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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 61 (March 1985)

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Number 61

"All the News that Fits to Print"

March 1985

• A NO-LEMON PLEDGE •

The Pledge of Resistance continues to gather signatures (over 300 in Maine so far) of people committed to legal protest or civil disobedience in the event of a US escalation or invasion of Nicaragua or El Salvador.

Nonviolence training sessions continue for people who have signed the pledge or are considering signing it. Those scheduled for March are:

Mar. 3--Old South Cong. Church, Farmington, 12-9, call 778-9341, 293-2390.
Mar 10 (tent.)--Waterville, call 873-2540.

Mar. 16--Universalist Church, Rockland, 10-6, call 594-7597.

Mar. 30 (tent.)--St. Vincent de Paul Rectory, Bucksport, call 469-2144.

To schedule a training session in your area: Jim Donovan, 772-0714 or Larry Dansinger, 827-3107.

And on Mar. 23 pledge signers and supporters in Portland will march in the afternoon from Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., to the Federal Building. Several noted Portland area people will publicly sign pledges, and Lila Balch (a native of El Salvador) and Rep. Polly Reeves will speak. There will also be "peace maneuvers" in Deering Oaks, Latin music, and a fundraising dinner back at the church at 5 PM. Contact Jane Crosby, 184 Clark St., Portland 04102, 879-0171 for details.

As part of the Pledge of Resistance to an escalation of US intervention in Central America, the Bucksport Area

• HISTORY / HER-STORY •

The University of Maine, Augusta, will have a full-blown celebration of Women's History Week (including International Women's Day, Mar. 8), March 3-9, beginning with Lois Carson, talking about the role of black women in America, Mar. 3, and culminating with speakers, a panel, and an information fair on Sat., Mar. 9.

Carson, a delegate to the UN conference on Women and a leader of women's right issues in California, will speak at 7 PM in UMA's Jewett Hall. The college will host a film festival of classics such as "Union Maids," "Ain't Nobody's Baby," and "Miles to Go" during the week. And on Friday the 8th a Heroine's Ball will be held at the Augusta Holiday Inn, with guests urged to dress as their favorite heroine of history.

Author Ethel Klein (Gender Politics) will keynote Saturday's events at 10 AM. A panel discussing "Women in Politics," awards to essay contest winners, and an information fair of women's groups, books, and businesses will be offered until 3 PM. (Cont. on P. 12) *****

Peace Action Committee will hold a pledge-signing party on Sat., Mar. 2 (snow date: Mar. 3), 7 PM at the Public Safety Building in Bucksport. Revs. Fran Truitt and Bob Bonthius of Hancock, both heavily involved in promoting the pledge locally and nationally, will speak. Jim Gower will show a film on Nicaragua. And there will be food, music, dancing, and other fun to boot. Come join the fun or contact Elaine Hewes, PO Box 115, Blue Hill 04614, 469-2144 for details.

LEARNING TOLERANCE THE HARD WAY (2)

David Solmitz has been in hot water for his unique, effective teaching methods at Madison High School before. But his efforts to bring Tolerance Day to the school has put him in the center of a controversy, along with Dale McCormick of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, whose proposed speaking as part of the day caused school authorities to cancel the whole program. Tolerance Day has come to symbolize not tolerance but hate for lesbians and gay men and unwillingness of school officials to support freedom of speech or expression in their schools.

A law suit will be presented to the Maine Supreme Court soon and an amicus brief (friend of the court statement) is being requested of various groups in the state. If your group would like to contribute a statement of support for Solmitz-McCormick in this case, contact lawyer Jed Davis, 86 Winthrop St., Augusta 04330, 622-6339 by Mar. 5. With many elections of school officials in March, perhaps a willingness to tolerate tolerance could (and should) be an issue in elections.

Although the Maine Civil Liberties Union will support and finance this case, contributions for the defense of Tolerance Day will be gratefully accepted. Send them to: MCLU, 97A Exchange St., Portland 04101, 774-5444.

Finally, David Solmitz will be happy to talk with other groups about how to organize a Tolerance Day for their area. He is already in touch with a group in Dexter and is glad to work with other groups in planning similar events. Contact: David Solmitz, PO Box 346, Readfield 04355, 685-9323.

To book Dale McCormick for a speech: MLGPA, PO Box 108, Yarmouth 04096.

March Button Special--"Employ People Not Poisons--Don't Spray Me!" from PEST (Protect Our Environment from Sprayed Toxins, Milbridge 04658, \$1 or 3/\$2.50 (2" in diameter).

(Continued from P. 1)

Carol Young chairs this celebration. Write: University Heights, UMA, Augusta 04330 or call 622-7131 x332.

The week and day will also be celebrated in Portland with "War, Peace, and Feminism" on Mar. 8, 4 PM at USM, Portland (Moot Court Room, Law School).

Irmgard Leihan, a feminist and member of West Germany's Green Party, will speak on this subject, followed by a response from USM faculty members representing anthropology, history, and sociology. Comments and questions from the audience will also be encouraged. A dinner celebration will follow about 6 PM at the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. For missing details: Judy Tizon at USM, 780-5320.

And at UMO, Orono, there will be speakers on army wives and Native American women (Mar. 5), Canadian and Irish women (Mar. 6), "Rosie the Riveter" (Mar. 7), and a unique Women's Coffeehouse, "Women's Voices," 7:30-9 PM on Mon., Mar. 4 in the Damn Yankee Room, Memorial Union, with readings and music by/about women. All events are free. Contact Women in Curriculum, 581-1226.

A similar pattern of films, workshops, etc. will also be presented at Bates, Bowdoin, and Colby Colleges. Space is short, so to get a schedule of events for each location: Betsy Klebanoff, Box 360 Bates Col., Lewiston 04240, 782-4681; Bowdoin Women's Center, 30 College St., Brunswick 04011, 725-8731 x620; or Jane Moss, Women's Studies, Colby Col., Waterville 04901, 872-3151.

ORGANIZE NOW!

NOW (National Organization for Women) members in York County, where are you? "Women NOW" will be shown on Thurs., Feb. 28, 7:30 PM at the Ross Community Center, Jefferson/Adams Sts., Biddeford, so you'll come out and help re-organize York County NOW. So, help get York County NOW back on its feet by coming with ideas of issues to tackle or projects to start. And, if you can't make it but want to be involved? Then get in touch with Chris Rusnov, 80 Revere St., Portland 04103, 775-5605.

SAY "NO" TO APARTHEID

With recent arrests of people in Washington, DC and the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, interest in challenging the racist apartheid system in South Africa is increasing. In response, a new grassroots group has formed in Maine, MPOSA, the Maine Project on Southern Africa. (3)

MPOSA's first three projects are:

- (1) An "emergency campaign" to make Mainers aware that Maine Yankee is importing South African uranium.
- (2) A "bank campaign" to publicize the role of banks, especially Citibank (Port. area) and Casco Northern (part of the Bank of Boston) in lending money to support the government and banks of South Africa.
- (3) Support for Rep. Harlan Baker's bill to divest state pension money investments from companies or banks operating in or having branches in S. Africa or Namibia.

MPOSA also has a 55 min. videotaped "Interview with Bishop Desmond Tutu" (thru March) and will be bringing "Challenges for Justice," an interview with another noted apartheid critic, Allan Boesak, to Maine in April. They are also promoting local activities in conjunction with the National Action on South Africa, Mar. 21- April 4.

MPOSA now has regular meetings-- every other Thurs. (Mar. 7 and 21), 6 PM (bag supper) at Woodfords Cong. Church, 202 Woodfords, Portland. To schedule these tapes or a speaker on this crucial issue: Ivan Suzman, MPOSA, 105 Pine St. #3, Portland 04102, 774-9833.

CENTRAL AMERICA COMES TO BRUNSWICK

As mentioned in Feb., Bowdoin College in Brunswick will have several forums on Central America, culminating with events on Mar. 1-2. The opening panel on Mar. 1 (7 PM, Smith Auditorium) will be a round robin of views on "U.S. Policy Options in Central America."

There will also be two panels on Sat. Mar. 2 in Daggett Lounge. "An Imported Revolution?" will go from 10 AM to about noon, followed at 2 PM by "Prospects for a Peaceful Solution." Audience involvement in all events will be encouraged.

In cooperation with Bowdoin, "A Peasant of El Salvador," a play created and performed by Peter Gould and Stephen Stearns, will be presented at Mt. Ararat H.S. in Topsham on Sat., Mar. 2 at 8 PM. Several mid-coast peace and justice groups will sponsor this event.

"Peasant" has been called "the best night of theater I have ever seen for a decade," "powerful and enlightening theater," and "the best off-Broadway theater I've ever seen." Tickets are \$5 (\$3 for students and seniors), available at MacBeans and Gulf of Maine Books in Brunswick, the Grainery in Bath, or from Mid-coast CASA, c/o Selma Sternlieb, 21 McKen St., Brunswick 04011. For details call 725-7675.

Finally, "When the Mountains Tremble," about a Guatemalan Indian woman and her (and all of Guatemala's poor people) struggle against the tyranny of the government, will be shown on Wed., Mar. 6, 7 PM in Kresge Auditorium. For more details on these events: Kris Jones, History Dept., Bowdoin Col., Brunswick 04011, 725-8731.

BRING YOUR DANCIN' SHOES

A chemical-free place for women to dance has been discovered by Ginny LaCrow. It's the Portland Friends Meetinghouse, 1837 Forest Ave., and they are now holding dances there once each month on a Saturday night. (Mar. 16, 9-midnight is the next one.)

Music styles vary (bring dance tapes). Costs are not rigid; give a donation. Sound equipment is needed, as are organizers, publicizers, and refreshment providers. If you can help or have ?, call 799-3977.

* * * * *

"Many of us are more capable than some of us, but none of us are as capable as all of us." Ziggy

• GIVE CREDIT TO FARMERS •

(4)

There's still snow on the ground, but it's not too early to think not only about ordering garden seeds but also planting them. It's also a time when some people are looking for farm/garden experience while others are in need of help with their ag. operations. The MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assn.) Apprenticeship Placement Service matches those with willing hands and mind with those willing to help educate in exchange for labor. Are you in either of these categories?

Some examples of placements are: an herb farm, a backwoods homestead, a sheep farm, a farm using draft horses, a large organic vegetable farm, and a diversified farm (animals, vegetables, cider/sugar, etc). Other than the application fees (\$12 for apprentices, \$20-30 for farmers), all arrangements are through the barter of work for education, food, lodging, and occasionally a small wage.

Both farmers/gardeners and apprentices should fill out an application indicating their interests and needs. MOFGA tries to match up applicants and sends several potential farmers to each apprentice and several apprentices to each farmer. Applicants then contact each other and work out an arrangement with one. For an application form: MOFGA Apprenticeship, po Box 2176, Augusta 04330 or call Barbara Eggert, 469-7519.

NUTS TO YOU (AND FRUIT TREES, TOO)

Are you a fruit buff? How about nuts? The third annual Scion Wood Exchange, sponsored by the Maine Tree Crop Alliance (MTCA), will take place on Sun., Mar. 31, 12-5 PM at Unity Col., Unity.

Older varieties of fruit and nut trees will be available, and knowledgeable tree nuts will show you how to graft older fruit varieties to save them from extinction. "Nuts, seeds, and maybe fruitcake too" promises MTCA's fruity Jack Kertesz. A slide show on Maine's tree crops will also be shown.

For details: MTCA c/o E.S. Center, Unity Col., Unity 04988, or call Chris Marshall, 589-4632. "A rare occasion devoted to rare fruit and rare people."

• SPUDS, SETS, CHOKES, CROWNS •

In December it was Fedco Seeds, then OGSi last month (soil amendments), and now it's Moose Tubers--onion sets, 14 varieties of potato seed, asparagus, and Jerusalem artichokes.

Moose Tubers has traditional potato varieties like Kennebec (organic) and Katahdin, old varieties like Irish Cobbler and Green Mountain, plus russets, red, and new yellow varieties. Prices range from \$8-11/50#. Onions (highly recommended) are imported through Johnny's Selected Seeds of Albion (\$7/5#, \$30/30#). Chokes and asparagus crowns are also available.

Order sheets are available in any quantity from Moose Tubers, Box 1010, Dixmont 04932, 257-3943. Deadline for mailing or call-ins is Mar. 19 (call 7-7 that day). Deliveries will be via Fedco Warehouse trucks, directly by Moose, or picked up at the Fedco Warehouse in Winslow beginning the week of Ap. 22. "Make Sure with Maine Seed."

• NO WAY, BIG A? •

Should the Big A (which stands for Ambejackmockamus--no wonder it's Big A) Dam be built? Great Northern Paper thinks so, but environmental groups like Maine Audubon and the Natural Resources Council of Maine think there are alternative forms of electricity generation for Great Northern besides damming up about 750-850 acres of the West Branch of the Penobscot River.

A letter-writing campaign has been initiated by Audubon to show opposition to the dam from the people of Maine. What does the river and its changes as a result of damming mean to you? Send letters to Kenneth Plumb, Sec., Fed. Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 N. Capitol St. #9310, Washington, DC 20426, Re: Big "A" Hydro Project #3779.

Letters are also urged to Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission, State House Station 22, Augusta 04333. A public hearing on the dam is scheduled for April. For more on this campaign: Maine Audubon, 118 Old Rt. One, Falmouth 04105, 781-2330.

"You have to be prepared to die before you can begin to live."--Fred Shuttlesworth

• DON'T PASTA THIS ONE UP •

Sister Jeanne Gallo of the Catholic Connection in Boston has been a frequent visitor to Central America and an even more frequent critic of US foreign policy in the area. She will be the featured speaker at the Seventh Annual Spaghetti Supper sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, to be held beginning at 6 PM on Friday, March 8 at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St., Portland.

Besides Gallo, who will talk on US involvement and on the "Deadly Connection" between foreign policy and the arms race, the supper will feature Andean (Latin) music by Augusto and Juan, another Nobel Peace Prize, and lots of books, buttons, stickers, and literature.

Spaghetti (meatless or meat), salad, garlic bread, and homemade desserts are available for \$5/adults, \$2.50/kids. Kitchen help, as always, is needed. To join the crew for cooking, serving, or cleanup, or to help publicize, contact AFSC, PO Box 10117, Portland 04104, 772-0680.

• VETS: ALIVE AND WELL •

The Vietnam Veterans of America are alive and well and living in Maine. Formed nationally in 1978 primarily as a lobbying group, the VVA has worked in and outside of Congress for the rights of Vietnam military vets.

The VVA concentrates on legislative issues, claiming victories on health care for victims of Agent Orange and, in some cases, state regulations for its victims, the establishment of Vets Centers in Maine and other states, and job training programs for vets. Issues such as compensation for Agent Orange victims, more job training, psychological support, and Veteran Administration policies are future issues. The VVA's positions on many issues are progressive, such as human rights, economic justice, foreign policy, and the "children of war"

There is one VVA chapter starting in the Bangor area. Contact: Bob Whelan, PO Box 8, Surry 04684, 667-5085. Their next meeting will be Mar. 27 (tent.), EMVTI, Room L-106, 7 PM.

⑤ WANTED: CREATIVE TAX PAYERS/REFUSERS

The War Tax Resistance Resource Center would like to hear from people who will be owing money to IRS for 1984's taxes and would like to offer payment under protest in a dramatic fashion. For example: offering food to IRS instead of money, offering coins covered with blood, paying money to your congresspeople and asking them to use their own consciences to decide where to send it, agreeing to pay only after your congressperson and/or IRS signs an agreement not to use the money for military purposes, etc. (Other ideas welcome! If such payment is refused, the individual can decide whether to pay IRS in a more conventional fashion or to redirect their tax money to an alternative fund or organization.

And such a fund (The Maine War Taxes for Life Fund) will be set up at a meeting on Mar. 2 in Augusta (St. Mary's Credit Union, 41 Western Ave., 10-4). Military tax resisters will also discuss local actions for April 16 and the beginning of a symbolic resistance campaign of people refusing \$10.40 or more of their taxes. For info on the fund, the symbolic campaign, and also to volunteer to do a creative tax payment/refusal, contact: WTR Resource Center, 11 Old Mill Rd., Orono 04473, 827-3107.

♪ HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SWINGING? ♪

Swing into spring, dance till dawn, or enjoy the equinox. Call it what you like, but don't miss the third annual all-night contradance, 8:30-dawn beginning Sat., Mar. 30 at the Liberty Community Hall (just down the hill from Liberty Village and Rt. 173).

The dance costs \$5 (all night!) and again will benefit the Maine Nuclear Freeze Campaign and Clergy and Laity Concerned, two groups working for peace and justice in Maine. The dance will again be followed by a delicious pancake/scrambled eggs breakfast (\$2.75) beginning about 6 AM. Various bands will play; all dances will be taught, so veteran and novice alike can enjoy. For more information: 743-9252, 743-9074, or 827-3107. Swing that partner!

* * *

"I always love my enemies, because it makes them mad as hell."

CHANGE YOURSELF, CHANGE THE WORLD!

The "personal growth" capital of New England probably isn't Portland, but the area does offer a number of opportunities for people who are looking to make special changes or increased fulfillments in their own lives (and maybe those of others with whom they come in contact). For example:

⑥

First, the slightly more traditional. How about macrobiotic cooking, with Gina Miller? Although a series of classes has begun, you can attend individual sessions on March 5 and/or 12, 6-8:30 PM, or Mar. 7 and/or 14, 10AM-12:30 PM (\$12/class). Is a macrobiotic diet a way to better health and inner peace? Find out from Gina Miller, 4 Poe St., Portland 04102, 773-0067.

Or, there's massage, taught by Ann Regan Hand at the Williston Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland. She's offering a one-day workshop on "Massage as a Healing Art" (Mar. 30, 10-5) and "Head, Neck, and Shoulders" on Fri., Mar. 15, 6-9 PM. Costs are \$12-30. Besides the good feelings massage provides, it may help one's circulation, provide relaxation, release tension, and increase muscle flexibility. Preregistration is important, so write Holistic Massage, PO Box 8528, Portland 04104 or call 799-2481.

Massage Therapy is also available from Linden Thigpen, (781-2850) or Rose Kaimana (772-1216), and many others, so check out their offerings, too. Or, in the Portsmouth area, there are programs on Mar. 4 or 11 (also Shiatsu massage on Mar. 2), so call 363-7587 for details. Or in Newcastle call 563-8502 (Mar. 6, 7-9 PM). And there's the Om Shanti Janaki Wellness Center in Lewiston (782-1211), Fran Szostek in Bryant Pond (PO Box 341 or call 395-4726), Don Kauber in Hiram (625-8478-- see Mar. 23 calendar item).....

Oops, this is supposed to be a review of the Portland area. Sorry. The Yoga Center, PO Box 1243, Portland 04104, 773-6340, has regular classes plus spe-

cial workshops, such as one on Mar. 9 with Bob Johnson on Yoga, therapeutic touch, imagery, and healing. The cost is \$1 plus purchase of Shaklee products. The workshop goes 9-1 at Williston Church, 32 Thomas, Portland. Regular classes include several kinds of yoga plus T'ai Chi Chuan.

Now, for a few more exotic possibilities, there is meditation, with Jack McCall (143 State St., Portland 04101, 774-8570), which includes a 9-week course beginning Feb. 25 (maybe you can catch the other 8). Or try the Feldenkrais Method of personal "awareness through movement," taught by Marilyn Hardy (767-3909) or Reiki Body Healing by Susan Montgomery (772-9705).

If you are interested in astrology, Philip Levine offers classes and a special seminar on "Astrology and the Helping Professions" on March 23, 1-5 (\$10) to show the uses of astrology in counseling and therapy. For details: Philip Levine, 338 Fore St., Portland 04101, 892-5029. David or Connie Cook, 291 Pool St., Biddeford 04005, 282-7749 offer astrological counseling in York Co.

There are "centers" for holistic health and personal growth in various southern Maine areas. One in Portland is the Holistic Center, 111 Wescott Rd., S. Portland 04106, 775-6306, which concentrates on holistic and women's health. Chrysalis, PO Box 647, York 03909, 363-7587, specializes in massage, rebirthing, and personal therapy and change (see Game of Life article on P. 9). Om Shanti Janaki Wellness Center, 272 Sabattus, Lewiston 04240, 782-1211, focuses more on holistic health-- stress, biofeedback, counseling, yoga, nutrition, and hypnosis. Finally, the Bath-Newcastle Holistic Center offers programs such as meditation, rebirthing, massage, color therapy, and reiki healing. They have March programs on "Reflexology" (16th) and "Past Lives Therapy" (23rd). Write PO Box 533, Newcastle 04553 or call 563-8502 or 442-7090. Whew!!

LOBBYIST'S GUIDE # 112

Maine's 112th legislature is now in session, doing its best to make sure the paper industry doesn't go out of business. Since many of you asked for legislative coverage on the Feedback section of your MSN sub forms (we do read them), MSN recently visited Augusta to pick up a stack of proposed bills and consult with several public interest groups about upcoming legislation.

Every bill is assigned a Legislative Document (LD) number. At this point, many bills are still in the pre-LD stage. Where we have LD numbers, we'll pass them along. Copies of bills are available from: Ed Pert, Clerk, House of Representatives, Augusta 04333 or from many public and all county courthouse libraries in Maine.

For basic information on any bill (number, sponsor, or scheduled hearings), call 289-3021. You may also call toll-free to leave a message ("support LD _____" or leave name and number and they'll call back) for your local representative (800-423-2900) or senator (800-423-6900). It's easy to lobby by phone.

As usual, environmental issues loom large on the legislative agenda. One of the most vexing is acid rain. Maine's Dept. of Environmental Protection has proposed a bill (LD 317) that makes no provision for definite reductions of sulfur dioxide emissions from sources within the state. For this reason the Natural Resources Council of Maine has opposed the bill and will propose an alternative.

Another proposal of concern to environmental groups is LD 286, which would establish emergency forest districts. It would provide assistance to landowners through research, demonstration projects, and investment tax incentives. The hitch is that tax credits could be taken for herbicide use--an indirect state subsidy for spruce budworm spraying.

Other bills of environmental interest:
**LD 124: appropriating funds for a registry of critical areas;
**LD 176: establishing an experimental black fly control program (using pesticide "abate" in northern Maine towns)
**LD 264: extending the operation of the Low-Level Waste Siting Commission

and Fund, which expires Dec. 31, 1985;

⑦

The Maine People's Alliance (MPA), which works on utility and consumer issues, has several bills in the works. Two deal with cancelled utility plants, and are designed to help tie up the tangle of financial loose ends left if (when) Seabrook finally bites the dust. One would prohibit the pass-through to ratepayers of the costs of cancelled plants. If this bill fails, a backup provides ratepayers with some relief (ex: shares of stock to a ratepayer trust), on the grounds that if the customers contribute toward the cost of a plant they are making an investment in the company, not merely paying for services.

MPA is also trying to stop the phone company from instituting local measured service (no LD's on any of these yet).

Some alert consumers may feel that tobacco smoke is a substance of which they decline to partake, even for free. They should take note of LD 133, which would prohibit smoking in most retail stores (hearing Mar. 6).

In recent years tax revolts have called into question that old adage "death and taxes ye have always with you." So far no one has found a way to repeal mortality. But LD 26 makes at least the economic pain of death easier to bear by authorizing family members to bury their own dead (or request others to do so for them) without having to involve a funeral director (hearing in late Jan., up for a vote soon).

Low-income groups are backing several bills this session. One would increase benefits for AFDC recipients by a much-needed 10%. Another would amend the provisions of the general assistance program so that transportation, where necessary for medical or employment reasons, is included in the official list of "basic necessities."

About 3,000 Maine workers--mostly in the shoe industry--are eligible for benefits under the Federal Trade Act of 1974. The FTA provides job search, training, and relocation assistance for those whose jobs have moved overseas. It also furnishes a supplementary financial allowance for such workers (cont. on P. 8)

(Cont. from P. 7) who have exhausted their unemployment benefits. Many workers now fail to take advantage of these provisions because of ignorance or bureaucratic confusion. "An Act to Assist Workers Displaced for Employment by Imports" seeks to improve notification procedures and rewrite administrative guidelines to make it easier for displaced workers to secure benefits to which they are entitled. (MAIN-PTL)

Rep. Harlan Baker's bill to divest state money from banks/companies doing business in South Africa has a hearing tentatively on Mar. 19, 1 PM. Grass-roots lobbying for LD 488 of legislators will be necessary for this bill to succeed. Contact MPOSA to help.

Common Cause will be watching several bills which may limit or inhibit voter registration. Also, this will be a big year for tax reform/economic development legislation (who gets tax breaks and who doesn't, whether industries get bailed out or not). None of the bills are printed yet, so more next month. (CC)

The Maine Civil Liberties Union is promoting "An Act Making Mandatory Certain Discretionary Powers of the Commissioner of Corrections," which would force the Commissioner to utilize more rehabilitation programs and alternatives to incarceration (no LD number yet). (MCLU)

The Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition, a coalition of 17 groups concerned with women's issues, is gearing up for what may be a well-financed and well-organized assault on women's right to choose on the matter of abortion. Meanwhile, WLAC has come up with a legislative program of its own, emphasizing economic equality, equal rights in the workplace, and equality and safety in the home.

Only a few of these bills have been published as we go to press so far:
**LD 69: requiring small businesses which provide other medical benefits to provide benefits for pregnancy.
**LD 72: removing the exception to the Maine Human Rights Act which makes lawful maximum age restrictions on apprenticeship programs.

8

**LDs 112 and 120: increasing criminal penalties for incest.

Recent events of Tolerance Day cancellation (article on P. 2) and the death of gay man Charles Howard has shown the need for human rights legislation protecting lesbians and gay men. The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance will spearhead this bill (no LD number yet).

LD 39 (which had a hearing in late Jan. and will be up for a vote soon) seeks to deny economic benefits (job training or scholarships) to those who have not registered for the draft. No specific group is working on this bill now, although MCLU may be aware of, and opposed to it as presently written.

Your local legislator will send you copies of bills and hearing schedules on request. Why not keep informed? We'll have a more complete list of the bills pending, as well as an update on their status, next month. Meanwhile, some of you may want to contact advocacy groups in your area of special concern. Here are those mentioned so far:

Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM), 271 State St., Augusta 04330, 622-3101.

MPOSA, c/o Ivan Suzman, 105 Pine St., Portland 04102, 774-9833.

MAIN (low-income issues), c/o Pine Tree Legal (PTL), 39 Green St., Augusta 04330, 622-4731.

Maine Civil Liberties Union, 97A Exchange St., Portland 04101, 774-5444.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, POBox 108, Yarmouth 04096, 947-0070 (Marty).

MOFGA Leg. contact: Jeanne Hollingsworth, POBox 380, Rockport 04856.

Maine People's Alliance (MPA), POBox 2490, Augusta 04330, 622-4740.

Maine Women's Lobby (MWL), PO Box 15, Hallowell 04347, 622-5798.

Common Cause, 335 Water St., Augusta 04330, 622-5798.

WATERED DOWN REGULATIONS?

Ninety-eight percent of Maine's rural population relies on groundwater for their drinking water. The Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) has investigated over 200 incidents of leakage from underground petroleum storage tanks and has documented over 100 incidents of water well contamination.

One gallon of gasoline will contaminate nearly one million gallons of groundwater. The cost of cleanup, if possible, is high, and natural purification takes decades. Groundwater needs the best possible protection, even if the cost is high.

The DEP is proposing the following regulations for underground containers:

- New underground containers must be leak-resistant.
- Existing facilities must be monitored for leak detection.
- Abandoned storage tanks must be removed to eliminate the threat to groundwater.

A public hearing will be held Mar. 6 at the Augusta Civic Center, 1-5 PM, and 6:30-9 to comment on these regulations. For those unable to attend, written comments may be sent until Mar. 16:

Henry Warren, DEP Commissioner
State House Station #17
Augusta, Me. 04333

As the saying (slightly altered) goes: "we do not inherit groundwater from our parents, we borrow it from our children."

For more info: Dennis Phillips, RFD 1 Box 2340, New Sharon 04955, 397-3321.

• IN THE CRYSTAL BALL •

- **April 19-22 Four Days in April rally in Washington, DC for a nuclear freeze; no US intervention; jobs, not arms; and end racism/apartheid. Buses from Maine going. Contact Maine Freeze, 772-0680.
- **May 17-19--Maine Lesbian/Gay Symposium XII in Portland. Call GPA, 780-4085.
- **June 15--Fatherhood Forum in South Paris. Ox. Co. Comm. Services, 743-7716.
- **July 21-Aug. 24--Tranet Transnational Retreat in Rangeley. Call 864-2252.

What is Maine Series (One Part of Many)

Maine--"I came, I thawed, I transferred"

BIG BUCKS FOR SMALL IDEAS

MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assn.) is offering a large incentive for people interested in experimenting with organic agricultural projects. They have established a \$10,000 Special Projects Fund to underwrite research, experimentation, and demonstration projects. They'd rather fund many small efforts, they report, rather than a few big ones. So, if you've got a hot idea, contact MOFGA, PO Box 2176, Augusta 04330, 622-3118 before the spring thaw overtakes it.

• LIFE IS A GAME •

Among the unique programs offered by Chrysalis (see article P. 6) is "The Game of Life Workshop," an intensive weekend with a member of the Findhorn Community of Scotland + others. The workshop uses a game board w/5 players and two "guides" which presents players with a greater "clarity, purpose, and wisdom" about their lives.

If it sounds weird or intriguing, Chrysalis has sensibly scheduled a free "demonstration" of what the weekend and game will be like on Wed., Mar. 27, 7-10PM in the York area. Call Pat Warren, 363-3389 (after 5) for details. The game goes for 25 hours between 4 PM Fri. and 4:30 PM Sun., Mar. 29-31. It is open to only 5 players and costs \$250. Will you be one of the select few?

• GOOD ENOUGH •

"Is Good Forestry Good Wildlife Management?" is the question a conference will address in Portland on Mar. 6-8. Sponsored jointly by the Society of American Foresters and the Wildlife Society, the meeting will bring several hundred people from throughout New England together to present ideas, debate, and find common ground on this question.

How does clearcutting affect wildlife? What effects does good management have on potential logging? For details on how these and other questions will be addressed: Mike Dann, Seven Islands Co., PO Box 167, Ashland 04732, 435-6039 or Maine Audubon Society, 781-2330.

Maine--"Closed for glacier repairs"

• MAYERS' MASTERPIECES •

Natasha Mayers will be busy in March with two events and efforts worthy of MSN note:

(1) Her art work will be displayed all of March at Barridorf Galleries, 242 Middle St., Portland under the title, "USA vs. Nicaragua: An Artist's View." Good political art, with an opening on Mar. 1, 5-7 PM and a talk at the Gallery at 7:30 PM on Mar. 4 by Mayers on her recent trip to Nicaragua.

(2) Mayers combines with Mark Melnicove for an unusual 30-minute performance entitled "Red, White & Blue/Red-Black" about U.S. interventionism in Central America. Melnicove does theater/dance while slides of Mayers' work are flashed based on her 3-week tour of Nicaragua. They would like to perform for groups, schools, wherever. Costs are negotiable; make them an offer. Call 729-1322.

(10)

• LEARNING ALTERNATIVES •

The hopes of starting Many Rivers School, an alternative school in Portland have not panned out. But those organizing have switched their focus from a separate school to an alternative learning program within the Portland school system. A similar program in an elementary school in Freeport is being tried, so why not Portland? Can you help? Do you (or will you) have school age children who are searching for an alternative to traditional classroom methods? If so, call Bonnie Blythe at 773-6180 to help out.

Some alternative schools have succeeded, though, including New Country School in Baldwin. All alternative schools need financial help, however, and New Country is no exception, with a wish list of a new roof, a microscope, an encyclopedia set, other equipment, and teacher bonuses (they are paid about 1/2 of what public school teachers get and no \$2,000 bonus). If you're looking for a tax-deductible donation, contact New Country School, W. Baldwin 04091, 625-4962.

• "PERSONALS" SUCCESSIONS •

It looks like our "Personals" experiment will die, fortunately. One personal was sent in, but it appears we'll never compete with Maine Times or Boston Phoenix. Thanks to those who enjoyed them, sorry to those who didn't, and best wishes to those who continue to seek significant others. Here's that last one:

"If the WASP is a heterosexual male (so?--I'm kinky in my personal life. My politics are okay.) old enough to respect stretch marks I would consider significant otherhood on a part-time basis. I watch the bar scene on my (black and white 12") TV and threw my disco out several years ago while dancing in Cancun. I have never bitten a registered Republican but had an intense spiritual relationship with a bowl of organic cous-cous at the Anarchists' Caucus in 1967 (didn't everyone?).

Divulge my name and I'll have you killed (the most conspicuous form of consumption). Split my wood while I'm on vacation in Martinique. This could be the start of something big. The Blindest Box 110-BIMBO."

Usually we use two staples on this newsletter (one in the upper left corner), but this month only one. Which is better? Your feedback is appreciated.

• ABE WOULD BE PROUD •

The Abraham Lincoln Brigade was Americans who went to Spain in the mid-1930's to fight against Franco, Hitler, and fascism. They were aided by support from US citizens, including medical supplies and an ambulance. Now, veterans of the brigade are collecting money nationally to send an ambulance to the people of Nicaragua.

Roz Hendrickson, whose late husband was a brigade member, is collecting money in Maine for an ambulance. Do you want to ease the medical burden on victims of violence by the "contras" in Nicaragua? The Nicaraguan people need support from the American people, and this is one chance to contribute to counterbalance where government and corporate money is going.

Send checks (made out to Ambulance Fund--Roz Hendrickson) to: Roz Hendrickson, 410 Capisic St., Portland 04102 772-6273.

"Nuclear Weapons--May They Rust in Peace"
--Bumper Sticker

~ MORE CALENDAR EVENTS! ~

- Mar. 7--MPOSA meets in Portland (3) (11) Mar. 19--Divestment hearing in Aug. (8)
- Mar. 7,13--"Interview w/Bishop Tutu" video at Bowdoin (7th, 7 PM) and Colby (13th, 7 PM). Call 774-9833. Mar. 20--"What Soviet Children Are Thinking about Nuclear Weapons" video, Reiche School, Portl, 4:30 PM. Educators for Social Responsibility, 787-2158.
- Mar. 8--AFSC Spaghetti Supper (5) Mar. 21--"The New Family" (nontraditional family structures) workshop, Augusta Civic Center. Family Planning Assn. of Maine, 12 Pike St., Augusta 04330.
- Mar. 10--Maine Civil Liberties Union benefit dinner, Hu Shang Rest., Port., 6:30 PM, \$17. MCLU, 97A Exchange St., Portland 04101, 774-5444. Mar. 22--Folksinger Bill Staines, Moulton Theater, Westbrook Col., Portland, 8 PM, \$5-6. Call 773-9549.
- Mar. 10--"Sexual Secrets: The Alchemy of Ecstasy," First Parish, 425 Congress, Portland, 7 PM, \$2. Call 773-0847. Mar. 23--"Massage: Alchemy for the Self-Being-Whole" workshop w/therapist Don Kauber, Wholistic Center, 111 Wescott, S. Portland 04106, 9-5, \$40. Call Don Kauber, 625-8478.
- Mar. 10--Green Party organizing meeting, Unitarian Ch., Ellsworth, 7 PM. Warren/Toni Brown, Bl. Hill Falls, 374-5248. Mar. 23--Pledge of Resistance in Port. (1)
- Mar. 12-14--"Country," w/Jessica Lange, 7 & 9:15, Railroad Square Cinema, Box 945, Waterville 04901, 873-6526. Mar. 27--VVA meeting in Bangor (5)
- Mar. 13--"Bridges for Peace" w/Jean/Dick Harris, 7:30 PM, Universalist Ch., Rockland. Maine People Concerned, Box 747, Rockland 04841, 594-4675. Mar. 27,29-31--Game of Life (9)
- Mar. 16--Women's dance in Portland (3) Mar. 30--All-night contradance (5)
- Mar. 18--"Without Peace There Can Be No Health: A Report on Health in Nicaragua" w/Dr. Nancy Greenleaf, 3 PM, 410 Luther Bonney, USM. Call 780-4130. Mar. 31--Video of Native American poets, 7:30 PM, Gulf of Maine Books, 61 Maine St., Brunswick 04011, 729-5484.
- Mar. 19--Moose Tubers order deadline (4) Mar. 31--Scion Wood Exchange, Unity (4)
- April 1--Fools Day. Don't believe anything you read in the next newsletter!

MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION/FEEDBACK FORM

Soviets are red, violence is blue
Maine Statewide Newsletter, I love you

Here is my form, here is my money
Will you ever, stop being so punny?

NAME/MAILING ADDRESS _____

Here's (\$4/a donation/moral support now, maybe \$ later--chooose one) _____

I (do/do not) want my name given out to other progressive groups for mailings.

Write a few pros and cons about this newsletter:

Someone else who ought to get a sample copy of MSN is/are:

"Behold the turtle--it makes progress only when it sticks its neck out."

Please return this form to: INVERT (Institute for Nonviolence Education, Research, and Training, PO Box 110, Stillwater, Maine 04489, 827-3107.

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