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Number 23

"All the News that Fits to Print"

December, 1981

HOT STUFF FOR FREEZE WEEK

November 29 to Dec. 5 has been designated as Freeze Week. This is part of an international effort to halt the nuclear arms race by collecting at least 10,000 signatures in Maine on the "Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race" petition. The petition will be brought to Maine's four representatives and senators and sent to the president and Pres. Leonid Brezhnev of the Soviet Union.

There will be special activities by peace groups in many parts of the state and signature gathering in every county. Among the highlights (from east to west) are:

(1) A vigil during that week in Washington County. Pat Tompkins, Box 49, Dennysville is the contact. (2) a benefit concert (\$4) featuring Mike Ikemiya and Flora Lu Kuan on Nov. 29, 3 PM, at the Ellsworth Unitarian Church. The church will also host a forum on various aspects of nuclear war on Fri., Dec. 4 at 7:30. Both events are sponsored by Hancock Co. Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC). Contact Elaine Hewes, 469-2144. (3) Bangor CALC and Orono Friends Meeting (Karen Harlan, 866-3291) will hold a vigil at West Market Square in downtown Bangor on Sat., Dec. 5, noon-1 PM.

(4) The film "War Without Winners" will be shown at St. Margaret's Church, 6 Church St., Belfast at 7 PM, Dec. 4, with refreshments and discussion to follow. (Sandra Piechocki, 338-4442). (5) Waterville CALC (Jane Birge, 873-0501) will vigil on the Concourse on Wed., Dec. 2 from 12-1. (6) Augusta CALC (Kathy Mikulka, 549-5631) will hold a "Peace Breakfast" at St. Andrews Church in Augusta, 8:15 AM, on Dec. 4 for old and new peacemakers. All invited.

(7) Portland area (Marby Payson, 781-4769) residents, with help from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) will vigil in Monument Square on Wed. (12-1), Thurs. (5-6), Fri. (5-6), and Sat. (12-1). They will hold a "Candlelight Walk" from Monument Square to St. Lukes Church (begin 5 PM) for an interfaith "Celebration of Life" service. (8) A new group, Concerned Citizens of Franklin County (Carol Scribner, 645-3078), will sponsor "The Last Epidemic" on Wed., Dec. 2, 7:30 PM, in Room C205, Learning Center, U. of Maine, Farmington. (9) All these plus groups in Camden, Brunswick, Dexter, and Lewiston plan to be collecting signatures all during the week.

Deadline for all signatures on this petition campaign is December 15. All petition sheets should be returned by that date to AFSC, Box 7097, Lewiston 04240, 772-0680, 784-1278.

Following completion of the petition campaign, the nuclear freeze effort will concentrate on the passage of resolutions by town meetings and city councils (a text of that will be printed next month) and a similar resolution passed by the Maine State legislature. A broad base of support for a freeze, it is hoped, will put pressure on American government officials, as large anti-nuclear weapons demonstrations have done with European governments, to reduce nuclear stockpiles.

To get petitions or to get a packet on how to introduce such a resolution in your town or city, contact AFSC (address above) or Maine CALC, RFD 1, Newport 04953, 938-2219 (same as this newsletter).

DID YOU get a little bit of a red line (but not your name circled) on your mailing label last month? Our red marker wielder got a bit carried away sometimes. Our apologies.

To donate books, for a membership (\$18/year), or a newsletter subscription (\$6), write to the address above.

3

AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP IN WALDO County? It's not just a dream; it can be a reality, claim June and Zeke Goodband, but only if you contact them at RFD 1 Box 700, Thorndike 04986, 568-3655 and let them know you want to be a part of it.

For more on the Energy Cooperative, contact Susan Simons, chairperson, Box 4212, Readfield 04355, 685-9275, or, in an emergency, 377-2226.

4

For a share of stock, send Judy your name, address, social security number (govt. regulations), phone, and \$20 (some money will probably be refunded) by Jan. 15, 1982. Stockholder resolution deadlines are Jan. 1 for Bangor Hydro and Jan. 22 for CMP, so send proposals (with a copy to Judy) by then. Judy Barrows, Box 2204, Augusta 04330, 622-4395.

NEXT MONTH?? Several people requested an updated list of items to boycott, which we'll list with support from the Boycott Census. Also, an attempt to form a review committee (finally!!!) for this newsletter, and lots more.

BETTER THAN BEAN'S *Kide Konference*

With winter holidays (solstice, Chanukkah, Christmas) coming up, many people face the burden of gifts. As a public service, this newsletter offers a partial list of slightly more unique suggestions to solve the problem.

One of the most popular items is calendars, with several to choose from. In Maine the Rape Crisis Center, PO Box 1371, Portland 04104 is selling the Judy Chicago Dinner Party Calendar, portraying women's history and struggles on 39 china plates. Part of the \$6.95 cost goes to the center.

Film maker Abbot Meader's "Angel of the hours" calendars (\$6) proceeds will go to help him finish up his film Deep Trout. Write to him at Rt. 2 Box 280, Oakland 04963. Tim Sample's "The Original Mainer's Calendar for 1982 (\$3.95, available in book and drug stores) features some native Maine humor and Tim's art work. Ayuh.

Nationally, among the favorites are: "The Amercan Myths: 1982 Calendar" (\$6.25) on myth themes such as "This Land Is Your Land," from Syracuse Peace Council, 924 Burnet Ave., Syracuse, NY 13203; "Dancing in the Streets," (\$5) from the War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette, NY, NY 10012; the Sierra Club Wilderness Calendar, from Charles Scribner's Sons, 597 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10017; and "Culture of Resistance" 1982 Guardian calendar from The Guardian, 33 W. 17 St., NY, Ny 10011 (\$5.95).

If it's a game you want, Northeast Carry, 110 Water St., Hallowell still has some of the cooperative Animal Town games (\$14-21, less for members), but supplies are limited. You can also write to Animal Town Game Co., Box 2002, Santa Barbara, Cal. 93120 for a catalog.

A bit of marketing genius will be performed when wreaths made by people in Washington County will be sold directly by supporting groups like Portland West Neighborhood Planning. More money for Downeasterners and a good deal for folks in Portland. Write Pat Sprague, Center for Human Ecology Studies, Richards Lane, Freeport 04032 or call 865-4134 if you'd like to sell wreaths in your area.

Homemade crafts are always nice gifts, and HOME Coop has many craftspeople making a wide variety of useful items, ranging from quilts and woven/knitted items to ~~wood~~

Kide Conference

5 The Blaine House Conference on Children and Youth will feature big name speakers, a multitude of workshops, and a lot of activities for children and youth.

The conference, to be held Dec. 11-12 at the Samoset Hotel in Rockport, will be limited to 300 people staying at the hotel (chosen by lottery), but available to others who find their own food and housing. Cost is \$35 (inc. food/lodging), with fee assistance available. Costs may also be lower for those providing their own food and lodging.

Children are encouraged to attend, with child care available and special programs, including music, theater, dance, games, and a visit from Santa Claus (whoever she is).

Gov. Joseph Brennan and Human Services Comm. Michael Petit are among the speakers. "Education of Our Children, a Shared Concern," "Child and Family Survival in Maine -- Impact of Poverty," and "Worker and the Workplace" are among the 7 workshops.

For a brochure or details: Donna Overcash, Dept. of Human Services, Station #11, Augusta 04333, 289-2636.

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pottery, dolls and toys, and wood products. Visit their stores on Mt. Desert St. in Bar Harbor, in the Sunbury Mall in Bangor, or on Route 1 in Orland. Catalogs are available: HOME Coop, Box 408, Orland 04472.

If you're in southern Maine and want to see HOME products, then come to the Christmas Fair on Dec. 4, 10-4, at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 15 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Besides lunch including fish chowder and homemade pies (\$3), HOME crafts will be on sale. Contact Ruth Irwin, RFD 1, S. Harpswell 04079 for details.

Finally, if you really want something completely different, look for ideas in the Alternative Celebrations catalog, put out by Alternatives, 1924 E. Third St., Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

And finally for the last time, if you are too tired or not creative enough to do anything else (or feeling overwhelmed by this list), fill out the Maine State-wide Newsletter subscription form on page 9 and send it back to us with you name and/or that of a friend for a gift subscription.

Notable Quotables: The Best of INVERT

Do you enjoy the little quotes that fill up space in this newsletter? As a winter holiday present to you for being loyal supporters, here is a list of some of the "best" (our judgment) of these quotes. You might like to put the list up on your refrigerator, outhouse/bathroom wall, at work, or wherever you might look at it when you need a lift: Here goes:

1. Do not adjust your mind, there is fault in reality.
2. Commie in the White House? Nancy Reagan recently spent over \$200,000 on Red China!--MPAC
3. Don't agonize, organize.
4. If your only tool is a hammer, you tend to see all your problems as nails.
5. She who waits for a knight in shining armor must clean up after his horse.
6. The Golden Rule: Those who have the gold make the rules.
7. Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes.--H. D. Thoreau
8. Many soft voices are as good as, or better than, one loud one.
9. Unless we change our direction, we will wind up where we are headed.--Confucius
10. Everybody's paper is nobody's paper.
11. Those who sling mud generally lose ground.
12. If there is dignity in all work, why isn't there dignity for all workers?--Jerry Wurf
13. Kids are people, too.
14. If we don't do the impossible, we will surely wind up with the unthinkable.
15. Every fool in error can find a passage in Scripture to back them up.--Shakespeare
16. The call to tighten your belt is meaningless to someone who can't afford a belt.
17. Free reign for the oil companies, acid rain for the rest of us.
18. Monopoly means never having to say you're sorry.
19. The world would be better off, if people tried to become better.
And people would become better, if they stopped trying to become better off.
For when everybody tries to become better off, nobody is better off.
But when everyone tries to become better, everybody is better off.--Peter Maurin
20. Give us the courage to stand for something before we fall for anything.
21. We will learn to live together as sisters and brothers, or we will die together as fools.--Martin Luther King
22. The frog does not drink up the pond in which it lives.--Indian proverb
23. No radiation without representation.
24. If you brake for animals, why eat them?--Bumper Sticker
25. It is easy to be brave from a safe distance.--Aesop
26. Lets get private enterprise off the backs of the government and the taxpayers.
27. If you complain about farmers, don't talk with your mouth full.--Bumper Sticker
28. Life is difficult, but compared to what?
29. Without a vision, the people perish.--Proverbs 29:18
30. My karma ran over my dogma.

A Human Life Amendment ?

The Human Life Amendment (proposed by Sen. Jesse Helms and Rep. Robert Dornan) reads: "The paramount right to life is vested in each human being from the moment of fertilization without regard to age, health, or condition of dependency."

Although this statement has been proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, requiring a vote in Congress and approval by 3/4 of all state legislatures, it has had to make room for two other proposals. Both of these are less definite and finalized but appear to have a greater chance of success.

The first of these is Sen. Jesse Helms' Human Life Bill, S. 158, which is a bill "to provide that human life shall be deemed to exist from conception." It has two major sections, one stating that human life likely exists from conception and should be protected by the 14th Amendment and the other that certain courts have no power over laws prohibiting or restricting abortions.

The second, and most in the news recently, is Sen. Orrin Hatch's Human Life Federalism Amendment (SJR 110), which says, "A right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution. The Congress and the several states shall have the concurrent power to restrict and prohibit abortions: Provided, that a law of a state which is more restrictive than a law of the Congress shall govern." It is also an amendment to the Constitution, a longer process but longer lasting in results.

Both Helms' bill and the Hatch Amendment have received vociferous support and strong opposition. Support for one or both of these measures has come from conservative political groups, Right-to-Life groups, and religious bodies such as the Moral Majority and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. The two proposals appear to have caused a split in this movement, however, with some groups preferring the more radical Helms bill and others supporting Hatch as a first step,

though many feel both can be eventually passed.

Four of the groups most strongly opposed to any HLA-type legislation are Planned Parenthood, the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), CARASA (Coalition for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse), and the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Right-to-Life groups have based their argument for such legislation on the concept that the fetus is a human life and, therefore, should be protected and given all the rights of those already born. One cannot be "Pro-life" if one kills fetuses or allows someone else to do it (by performing an abortion). They see abortions as indiscriminate, cruel, and with no regard for the soon-to-be-baby. (A recent speaker at the Maine Right-to-Life Committee's annual meeting compared abortions to extermination policies in Nazi Germany.) If the fetus is diagnosed as having massive birth defects, for example, the child should still be born. And federal or state legislation is perfectly acceptable to enforce protection of the fetus.

"Pro-Choice" groups have opposed these proposals both from the point of view that such legislation is dangerous and because they believe that abortion is a woman's right (though not a requirement).

Such legislation, they say, could threaten the lives of women who are having an abnormal pregnancy or who are victims of rape or incest. It could make some forms of birth control (those that kill a fertilized egg rather than those preventing a sperm from contacting an egg) like The Pill or IUD illegal. It could be a civil liberties nightmare, where women might have to submit to governmental inquiry or examination. (And if this were not done, it would be unenforceable.) Finally, it would threaten women's right to control their own bodies, a right they are still struggling for.

Ultimately, the disagreement seems to boil down to who has rights (a woman and/or a fetus) and whether or not a fetus is a human being.

At this time the Hatch Amendment is considered to have more chance of success than the Helms bill, although some right-to-life strategists feel a congressional bill could follow passage of the amendment. This amendment would allow congresspeople to vote for states' rights without directly opposing abortion.

Both bills are presently in the Judiciary committee of the Senate and will probably be brought to the Senate floor for a vote early next year. The House of Representatives version of these two proposals has not gotten to committee yet, and a discharge petition to bring either proposal to the house floor, requiring over 50% support in the House, seems unlikely.

The legality of the Helms bill has been questioned, since even a conservative Supreme Court may uphold the right to abortion as it did in 1973. This is giving further support to Hatch Amendment advocates. Although most of Maine's congressional delegation has not been actively involved with either piece of legislation, David Emery is considered in the "pro-life" camp, Olympia Snowe is generally seen as "Pro-choice," and Maine's two senators are usually viewed as closer to the "pro-life" side.

In Maine, the Maine Right-to-Life Committee (163 Lisbon St., Lewiston 04240, 782-7379) is spearheading efforts for this legislation. They have a number of local groups (county-wide or smaller) and have organized in many churches (especially Catholic parishes) throughout the state. Their primary efforts are toward outreach at church meetings, church/city/county fairs, in school classrooms, and in the media. They are involved in regular newspaper columns, letters to congresspeople, and support for Birthline, a counseling program for pregnant women. They publish a monthly newsletter (MRLC News).

8

Maine NOW and its local groups have been active in opposing HLA and similar efforts. The Lewiston-Auburn NOW chapter held a pro-choice/stop HLA rally on Oct. 3 in Auburn, with speeches by health professionals, clergy, Rep. Sherry Huber (a candidate for governor) and NOW leaders. NOW helped organize picketing at a pro-HLA meeting in Portland on Nov. 19. NOW local chapter contacts include:

Washington Co.: Lois Tetrault, Woodland 04694, 427-6951.

Bangor: Joanne Dauphinee, 23 March, Bangor 04401, 942-2830.

Mt. Desert: Chris Rusnov, Wescott Ave., Bar Harbor 04609, 288-4348.

Portland: Marilyn Kirby, Box 5195, Portland 04101, 846-4644.

Lewiston-Auburn: Jill Stinson, RFD 2 Box 315, Auburn 04210, 786-2632.

Brunswick: Joan Tronto, 11A Maple, Brunswick 04011, 725-7671.

Farmington: Sandy Werner, RFD 1, Kingfield 04947.

Two additional Stop HLA contacts are: Nellie Pennington, 101 Sherman, Portland 04101, 775-7510, and Nadine Edris, 44 Mary Carroll, Auburn 04210.

Recently, Juli Loesch of Prolifers for Survival (PS) was also in Maine. PS is attempting to bring the message of "pro-life" to women and men working for disarmament and against a nuclear weapons buildup and the message of peace to those in the "pro-life" movement. They have taken no position on HLA-type legislation, but are instead concentrating on educational work (seeing both issues as more moral and social than political) and on ways of exposing what they feel are inconsistencies within both groups. PS has initiated a "Tax for Life" campaign, asking people to withhold federal excise taxes from phone bills and to give it for programs giving support to women seeking pregnancy counseling. Contacts in Maine include Kathy Kearney, 12½ Shawmut, Lewiston 04240, 783-6073 and Yvonne Goulet, 134 Woodlawn, Portland.

Among written resources on this issue are the Nov., 1980 issue of Sojourners (\$1.50), 1309 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20005; the August 1, 1980 issue of WIN Magazine (\$1), 326 Livingston St., Brooklyn, NY 11217, and NARAL publications, 825 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

MOCA Shakes

After a year of slowly building up interest and support, MOCA (Maine Organization for Cooperative Assistance) was finally conceived (though not yet out of the womb) at a meeting in Belfast on Nov. 16. It hopes to become a formal corporation after tis next gathering on Sun., Dec. 13, 1 PM, at the Belfast Coop Store.

MOCA's goals are to raise money from private donors to be given as low interest loans to cooperatives, worker-owned businesses, and self-help groups and to provide technical assistance to insure effective use for that money.

Among the decisions in November were incorporation as one organization, possible (though not required) affiliation with the Cooperative Fund of New England, the naming of six people as founding board members, and initiating a process for reviewing loan applications and raising money. This process will continue with the Dec. 13 meeting.

MOCA is seeking more board members (they hope to add 3-4 more people) and persons with several hundred dollars or more to invest in a good cause. For more info:

Susi Ellis, Good Tern Coop, 216 S. Main St., Rockland 04841, 594-9286.

Jeff Tarbox, RFD 2 Box 2910, Wiscasset.

Fred Stocking, Box 125, Machias, 255-4750.

C. R. Lawn, 52 Mayflower Hill Dr., Waterville 04901, 872-9093.

9 Such a Deal!

Jim Comeau of Skowhegan has started a bartering service called "Interface." Customers of the service give Jim a list of five items or services which they would like to swap, sell, or buy. The list is held for a month. For every deal made, \$2 is charged, plus postage and long distance phone costs. (Jim prefers to deal in the local calling area.) Money must be sent before a deal is referred to a customer.

One can become an Interface coop member by paying \$7.50. This fee allows members unlimited use of Interface for 1 month. Members give a list of 25 items or services from which they can add or subtract at any time. A member has a say in the menagement of Interface and can become a shareholder, should members want to incorporate. Non-profit groups may apply for free use of Interface.

Jim would like to serve primarily the Skowhegan-Madison area. Call 474-2234 or write Interface, Box 523, Skowhegan 04976.

Interface is not alone. The New England Barter Book is available from the New England Barter Network, Box 30, Standish 04084 (write for a price and details). An unconfirmed effort in Waldo County is also underway by BREAD (Bartering Revived for Everyone's Alternative Design), c/o Saltwater Works, RFD 1 Box 917, Searsport 04974. Write them to find out more.

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 (Dec. 19-20) 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? Waht 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.

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