temperature, it will be "Freeze Week" on Nov. 29-Dec. 5, as peace and disarmament groups around the state gear up for petitioning to reach a goal of 10,000 signatures on the "Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race" petition drive. Besides petitioning in shopping areas in the larger cities, "Freeze Week" will include films and slide shows, benefit concerts, special sermons in churches and synagogues, noted speakers, and a coordinated vigil for peace at noon on Wed., Dec. 2. A special event by Women Concerned will be a panel discussion in Camden entitled, "Despair and Hope in the Nuclear Age."

The campaign, initiated by the Maine AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) with help from Maine Clergy and Laity Concerned and Pax Christi, has collected over 5,000 signatures so far toward its goal. December 15 is the deadline for signature gathering. Other parts of the campaign to make "disarmament" and "peace" legitimate, household words include town meeting/city council resolutions, a civil defense awareness campaign, and a spring conference on peacemaking. To get petitions or for more information: Maine AFSC, Box 7097, Lewiston 04240, 772-0680, 784-1278.

What's Mime Is Yours

We have two very interesting newspapers to tell you about. The first is Mime Times, which is published quarterly in S. Paris by Tony Montanero. In a feature article, Tony tells about his experience seeing the Peking Opera this August in New York. "The musicians came out and settled down before their very strange instruments of drums, bells, horns, and strings. The actors did not move much and when they did, it was very precise and subtle. The real excitement was their use of language and sound. Such variety and richness. I never knew the human voice and language could have such a range."

Mime Times also has poetry, theatre and book reviews, and an advice column, "Ask Dr. Johnny," where readers may ask questions of an informative, informational, research or personal nature." Mime Times should interest anyone who loves theatre, and they need subscribers. Rates are \$6/year. Mime Times, RFD 1 Box 44, S. Paris 04281.

The second paper is The Maine Folkpaper, edited by Pat and Ray Shadis. The first issue, which came out in late Sept., has an article by Ken Curtis on hydro power; "How to Buy U. S. Surplus," about government giveaways; and an interview with George Gonzales, a Chicano who moved from the big city to Aroostook County.

The Maine Folkpaper is 12 pages of articles on politics, lifestyles, and practical information and "dedicated to Common People." Issues are monthly. For a copy, send "about 50 cents" to The Maine Folkpaper, RD Box 346, N. Edgecomb 04556.

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SCIENCE AND MEDICINE CONVERGE

The union of Concerned Scientists and the Maine Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) are co-sponsoring a series of events at Colby College and in Waterville on Nov. 8-11 to dramatize the scientific and medical consequences of nuclear war and the need to avoid it.

There will be films at Lovejoy Hall, Colby, on Nov. 8 and 10, with "Fail Safe" and/or "Dr. Strangelove" on Sunday night and four short films about nuclear war on Tue. The video tape, "The Last Epidemic" will be shown at the Osteopathic Hospital in Waterville at noon, Nov. 9 by PSR members.

The culmination will be on the evening of Nov. 11 (Veterans Day), with a panel consisting of Steve Cary (American Friends Service Comm.), Mark Needergang (Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies) and hopefully two as of yet unnamed representatives of the Defense and State Depts.

Following up on these events, PSR will have its monthly meeting at the Osteopathic Hospital at 7PM on Nov. 17.

For more info: Bob McArthur, Colby College, Waterville 04901, 873-1131; or Rob Gramenz, PSR, Box 225, Hartland 04943, 938-4431

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"TAKE IT TO THE PEOPLE"

Little Flags Theatre is one of New England's premier purveyors of political propaganda (theatre) and is bringing its presentation to the Univ. of Maine in Orono on Nov. 19. "Take It to the People" is a medley of songs of people's struggles around the world, from South Dakota to Soweto, from women and men, from the factory to the prison, to the farm, both funny and sad. Performers will be singing at noon in the Damn Yankee Room, Memorial Union (free).

At 8:15 in Nauck Aud., the group will perform "Boston Remembers", a musical play about the struggle for decent working conditions and self respect for immigrants and other working people in the early 1900's, based on factual events. Moderately priced tickets are available at the door or from Doug Allen, Maine Peace Action Committee, Mem. Union, UMO, Orono 04419.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL announces a lecture by: Joshua Rubenstein, New England Coordinator or AI speaking on--"Human Rights and Amnesty International" at 7:30 PM, Nov. 5th, in the FFA room, Memorial Union, UMO. The purpose of the meeting is to begin a new adoption group in the Bangor area.

WHO KILLED JANINA LEWANDOWSKA?

"Poland in Crisis", two one-act plays by Maine writers are being produced this November around the state by the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance.

The first play, "The Interrogation of Janina Lewandowska", by Richmond poet Kendall Merriam, deals with the brutal and coercive questioning of the only known woman among over 4,000 Polish officers who were massacred by the Russians in the Katyn Forest in 1940. The play is based on Kendall's book of poetry, Hymn to Janina Lewandowska, which we told you about last month. Remember? Do you really read every work of this newsletter?

The second play, "Lech Walesa Speaks", by Nat Warren-White of Brunswick, is adapted from interviews by Orianna Fallachi with Walesa, head of Poland's independent trade union, Solidarity.

The plays will be introduced by a slide and tape-recorded narrative which will place historical origins of the plays in perspective for the audience.

Dates and locations (all 8 PM)
Nov. 12--Hancock Co. Aud., Ellsworth
Nov. 13--COA Auditorium, Bar Harbor
Nov. 15--Shaeffer theatre, Bates, Lewiston
Nov. 19--Jewett Hall, UMA, Augusta
Nov. 21--Unitarian Church, Brunswick
Nov. 22--Univ. of So. Me., Portland

For reservations or info: MWPA
Box 143, So. Harpswell 04079, 833-6921.

Maine Workers Eat



Maine's plant closing legislation has been largely unenforced, according to a 92-page study released by a three-member faculty-student research team at Bowdoin College. The report, "Pick up Your Tools and Leave, the Mill Is Down: Plant Closings in Maine, 1971-1981," states that only 25% of the plants which have closed since 1975 have fully complied with the law and that many Maine workers have never received the severance pay owed to them.

According to the authors, the study "paints a vivid picture of a situation in which many companies are able to impose the costs of their closing upon workers, taxpayers and local communities." The report documents 89 companies with more than 100 employees that have closed during the past decade. The direct effect of these closings was a loss of more than 19,000 jobs. "All of these workers were laid off in base industries and their paychecks had been an important source of demand for goods and services in the communities in which they lived," the authors said.

It is assumed that closings are the result of financial collapse, but, the report documented that only 16% of the firms closed as a result of bankruptcy.

The study also suggests legislative changes which the authors feel could strengthen existing laws without raising the costs to business and would make the law easier to enforce.

Noting the wave of publicity surrounding the collapse of the poultry industry, the authors expressed a hope that their report will "provide an analysis of the effects these events have on communities, workers, and taxpayers, and that it will increase public awareness of the responsibilities that a firm faces when closing a plant."

Copies of the report cost \$3.50 and can be obtained by writing to Irene Hilton, Dept. of Economics, Bowdoin College, Brunswick 04011. (Make money orders, share drafts, or checks payable to Nancy Folbre.)

WHO IS ROSIE THE RIVETER?

Did you ever hear about "Rosie the Riveter," a film on the experience of women workers during World War II? The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) is sponsoring a program on Saturday, Nov. 14, in Augusta where this film will be shown and a number of workshops offered. Among the workshops are: Legal Rights on the Job, Women in Non-Traditional Jobs, Occupational Health and Safety, and Working Within Your Union's Structure.

CLUW, founded in March, 1974, is not a union but an organization of unionists, united by their special concerns for women workers. The Coalition works within the framework of other unions to organize, encourage political action, and increase participation of women within their unions.

Workshop sessions will be from 9:30 AM to 4 PM at the South Parish Cong. Church, Church & State Sts., Augusta. Registration fee is \$6 and child care is available. For more information: Gail Halfkenny, Alzina Stevens CLUW Chapter, 65 State St., Augusta 04330, 772-0792.

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NO TYPO'S HERE

Local #66 of the International Typographical Union is on strike at the Casco Printing Co., 104 Middle St., Portland. The union is striking over the company's refusal to agree to union security (a union shop) in the contract being negotiated. They have been on the picket line on Middle St. for 10 weeks from 7 AM to 4:30 PM.

A food drive has been organized to help the strikers make ends meet. Persons who can donate extra food to the cause can bring it to the picket line or call union business agent Chip Toothaker at 774-7096. Moral support is also welcome.

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"Maine Yankee may blow up tomorrow, but does that mean the FmHA shouldn't sell land in Wiscasset?"--Union Chemical owner Ray Esposito about FmHA rejection of land in South Hope.

MAINE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN: BIG CORPORATIONS VS. SMALL BUSINESSES

Referendum Question No. 1 on the Nov. 3 election ballot will read, "Shall a bond issue be ratified in the amount of \$33,300,000 for agricultural and economic development, including airport improvements, port facilities which may be made available by sale or lease for use by public or private users, feed grain terminal facilities and potato storage and centralized packing facilities? Total estimated dept. service of \$68,265,000 of which principal is \$33,300,000, estimated interest at 10% over 20 years is \$34,965,000."

While the issues of airport improvement, feed grain terminal facilities, and potato storage and packing facilities, totalling about 5 million of the \$33.3 million, have seemingly achieved quiet acceptance, the question of a bond issue for "port facilities which may be made available by sale or lease for use by public or private users," (specifically the lease of facilities to Bath Iron Works, a major part of this section), has begun to generate controversy.

The only organization which has so far come out against this question is Common Cause, which has issued two position papers about the bond issue as of this writing (Oct. 23). The first paper described the contract terms between the state, the city of Portland, and Bath Iron Works (BIW), a division of the Congoleum Corp. The second paper pointed out the financial, employment, and other risks involved in the bond issue. A third report yet to be released will examine the Congoleum Corp. and its efforts to promote the issue.

BIW, the largest private employer in Maine, has recently had success in obtaining government contracts--both military and non-military--to build and repair ships. Employment has been about 6,500, according to BIW figures, and the company believed it had reached full capacity in its Bath facilities. Because of the emphasis of the Reagan administration on a larger military and to obtain new contracts, BIW felt it must expand, primarily by obtaining more pier facilities (where ships can be docked while being worked on) and a dry dock (a floating facility for ship construction), but expansion of facilities in Bath was difficult for geographic and financial reasons.

Bath Iron Works first looked at facilities in Boston, where nearly abandoned facilities meeting the company's needs were available. Although the conditions were attractive to BIW, the city of Portland and state officials approached the company before an agreement with Boston was concluded, offering to build a similar facility which could be available to BIW at a comparable cost. The Portland offer was accepted, pending various agreements and government approvals.

Financing the pier and dry dock is now the major hurdle to overcome in the expansion of Bath Iron Works into Portland. The agreement work out so far is: Both the city and the state will provide \$15 million for construction costs. BIW will provide \$10 million in "capital investments (existing equipment, improvements), plus \$5.7 million in lease payments for the first 5 years of operation, plus cost overruns, if any, above the \$30 million in construction costs.

BIW could lease the facility for up to 20 years or could purchase it (for \$16 million after 5 years, \$7.1 million after 20). They also agree to lease the soon-to-be empty Portland City Hospital as a dormitory for crew members. Most importantly, the company emphasized, was the prospect of approximately 1,000 jobs for the Portland area at BIW and other spin-off jobs, plus increased spending and tax revenues.

With the prospect of BIW keeping all its operations in Maine and at least 1,000 new jobs, there didn't seem to be much reason for opposition. A quick one-day special session of the state legislature heard only supportive testimony from BIW President William Haggett and George Campbell, Commissioner of the Dept. of Transportation, plus support from the State Development Office, State Treasurer, and the Portland City Manager. Gov. Joe Brennan quickly endorsed the proposal as exactly the kind of new industry he had campaigned for. Only one legislator--Fred Brodeur of Auburn, who objected to an increased military presence and economy in Maine--voted against the bond issue, and it was sent on to Maine voters for final approval on Nov. 3. (continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

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Common Cause, in its two position papers authored by director Joe Steinberger, has expressed a number of reservations about the bond issue. In summary, they fall into one of several categories: (1) Contract flaws; (2) Financial risks as well as benefits; (3) Credibility of statistics; and (4) Should public funds be given for private use?

Common Cause believes the city and state were bargaining from a position of weakness with Congoleum/BIW, perhaps because of the need for more jobs in Maine and because of the fall-back option of Boston already available to BIW. The state and city must rely on BIW's good faith to make the deal pay, whereas the company can back out at almost any time or purchase the pier/dock if it is financially beneficial (at less than the original cost and much less than the cost to the city and state--\$69 million). Yearly lease payments will not be adjusted for inflation, so the payment of just over \$1 million might be a bargain. Although the pier/dry dock would be constructed according to BIW plans, they are only committed to staying there 5 years. All in all, BIW's investment may only be the \$5.7 million-5 year lease, plus capital equipment they may already have.

With potentially very little coming from BIW, argues the position paper, the financial burden is on the city and state, each of which must raise \$15 million and then pay that money plus 12% interest over a 20-year period. The report calls the deal a "speculation," with more jobs and increased tax revenues being the hoped-for reward. BIW claims they will be in full operation by 1986, but this depends on BIW continuing to get lucrative contracts during a period when ship building and repair is declining. The Reagan administration may be a help, but commercial business has been declining for years, and it is unlikely there will be 20 years of uninterrupted heavy military shipbuilding.

The entire bond issue would also increase Maine's public debt by almost 50% and the BIW part would increase it by over 20%. In addition, the city and state taxpayers would have to maintain the facility if BIW pulls out, would re-

ceive no taxes for it when it is leased by BIW, and would assume the losses if the facility were sold later at below its worth. There are jobs and tax revenues, but there are risks as well.

The job and tax benefits are unclear because of the complex numbers being juggled about. BIW claims 1,000 permanent jobs and 3,500 support jobs, while the state expects only about 1,000 support jobs. The expected tax revenue of \$196 million (state figures) for 20 years by these 2,000 jobs assumes that inflation will increase workers' salaries to \$96,000/year by 2001. This figure also assumes full employment throughout the 20-year period. Both assumptions, says Common Cause, are guesses and do not consider the cost of existing services (police, fire sanitation) plus new ones (new schools, fire trucks, etc.) Figures are not from an impartial source.

For 1,000 BIW jobs (or 2,000 if there are support jobs created), Maine citizens will pay \$60,000 (or \$30,000) per job over 20 years. Is this a proper use of taxpayers' money? Is it an investment, or a gift? Common Cause considers the money a gift, and it is to a corporation it feels neither needs nor deserves it (more on this in the third paper). While it does support public assistance to private enterprise, it prefers loans to "speculation" and suggests small, growing, Maine-based companies would be more appropriate. Attempts by state and local government to lure large industries to Maine result in abuses of power by the corporations and underestimates the potential of Maine people and companies to build a healthy economy.

The BIW issue has brought the entire referendum question under scrutiny. Unfortunately, Maine voters will have to choose all or none of these economic development proposals (pier, grain, potato, airport) on Nov. 3, putting those who support Common Cause's arguments and who oppose further militarization of Maine in a dilemma. Hopefully in the future such questions will be separated so there will be more of a choice of what kind of economic development to support.

For details: Bath Iron Works, 700 Washington St., Bath 04530, 443-3311, or Common Cause, 48 Winthrop, Augusta, 622-5798.

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Do you believe in sending good vibes out to the world? If so, you may be interested in TRIANGLES. Triangles is a service activity for women and men who believe in the power of thought. Working in groups of three, they establish right human relationships by creating a worldwide network of light and goodwill. One of the goals is to then raise the level of human consciousness and to transform the mental and spiritual climate of the planet.

A triangle is a group of three people who link each day in thought for a few minutes with other members of their triangle. They invoke the energies of light and goodwill, and visualize these energies as circulating through the three focal points of each triangle. The energies are poured out through the network of triangles surrounding the planet.

Triangles is an activity of the Lucis Trust. The Trust was first incorporated in 1922 in the U. S. and later in Britain, the Netherlands, and Germany. The Triangles network covers the globe, including Algeria, El Salvador, Israel, and Zambia. Local contact is Jane Heart, RFD 1 Box 285, Machias 04654, or write Triangles, c/o 866 United Nations Plaza, # 566-7, New York, N. Y. 10017.

Holistic Nurses Unite

There is a new national organization, the American Holistic Nurses Assn. which recognizes that nurses are excited by the holistic health movement and want to become an active part of it. The AHNA celebrated its beginning in Jan., 1981, in Houston, Texas. Membership now numbers 400 from 21 states.

Nurses committed to the concepts of holistic, wellness-oriented nursing practice are making a significant contribution to holistic health care. They are the largest group of health care providers in the country and, therefore, they have a powerful potential for awakening the changing health care consciousness of the nation. For more on AHNA, contact Priscilla Woodin, RN, Rt. 96, Boothbay Harbor 04538, 633-4872.

"All methods of healing are really indirect ways of raising the life energy, which is the true and direct healer of all diseases."--Yogananda

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This spring several articles on the proposed HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT (HLA) stirred controversy. We'd like to do another article on this crucial issue, and we'd appreciate any factual information or opinions readers would like to send to us, hopefully for the December issue. Deadline for submissions is Nov. 20.

MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION/FEEDBACK FORM

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

△ I like the newsletter but can't give a donation now. Please keep sending it.

△ 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 is the 20th of each month), help with production in Palmyra (Nov. 19-21) or with a collating circus, or be part of a newsletter review committee. (Please circle or specify)

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

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

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

My correct
mailing
address is:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Oct. 29--Maine Cooperative Conference, Augusta Civic Center, all day, \$6, (inc. lunch). Gerry Ely, Dept. of Agriculture, State House, Augusta 04333, 289-3066.

Oct. 31--Silent Vigil against the arms race in Bucksport, 10AM-2 PM. Elaine Hewes, Box 115, Blue Hill, 469-2144.

Oct. 31--Halloween (with a special women's dance in Belfast).

Nov. 1--"The War Game" shown at All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St., Augusta, 7:30 PM.

Nov. 1--WPA in Brunswick, Augusta (6)

Nov. 3--ELECT-ion Day

Nov. 5--Amnesty International in Orono (3)

Nov. 7--6th Annual Christmas Craft Fair, East Sangerville Grange (near Dover-Foxcroft), 10-4. Theresa Boettner, 564-8666.

Nov. 7--Equal Rights Conf. in Augusta (1)

Nov. 7--Peace Fair, Ellsworth Unitarian Church. Joy Mayo, RFD 1 Box 285, Ellsworth 04605, 667-8062.

Nov. 7--Take Back the Night March (1)

Nov. 7-8--"A Lively Evening of Dance," benefit York Co. Domestic Violence Ctr., 8 PM, Maine Movement Center, 66 State St., Portland, 775-6392.

Nov. 8-11--Union of Concerned Scientists/PSR events in Waterville (3)

Nov. 9--Orono-O. T. Tenants Union meets (6)

Nov. 12,13,15,19,21,22--Poland Plays (3)

Nov. 14--CLUW in Augusta (5)

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INVERT
RFD 1
Newport, Maine 04953

Address Correction Requested

Nov. 14--Wilde-Stein Lesbian/Gay dance, MCA Building, Orono, 8 PM-1 AM, \$2.

Nov. 14-15--Centering Workshop in Port (6)

Nov. 15--Portland Women's Community Summit, Williston-West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland. Port. Women's Comm. Newsletter, 381 Deering Ave., Portland 04103.

Nov. 15-16--Women's Pentagon Action (6)

Nov. 17--PSR meets in Waterville (3)

Nov. 18--Maine Bicycle Coalition films, 7 PM, Public Safety Building, Portland. MBC, Box 4544 DTS, Portland 04112.

Nov. 19--Little Flags in Orono (3)

Nov. 19--Fast for a World Harvest, fasting for Oxfam in several Maine locations. Oxfam, 302 Columbus, Boston, Mass. 02116.

Nov. 22--Newsletter Circus in Bar Harbor (10)

Nov. 29-Dec. 5--Freeze Week (2)

SINCE ALL THE TOURISTS HAVE LEFT, BAR Harbor is less crowded and more beautiful, and its beauty will be enhanced by a Maine Statewide Newsletter collating circus at the College of the Atlantic on Sunday, Nov. 22 (begin at 1 PM). Richard Davis, COA, Bar Harbor 04609, 288-5015 is the contact if you can help out.

We need more articles from all over!!! HOW ABOUT IT!!! Deadline for next month is Nov. 20. Send all stuff to INVERT, RFD 1, Newport 04953, or call 938-2219.

Responses to redlining were encouraging, with 186 more subs, totalling 723 (goal 1,000) and \$3,018.50 (goal \$3,800). Please respond this month if you are red-lined so that we don't zap you from the mailing list.

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