Maine Statewide News Letter No. 23 (December 1981)

Institute for Nonviolence, Education, Research, and Training Staff

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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 Breshnev 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 Plechocki, 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 hold a 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).
Resourcefulness in Bangor

The Reagan budget cuts are having one positive effect—many people are feeling the need to pull together to share resources in order to continue to work for alternatives. In Bangor, the Penobscot Area Housing Development Corporation (PAHDC) will soon lose most of its staff due to cutbacks, but the Board of Directors and those involved in PAHDC projects want to see the organization continue and broaden its scope to include various social issues.

People currently involved would like to see the PAHDC office at 9 Broad St. become a resource center for other groups and individuals working on self-help and social justice projects.

The office has 5 rooms, a phone answering machine, typewriter, mimeo machine, books, magazines, and other equipment. By sharing resources, skills, and space, people could all stay informed about social change activities in the Bangor area and around the state and find support for sometimes lonely and frustrating efforts.

Two things are needed to make such a resource center viable. The most important is people power—individuals willing to donate a few hours a week to staffing the office, keeping materials organized, answering the phone, compiling resources, etc. The second requirement is money—funds to cover costs of rent, lights, phone, paper, literature, etc. If 100 people each pledged just $2.50/month, the center could maintain itself financially.

To help this effort, contact Ilze Petersons, PAHDC, 9 Broad St., Bangor 04401, 947-7404.

Maine Women from the Women's Pentagon Action will be meeting Dec. 6 to evaluate the action and plan future work in Maine. To get involved in local work involving feminism and militarism, contact Sheila Garrett, Box 429, S. Harpswell 04079, 833-5220, 833-6921.

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.

Women Planning A Party

The Women's Party for Survival, formed in 1980 by Dr. Helen Caldicott, is a national group committed to ending the threat of nuclear war. The party is registered with the Federal Election Commission as a political party. Organization is by congressional district.

The party's platform includes: (1) ban nuclear weapons research, production, testing, and deployment; (2) initiate negotiations with the USSR for a bilateral freeze on nuclear weapons activities; (3) establish a Department of Peace; and (4) open channels of artistic, religious, educational, and political communication between the United States and USSR.

Last May on Mother's Day, thousands of people went to Washington, D.C. and participated in local marches which were sponsored by or aided by the Women's Party for Survival, such as the one in Bath. Membership in the party is open to all peace-loving women, men, and children. For more information: Women's Party for Survival, 56 N. Beacon St., Watertown, Mass. 02172.

On Fri., Dec. 4, the Second Congressional District branch of the party will meet at 7:30 PM at the Newman Center, 74 College Ave., Orono. Childcare is available. The videotape, "The Last Epidemic," describing the medical consequences of nuclear war, will be shown.

For details on this organizing effort: Emily Wesson, 22 Pond St., Orono 04473, 866-3503 or Margo Murphy, 866-3303.

Books for Dignity

The Heyman Memorial Library is seeking donations of books and is also open for lending. The library is sponsored by Dignity/Maine, an organization for Catholic lesbians and gay men.

To obtain a list of books (pertinent to gays/lesbians) or to request a specific book, write: Dignity/Maine, PO Box 7021, Lewiston 04240. Books can be sent in an unmarked envelope for a $1 fee (to cover postage) and can be kept one month.

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

"Over 30,000 Dead in El Salvador," is an ad that is planned for the Maine Sunday Telegram on Dec. 6, Human Rights Sunday. It describes the plight of refugees, opposition political leaders, peasants, religious leaders, and humanitarian Americans under the brutal junta in El Salvador. It calls on the Reagan administration to end its support of that regime and to substitute a policy that respects human rights.

The ad will inform Mainer of the role of the US government in El Salvador. Ad organizers want hundreds of names and financial support to send a message to political leaders and other citizens that many Maine people oppose support for repressive regimes and believe in a policy of human rights for all.

The ad will cost $98.50. Readers are encouraged to send $5 or as much as they can IMMEDIATELY to Peace and Justice in El Salvador, Box 313, Topsham 04086. A release form stating the following needs to be written out and sent also for one's name to appear in the ad. "I (we) would like my (our) name(s) to appear in the Maine Sunday Telegram ad on Dec. 6, 1981.''

Father Jesus Nieto, a rural parish priest from El Salvador, will speak in Maine during Human Rights Week, Dec. 4-11. He has been active in the Council of Christian-based Communities, a group supporting grass roots efforts in the country, and worked in refugee camps until threats on his life caused him to leave.

He will be speaking at St. John's Church, 37 Pleasant St., Brunswick, at 7 PM on Mon., Dec. 7, in Bangor on Dec. 8 (contact Mike Stone at 866-4903), in Portland or Augusta on Dec. 9, and at Bates College in Lewiston on Dec. 10, 7:30 PM. Barbara West, Star Route 2, Bath 04530, 442-7583 is coordinating the visit.

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, 358-3655 and let them know you want to be a part of it.

Away With Spray 3

If you're sure the federal government's refusal to fund spruce budworm spraying has ended the spraying, don't be so sure. With the retirement of the US Forestry official who made the recent decision not to fund the program and pressures from state officials, landowners, and the governor, the program may yet be salvaged.

Bonnie Lounsbury is urging people to write to the US Forest Service (c/o Director, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry, Broomall, Pa. 19008) and to Maine's congresspeople Olympia Snowe and David Emery (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) and Senators William Cohen and George Mitchell (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) saying that the decision to abandon government funding is a good one and should not be reversed.

For details on federal and state legislation relating to spruce budworm spraying, contact Bonnie at RFD 2 Box 591, Auburn 04210, 784-0955.

HAVE YOU GOT THE ENERGY

The Energy Cooperative is a grass roots, neighbor helping neighbor, project in the towns of Winthrop, Monmouth, Readfield, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, and Wayne. Residents of these towns can give to and receive help from their neighbors for such items as clothing, food, transportation, insulation, wood cutting, canning, various energy resources, and emergency help (financial or otherwise).

Although some forms of aid are arranged thru government agencies (such as the state's energy crisis intervention or HEAP), much comes thru voluntary efforts of other area citizens. Supplies of kerosene, wood, and other fuels are available for emergency needs, as is clothing, shelter, transportation, food, and home maintenance. They also offer advice for persons with energy problems to help prevent cutoffs of electricity or fuel. All work is volunteer.

For more on the Energy Cooperative, contact Susan Simons, chairperson, Box 4212, Readfield 04355, 685-9275, or, in an emergency, 377-2226.
2001: A pledge odyssey

Do you want to play a crucial role in making Maine a nuclear-free state? Are you interested in becoming an experienced grass roots fundraiser? Charlie Fraid of the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee (MNRC) needs the help of at least 5 deeply committed people to work on a team to enroll over 2,000 people in MNRC's pledge program, a goal that they hope will be reached by Jan. 31, 1982. These people would help to mobilize "2001, A Pledge Odyssey," MNRC's effort to financially support next year's referendum effort to close the Maine Yankee Nuclear Plant.

A 2½ hour training program is also available for people interested in doing local fundraising. To schedule this session or to become one of the select 5 fundraisers, contact Charlie at Box 2627, Augusta 04330, or call 622-4395.

In other MNRC news, about 30,000 total signatures have been collected (though most have not been verified) toward the necessary 37,000 signatures to put a second referendum on the ballot next November. Another 20,000 is needed. Petitioners are asked to get their signatures notarized and checked by the registrar of voters and to send them to MNRC by Dec. 11. County coordinators will be collecting and turning in petitions at the MNRC meeting on Dec. 13, 2 PM, at the MNRC office, 335 Water St. The meeting is open to any MNRC member.

Judy Barrows is organizing another stock purchase, enabling people who want to buy stock in Central Maine Power or Bangor Hydro (to enable them to initiate/support stockholder resolutions for safe energy) to get one share without paying high broker fees. About 40-50 people have done this so far and made their presence felt at annual stockholder meetings.

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 resolutions 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.

GO WEST!

Bittersweet is a glossy magazine expounding on events, businesses, people and other elements of Western Maine. You can learn about accomplishments of a wood-working expert in Bridgton or how a Maine food coop runs or read articles from well-known Maine writers.

For a subscription ($8/year) or a sample copy: Bittersweet, PO Box 6, Norway 04268, 743-2243. It ain't Mother Jones or New Roots, but it will give you a taste of Maine's western mountains.

What's That You Say?

The state of Maine spends nothing on noise control, even though officials at the Dept. of Environmental Protection, Dept. of Transportation, and the Health Engineering section of the Dept. of Human Services all say noise pollution is a problem, according to George Hunt. He sees little hope for a noise control program in the future, however.

Forty-three of fifty people in a telephone survey in central Maine said they were bothered by some type of noise. If you are one of those 43, help may be available thru the ECHO program (Each Community Helps Others), funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. They do noise testing and help organize local and regional noise control programs. Write ECHO, EPA, John Kennedy Bldg. #2113, Boston, Mass. 02203 or contact George Hunt, 171 Second St., Hallowell 04347.

DO YOU WANT TO BE FULL CHARGE WITHOUT being in charge? The Fedco Warehouse, a wholesale coop food distributor, needs a bookkeeper to join their collective. Bookkeeping and/or coop experience is desirable. Resumes and salary needs should be sent to Fedco Warehouse, PO box 236, N. Vassalboro 04962, 873-0716.

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.
With winter holidays (solstice, Chanukah, 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 3731, 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 04663. 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 American 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, 10012; the Sierra Club Wilderness Calendar, from Charles Scribner's Sons, 597 Fifth Ave., NY, 10017; and "Culture of Resistance" 1982 Guardian Calendar from The Guardian, 33 W. 17 St., NY, 10001 ($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, CA 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 Downeasterner 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

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Kid's Conference

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).


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

$ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ potteries, 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 Statewide Newsletter subscription form on page 9 and send it back to us with your 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. Let's 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 (NRLC News).

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 Tetraught, Woodland 04694, 427-6951.
Bangor: Joanne Dauphinee, 23 March, Bangor 04401, 942-2830.
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, 823 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 its 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 an 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.

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 management 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? 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 25c 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)

Nov. 29-Dec. 5--Freeze Week (activities too numerous to mention (1)

Nov. 30--"Last Grave at Dimbaza" (Apartheid in S. Africa), 7:30 PM, FPA Room, Memorial Union, UMO, Orono.

Dec. 1--Light Force Spirulina Slide Show, 7 PM, Executive Inn, Portland.

Dec. 4--Women's Party for Survival meets in Orono. (2)

Dec. 4--Christmas Fair in Brunswick (5)

Dec. 5--Union of Maine Visual Artists Art Sale II, 12-6, Portland Art Bldg., Fore/Union Sts., plus music and poetry.

Dec. 6--Women's Pent. Action followup (2)

Dec. 6--Human Rights Day, E1 Salvador ad (3)

Dec. 6--Bangor NOW benefit, 7:30 PM, Brewer Savings Bank, donation, with Maureen Walsh (poetry) and Joanne Dau-phinee (feminist music).

Dec. 7--Father Nieto in Maine (3)

Dec. 7--"War Without Winners," at Projects for People (Wells Hill, North Rd.) in Mt. Vernon, 7:30 PM. Peter Devine, Box 113, Mt. Vernon 04352, 293-2202.


Dec. 11-12--Blaine House Conference on Children and Youth in Rockport (5)

Dec. 13--MNRC petition signature gathering meeting in Augusta (4)

Dec. 13--MOCA meets in Belfast (9)

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