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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 26 (March 1982)

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Number 26

"All the News that Fits to Print"

March, 1982

DSOC's on the right shoe - No Fooling

The Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee (DSOC) is planning a statewide annual meeting to discuss five major issues for possible input at the Democratic Convention. Topics and discussion leaders are:

- 1) Maine Equal Rights Amendment--Joanne Dauphinee
- 2) State-run Insurance Plan--Bill TeBrake
- 3) State Health Care System--Molly Stone
- 4) State Bank--Harlan Baker
- 5) Public Power--Russ Christensen

If you wonder about putting democratic socialist ideas on the meeting agenda, you are welcome to come, participate, or just get acquainted. The conference will be held on Mar. 20 at All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St., Augusta from 9:30 to 4. Contact Bill Stone, 431 Hancock St., Bangor, 942-9455, Harlan Baker, 74 Deering St., Portland 772-9640, or Steve Leach, RFD 2 Box 2450 Wiscasset, 622-3151 about details.

DSOC is a left-wing branch of the democratic Party. Maine has two chartered groups, in Portland and Bangor. To form a chartered group, at least 15 people must organize and request a charter from DSOC, 853 Broadway #801, New York, N. Y. 10003.

Bangor and Portland chapters meet regularly. Check contacts above for time and place. A chapter is being formed in the Central Maine area. Steve Leach has the details.

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"When the bathtub is full, it's too late to test the temperature."

There will be no fooling around on April 1st when the World Peace March leaves Bangor on its way through Central and Southern Maine to the U.N. Special Session on Disarmament in New York City. Led by Japanese Buddhist nuns and monks, the march hopes to call attention to the U.N. session and to ask nations with nuclear technology to "set the dates for a nuclear free world".

The walk, which began in Japan, has crossed Europe and left from San Francisco and Los Angeles in late October. The New England leg of the walk will begin in Bangor (it hopes to walk from the Penobscot reservation to Bangor to symbolize the importance of Third World peoples participating in this effort) and reach the New Hampshire border about April 15-16.

It will tentatively go through Etna, Pittsfield, Waterville, Augusta, and then down the coast to Wiscasset, Bath, Brunswick, Portland, Biddeford, York, and Kittery. Walkers will travel 10-20 miles each day and will speak or show slides in the evening. Look for events in your area.

The walk needs people along the way willing to offer housing and hospitality and to walk with the long-distance marchers (some are walking all the way to New York) for an hour, a day, or throughout all of Maine.

People interested in helping with the march or learning more about its plans can contact Neila Sargent, 15 Old Armory Way, Kittery 03904, 439-3154, (Con't p 2.)

THREE P'S

The investment of more than \$600 billion of deferred wages in pension funds is in the hands of banks and insurance companies. They often finance corporations that discriminate against women or minorities, disregard the health and safety of workers, break unions, and move factories away from communities that built them.

Do you know where your pension funds (or your friend's or neighbor's) are going? Do you want to find out?

Saturday, April 3, 9:30 to 5 at the Univ. of Maine, Augusta, in Room 158, Jewett Hall, the Maine AFL-CIO and the Bureau of Labor Education are sponsoring the Maine Pension Fund Conference.

Speakers will include William Winpinger (Pres., International Assn. of Machinists), Jacob Sheinkman (Sec-Treas, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers) and Randy Barber, author of a book about pension fund investments.

Both trade unionists have been involved in efforts to reclaim pension fund capital for struggling unions and to democratize its control, while Barber sees the struggle for union pension funds as a key to regaining economic power for the industrial Northeast.

Admission to the conference is \$5. For more info, contact Maine AFL-CIO, 72 Center St., Brewer 04412, 989-3630 or Peter Kellman, ACTWU, 142 High St., Portland 04101. 775-4309.

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(Cont. from Page 1)
(York Co.), Tracy Booth, 35 Foreside Rd.,
Cumberland 04410, 781-5159 (Portland area),
Carol Brewster, Pond Rd., Manchester 04351
(Augusta and coast), or Larry Dansinger,
Maine Clergy and Laity Concerned, RFD 1,
Newport 04953, 938-2219 (Bangor to Augusta).

To help kick off the march, a well-known member of the European Disarmament Movement, Laurens Hogebrink, a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church, will speak in Bangor and possibly Portland on March 26. Hogebrink, one of the chief organizers of a recent peace rally in Amsterdam which attracted 350,000 people, is part of a delegation of European peace activists who are touring the US in late March. Larry Damsinger (see address above) will soon have confirmed details on the visit.

EATIN' GOOD

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The Fourth Annual American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Spaghetti Supper will be held this year on Sat., Mar. 13, 6 PM, at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords, Portland. Noted author Gene Sharp will speak on "National Defense without Weapons" or "A Farewell to Arms."

Sharp will demonstrate through historical examples that civilian defense against foreign invasion or internal strife is possible thru nonviolent resistance and citizen action. In today's nuclear age, nonviolent defense is seen as most practical and sensible. Besides authoring "The Politics of Nonviolent Action," "Gandhi as a Political Strategist," and "Social Power and Political Freedom," Sharp is a consultant to several European countries considering the non-violent civilian defense option.

As usual, dinner will feature meat and meatless spaghetti, salad, bread, and homemade desserts. Suggested cost is \$5 for bigger people, \$2.50 under 12. Childcare is provided. Sukie Rice, Hunter Rd., Freeport 04032, 865-3768 can answer questions.

SAVE YOUR \$

Next month is Tax Day, April 15, when all tax returns are due. Whether you'll owe taxes or even getting back part or most of your withheld money, about 56% of your taxes will go to the Pentagon.

If you're still bothered by that but missed the last tax potluck, another one is coming to the Bangor and Waterville areas. Those dates and places are: March 20, 6:30 PM at Eleanor and Andrew Seager's house in Bucksport (call 469-7885 for directions) and March 25 at Carol Lee Servetnick's house, 8 Boutelle Ave., Waterville (873-2540).

Support for individual resisters, scrumptious salads, answers to questions about protests and ways of keeping money away from the IRS, classy casseroles, a review of literature and legislation like the World Peace Tax Fund, delicious desserts, actions like ads or leafletting at a post office, and bountiful beverages will be some of the items dealt with. Don't miss the next pungent potluck.

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SPEAKING OUT

People frustrated by the situation in El Salvador will have an opportunity to "SPEAK OUT on El Salvador," scheduled for Friday, March 5, 7:30 PM at the First Parish Church in Brunswick. Sponsored by Midcoast Citizens for Peace and Justice in El Salvador, the evening will begin with short presentations by several speakers offering various perspectives on the crisis there, followed by a question and answer period.

Among those scheduled to speak are Chris Hastedt and Mike Cavanaugh, representing Maine AFL-CIO, state representative David Soule, Nancy Boothby from NOW, economist David Vail, retired Captain Dick Leighton (US Navy), and Vietnam Veteran Doug Rawlings. Speakers from Amnesty International and the Catholic Church are tentative. A what-can-we-do-now discussion will hopefully be part of the speak-out.

Ed Jurenas, Star Route 2, Bath 04530, 442-7583 has more info.

Meanwhile, weekly Wednesday protests (11:30 AM to 12:30 PM) continue at the Hancock County courthouse in downtown Ellsworth. "There hasn't been anything like this since the Vietnam War" is a common feeling expressed. Anyone who opposes sending US military aid to the El Salvador government is urged to attend. Contact Hancock Co. Clergy and Laity Concerned members Elaine Hewes, Box 115, Blue Hill 04614, 469-2144 or Tom Crickelair, Salisbury Cove, 288-3800.

The Sunday morning service on March 14 at the Wilton Methodist Church will feature the film "Revolution or Death." This film, produced by the World Council of Churches, explains the period around the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero and the oppression of peasants by the ruling military government. The film will also be shown in the Wilton-Farmington area again later in the week. Contact Carol Scribner, Gen. Delivery, Wilton 04294, 645-3078 for further info.

Two slide shows on El Salvador and Central America are available from American Friends Service Committee, Box 7097, Lewiston 04240, 772-0680, for people who want a visual presentation to help publicize the issue locally.

Decide to Attend

Great Decisions, a series of eight meetings to discuss the most important foreign policy issues facing the US, will begin on Mon., Mar. 1, 7 PM at the Women's Resource Center, 24 College St., Brunswick.

The issues include America's Defense, Western Europe and the US, Central America, the Palestinians, Protecting the World's Resources, Japan, Global Inflation, and Poland and the USSR. Background for the topics is provided by a Great Decisions book put out by the Foreign Policy Association.

The League of Women Voters of Brunswick invites all interested persons to attend. For more info, contact Selma Sternlieb, 21 McKeen, Brunswick, 725-7675.

SHOWINGS OF "THE LAST EPIDEMIC" HAVE been springing up like the plague throughout Maine, with both a film and several videotapes circulating the state. The Portland Peace Forum will show it at 7 PM, March 25, at the Public Safety Bldg., 109 Middle St., Portland.

The film/tape, produced by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), presents facts and figures about nuclear weapons plus a graphic description of the medical implications of a nuclear attack on a large American city. Coffee and dessert (and aspirin) will be available before the film. To arrange "The Last Epidemic" in your area: Mary Skorapa, RFD 5A, Gardiner 04345 (film) or Peter Millard, 22 Pond St., Orono 04473 (tape).

Meanwhile, in far off Washington, DC, plans are underway for a large national demonstration on March 27, coordinated by CISPES (The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador), Box 12036, Washington, DC 20005. They see it as crucial to mobilize a large public outcry before the situation becomes another Vietnam. Jeanne Davis, 98 Winthrop St., Augusta 04330, 622-1139 wants to attend and to find others to carpool with.

SPRING Conference

"Working Together" is the theme of Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium IX. The event, which is a combined 2nd annual conference for New England Lesbians and Gays and 9th gathering for Maine L. & G. will take place in Memorial Union at UMO, Orono.

One purpose of this annual conference is to provide a time and place to establish communication between lesbian and gay organizations. Groups are encouraged to utilize display space which will be made available, also space will be provided for artists to display and sell their work. Requests for space must be in by early March.

Workshop facilitators are needed for the conference. Anyone who would like to offer a workshop is requested to send their name, address and other important information to conference organizers.

Also, groups are encouraged to send a representative to present a 3 to 5 minute oral report about the activities of the group.

Registration fee varies with income, (\$10 max.) and includes housing, childcare, and all weekend activities. Registration date for displays is Mar. 1, for the conference, anytime. Write Symposium IX/Conference 2, Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, UMO, Orono 04473 or PO Box 1117, Caribou 04736 for registration forms.

SPRING CIRCUS

The lambing is done, so we're ready to take the newsletter circus to Garland, near Dexter, where Pat Lewis will host us. We will start at 3 PM on March 23, with a dinner break. Call Pat, 924-6662, if you can help out.

We're still struggling along with subscriptions, with only 43 subs. and \$206 toward a goal of 1,200 subs and \$4,700. Can you help us toward our goal by filling out and returning the subscription form on Page 9? And don't forget to send articles, notices, etc. by the 20th of March to INVERT, RFD 1, Newport, 04953, 938-2219.

(Sylvia who?) and M.C.L.U.

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Now that the Maine Civil Liberties Union has won an important book-banning case (Michael Scheck v. Baileyville School Comm.) and obtained strip search guidelines at Cumberland Col jail, people's awareness of the many civil liberties areas in which the MCLU is active is increasing.

The organization currently has twelve cases on its legal docket. All of the MCLU's legal work is done by volunteer attorneys. However, membership dues are needed to support the small office and the rest of the MCLU program. In addition to litigation, MCLU has an active lobbying program and several public education projects.

MCLU's Working Women's Project provides workshops and other info. to clerical workers concerning their legal rights.

The Legislative Committee is working for continuation of the Family Abuse Law which is currently subject to the sunset provision. Also, the committee is working against a bill sponsored by Rep. Sylvia Lund (R.-Augusta) which would allow imprisonment for someone failing to pay a fine for a civil offense.

MCLU and the Maine Teachers Assoc. have combined efforts to offer a series of spring workshops to teachers and other interested individuals. Sessions begin March 2 and are offered in Bangor and Portland. Some topics covered will be Religion in the Public Schools, Teachers Rights, Mental Illness and the Law, and Censorship and the Public Schools.

There are more than 1000 members of the MCLU in the state at present. More are needed to make the organization stronger and more effective. By joining MCLU, a person automatically becomes a member of the American Civil Liberties Union. A regular membership costs \$20. A \$5 membership is available to people with low income and to students. For more information on the teachers workshops or to join-- Maine Civil Liberties Union, 97A Exchange St., Portland 04101, 774-5444.

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TOTALS

lee sharkey (poetry), Richie Slamm (sax) and Alma-Yoray (dance) have combined forces to create TOTUS, an exciting performance group. Billed as "Improvisational Ensemble", TOTUS is available for bookings. Contact lee sharkey, RFD 4, Box 3460, Skowhegan 04976.

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Workshops are scheduled for March 6 at New Day School, Readfield and Mar. 9 at The School Around Us in Arundel (they do sessions in public schools also). To arrange a workshop in your area: Betty Wurtz, Box 532, New Gloucester 04260, 926-4343.

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For more on how to use computers for social change: ESP, Box 93, Unity 04988, 568-3112 or Ron Schlegel, New Life Foundation, RFD 2 Box 330, Brooks 04921, 722-3655.

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DISPLACED Homemakers Project

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The Displaced Homemakers Project is an advocacy organization aimed at helping individuals who have been primarily homemakers or in other unpaid professions, and who find themselves entering the job market, perhaps for the first time in their lives.

These people are often unprepared to present themselves to a potential employer because of lack of job skills, or especially, lack of job searching skills. Many displaced homemakers have skills that they do not recognize. They have been providing services for years, but are ineligible for unemployment benefits when circumstances force them to become income earners.

Gilda Narone, Project Director in Augusta states that the aim of the program is to "help women build self-confidence about what they can do and to help them become economically self-sufficient".

The Displaced Homemakers Project began as a legislative act in Calif. in 1975 to provide job training and career education for those in need of the service. The idea expanded into several states and was first funded in Maine in 1978. Though the legislature did not continue funding in 1979, the Project continued with the help of CETA funds for staff positions, Federal dollars, and support from the Univ. of Me. system. The Project has grown to serve over 1400 people in the state and resource centers are now available in Augusta, Lewiston/Auburn, Bangor, Bath/Brunswick, and Farmington.

The Maine Project focuses on job development and assisting with transition into the job market, though they also address personal needs. Attention is given to help organize peer support groups, referral to community resources (legal, housing), and follow-up support and advocacy. Workshops have been offered in such diverse areas as car mechanics and house maintenance; things not exactly job related, but they are people oriented.

For job development, the Project offers a pre-vocational training program which covers career exploration, educational options, assertiveness training, and resume writing. The exact length and time of the pre-vocational program varies at each center, so potential participants must contact the Project center in their area.

All services are confidential and free. The Project also offers information and referral to persons who are not displaced homemakers. Men are welcome to use the service, though most clients have been women.

The women's movement has had a startling impact on displaced homemakers. Many clients are now aware of the ramifications of legal and social rights that have been gained in a struggle that they perhaps did not understand or support.

In Maine, the Project is interested and involved in legislative action and works closely with the Maine Women's Lobby.

Staff members are also working with the Feminist Spiritual Community in Portland on a schedule of spring workshops and presentations dealing with feminist spirituality and politics. (More about these in next month's newsletter.)

Staff members and participants are available to speak about the Project to community groups and agencies. Various resource materials, including two half-hour video tapes, "Profiles of Displaced Homemakers in Maine" and "Making Changes: Women Become Breadwinners" are accessible for distribution.

Following is a list of phone #'s and locations for the Project in Maine:

Stoddard House, UMA, Augusta 04330
1-800-452-1947 ext. 334 (Statewide)
622-7131 ext. 334 (Augusta)
872-9482 Everywoman's Center, Waterville
442-7070 Bath office, UMA
645-4931 F.C.C.A.C. Farmington area
784-7366 Lewiston/ Auburn Center, UMA
947-0895 Bangor Community College
1-800-452-4630 Career Resource Center/
EIC Hotline.

BILLS, BILLS

The State Legislature will be in session throughout March, and a number of bills still remain to be acted on. Here are a few that readers might like to contact their representatives and/or senators about. You can write them or call the statehouse at 800-452-4601 to let them know how you feel. The same number will give you the status of the bill (whether it is in committee, when hearings will be, when voted on, etc.)

One of the most important bills in this session is L. D. 1970, to prevent money from being taken out of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program to be used by other programs, because of federal cutbacks. This would establish AFDC payments, already less than 3/4 of the 1973 standard of need, as a priority for continued funding. Pine Tree Legal Assistance (Box 2429, Augusta, 622-4731) is leading the fight for passage.

PEST (Box 74-1, Steuben 04680, 546-7293) is mobilizing opposition to L. D. 1723, which would allow conflicts of interest on the Pesticide Control Board, allowing members to vote on matters in which they are affected. Since board members include a spray pilot, a farmer, and a paper company executive, such conflicts are inevitable.

Friends of the Earth (Box 2614, Augusta, 737-2775) urges opposition to L. D. 1968, An Act to Provide for Matching Funds for Gypsy Moth Control. Any money spent for Gypsy Moth spraying is wasted and dangerous, they say, especially when the state of Maine pays half.

L. D. 1621, to put 2/3 of mining taxation revenue into a trust fund for land acquisition for parks, wildlife, and restoration of water resources is being supported by the Natural Resources Council (271 State St., Augusta, 622-3101).

Peter Kellman (ACTWU, 142 High St., Portland, 775-4309) is seeking support for L. D. 1844, to prohibit utilities from including uncompleted construction costs in their rates. A specific case involves Maine Public Service trying to charge Aroostook ratepayers for its share in the Seabrook plant.

All bills are in committee or soon will be and voted on in March, so quick action is important.

NO TITLE!

Politicians are gearing up for another big season, starting with local party caucuses and party platforms. A first draft of the Democratic platform is out and is open to amending. This will be done at area platform hearings on March 6 (Lewiston, 10AM, Portland, 2 PM) and March 7 (Sanford, Madawaska, Rockland, Bangor, Augusta--all 2 PM). Subject areas include Education/Culture, Finances and Foreign/Defense Policy, Justice/Equal Rights, Labor/Employment, and Agriculture, Energy, and Natural Resources.

While there are progressive parts, such as support for a 5-year phaseout of Maine Yankee and opposition to gypsy moth spraying, there is no mention of a nuclear weapons freeze, rights for lesbians and gaymen, or action on El Salvador. To attend a local hearing on March 6-7, contact the Democratic State Committee, 2 Central Plaza, Augusta, 622-6233 or platform committee chair Arthur Lerman, Box 1215, N. Whitefield 04353 for locations. For strategy on the platform and convention, write to inside agitator/delegate Peter Devine, Box 113, Mt. Vernon 04352.

The 1982 Republican platform is not yet out, but meetings are being held in March (many times and places not yet settled), with a state meeting on April 30-May. Much needs to be done with it to make it a progressive document. Ed Batal, Republican State Committee, 51 Chapel, Augusta 622-6247 is the platform chair.

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Ever want to borrow something out of this newsletter to put in you own group's newsletter? Go ahead, since there is no copyright on this information. Some designation that the info came from this newsletter would be appreciated.

A few of you have a (*) in front of your name on the address label. That means you indicated that you did not want your name given out for other mailings. If you feel that way but don't have a (*) or vice versa, let us know. The 0 and 1 on your label means you sent in a subscription form in 1980 and/or 1981. (We'll add the 1982 subscribers later this year.) If you have a C, it means complimentary, but we would like to hear from you. Please respond, so we know you're actually utilizing the MSN.

KHADI WORLD...SPECIAL DELIVERY

More good hands-on information is available from the Winter issue of Khadi World. Among the articles are "Feeding the crops--Green Manures" and "Save Your Own Seed." "The Gene Crisis" discusses the importance of a diversity of Garden seed varieties in maintaining necessary food supplies for different parts of the globe.

In between lines of tips and information on self-sufficiency are editorial thoughts about simple living and veganism (non-dairy vegetarianism). Subscriptions to Khadi World are \$2.40/year, more or less, or look for copies in food coops, health food stores, or libraries. Write: Khadi-ghar, Box 1167, Farmington 04938.

SPRING MEETING

The Maine Holistic Health Network has an upcoming membership meeting on Sat., Mar. 6, 1-8 PM at the Clover Living Center, 440 Minot Ave., Auburn. Time has been planned for small group work, individual presentations, food sharing, committee meetings, and caring and sharing (dealing with issues of structure, hierarchy, and authority.)

Cost to non-members is \$3, members free. Pre-arranged child care will be provided without cost. Contact Susan Frazier, 5 Teran St., Gorham 04038, 839-6828.

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Moose Produce is once again offering farmers and gardeners in Maine and New England the opportunity to buy sets and tuberous seed through the coop system. Artichokes and potatoes are direct from the growers. The artichokes are organically grown. The ten varieties of potatoes are all Maine certified seed. Onion sets are from Johnny's Selected Seeds of Albion.

Seeds will be delivered during the first two weeks of April. Orders can be called in on Thursday mornings, Mar. 18 and 25, to 873-7611, included with your regular cheese/produce order or sent to Moose Seeds, Box 1010, Dixmont 04932 by March 20.

Delivery is generally via coop or coop warehouse; other arrangements can also be made.

Fedco Seeds (vegetable, herb, and flower seeds) has processed its main order and is now in the process of selling surplus seed. Bulk prices are available where there is sufficient seed. For more information or order sheets, contact Fedco Seeds, 52 Mayflower Hill Dr., Waterville 04901 or call their warehouse until mid-March at 872-7386 (ask for Gavin).

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"Curb your dogma"--bumper sticker

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

Mar. 1 (next 7 Mondays)--Great Decisions
in Brunswick (3)

Mar. 2-4--Films by independent Maine film-makers (Deep Trout, Orisun Omi, Graceland Gatewalk), 7 PM, Railroad Square Cinema, Burger King Blvd., Waterville, 873-6526.

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31--El Salvador protests in Ellsworth (3)

Mar. 4--"Cogeneration--Energy Opportunities for the 1980's" conference, So. Me. Vocational Tech. Institute, (S. Portland), \$30, Office of Energy Resources, State House, Augusta 04333, 289-3811.

Mar. 4, 11--World Hunger film series, "Malnutrition in the Third World" and "Hamburger USA," Noon, Mem. Union, UMO, Orono. Deb Bridge, 67 Mill St., Orono, 866-5613.

Mar. 5--"Harlan County USA" at HOME Coop
Learning Center, Box 408, Orland, 469-7961.

[illegible]

April 3--Pension fund conference in Aug. (2)

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