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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 68 (September 1985)

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Number 68

"All the News That Fits to Print"

September, 1985

The Fruits of Our Labor

A Central American Awareness Day/Labor Day Picnic will be held on Mon. Sept. 2, 10 am to 5 pm at Camp Tanglewood, Lincolnville.

This will be a celebration of the possibility of peace and justice in Central America including music, mime and dance, speakers and slide shows, Latin American style food, and crafts.

Speakers will include Kris Jones, professor of Latin American history, and Bob Bonthius and Fran Truitt of Witness For Peace. Ann and Phil Gagnon, who have just returned from 10 months of peace work in Costa Rica will also speak, as well as Kip Peiney and Robert Mendoza. Performers will include mime artist David Neufeld and local dancer Jimena Lazanski. Guitarist/composer Jim Scott and friends will perform, as well as local musician Sherry Broderick.

Families may wish to bring picnics. This event will take place rain or shine. To reach Camp Tanglewood, turn off Rte 134 mile north of Lincolnville Beach, proceed 1 mile to camp road, well marked. A donation is requested of \$2 per adult. Sponsoring groups include: Mid-Coast Affinity Group against Intervention in Central America, Maine People Concerned, Maine Pax Christi, Maine Coalition for Peace and Justice in Central America. Call Alicia Rouverol for more info., 236-4649.

An Old-Timey Labor Day

An event for the whole family, at Deering Oaks, Portland, on Sept. 2, sponsored by Maine AFL-CIO. The gathering follows a 10 am parade (across Federal and down Congress St.) and includes games, food, dance contest, music and voter registration. Don't miss it!

Bringing Refuge to Maine

A caravan of mostly illegal refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala will be winding its way through many sections of Maine in mid-September to publicize the plight of the thousands of Central American refugees and of American involvement in those war-torn countries. The caravan will feature events in a number of cities from September 14-18, including rallies, religious services, concerts, suppers and testimonies by the refugees themselves about the conditions in those countries.

The caravan will arrive in Portland on Sept. 14 in time for a noon rally and picnic in Tommy's Park (Exchange/Middle Sts.). Emmanuel Baptist Church (Deering and High Sts.) will host a 5:30 pm potluck, followed by an evening program, including testimonies from refugees. They will also appear at Sunday morning religious services at various churches. Sandell Froelicher, 289 State St., Portland 04101, 761-4716 has details.

The fifteen refugees and their entourage will arrive at Bates College in Lewiston about noon on the 15th and will split into three groups. Some will stay at Bates for the afternoon and will discuss conditions in Central America at St. Phillip's Catholic Church, Rte. 4, Auburn at 8 pm. Contact Kevin Simpson, 784-0232 for details.

Others will participate in a parade through Norway-S. Paris, finishing at the Celebration Mime Barn in S. Paris (off Rte. 117). A potluck at 5 and public event at 7 will follow, according to Pam Montanaro (743-2125). Farmington will host some refugees for a lunchtime event, a 5 pm religious service, a potluck supper, and an evening dialogue. Call Al (293-2390) or Jo (778-2021).

The caravan then moves to the Augusta area on Sept. 16, where they will meet with state officials, possibly a school appearance, a

Continued on the next page

"it's like one, big, 3 day HUG"

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So said one participant in the annual Healing Arts Festival. The Festival '85 presented by the Maine Healing Arts Network will take place at Hiawatha in Kezar Falls from Sept. 5-8.

In its 6th year, the Healing Arts Festival is an opportunity to meet and work with many of Maine's healing practitioners. It is also a time to relax, enjoy and share in the experience of community. Music, art and dance have become important aspects of the festival. DO'A World Music Ensemble will present a concert on Sun. Sept. 8 at 2 pm.

Workshops cover a varied spectrum from aura reading to acupuncture, firewalking to tennis, with a day long mountain hike and other special programs.

Cost for the entire weekend including meals, lodging, workshops and concerts is \$175 for adults, \$50 for children (there's a great children's program). Group and family rates are available. Write: The Festival '85, po Box 581, Blue Hill 04614.

In the same vein, on October 11-14, Another Place presents the 11th New England Healing Arts Fair, with a large array of workshops & demonstrations, an opportunity to commune amongst the sun and foliage, and a special Saturday evening concert: "On Wings of Song." Write Another Place Conference Center, Rte 123, Greenville, NH 03048 or call (603) 878-3117.

an autumnfest

Maine Gay Peoples Alliance and Harbour Masters, Inc. are co-sponsoring their second Autumnfest the weekend of Sept. 21-22. Activities include the Autumnfest Classic, a 4-mile walk/run/roll starting 9 am at SMVTI in So. Portland. Registration fee, \$5 in advance, \$6 the day of the A-thon to benefit the Gay Health Action Committee's proposed AIDS hotline.

Sat'dy evenin', the 21st at 7:30 at Verrillo's in Portland will be a dinner for \$17.50 per person. The dinner is to jointly benefit the Maine Health Foundation and the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. Honoured guest will be former Maine State Senate President Gerry Conley.

Come Sunday, from noon till 5 at the USM-Portland's Student Center parking lot, a flea market with many vendors, crafts, food and drink will happen. If rain, all will move inside. For more information contact Laura Smith at the G.P.A. office 780-4085 or write Autumnfest Box 4044, Station A, Portland, 04101, or John Preston at 774-3865.

Also, G.P.A. is looking for people to fill the following positions: Public Relations Specialist, Male Peer Counselor, Female Peer Counselor, and Graphics Artist. The only way to get financial re-imbursement for these jobs is if you are eligible for work-study at U.S.M. Laura Smith is contact person.

potluck (always a potluck) supper at So. Parish Congregational Church, and then a farming out of caravan members to Waterville, N. Whitefield, and possibly Bath, as well as Augusta. Contact Suzanne Hedrick, 11 Coughlin, Augusta 04330, 622-7398 for times and locations.

Bangor-area activities on Sept. 17 include afternoon visits to Indian Island, UMO at Orono, and Bangor locations and a religious service and program at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Outer Ohio St., Bangor. Frank McCarthy, DHRS, 1066 Kenduskeag, Bangor 04401, 947-0507 has all the specifics.

The caravan will finish in the Bucksport-Blue Hill-Ellsworth area on Wed., Sept. 18, beginning with an assembly at Bucksport HS at 10 am, lunches in churches at Bucksport (St. Vincent's), Blue Hill, and Castine (Cong. Church), supper at the Ellsworth Unitarian Church, and finally a procession through town to an evening program hosted by Noel Paul Stookey at the Hancock Co. Auditorium. A pre-caravan showing of "Roses in December" will be held on Sept. 5 at HOME Coop in Orland. Sally Buckwalter, Orland 04472, 469-3471 is coordinating.

The week of focus on Central America will culminate with a rally at noon on Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Common Ground Country Fair in Windsor. Other Sept. 21-24 events are planned in conjunction with a nationwide campaign to publicize the escalating air war in El Salvador. Caravan contacts will know more. Attend a caravan event in your local community.

Don't (S)kill yr Chances

The YWCA of Lewiston & Auburn will hold a conference entitled "Skills for Success," an exploration of leadership techniques on Sat. Sept. 28 at the Multi-Purpose Center, Lewiston, 8:30-4 pm. Registration of \$25 includes lunch; deadline is the 16th. Daycare for children at least 2½ is \$5 per family. Workshop topics include "Games Mother Never Taught Me;" "Love and Work, Finding the Balance;" "Negotiating Skills for Women in the Workplace;" among others.

Keynote speaker Rita Moniz, of the Nat'l YWCA board will be welcomed Friday night by a potluck supper at the YWCA, 248 Turner St, Auburn 04210. Contact Carol Michaud at that address or call 786-0657 for registration materials and more info.

Autumnal Forum on Children

The autumnal forum of the Coalition for Maine's Children will take place Wed. Sept. 18, 9 am-4 pm at the Augusta Civic Center's Fort Western Room in the north wing. Registration is \$30 for non-members, \$25 for all you members out there. Workshops include "Health and Safety," "Child Abuse," "Parent Education," "Upcoming Legislation on Children's Issues," and "Other Policy Issues for the Coalition," "Children's Agenda." The Young People's Theater of Brunswick will present a "student drama." For details: Coalition for Maine's Children, PO Box 5138, Augusta 04330.

HEARINGS from WOMEN

From the Maine Commission for Women's "Inform" newsletter: Public hearings will be held to let people know what the MCW is doing and gather testimony on what are the most vital issues women face: UMPI, Presque Isle Sept. 23, Rockland Oct. 1, Farmington, UMF Oct. 8 and Bangor Oct. 29. Call 289-3417 for times & places.

For those of you looking for jobs, a new brochure entitled "Non-Traditional Occupation" will be ready Sept. 1. Designed as a mailer/poster it includes a "work-place quiz," the positive and negative aspects of non-traditional work, and interviews with 6 Maine women holding non-traditional jobs.

Single copies free from the Maine Commission for Women, Station #93, Augusta 04333. Bulk copy inquiries welcome.

3. Libana at Blueberry Cove

Sing the body electric during a weekend workshop of Balkan singing, drumming, and folk dancing for women. Libana, a Boston based women's performing ensemble, celebrates the lives, work and cultures of women through music and dance. **Sept. 13-15.**

All levels of musical and dance experience welcome. The workshop fee (\$100) includes meals and lodging. Call 372-6353.

And on Sat. Sept. 14 at Blueberry Cove there will be an open evening of singing, chanting and folk dancing as part of the weekend-long workshop with Libana (see above). The event starts at 8 pm, and there is a \$3 fee. Call 372-6353 for info.

SAIL AWAY SEPT. 6-8

Also at Blueberry Cove: camp overnight on offshore island. Open to those with or without sailing experience. Fee \$80, leader, Margie Spencer-Smith. Call 372-6353 for info.

Sept. 20-22, a sailing weekend with Teri Granger with Women Outdoors. Provide own food and tents. Fee-\$40. Call Teri at 774-4044 for info.

More workshop information and directions may be requested from Blueberry Cove Camp, P.O. Box 520, Tenants Harbor, 04860.

AWAKENINGS-1-

Announcing an outdoor workshop on Sept. 14 from 9:30 am-4:30 pm in Lincolnville to "expand our outer and inner senses." Workshop includes exercises, group sharing and participation in a council circle to connect with Earth, each other and our inner truth. TO register or for more info, call or write Mair Honan, RFD 2, Box 596, Lincolnville, 04849, 763-3692.



Harvest Full Moon Lesbian Gathering, Sept. 28-29 in Dexter. Potluck supper Saturday at 6 pm. and Energy Healing Circle each evening at sunset. Camping space available. No fee. For directions send SASE to: Gathering Ground, RFD 2, Box 3085, Dexter 04930.

"Economists know the price of everything, but the value of nothing."

*school bells are ringing
for them boys an' girls*

Last month we listed a number of alternative schools. We have a correction on one of them and an introductory piece on another.

The Village School has a new address: PO Box 275, Dryden 04225, 645-3672.

The Wassooskeag School (opening Sept. 4) is a small independent community school located in Dexter for children 5-8 years old. The purpose is to provide a non-competitive, nurturing environment conducive to intellectual, social and moral development using basic academics, the arts, the environment and multi-cultural experiences. Cooperation is the prime group dynamic to be encouraged; at the same time individual needs of each child will be emphasized.

They need more students!

For more info, call 277-4221, 876-2637, or 564-3151 (after 5 pm.)

POSTER OF THE MONTH *er post by post*

"Hands off Central America" with a red, white, and blue graphic, 11" x 17". Cost is \$1 or whatever you can spare, for your lawn or window. Contact any Central America group (see article on page 1) or write to Natasha Mayers, RFD 1 Box 85, N. Whitefield 04353, 549-7516, for your nearest supplier.

Ribbon Update 98

On August 4 over 200 segments of the Peace Ribbon from Maine were joined with over 35,000 pieces from all fifty states and many other countries, to form a 15-mile long Ribbon around the Pentagon, Capitol and Lincoln Memorial.

35 folks from Maine travelled by bus to help wrap and tie the Ribbon.

The momentum doesn't stop here, however, Maine Peace Ribbon segments are available for display, and speakers are also available to talk about the project. Sue Calhoun, state coordinator for the Peace Ribbon, is putting together a slide show about the Ribbon's message and the Wash. event, which will be available in Oct. Contributions for ribbon activities are especially needed. To line up a speaker or arrange a display, contact Peg Richard, 24 Gilman St., Portland, 871-1474 eves, 774-5444 days.

for 4 Measure Measure

The New England Telephone Company is scheduled to introduce local measured service rates to about 100,000 urban customers next February. This would replace the traditional flat-rate billing for local calls.

But opponents of local measured service are gearing up to prevent the changeover. Neva Cram and Bruce Reeves are co-chairs of a group called the Telephone Customers Coalition which is raising money and recruiting volunteers to mount a petition drive for a referendum on the question. The group would need 46,000 signatures by early February to put the question on state ballots in November, 1986.

The Coalition believes NET designed the changeover, not to be a fairness measure (because most telephone costs are fixed, regardless of the number of local calls made), but to be a revenue enhancer.

The Coalition contends that measured service billing on a per-call basis would raise monthly telephone costs for many small businesses, volunteer organizations, and low income individuals dependent upon local calling networks. The Public Utilities Commission and NET have claimed that measured service would result in lower rates for most customers. Reeves and other measured service opponents have labeled NET survey results on which the lower rates claims are based as inaccurate. NET commissioned a second demographic survey in June after criticism of its first one, but no results from the second survey have been presented yet.

ATTEND THE LMS HEARING NEAREST YOU!

The PUC will hold 6 public witness hearings around the state on local measured service. All hearings run from 2 to 7 pm. (See schedule below) And the Maine People's Alliance is distributing information to the public about LMS and encouraging people to attend the hearings. For more info: MPA, PO Box 2490, Augusta 04330, 622-4740.

Sept. 10: Kittery Town Hall, 200 Rogers Rd.

Sept. 11: Portland Public Safety Building, 109 Middle St. Portland.

Sept. 12: Lewiston-Auburn Multipurpose Center 145 Birch St. Lewiston.

Sept. 25: Waterville City Hall, Common St.

Sept. 26: Bangor City Hall, 73 Harlow St.

Sept. 30: Northeastland Hotel, 436 Main St. Presque Isle.

TOFU WHOOPIE PIES TOO

Whether you want to learn how to salvage damaged fruit, how to save your own seeds, how to identify medicinal herbs or how to operate your chain saw safely...whether you'd like to purchase Maine maple syrup, Maine bird carvings, Maine rocking chairs, or Maine Dutch flower bulbs...or can't wait to pop another Strong Bros. Maine egg roll into your mouth...whether you want to run 5 miles, pitch shovelfuls of loose manure into a bushel basket 15 feet away, listen to Tim Sample crack jokes, or exhibit what you fondly hope will be the largest zucchini...or whether you just want to meet as many of your old friends as possible at one place...the Common Ground Fair is where you can do it all!

This year's 9th annual extravaganza is from Sept. 20-22 at the Windsor Fairgrounds. Admission is \$4 per day for adults (\$1 off for MOFGA members), \$1 per day for kids under 12 or elders over 65. On Friday, kids, elders & MOFGA members get in free.

Keynote speaker Kent Whealy, founder & director of the Seed Savers Exchange, will speak Saturday at 1 pm, emphasizing the need for gardeners to seek out & grow the traditional & endangered garden seed varieties that are being lost as a result of the increasing commercialization of the seed trade.

Saturday at noon will feature the 2d annual Central American Rally at the Large Grandstand.

What an entertainment roster: bluegrass band the Misty Mountaineers; Irish folk ensemble Tara; traditional rural music artists John & Ellen Gawler; clown, storyteller & vaudevillian Robin Mello; stiltwalker Rick Adams, the Postwar Babies' 50s harmonies & many, many more.

Schoolhouse talks cover a diverse spectrum from alternative schooling to slides from Johnny's Selected Seeds, from Deb Soule on medicinal herbs to Jack Kertesz on tree crops for the Northeast.

Food concessions offer everything from the famous rosettes which once attracted most of the honeybees in Kennebec County to tofu whoopie pies. But you won't find coffee, white sugar or unbleached flour unless you have underground connections.

In the exhibition hall the largest squash juxtapose with delicate cherry tomatoes, brussels sprouts with the aforementioned zucchinis.

5.

Johnny Appleseed Lives on

Probably you've never heard of the Appaloosa Bean from Vermont, the White Hailstones Bean from the Canadian maritimes, or the Eros Tomato from Czechoslovakia. All of these are heirloom seed varieties, open-pollinated types that have been passed down privately from generations of gardeners who saved part of their crop each year for seed.

You won't see these offered often in commercial seed catalogs, which have relatively narrow selections with strong emphasis on hybrids which do not grow true to type in the next generation.

Enter the Abundant Life Foundation in Washington State, the Scatterseed Project here in Maine, and other groups dedicated to long-term preservation and sharing (dispersion) of these hard-to-find heirloom varieties.

Scatterseed was begun in 1981 to counteract erosion of crop-plant genetic diversity, emphasizing crops of minor commercial significance, but underexploited potential (i.e. favas, chicory, physalis). Scatterseed seeks valuable material from little-known sources, increases it, and disperses (scatters) it to many people. It also acts as a liaison between the U.S. Plant Germplasm System and private breeders, and as a plantfinder service. It also finds varieties suitable to a small-scale sustainable agriculture, such as hullless seed pumpkins, and those which thrive in cool conditions such as short-season soybeans, melons, peppers & peanuts.

Scatterseed Project is NOT a seed company. It does not have a catalog. It IS a non-profit germplasm preservation program. It does have seed samples available to share with others who are serious about increasing and maintaining their own supplies of seed from these samples. A grant from MOFGA has enabled it to grow out a large portion of its total collection for public access.

For a current list of what's available, write the Seed Savers Exchange (203 Rural Ave, Decorah, IA 52101), send \$10 and ask for their 1986 yearbook. When it arrives next Feb. look under Maine for Scatterseed Project, then check others' collections.

Scatterseed will be offering a demonstration of seed-saving techniques at the Common Ground Fair.

In The Spirit of Adventure 6

How would you like to take a canoe trip on the West Branch of the Penobscot and Chesuncook Lake (made famous by Henry David Thoreau in The Maine Woods), in a fine wood & canvas traveling craft with experienced guides?

North-Woods Ways, a traditional guiding service, makes such an excursion possible, for both beginning and experienced canoeists. They teach traditional north woods paddling techniques, and are well versed in the natural history of the wild areas they traverse. Their trips are customized as much as possible to meet your special interests.

They offer trips on the West Branch & Chesuncook from Sept. 15-19, 24-28, and Oct. 3-7. An Allagash River trip through flatwater, riffles and several rapids on the river and across several of the spectacular lakes of the North woods, is scheduled from Sept. 4-10.

Guides Alexandra & Garrett Conover are licensed Maine guides, with wilderness first aid & rescue training, writers, naturalists, and graduates of the College of the Atlantic.

For more info: North Woods Ways, RFD 3, Box 87A, Dover-Foxcroft, 564-3032

Jack for all Trades

Here's a chance to help build 2 playgrounds in 4 days "barn-raising" style with lots of people, food and activity of all kinds.

The Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization is looking for volunteers to help build playgrounds for the Jack and Adams Schools in Portland, between Sept. 18-22.

These are truly inspired playgrounds with tunnels, towers, swings, mazes, bridges and spaceships--all designed by students working with a playground architect. What's more, creating together & pooling resources builds community & friendship.

There's ample opportunity to contribute materials, tools, food, childcare, funds and labor, for an hour, a day, or longer. Step right up and make yourself known! For more info call 774-8208, or write: Playgrounds, 414 Eastern Promenade, Portland. To donate materials call Peter, 772-9524.

Stalking Blanding's Turtle



The Nature Conservancy manages the world's largest private system of nature preserves, of which nearly one tenth are in Maine. In 1984 the Maine Chapter completed 18 new land projects, protecting over 600 acres of wild lands. The chapter acquired more than \$1.2 million of land, including Great Duck Island, the most important seabird nesting island on the coast.

The chapter also launched its own Natural Heritage Program to identify and document the State's most endangered species. The program maintains a computerized data base with site information on the occurrences of Maine's rare plants, animals and natural communities. Among these are Blanding's Turtle, a large turtle with a bright yellow chin and profuse yellow flecks all over its shell, seen only once in York County in the last 20 years, & the Black Racer, a snake with all black back & pearly gray belly which prowls the edges of dry woodlands seeking prey, and can inflict a painful, but harmless bite.

To join the Me. Chapter, or for more info: 20 Federal St., Brunswick, 04011, 729-5181.

Land conservation Network

The Land Trust Exchange is a national communications network for the more than 500 local and regional private land conservation groups. These groups collectively have 250,000 members, and have conserved over 675,000 acres of valuable resource lands. The vast majority have formed within the past 20 years.

They combine to save money on insurance, to influence legislation pertinent to land conservation, and to share common problems and solutions. To support their work or for more info: Box 364, 13 Albert Meadow, Bar Harbor 04609, 288-9751.

SCENIC SITES PRESERVED

The Nature Conservancy now holds title to nearly 11,000 acres in Maine. Last November they published their first comprehensive guide to their preserves in Maine. Entitled Maine Forever: A Guide to Nature Conservancy Preserves in Maine, it features color photographs, natural history drawings and maps to 55 spectacular natural areas in all parts of the state. It also contains information on Maine's rare and endangered species.

Copies of the guide can be obtained from the Nature Conservancy, 122 Main St., Topsham 04087 for \$13.95.

from MSN's rickety bookshelf 7



YOU HAVE RIGHTS

Can a landlord evict an unmarried couple? May a private employer refuse to hire a single person? Must an unwed father be notified before a woman can have an abortion?

You will find the answers to these and similar questions in The Rights of Single People, a legal handbook recently published by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

For many years victims of crimes have been the forgotten parties in our criminal justice system's zealous pursuit, prosecution and punishment of criminals. The millions of victims can take heart that this has begun to change. A new handbook by the ACLU, The Rights of Crime Victims reviews recent laws and cases that have expanded the rights of victims.

It answers such questions as whether a victim can be forced to testify at trial, whether restitution is available for all crimes, what protection must be granted to victims who are threatened with retaliation, and whether victims can legally go outside the adversarial justice system to resolve their disputes.

You suspect that the FBI has a file on you and you'd like to get access to it? You want to attend a federal meeting, bringing your camera and a tape recorder?

You might find Your Right to Government Information, another in the ACLU's rights handbook series, to be helpful. This handbook covers the four major federal statutes that were passed in recent years to give the public access to government information: The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Privacy Act, the Government in the Sunshine Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Says author Christine Marwick, "Sometimes these statutes operate with the simplicity of a vending machine: you insert your request and out comes the material you wanted... At other times, they're more like a slot machine; you don't always get what you want... Still other times they're just plain gummed up... That's where this book tries to help."

What could you do if you suspected that your neighbors were abusing their child? If your children's school lockers were being searched? A new ACLU handbook, The Rights of Young People, explains how the law treats children and adolescents differently from adults.

Major subject areas covered include juvenile delinquency, child abuse and neglect, and adolescents' rights to medical treatment, including contraception and abortion.

Each of these 4 books is available from the MCLU, 97A Exchange St., Portland 04001 for \$5.89 (postage and tax included). For more info: Dorcas Gilpatrick, 774-5444.

HANCOCK HANDBOOK

Thinking of moving to or visiting Hancock County? The "Bay Community Register: A Directory of Community Services" may supply helpful facts about the peninsula part of the county including the towns of Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Castine, Deer Isle, Isle au Haut, Penobscot, Sedgwick, Stonington and Surry.

The registry includes brief profiles of each town plus schools, churches, libraries, hospitals, and other services, leisure activities (sports, music, arts), plus civic organizations and a few unconventional items—such as food coops and Alcoholics Anonymous. Compiled by Mary Lou Dietrich, the register is available for \$1.50 from Penobscot Bay Press, Box 36, Stonington 04681-0367.

IT'S A WILD THING

Did you know that Maine produces around 30 million pounds of wild blueberries on average each year? The wild blueberry, as opposed to the cultivated highbush blueberry, is smaller, but has a much richer flavor.

Now a new monthly magazine called "The Wild BLUEBERRY Grower" has sprung up amidst the rakers and the winnowers in the barrens. Dedicated to covering the wild blueberry industry in Maine and the Maritime Provinces, it covers all aspects of blueberries, from cultivation and harvesting to marketing and blueberry cookery. Subscriptions are \$12/year.

The magazine is especially interested in bolstering its coverage of organic blueberry growers & sellers. If you fit in these categories, they would like to hear from you. They welcome articles for publication.

To subscribe or for more info: Sandi Bryant, PO Box 527, Machias 04654, 255-3529.

Favorite subscribers' feedback: "I am alive well, appreciating the Maine Statewide Newsletter, and broke."

THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW

We at MSN usually leave it to you, the reader, to follow up on activities and events going on around Maine. That's why we always include an address or phone # of someone to contact. (If you don't read it in your outhouse or bathroom, you should keep a stack of postcards on hand to scribble off quick notes.) But, since it is hard to contact all the different groups working on legislation in this last 112th session, here is a summary of the new bills and new funding which make it through our complex legislative system in 1985:

For consumers, no bill preventing local measured service for telephone users was passed, but the legislature did agree to have the Public Utilities Commission hold hearings (see separate article on P. 4) before any such phone service was put into effect. Several groups (Maine People's Alliance and Protect Our Environment from Sprayed Toxins) highlighted the successful passage of LD 1436, the Community Right to Know Law, which requires citizens to be informed of any potentially hazardous chemicals that might be used in their communities. An information clearinghouse to report potential community and workplace hazards will be formed.

A referendum question on the siting of radioactive waste initiated by the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee got a mixed blessing from the legislature. Although the 112th agreed to the MNRC's request for their referendum to be put on the ballot, it also put on a competing measure. Voters will have 3 choices: (A) supporting a public vote on any plan for storage or disposal of low-level waste (MNRC); (B) supporting a vote on any new waste site in Maine other than Maine Yankee or an out-of-state site; (C) neither of the above. More on this next month.

Women's groups considered the most recent session to be a fairly successful one. All bills seeking legislative limitations on the right to choose an abortion were defeated, while LD 772, a bill to remove spousal exemption in sexual offenses, was passed. (A husband can no longer claim immunity if charged with the rape of his wife.)

Funding was provided to several groups which had previously fallen through the financial cracks. Looking Up, an organization of incest victims and survivors, received \$10,000 to provide services and information to (potential) members. Larger amounts were appropriated for children housed at domestic

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violence shelters (LD 780, \$247,000) and pilot programs to reduce domestic violence (LD 1315, \$175,000). The campaign to reduce domestic violence and spouse abuse seems to be growing.

Low-income groups were happy with the result of LD 710, which requested a 10% rise in AFDC payments. A 5% increase was passed, although recipients still receive only 75% of the 1975 standard of need. Other economic successes included continued funding for the WEET (Welfare Employment, Education and Training) program, additional money for Displaced Homemakers, including a new program in Aroostook County, and a study on pay equity/comparable worth for state employees. Since the average woman still makes only about 60¢ for every dollar a man receives, this effort still has a long way to go.

One of the successes for environmental groups--Maine Audubon, Natural Resources Council of Me., Sierra Club--was LD 838, to protect unregulated sections of Maine's wetlands. The Board of Environmental Protection will oversee and issue permits for any use which might cause flooding or threaten wildlife. LD 1014, mandating return and disposal of pesticide containers, was also passed.

Another success was LD 864, which provides supplemental state aid to federal programs aimed at assisting workers who are displaced by imports (especially shoeworkers in Maine). It demonstrates a commitment by the state to help the victims of an unbalanced trade policy.

Energy conservation advocates were pleased with LD 1589, providing minimum energy standards for major appliances, plus LD 1496, mandating similar conservation standards for public buildings. Pass the insulation, please.

But all success and no failure makes for a dull legislature. And there were failures:

LD 978--Restricting the use of chemical insecticide spraying--defeated.

LD 1507--Formation of a task force for victims of head injuries--postponed.

LD 488--Divestment of state funds from businesses involved with South Africa--held over until 1986.

LD 1389--Control of acid rain emissions--defeated

LD 1490--Funding a nuclear education clearinghouse in the Dept. of Education--defeated.

LD 1249--Gay rights; non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation--defeated.

Continued on next page

SEPTEMBER

calendar-continued 9

Calendar continued from page 10

Sept. 23: MCW public hearing at UMPI (3).

Sept. 23-Oct. 11: Housebuilding for Women. Cornerstones, 54 Cumberland St., Brunswick 04011, 729-6701.

Sept. 27-28: "Skills for Success" (3).

Sept. 27-28: Biomass Harvesting Demonstration, Maine Audubon, 118 Old Route One, Falmouth 04105, 781-2330.

Sept. 28: Bangor Freeze Walk (9).

Sept. 28: "Songs of the Sea: Harraseeket River Trip" w/Bill Bonyun, 9-1, S. Freeport, \$15-20. Maine Audubon, 781-2330.

Sept. 28-29: Autumn Celebration, Norlands Living History Center, RFD 1, Livermore Falls 04256, 897-2236.

Sept. 30, Oct. 3, 7, 10: "The Evolution of Human Consciousness: Our Relationship to Nature" course, 7-9:15 pm, \$32-40, Maine Audubon.

Oct. 1: MCW public hearing Rockland (3).

ATOMIC COMICS

"Laughing in the Nuclear Age: The Atomic Comics Fran and Charlie" are pioneers in the new style of humor, nuclear comedy. Their topical sketches affirm the absurdity of the nuclear situation and other aspects of contemporary life. The Atomic Comics will perform at 8 pm on Tues. Oct. 1 at Mt. Ararat High School Auditorium in Topsham. Tickets are \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door and are available from the Brunswick Peace Center, PO Box 975, Brunswick 04011, 725-7355.

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MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION/FEEDBACK FORM--OCT. COPY DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 20

HARVEST FROST? SCHOOL, EQUINOX, the balancing time--how about balancing your books and sending \$4 to MSN? Yeah, we want you!

Name/Mailing Address _____

Here's (\$4/a donation/moral support and maybe \$ later) circle one

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

Write a few pros and cons about this newsletter _____

Others who ought to get a sample copy of MSN are: _____
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Please fill out this form and return it to: INVERT, PO Box 110, Stillwater, Me 04489, 827-3107.

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If you don't have a 1-8 and /86 beside your address label, you are not a 1985 subscriber.

Why not mail this form and your donation today?

(There ought to be a law--continued from page 8)
LD 790--Mandatory powers for the Commissioner of Corrections to improve prison conditions--held over to 1986 session.

Plus a workers compensation package that reduced workers' benefits resulting from on-the-job injuries or health problems.

Up and Coming along

Oct. 5--Maine Freeze Campaign's annual Freeze Walk. Contact MFC, Box 3842, Portland, 772-0680 OR the Maine Women's Lobby annual meeting (tentative date); MWL, Box 15, Hallowell, 04347, 622-5798.

Oct. 26--"Cooling Conflict" (workshop on non-violent methods of resolving conflict), Congregational Church, Waterville. Contact CC, 151 Western Ave., Waterville 04901, 872-6003 OR "Undoing Racism" (overcoming racist attitudes/institutions on Oct 25-27 at USM, Portland. Coalition on Undoing Racism, MSA, 94 Bedford, Portland 04103, 773-0193.

Nov. 2--Maine NOW State Conference, UMO, Isa Silva, RFD 2, Brewer 04412.

BANGOR FREEZE WALK

BUT, nonconformists that they are, the Bangor Freeze Walk will be one week earlier than the others, on Sept. 28, beginning at 9 am, at the Paul Bunyan Statue in Bass Park, Bangor. For sponsor forms or other info, call 866-4208. Following the walk, relay runners will run thru Maine to Portland to publicize the other walks. *****

More favorite newsletter feedback: Write a few pros and cons about this newsletter: "Provolone, Prophylactic; Antipasto."

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