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## Maine Statewide News Letter No. 8 (September 1980)

Institute for Nonviolence, Education, Research, and Training Staff

*Institute for Nonviolence, Education, Research, and Training*

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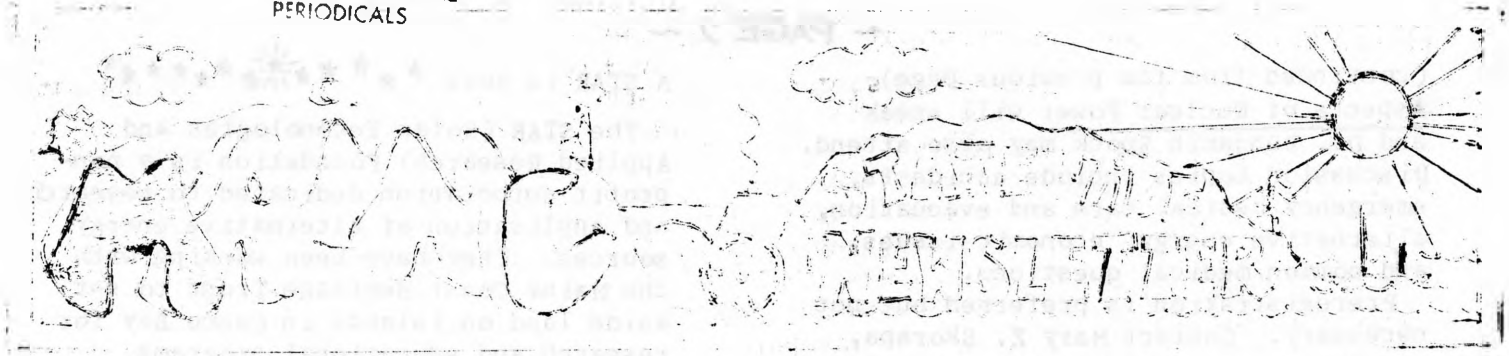
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### Thousands Converge on Common Ground

The 4th annual Common Ground Country Fair, sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners (MOFGA) will again be held at the Litchfield Fairgrounds on Sept. 19-21. It will be another celebration of rural living, but with unusual crafts, displays, and entertainment.

Food booths will serve mainly organic and Maine-grown food, for example, and child care will be available. Well-known speakers--New Alchemy Institute and Agriculture Commissioner Stewart Smith on Saturday, HOME Coop's Lucy Poulin and Citizens Party presidential candidate/energy expert Barry Commoner on Sunday--are featured.

There will be New Games, a fiddler's contest, folk arts, educational workshops, films, and scores of booths providing information on agriculture, self-sufficiency, coops, appropriate technology, and social change groups. Inner Growth Day, Sunday, will feature a "spiritual festival." Admission is \$2.50/adults, \$1/people under 12 and those considered elders. No pets, please.

A highlight of the fair will be the Manure Spreading Society of Maine "Grand Pitch-Off." Events include spreading and throwing manure and trying to get a pitchfork full into a bushel basket. Don't miss it!

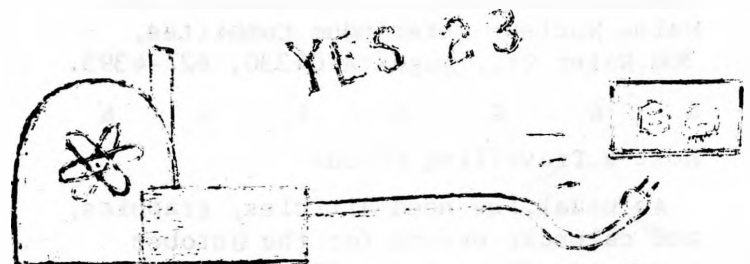
Parking will be limited. In the interest of both energy conservation and congestion, shuttle buses will be provided Sat. and Sun. from the State House parking lot and from Gardiner to the fair. Persons north and east of Augusta/Gardiner are strongly urged to take advantage of this service. Contact MOFGA, Box 188, Hallowell 04347, 622-3118 for a schedule of buses and of events.

### VOTE "YES" ON SEPTEMBER 23RD

Various nuclear referendum committees (NRC's) throughout the state are sponsoring a number of events as a prelude to the vote on September 23rd.

The Greater Portland NRC is sponsoring Arlo Guthrie, Tom Rush, John Hall, and Jesse Colin-Young in concert at the Cumberland County Civic Center on Saturday, Sept. 20th. They will also sponsor the premiere of the MUSE (Musicians for Safe Energy) Concert movie. Tickets are available from GPNRC, 154 Middle St., Portland 04101, 772-5340.

There will be a State Town Meeting discussion on the referendum (see separate article), and "The China Syndrome" will be playing at the Railroad Square Cinema in Waterville Sept. 18-21 and at the Bay View Street Cinema in Camden and at The Movies in Portland at about the same time.



Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and Maine NRC are sponsoring a seminar for health professionals and the general public on Saturday, Sept. 6th from 10 AM to 4 PM at Cushnoc Auditorium, Augusta Civic Center. Registration fee of \$15 includes lunch and lots of helpful materials.

Katherine Kahn, author of The Medical  
(Continued on the next page)

(continued from the previous page)  
Aspects of Nuclear Power will speak  
and Dr. Benjamin Spock may also attend.  
Discussion topics include accidents,  
emergency medical care and evacuation,  
alternative energy, economic issues,  
and common medical questions.

Preregistration is preferred but not  
necessary. Contact Mary Z. Skorapa,  
RFD 5A, Gardiner 04345, 582-3809 or  
Neil Korsen, 781-3346 for details.

One of many debates scheduled before  
the election will be sponsored by the  
Shipyard Workers Union at Bath Iron  
Works. It will take place on the  
evening of Sept. 4th in Bath.

Work is beginning on outreach to  
Maine's clergy and religious community.  
Information such as the relationship  
between nuclear power and Christian  
ethics, support from the National Coun-  
cil of Churches, and endorsements from  
local clergy and religious leaders  
will be mailed out soon. Clergy or  
persons active in their church/parish/  
synagogue who would like to help the  
"vote yes" campaign in some way should  
contact Pat Haynes, RFD 1 Box 13A,  
Detroit 04929, 257-2344.

The MNRC has again put out a plea  
for financial and personal help.  
Donations can be sent to Pat Shadis,  
treas., MNRC, Box 346, Edgecomb 04556.  
Persons interested in helping to get  
out the "yes" vote or in helping the  
effort in any way should contact the  
Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee,  
300 Water St., Augusta 04330, 622-4395.

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Host a Travelling Circus

As usual, we need articles, graphics,  
and calendar events for the October  
issue, deadline Sept. 20. (We will  
be at the Common Ground Fair--look for  
our booth--and can accept items there.)  
We also need a group of people in a  
location somewhere in Maine to help  
with production (this month we're in  
the Brunswick area) on Saturday or  
Sunday, Sept. 27-28. If you can find  
4-6 friends who can help for 3-4 hours,  
wherever in the state you might be,  
let us know. Contact us at INVERT, RFD  
1, Newport 04953 or call 938-2219 (early  
am or late pm is best).

A STAR is Born ★★☆☆★☆☆★☆☆★

The STAR (Solar Technologies and  
Applied Research) Foundation is a non-  
profit corporation dedicated to research  
and application of alternative energy  
sources. They have been working with  
the Maine Coast Heritage Trust to set  
aside land on islands in Casco Bay for  
research and educational programs.

Work is presently underway to prepare  
the land for use and for installing a  
wind generator. Future plans include  
research and development of wind/elec-  
tricity conversion, energy conservation,  
solar heating/cooling, biomass con-  
version, and aquaculture.

Besides education programs, STAR hopes  
to demonstrate practical models of a  
renewable, more self-sufficient life-  
style. Support and involvement are  
encouraged. Get in touch with Ann  
Compton or Steve McAllister, Central  
Ave., Peaks Island 04108, 766-2311.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### PINT TREE'S TOP ELEVEN

Among the "Top Ten--Plus One" leg-  
islative issues of concern to Maine's  
low-income residents are tax relief to  
low-income people, not paying shutdown  
costs for Maine Yankee, no tax loop-  
holes for big business and the wealthy,  
no cut-offs of heating oil deliveries,  
lower utility rates, and freedom fro,  
discrimination for families with child-  
ren seeking rental housing.

This list is from a survey done by  
Pine Tree Legal Assistance to deter-  
mine their lobbying priorities for  
the coming legislative session. Persons  
wishing to offer lobbying support on  
these or other issues during the up-  
coming session can contact PTLA Legis-  
lative Office, 39 Green St., Augusta  
04330 623-2971. Subscriptions to  
Capitol Comment, from which this list  
was taken, are also available from  
the same address. A donation is ap-  
preciated but not necessary.

Those wanting to become more involved  
with the organization can attend the  
annual PTLA meeting, to be held this  
year on Thursday, September 25th at  
1 PM in Room 109, State Office Building  
at the Capitol in Augusta.

## WOMEN'S DAY IN AUGUSTA

On Saturday, September 13, women from around the state will descend on Augusta for two conferences aimed at involving them in legislative action and the fight for women's rights.

"Women Organizing for the Eighties" will be held at the South Parish Congregational Church, State & Church Sts., Augusta beginning at 9 AM. Sponsored by the AFL-CIO, AFL-CIO Women's Caucus, Maine Teachers Assn., and Maine State Employees Assn., the meeting will focus on working women, both union and non-union. In the morning women will choose two workshops from among those on health hazards, career opportunities, negotiating language, what is a union, and flex time.

Following keynote speakers from 9 to 5, an office workers organizing group from Boston, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women, attendees will talk about day care, sexual harassment, job sharing, and pay equity in small groups.

The entire day, including lunch and day care, will cost only \$5. Registration is limited, although space should be available for anyone wishing to attend. For registration or other information, get in touch with Jackie Potter, Maine Commission on Women, State House, Augusta 04333 or call 289-3418.

The AFL-CIO Women's Caucus, formed several years ago, was born to fill the need for discussion on concerns that the general membership was not addressing, especially on women's issues and to involve families of union members in AFL-CIO work.

The caucus is now recognized as a "council," meaning it has a voice and vote in AFL-CIO matters. Although it is organized statewide, cutting across union lines, it is regionalizing its activities, with occasional statewide gatherings. Upcoming projects include legislative action, especially on labor and social services legislation.

Jane Weed, 2 Swan St., Augusta 04330 289-2686 can provide more information.

Meanwhile, at Jewett Hall, Univ. of Maine, Augusta, the Maine Women's Lobby (MWL) is holding their annual meeting from 9 AM to 2:30 PM. The day will begin with a business meeting, followed

## MARGARET FULLER REVISITED

Poet, feminist, and intellectual Margaret Fuller, who lived in the mid-1800's, will come to life in five performances throughout the state. Sponsored by the Maine Council for Humanities and Public Policy, the portrayal will be presented in late August in Biddeford, Presque Isle (the 29th at 7 PM in Widden Hall, UMPI), and Ellsworth (the 31st at 3 PM at Hancock Theater). Rumford High School will host a dramatic performance on Friday, Sept. 19th at 7:30 PM and so will Bowdoin College (Kresage Aud.) on Sunday the 21st at 7 PM.

A discussion will follow each performance, led by writers or humanists. Ramona Barth, 586-5051, has details.

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Betsy Whitman is still looking for help in organizing a "Take Back the Night" march, scheduled for Sept. 27 in Portland. Call 775-0232 or write c/o UWF, 94 Bedford St. Portland 04103.  
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$



by workshops on "Women and Economics," "Key Issues in Women's Health," and "Grassroots lobbying." Following lunch (\$2 donation), Congresswoman Olympia Snowe is slated to speak, followed by small group discussions on "New Directions for the 80's."

The MWL is looking for "new blood" for its board of directors, and the annual meeting is a time to submit nominations and talk with prospective board members. Persons interested in being on the board should send their name, address, and relevant experience to Lois Reckitt, 38 Myrtle Ave., S. Portland 04106 by Sept. 10th or submit them at the annual meeting.

Women and men, especially those from rural areas, who are not MWL members but are interested in its work are also encouraged to attend. Their contributions to the "New Directions" discussion will help set the goals of the group for the future. MWL, Box 15, Hallowell.

## AMHI Patients Show Their Talents

The creativity of residents of Augusta Mental Health Institute in the form of painting, sculpture, batik, and poetry will be featured at an art show at the Univ. of Maine at Augusta gallery/lounge from Sept. 12-October 10. Poet lee sharkey from S. Solon will read from her own poetry and that of AMHI residents at a special opening of the show on Tuesday, Sept. 16th from 5-8 PM.

For more information on the show: Natasha Mayers, AMHI, Hospital St., Augusta 04330, 622-3751.

# # # # #

## YOU, TOO, CAN GIVE AWAY THOUSANDS

The Maine Board of the Haymarket Peoples Fund is currently looking for potential members for the state board.

Haymarket, for those unfamiliar with the Fund, is a Boston-based funding source which awards grants up to \$2,500 to progressive, grass roots organizing groups working for social change. Often organizations such as woodcutters, women's groups, anti-nuke/spray groups, etc.--people whose organizing would normally be denied access to more mainstream funding sources--are better able to function in Maine if assisted by money from the Maine Haymarket Board.

A key interest of Haymarket is funding organizations that attempt to mobilize people particularly disadvantaged by an exploitative economic system.

Board members interview prospective recipients and meet 5-6 times a year to decide how the \$15,000-20,000 is given out.

Duties of board members are not that time-consuming, yet political dedication to social change is important. Travel is necessary but reimbursed. Personal time is volunteered. Meetings are informal, sometimes long, with no formal hierarchy of authority.

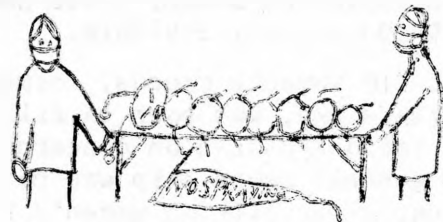
There is much more to know about Haymarket (there will be a future article on it). Those interested in learning more about the Fund and the duties of membership on the board can write to Rockie Graham, 13 Waterville St., Portland 04101 or call her at 773-6595.

## TO YOUR HEALTH?

The Maine Health Systems Agency (MHSA) is a private corporation, receiving federal funds, whose goal is to further the cause of better and more affordable health care.

With guidance from a 69-member citizen board, the MHSA is planning the future health care system of the state. It reviews projects and programs of health institutions like hospitals, looks at uses of federal money for alcohol and drug programs, mental health, and other health projects, and tries to stimulate new programs to solve major health care problems.

MHSA is presently working on projects such as reducing pre-operation stays for hospital patients and a toxic waste education program. It is hoping to do organizing of health professionals and/or citizens groups around a health promotion or education campaign, either of an environmental, institutional, or political nature. Suggestions for the focal point of the campaign are needed. (Sorry, no prize to the winner.) Send ideas to Tom Andrews or Lance Tapley, MHSA, 9 Green St., Augusta 04330, 623-1182.



## Bowdoin Women Organize

Bowdoin College and the Brunswick area has a women's resource center again. The Brunswick Women's Association has organized a center on the Bowdoin campus complete with library, meeting rooms, and other facilities. Area women are encouraged to visit the center or contact Melissa Roderick, BWA Women's Resource Center, Bowdoin College, Brunswick 04011 or call 725-8731.

## PAGE 3

Cruisin' with Tom and Jane

Before the meeting, beginning at 3:30 PM, workshops on health, cost, and alternatives, presenting both pros and cons of nuclear power and Maine Yankee, will be presented at the Augusta Civic Center.

The meeting will convene at 7 PM at the UMA Auditorium, where Judge Edward Gignoux will moderate a discussion with John Menario and Prof. William Highes of the Save Maine Yankee Committee and Ray Shadis and another speaker from the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee.

The State Town Meeting Committee is also sponsoring other town meeting events, giving voters an opportunity to judge legislative, congressional, and presidential candidates and to emphasize issues in these campaigns.

South Paris will host a town meeting on Sept. 27th, where voters will have a chance to meet with Connie J. Allen (d) and Susan Jane Bell (r), candidates for House District 65. Two senate races will be considered in Bangor on October 4th. A congressional town meeting will be held in Lewiston and a presidential town meeting will take place in Portland before Nov. 4 elections.

The Creeping Socialist is the newsletter of the Southern Maine chapter of DSOC (Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee). DSOC has sponsored forums on topics like big business (on Big Business Day last spring) and has worked for progressive change within the Democratic Party.

A lawn sale to raise funds to help interested members attend the New England regional DSOC conference will be held on Sept. 6th (7th if rain) at 36 Pleasant Ave., Portland. Bargains galore!

Irving Howe, editor of Dissent magazine, will keynote the conference, to be held at Lake Winnepesaukee, N. H. on October 3-5. Harlan Baker, 74 Deering St., Portland 04101, 772-9640 has more info on DSQC.

The State Town Meeting Committee can be reached c/o John Rensenbrink, Hubbard Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick 04011 or call 725-8731.

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Here is our ever-present MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER subscription/feedback form. We would appreciate your returning this form, whether it is with comments/suggestions, articles, a subscription (paid or not), or all of the above. Please return this form to INVERT, RFD 1, Newport, Me. 04953.

I like the newsletter but don't have money to spare now. Please keep sending it.

I like the newsletter and want to contribute. Here is \$4 (12 issues) or \$

I would rather not receive the newsletter. Please take my name off the list.

I would like to send articles or help produce the newsletter. Please contact me.

The post office charges us 25¢ for each incorrect address. If your address has changed or will soon, please let us know.

My correct  
mailing  
address is:



## Gay Men "Getting in Touch"

Gay and bisexual men of all ages from Maine and eastern Canada will have an opportunity to meet each other at "Getting in Touch," a four-day retreat planned for Labor Day weekend, August 29-September 1.

Co-sponsored by Midcoast Gay Men, Downeast Gay Alliance, and members of Northern Lambda Nord, the gathering will be held at a resort in the Bath area. The entire facility is available, so that people can be themselves and "celebrate the gay experience."

Besides hikes, music, swimming, boating, and dancing, workshops such as "legal alternatives," "rewards and problems of coming out," "how to organize a gay group," and "feminism for gay men" will be offered.

The entire weekend, including meals, costs only \$15 (bring your own bedding). Although registration deadline is past, persons still interested in attending can contact INVERT at 938-2219 (call early am or late pm) and we'll put you in touch with conference organizers.

For information on future activities or the results of the gathering, write Getting in Touch, Box 594, Bar Harbor 04609.

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"Profit is money owed to workers that is not paid in wages."

"Unless some controls are put on participatory democracy, this society will come to a screeching halt." John Randazza, vice president, Maine Yankee.

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FEEDBACK FORM--Feel free to add additional comments on another piece of paper.

I (do/do not) want my name given out for use by other groups or used for special mailings.

What do you like most about the newsletter?

What do you like least about the newsletter?

What would you like to see more coverage of? Can you send us information on such topic(s)?

If there are other persons who would like to receive this newsletter, please send us their names and mailing addresses.

## DIGNITY FOR MAINE

Dignity is an international group of gay/lesbian Catholics and their supporters seeking a more constructive relationship with the Roman Catholic Church. They believe that gay and lesbian Catholics have "an inherent dignity as God's Creation" and a "duty to live the sacramental life of the Church" so as to become "instruments of God's love working among all people."

Dignity/Maine has formed to offer pastoral services and understanding to gay/lesbian Catholics, seeing them as equal members of the church. Dignity/Maine can be reached at PO Box 7021, Lewiston 04240.

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Drop into The Community School

The Community School (TCS) is looking for eight high school aged (16-20) dropouts to participate in its six month diploma-granting program.

TCS is a small, live-in community of students and teachers in Camden who are working together to develop academic, social, and vocational skills and to earn a high school diploma.

The program is intensely personal--a maximum of eight students with five full-time teachers. Students work at jobs in the community, take night classes, take part in monthly camping expeditions, and help pay room and board expenses (\$45/week).

Prospective students can write The Community School, Box 555, Camden 04843 or call 236-3000.

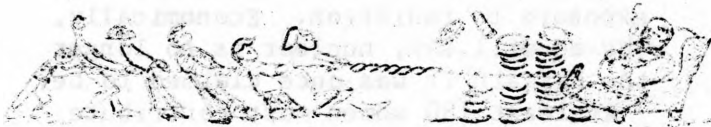
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## Banks Discredited

Although the number of credit unions in Maine is relatively large, their percentage of total deposits in the state is small. Fran Szostek, manager of Banskco Federal Credit Union, 333 Ohio St., Bangor 04401, 945-5000, offered a comparison between banks and credit unions. Readers may want to visit their local bank to determine the accuracy of the comparison.

In a credit union, members (depositors) own the business (shares), although only members can borrow (guidelines are fairly loose). A high percentage of credit union money goes out as loans, and they sometimes pay interest on savings as high as 6-8%.

The general membership can attend meetings of the board of directors, who are usually average, rather than well-known citizens. It is run by a manager hired by the board, and its overhead expenses usually are low. Savings accounts and money-market certificates (long-term, high-interest investments) are always available, but a share draft (checking) account and travelers checks are only available from some credit unions.



Banks, on the other hand, are usually, though not always, privately owned, permit anyone to borrow (guidelines are stricter), invest a much larger part of their money in corporate and government stocks and bonds, and are permitted interest rates no higher than 5½% by law. Bank meetings are generally closed to the public. Being an investor in the bank does not make one an owner or allow access to decisions. Day-to-day decisions are made by the president. Banks generally offer more services than credit unions. Anyone can put money in a bank, whereas credit unions are restricted by one's place of residence, employment, or organizational affiliation.

While bank money not used for loans or mortgages is invested primarily in large corporations, what little credit union money remains goes to the US Central Credit Union, where it is filtered back either to other local credit unions or to US Treasury notes. Both offer loan insurance, and credit unions provide life insurance at no additional cost as well.

## Investing in Peace

The Pax World Fund was created for investors with a social conscience. Begun in 1971, as a way of investing without supporting war industries or companies involved with liquor, tobacco, or gambling, the fund now boasts over \$3 million in investments (very small by investment standards). The fund is now also trying to invest in companies with equal employment opportunity plans and which do minimal damage to the environment. (None of the electric utilities they invest in operate nuclear plants.)

Their two goals are to make money for investors and to "make a contribution to world peace," through their own actions and as an example for churches and educational institutions. In 1979 Pax shares increased in value by 19.4%, much higher than the Dow Jones average of 7.7%.

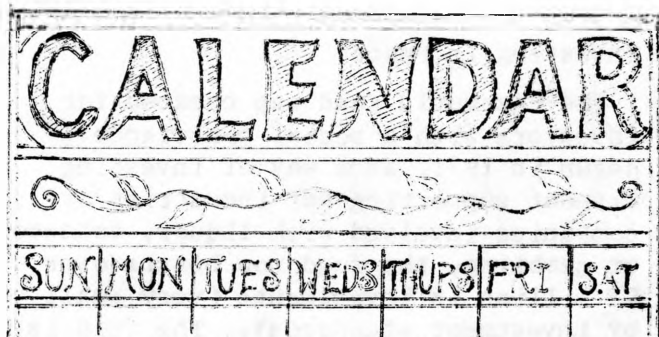
Among the "life supportive products and services" Pax invests in are food processing (Kraftco and Borden), forestry (International Paper), transportation (Burlington Northern), government (Federal National Mortgage Assn.), and energy (Consolidated Natural Gas).

Pax is a mutual fund, an investors' cooperative. By pooling investments, a mutual fund spreads out the risk to individual investors and allows them to own a little of many companies. Dividends generally are slightly higher than those paid by a bank and about the same as credit unions.

More information on Pax World Fund, including a prospectus (list of investments, fund benefits, fund guidelines, how to buy, etc.) is available by writing to 224 State St., Portsmouth, N. H. 03801 or calling 603-431-8022.







Aug. 29--Margaret Fuller in Presque Isle\*

Aug. 29-Sept. 1--Retreat for Women Musicians at Birdsong Farm, Box 143 N. Berwick 03906, 676-4038.

Aug. 29-Sept. 1--Getting in Touch\*

Aug. 29-Sept. 1--Maine Healing Arts Festival in Freedom. Call 800-462-6630.

Aug. 31--Margaret Fuller in Ellsworth\*

Sept. 2--"The Invisible Minority" shown at the Bar Harbor YWCA at 8 PM.

Sept. 6--Physicians Seminar in Augusta\*

Sept. 6--DSOC fund-raiser in Portland\*

Sept. 7--Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden in Portsmouth, N. H.\*

Sept. 9--State Town Meeting in Augusta\*

Sept. 12--AMHI art show opens in Augusta\*

Sept. 12--Deadline for Women for a Nuclear-Free Future ad\*

Sept. 13--Working Women's Conference at Congregational Church in Augusta\*

Sept. 13--Maine Women's Lobby annual meeting at Jewett Hall, UMA\*

Sept. 13-14--Solar Greenhouse workshops in Brunswick. MOFGA, Box 188, Hallowell 04347 or call 622-3118.

Sept. 19--Margaret Fuller in Rumford\*

Sept. 19-21--Holistic Health for Women at Birdsong Farm, N. Berwick.

Sept. 19-21--Common Ground Country Fair in Litchfield\*

Sept. 21--Margaret Fuller in Brunswick\*

Sept. 23--Nuclear Referendum voting day\*

Sept. 25--Pine Tree Legal Assistance annual meeting\*

Sept. 27--State Town Meeting in S. Paris\*

Sept. 27--"Take Back the Night" march in Portland\*

Oct. 3-5--DSOC conference at Lake Winnepesaukee in N. H.\*

October 4--State Town Meeting in Bangor\*

\*More details in this newsletter

#### WOMEN EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN

Among the special projects being planned by pro-referendum forces for the September 23rd vote is a newspaper ad sponsored by Maine Women for a Nuclear-Free Future. The ad, to be placed in the Maine Sunday Telegram on Sept. 21st, expresses Maine women's concern over the dangers of nuclear war and power, especially dangers to women such as exposure to radiation. Economically, the ad will say, nuclear is no longer the bargain it was once claimed to be.

At least 180 women must contribute an average of \$10 if the ad is to be printed. All women contributing may have their name printed with the ad. Contact Debbie Jenney, Maine Women for a Nuclear-Free Future, PO Box 4118, Station A, Portland 04101 by the Sept. 12 deadline or call 772-5340 for info.

INVERT  
RFD 1  
Newport, Me. 04953

Address Correction Requested

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