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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 25 (February1982)

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Abort The H.L.A.

Concerned about reproductive rights and threats to it? Want the choice of whether or not to have an abortion and a choice of birth control devices to be with individual women rather than with state or federal lawmakers?

Reproductive rights activists hope to form a coalition to oppose recent legislation threatening those rights and to support the 1973 Supreme Court decision (Roe Vs. Wade) which legalized abortion. Various forms of the Human Life Amendment (see Newsletter #23) will make IUD's and some kinds of The Pill illegal, so the state board of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in Maine is asking concerned people to attend a meeting on Sat., February 6, 9:30-Noon, at the South Parish Congregational Church, Church and State Sts., Augusta.

They may, as in the past, become an affiliate of the National Abortion Rights Action League, but the major goal is a working coalition which will do educational work on the issue and be involved in 1982 state and congressional elections.

For questions or to express your interest (if you can't attend on the 6th), contact Marilyn Kirby, PO Box 5195 Station A, Portland 04101, 846-4644, or Joanne Dauphinee, 23 March St., Bangor 04401, 942-2830.

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A planning meeting for the combined Second Annual New England Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men and the Maine Lesbian and Gay Symposium IX will take place on Sat., Jan. 30, 1 PM, at UMO's Memorial Union. The combined Symposium/Conference weekend will be co-sponsored by the Wilde-Stein Club at UMO and will take place in late March or early April. For more info on the conference, contact the Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, UMO, Orono 04469.

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3



"I am a parent of a gay person who is looking for other parents of gays and lesbians. Objective: mutual support of ourselves and our children.

Also, I would like to meet with others who would like to start a chapter of Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians. One person in ten is gay or lesbian; if all of their relatives and friends would join together, we would be a majority.

If you are interested in either, please call Effie, 622-0097 or write Effie, PO Box 215, Augusta 04330."

Lent Your Pledge

Some people will celebrate Lent this year (beginning Feb. 24) and Passover (in early April). Many more can "celebrate" this year through a Pledge initiated by the Low Income Advocacy Project.

Because of low levels of AFDC benefits (recipients get 72.5% of 1973 minimum standards of need--a household of 4 is expected to spend \$41.57/week on food), the project is asking others to pledge to live on the same food levels as AFDC recipients during the Feb. 24-April 10 Lenten/Passover period and to donate money saved from lower food costs, if possible, to the Project or another group working for Maine's low income people. Maximum food costs for one person, according to AFDC, is \$16.17/week, \$27.94 for a household of two, \$35.33/week for a household of three, and about \$5-6/week more for each additional member.

Almost every AFDC recipient is a child (over 50%), a single mother, or a disabled or handicapped person, yet benefits are being cut and work incentive programs are being eliminated. The Low Income Advocacy Project wants to stem this tide and help support financially its work and the work of sister organizations. For a Pledge for or more information: LIAP, Box 7355 DTS, Portland 04112, 772-9524 (days), 772-5636 (eves).

Peace and Justice Lobby Stay tuned to N.C.I.

4

The Interfaith Action Network is an interreligious lobby network of Maine people joining together to work for peace and justice. They have formed an oversight board and are now seeking members (you don't have to be a church member to join) to write letters and otherwise lobby Maine's Congressional delegation and, in some cases, state legislators.

Here's how it works: The easiest (but most expensive) part is first, sending a \$5 (low-income) or \$10 membership fee (to cover postage and other expenses) to the Network. On the membership form you would check one or more of the topic areas on which you'd like to lobby--El Salvador and Central America, Poverty/Low-Income issues, and Peace and Arms Control. (Human Rights and Foreign Policy is being considered as a fourth area.)

Once the form is sent in, you would receive "action alerts" once a month on the topics you check. You agree to write a letter or respond to appropriate people within three days of the time you receive the laert. (You don't have to respond in the rare event you are opposed to the action recommended in the alert.)

The alert will provide background information, sources for more specifics, a recommended course of action, and who to write to. While it involves a commitment, organizers believe it will be an effective way to keep pressure on Maine's elected officials so they do not succumb to the pressures of Reagan administration strategies.

A brochure on the network and copies of action alerts are available from the Interfaith Action Network, 56 Pitt St., S. Portland 04106, 799-5460.

HOLD THAT DATE!!! April 3, that is, when a conference on union pension funds and politics is scheduled in Augusta. William Winpisinger, pres. of the International Assn. of Machinists, and Randy Barber, author of a book on pension funds, are tentative speakers. Peter Kellman, Maple St., N. Berwick 03906, 676-2642 has details.

North Country Institute's offerings continue with "Organizing in Smaller Cities and Rural Communities," to be held at Rockcraft Lodge in East Sebago on Feb. 7-10. The \$200 fee includes materials, lodging, and meals. Some scholarship aid may be available, so do not let a shortage of cash keep you away.

The session will emphasize hands-on experience and present organizing models, leadership development, and special aspects of rural organizing. Ellen Fleischmann, NCI, Box 7484 DTS, Portland 04112, 775-3050 is the contact.

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GOT AN IDEA FOR A COURSE on some progressive or social change issue? The Dept. of Community Programs at the Univ. of Southern Maine is looking for a few unusual, off-the-wall proposals for special 10-week, non-credit courses (or perhaps one-day workshops or seminars). If you've got a pet project, check it out with Judy Burwell, Dept. of Community Programs, USM, 96 Falmouth, Portland 04103, 780-4045.

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Discover Healing

The Samoset Hotel in Rockland will be the location of "healing and Discovery, a winter weekend for personal growth developed by the New Life Foundation. Participants will have workshops and events around music, meditation, movement, and massage. Costs for the weekend, scheduled for Feb. 19-21, are \$129-139, including room and most meals.

Among the events planned are music by Laraaji Venus and Friends, from the Paul Winter Consort, providing music for healing and self-discovery, and sufi dancer Rochelle Gerratt. The Samoset will provide an indoor pool, tennis, skiing, and a sauna for participants use.

For registration or further details: New Life Foundation, RFD 2 Box 330, Brooks 04921, 722-3655.



Nurses Against Nukes

5

Bill Caldicott of Physicians for Social Responsibility in Boston (there is also a Maine chapter) is the tentatively scheduled speaker on March 1, 7:30 PM, at the A. R. Gould Hospital in Presque Isle. Caldicott, husband of author and Women's Party for Survival activist Helen Caldocott, will speak on the medical consequences of nuclear war.

Sponsoring the talk is Citizens of Aroostook for Safe Energy and local medical staff. Martha Alexander, 64 Dudley St., Presque Isle 04769, 764-1028 has details.

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Direct Your Energy

The Bangor Energy Conservation Task Force has published a 67-page Energy Directory which is a guide to energy products, services, and information in Penobscot/Piscataquis counties. This guide, which is available thru Penquis Community Action Program, offers practical information that people can use to save money and energy.

The directory is divided into six sections--a glossary, Energy Efficiency, Solid Fuel Burning, Solar, Wind, and Hydro Energy, Financing and Consumer Assistance, and last, a listing of business and non-profit groups who offer energy products, services, and info.

The directory talks about everything from ride-sharing to burning coal to siting a small hydro-electric plant. This detailed and well-done manual is available from Penquis CAP, 262 Harlow St., Bangor 04401, 947-6931.

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WHERE ARE YOU, correspondants from Washington, Hancock, Franklin, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, and Sagadahoc counties? We know there are events going on in your areas that others in Maine should know about. Why not drop a line to INVERT, RFD 1, Newport 04953, 938-2219 by the 20th of the month. Send us a flyer, write a short article yourself, or just send some basic facts. Let's hear more about the rural areas in the next Maine Statewide Newsletter!

In an action unprecented in the U.S., a statewide nurses association has endorsed a phase-out of all nuclear power plants. The Maine State Nurses Association (MSNA) recently voted overwhelmingly for this resolution, citing the health hazards of all parts of the nuclear fuel cycle, specific dangers of the Maine Yankee reactor, a lack of adequate facilities to treat radiation victims, and the fact that no safe levels of radiation exist.

As a response to this resolution, MSNA members Polly Campbell and Pat Philbrook have prepared and are offering to present throughout the state a workshop on the health effects of radiation. Costs will be minimal--the main ingredient missing is people willing to arrange a presentation in their town or for any interested group.

Contact: Polly Campbell, RFD 2 Box 435, Gardiner 04345, 582-2318 (eves).

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Can You Cope With This?

Coping is a magazine published monthly for Maine's disabled people and the general public by the Maine Assn. of Handicapped Persons, 32 Thomas, Portland 04102.

Previous issues of Coping have news about Social Security disability payments, phone discounts for deaf telephone users, and learning disabled students who are not receiving special education. Also, there was a story about George Murray of Millinocket, a wheelchair athlete who just finished his "Continental Quest," a six-month trip across the U.S.

The most recent issue focuses on demonstrations around access to Portland area METRO buses and upcoming state legislation supported by MAHP.

A subscription to Coping is included in the \$5 membership fee for the Maine Assn. of Handicapped Persons. Write MAHP or call 774-4360 for a membership/subscription.

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"30 Million Poor--a Gross National Product"--Bumper Sticker

Je cze Polska*Let Poland be Polish

Poland exists today in a precarious position that is perhaps unequalled in history. This Communist satellite country also hosts an independent trade union, Solidarity, with 10 million members. Solidarity's elected leader, Lech Walensa, has chosen passive resistance and mobilization of world opinion against Soviet aggression as his weapons in the struggle for power.

Poland has sought throughout history to remain a free, self-determining country. The years, however, have not always been kind to her. Many of the difficulties arise out of geography. Poland is part of a vast which stretches across Europe and has no natural or well defined boundaries. Thus, the land has been a meeting place of conflicting cultures and armies. Germans, Scandinavians, Slavs, Tartars and Turks have all clashed with the Poles.

This absence of natural frontiers has not only increased Poland's danger of invasion, but has tempted her to expand borders to achieve military vantage points.

In the tenth century Poland built a kingdom which extended from the Carpathian Mountains to the Baltic Sea. During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries this kingdom was divided by civil wars and further weakened by Tartar invasions. Poland recovered and by the fifteenth century was a cultural center which attracted artists, writers and scholars from all of Europe.

Poland is remembered as the freest state in Europe during the 1600's, a country with constitutional, civil and intellectual liberty. Like the United States today, Poland became a melting-pot of nationalities and cultures.

Most of these immigrants lived as peasants and Poland became a sovereign state with an elite class of royalty and servants, virtually no middle class, and many poor farmers.

7

Being an agricultural country, Poland did not receive the benefit of industrialization that other European countries did during the early 1900's. Also, because of the system of land inheritance where a father's land was divided equally among his heirs (read sons), Polish farmland was a crazy-quilt of strips. A single farmer may have worked sixty strips of land two yards wide and scattered over several miles. Agrarian reform laws reorganized much of the land, but this agricultural past is a part of Poland's food problem today. Small land holdings and primitive farming methods are not conducive to growing large crops of wheat and rye.

Two systems of land management co-exist today; Communist collective holdings and private farms. The collective farms are given generous subsidies while the private farms must pay exorbitant prices even for seed. Polish natives also cite examples of collective farm tractors being dismantled or destroyed rather than being sold to a private farm.

The Communist government has also interfered in supply of goods. For instance, shortly after the formation of Solidarity, milk bottles disappeared. Suddenly, overnight, they were gone, so that even though milk was in good supply, it was not available for distribution. Polish citizens interpreted this as a move by the government to make them think that Solidarity would not solve all of their problems.

What happened in Poland is the economic system just collapsed. The supply side of the system is not working because government subsidies created a false economy where the true cost of goods was not met by consumers. There is virtually no unemployment in Poland. The situation is quite opposite of what we have in the U.S. today. Most Poles have the zlotys (currency), but there is not much to buy.

Along with food shortages, Poland reels under the weight of a \$26.3 Billion debt. A Polish default would put the credit worthiness of the entire Soviet Bloc into question and create long term trade and developmental problems for the Warsaw Pact nations and Russia itself. The Polish people know that Russia has problems feeding its own people and meeting debts, and is not overly anxious to assume responsibility for the problems of another country.

Polish people also have a newfound strength in Solidarity. Organized as an independent trade union, Solidarity seeks to become a partner in running the country, but not the mainstay of political power. Involvement in politics is inevitable.

Poland and Russia have a strangely symbiotic relationship. They have, after all, been close neighbors for a long time. Polish manufacturing would come to a standstill without the supply of oil that they receive from the Soviets, and some of the goods which are made in Poland are labelled "Made in USSR" and shipped out to the world.

So, the Communists do have an interest in making Poland work, the people as well as the system. The people, though, have no incentive to work. They are sullen at

8

the economic chaos and further shocked by the turn of events under Jaruzelski's leadership.

Most analysts view General Jaruzelski's military takeover as his attempt to minimize future Soviet interference.

Stalin and Hitler made plans to destroy Poland completely during WWII. The German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact signed in Moscow on Aug. 23, 1939 (also known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact) contained an "Additional Secret Protocol" which actually set forth how the two countries would invade and divide Poland. Hitler informed his troops to prepare for invasion of Poland on Aug. 12, before the treaty was even signed.

The events of WWII live still in the minds of Polish people, perhaps even Jaruzelski. Russia still sits, menacingly on the sidelines with the same attitude that Stalin presented to Roosevelt and Churchill at the Yalta Conference after WWII: "The men of the Red Army are indifferent as to what kind of government there is in Poland, but they do want one that will maintain order behind the lines".



FAMOUS POLES

Copernicus 1473-1543
astronomer and Middle Ages scholar

Kosciuszko
American Revolution sympathizer
and maker of fine mustard.

Mickiewicz
poet

Frederic Chopin
Romantic composer

Madame Curie
pioneer in radioactive research

Janina Lewandowska
Lieutenant in the Polish
Air Force during WWII.

Pope John Paul II

Lech Walensa

Mitch Sowa (Thanks, Mitch!!)
INVERT press operator

FEDCO Feed Grain Small Farmers...

9

Are you a farmer who grows, or, more likely needs, feed grain? Do you know others who might be? Jim Bunn, in conjunction with the Federation of Cooperatives, wants to hear from you, if you're interested in being part of a pre-order cooperative feed grain buying system.

Contact him at RFD 1 Box 88A, Dexter 04930, 924-3925 if you have feed available, know of good sources of feed or milling, or want to buy feed grain.

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Boycott Update

The only new boycotted product since last month (see issue #24) is Andy Boy Broccoli (also lettuce and celery), products of D'Arrigo farms. Like other farm produce, this boycott involves efforts of farm workers, the United Farm Workers in this case, to be recognized as a labor union and to have a contract signed. Add that to your list.

A complete list of boycotted products is available from the Boycott Census, RFD 1 Box 3445, Norway 04268. Send them some moola for postage.

Did you know that a small farm is also a small business? If you haven't discovered that, you'd better soon, to avoid becoming another statistic of small farmers going out of business or suspending operations (if you're a farmer, that is).

Acción knows that, and it wants to bring basic concepts of business analysis, marketing, and bookkeeping to small farmers in a workshop on Feb. 24, 8:30-3:30 (cost: \$10) at St. Mark's Church behind Lithgow Library, off State St. in Augusta.

To find out more about this event or other Acción workshops, write them at PO Box 147, Pittsfield 04967, or call 487-3195.

If you can't get to one of their workshops, Acción also has a series of 4 booklets entitled, "The Business Plan," "The Business Review," "Basic Finances," and "Basic Marketing" (\$3 each), which present information for the business beginner with numerous drawings by cartoonist Tim Sample. Profit-loss statements, business plans, cash-flow projections, and advertising strategies are among the topics explained in simple form in the booklets.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Jan. 30--MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners) Annual Meeting, 10-4 China Lake Conf. Center. MOFGA, Box 188, Hallowell 04347, 622-3118.

Jan. 30--Lesbian/Gay conference planning in Orono (3)

Jan. 31--Amnesty International vigil in Brunswick (2)

Jan. 31--"Eight Minutes to Midnight" film on Helen Caldicott, Green Street Methodist Church, Augusta, 7:30 PM.

Feb. 4--(each Thurs. for 6 weeks) Assertiveness Training w/Gail Surette, \$36. All Souls Cong. Church, Broadway/State Sts., Bangor, 7:30 PM. Counseling Center, 43 Illinois, Bangor, 947-0366.

Feb. 4, 9, 13--Caucus training sessions for attending party caucuses, 7-9 (4 & 9), 10-1 (13), Lithgow Library, State/Winthrop Sts., Augusta. Roger Leisner, Box 2705, Augusta 04330, 623-4004.

Feb. 6--Mining Conference in Orono (1)

Feb. 6--Ralph Robinson Ballet benefit for UMO Women's Center, 8 PM, Hauck Aud., Mem. Union, UMO, Orono, \$5.

Feb. 6--Racquetball Party (also tub, swim, etc.), Maine Women's Lobby Fund-raiser, \$10, 8-midnight, Merrymeeting Swim Club, Topsham. Lauren Ann Corbett, Pleasant Hill Rd., Freeport 04032, 865-4616 (eve) or Kim at 774-5621 (day).

Feb. 7-10--NCI workshop in Sebago (4)

Feb. 9--"Agenda for Agrarian Activists in the 80's" strategy discussion, Consortium for Food Self-Reliance, 1 PM, Economics Dept., Bowdoin Col., Brunswick. CHES, Richards Lane, Freeport 04032, 865-4134.

Feb. 14--Democratic Party caucuses around the state (2)

Feb. 19-20--Music Therapy workshop (19) and Concert (20), 8 PM both nights, by Kay Gardner, N. E. Women's Orchestra, All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St., Augusta 04330, 622-3232.

Feb. 19-21--Healing and Discovery (4)

Feb. 19-21--"Intimate Enemies," keeping conflicts manageable and relationships alive, with Rev. David Hall, Box 41, Five Islands, 04546, 371-2179.

Feb. 24--Newsletter circus in Bruns. (6)

Feb. 24--Farm business workshop in Aug. (9)

Feb. 24--Lenten/Passover pledge starts (3)

Feb. 26--Women's Party for Survival meeting on Orono. Further details: Emily Wesson, 22 Pond St., Orono, 866-3503.

Feb. 26-28--Maine Energy and Environment Alliance Teach-In in Orono (1)

Feb. 27--INTERWEAVE (liberal gays/lesbians) potluck and program, Unitarian Church, Union/Main Sts., Bangor. INTERWEAVE, PO Box 215, Augusta 04330.

March 1--Bill Caldicott speaks in Presque Isle (5)