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Maine Statewide News Letter No. 9 (October 1980)

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Institute for Nonviolence, Education, Research, and Training

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Volume 1 : Number 9 October, 1980

"ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS" Donation 30¢

WOMEN TO TAKE BACK NIGHT IN PORTLAND

For the past two months, women in the Portland area have been organizing a "Take Back the Night" march. Recently, the date was changed from Sept. 27 to November 1 due to the immensity of the task.

The focus of the workshops, rally, dinner, and the evening march through Portland is to unite women in addressing the issues surrounding violence in their lives and to promote positive changes and collective support.

Women are needed to help with the following task groups:

- (1) Outreach, Education, and Public Relations--educating the community on the trauma and impact of violence on women's lives. Mailing, leafletting, speaking, and media outreach.
- (2) Workshops, Presentations, and Information Tables--Afternoon workshops will address political, social, psychological, economic, and legal aspects of violence and responses. Workshop facilitators and groups with information to display are needed. Ann Houser, 224 Ocean Ave., Portland 04103, 774-7166 is coordinator.
- (3) Dinner, Keynote Speaker, Rally, Post-March Celebration--people are needed to organize these events.
- (4) Art, Rituals, Songs, Chants--using art to express feelings of rage, unity, and power. Gina Kelly, 773-7152 is working on this.
- (5) Follow-up, Future Actions--efforts need to be continued after this event.
- (6) Child Care--Men can support the effort in this way.
- (7) Fund-Raising--Andrea Dworkin, a noted feminist speaker who has helped organize similar marches, is slated to give a keynote address. Money is needed for her expenses, printing, postage.

FOE Bringing Friends Together

Friends of the Earth (FOE) is hoping to bring together people involved in various environmental movements throughout the state of Maine to bring the strength of large numbers toward real social and environmental change. Are you working in your community for wilderness preservation? An end to pesticide use/abuse? For clean air and water? To stop disposal of hazardous waste? For coast protection, alternative energy, Integrated Pest Management, organic farming, or a nuclear-free future?

FOE believes the time has come to build a strong, grass roots environmental organization that will speak out and act on the issues. An organizing convention has been set for Oct. 25 at 1 PM at the Megunticook Grange in Camden (near corner of Routes 1 and 52).

There will be discussions on a strategy for environmental organizing, election of board members, what issues to focus on, and fund-raising. It is hoped that county wide groups, similar in structure to those formed for the nuclear referendum, can be created.

More information on FOE (such as how to become a member of the state or national group) or on the conference is available from Karin Tilberg or David Shiah, FOE, PO Box 2614, Augusta 04330 or by calling Karin at 622-3101.

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→ Organizers feel Maine women can make a public statement against rape, pornography, and other forms of violence and harassment against women through this march. To help out, Betsy Whitman, 101 Danforth St., Portland 04101, 775-0232 is the person to contact.

CITIZENS PARTY IS ORGANIZING

The Maine Citizens Party continues its organizing for the November election with local meetings scheduled around the state. Barry Commoner's visit to the Common Ground Fair generated widespread support, and local groups are meeting during the early weeks of October. One of their goals is to try to get 5% of the vote and thereby to become eligible for federal matching election funds. This money could be used for local campaigns in future elections.

To get more information and to receive notice of meetings near you, contact PO Box 2041, Augusta 04330 or PO Box 1231, Portland 04104. If there is no contact listed for your area, or if you would like to start a local group, contact the above addresses or call 774-3089 (Portland), 865-4037 (Freeport), or 495-3470 (eves) or 622-5863 (days) in the Augusta area.

Upcoming local meetings and contacts:
PORTLAND: Wednesdays, 7:30 PM at the Citizens Party office, 154 Middle St.
BRUNSWICK: Thursdays, Bowdoin College. Contact Margaret Bamforth, 729-3858.
BELFAST: Contact Dan Montague, PO Box 434, Belfast 04915.
UNITY: Contact Ron Caron, Box 519, Unity College 04988.

For those who don't want to leave the Democratic Party, Democrats for Commoner-Harris is now forming. Contact the Augusta address for more info.

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And Don't Forget the Libertarians

October 4 is the grand opening for the Libertarian Party in its headquarters at 602 Congress St., #202 in Portland. Deania Lohmann, campaign coordinator for the Maine campaign, will be on hand to answer questions and to discuss the Libertarian platform or the Ed Clark for President campaign.

Volunteers and money (sound familiar?) are both needed to give the campaign a needed boost. Persons willing to help are urged to stop by the office or call Deania at 774-3595.

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Biddeford to Host Energy Festival

The York County office of the Cooperative Extension Service will be putting on a major public energy education festival on Saturday, October 25 from 10 AM-4 PM with the theme, "Energy Conservation: A Positive Way of Living."

The day will include exhibits, demonstrations, and speakers on practical home energy use, alternative energy technologies for Maine people, plus much more. As an Extension program, no admission will be charged. For more details, contact York County Extension, Alfred 04002, 324-2815. The festival will be held at the Univ. of New England in Biddeford.

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SOMETHIN' FISHY IS GOIN' ON

From the water to the frying pan. The Portland Fish Consumer Coop is trying to take on all parts of the process in catching, warehousing, and selling fish, cooperatively, to Portland consumers.

With help from CETA and hopefully bank financing, the coop will be buying a boat, hiring a crew (a captain is already "on board"), and catching fin fish in the Boothbay area. Fish caught will be stored in a warehouse coop in Boothbay.

Some of these same fish may be sent to 58 Pine Street in Portland, where a building is being renovated as a cooperative fish market. A down payment has been made, but money is still needed for equipment and inventory. The coop membership and board will be controlled by low-income people, who are mandated to be a majority of both.

A public meeting to introduce the idea and recruit new members is being held on October 13 at the Peoples Bldg., 155 Brackett St., Portland. Persons interested in becoming members (\$5 fee, with low-income free) or who want more information should contact Pierre Shevenell at the Peoples Bldg. or call 775-0105.

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"Competition is the wringing of success from somebody's failure."

Referendum Fails, But Struggle Goes On

The September 23 nuclear referendum is over, but the repercussions for the safe energy movement are just beginning.

Several major followup activities have been announced. One is the filing on September 24 of a second referendum petition by Ray Shadis. Although the second referendum is symbolic at this point, it could be acted upon after public discussion.

Such public discussion is being planned through the Maine Congress for Safe Energy as a way to further involve the 160,000 people who voted "Yes." A decision-making congress has been set for November 22 at the Univ. of Maine in Augusta.

Principal starting points for the Congress, as announced by John Rensenbrink on Sept. 24, include:

- (1) Continuing the struggle to prohibit nuclear power in Maine;
- (2) Develop renewable and safe sources of energy through legislative action;
- (3) Rid Maine of dependence on corporate monopolies for energy needs;
- (4) An end to illegal hazardous waste disposal;
- (5) Mixed and decentralized energy sources;
- (6) Public and private ownership consistent with the above aims.

Overall, the goals are publicly developed and democratically accountable policies for energy, safe and renewable sources, and inflation-proof costs.

Among groups involved in the Congress are Safe Power for Maine, Sensible Maine Power, Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee, Greater Portland NRC, and Bath-Brunswick Citizens for Safe Energy.

An initial planning meeting for the energy congress will be held on Mon., October 6 at 7:30 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 15 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Persons who cannot attend but want to stay in touch should contact John at RR 2, Bowdoinham 04008 or call 725-6955.

Some local referendum groups will be continuing to meet to work on local educational activities and to stay involved with statewide efforts. The

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C. A. L. C. COMES TO MAINE

Lu Gunderson, New Hampshire staff member of Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC), will be in Maine from October 9-12 to speak with members of Maine's religious community about organizing a CALC chapter in the state. CALC attempts to bring an ecumenical social change perspective to various contemporary peace and justice issues. It tries to connect various issues and to bring a moral/ethical/spiritual perspective to them.

An upcoming CALC conference in New Hampshire on Nov. 15 will bring together the draft, the Iranian crisis, land and food, global resources, and apartheid in South Africa with possible social witnesses.

Lu hopes to talk with clergy and persons active in their church or with social change projects during her four days. She will be in the Dexter area on October 9. Contact her at RD 2 Box 506A, Plaistow, N. H. 03865 or call 603-382-8023 to arrange for a time to get together.

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"Unless we change our direction, we will wind up where we are headed."
Confucius

next Bath-Brunswick meeting will be on October 5 at 7:30 PM at 72 Front St. in Bath.

Finally, Maine Women for a Nuclear Free Future, PO Box 4118 Station A, Portland 04101 is alive and well, hoping to keep the connections between women and energy fresh. They are hoping to send a newsletter to the 800 women who sponsored a recent ad in the Maine Sunday Telegram (help is needed to make this a reality).

A few Maine women are planning to attend the Women and Solar Energy Conference, to be held on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 20-21, at the Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst. The cost is \$50, but a group rate is cheaper. Ellen Weissman is arranging for a group rate and for car-pooling. Contact her at 13 Waterville St., Portland 04101 or call 773-6595 (h) or 772-5481 (w) if you are interested in attending.

LEARNING THE INDIAN WAYS

"Learning and Teaching about Indians in Maine" is a conference sponsored by the AFSC Maine Indian Program. The conference, from 9 AM to 5 PM on Sat., October 25, at the Bangor Theological Seminary, will give teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, and others concerned about Native Americans a chance to learn about Wabanaki culture and history. There will be Native American resource people available to discuss current issues and the needs of Indian students.

Among the workshops will be ones on folklore/storytelling, culture vs. stereotypes, goals of Native Americans today, and perspectives on education. There will be displays and sales of books, crafts, and classroom materials.

The \$6 preregistration fee (\$9 after Oct. 18) includes registration, coffee/donuts, child care, and lunch. To register or for details, write Indian Conference, AFSC, 22 Riverview Dr., Brunswick 04011.

"Nobody gets paid to start a revolution."--Kathy Kahn
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A Vacationland "Detour"

The In Spite of Life Players, Maine's anarchist theater group, present their latest original play, "Detour," an odyssey through time and space, on Oct. 10-11, 17-18 at the Athens Grange (downtown Athens) at 7:30 PM.

"Detour" opens with Verve and Grost, host of the Verve and Zest Show, and his guests Boopsie Vandella and Morpheus Del Axis Mundio, master of "cheap tricks." They are joined by two warriors, Ulix and Ode, and the warriors are cast into the future by Morpheus.

Live music for the performance will be by Bob Rutman, steel cello virtuoso, plus an assortment of strings, brass, and percussion instruments. Admission is \$2.50, with reduced rates for seniors and handicapped.

In Spite of Life hopes to bring its production to the Waterville Opera House. They would also like to arrange bookings in other parts of the state. Contact Gail Fangboner, RFD, W. Athens 04912 or call 654-2642 to arrange for a presentation.

Animal Advocates L(e)ash out at Governor

Following an unusual "Leash-In" rally at the State House in Augusta, animal welfare advocates have gone home to write the governor, and they are asking others to do the same. Their letters are concerning a proposed 54% budget cut in the state Department of Agriculture which would reduce the number of humane agents, those who enforce anti-cruelty laws throughout the state, from 17 part-time and two full-time agents to ONE agent. With over 1,200 animal abuse claims received last year, local police, usually untrained, would be forced to handle complaints in the future.

The cut, if passed, would not take effect until July 1, 1982, but the governor will be making a recommendation by Nov. 1 of this year concerning the proposal. People are urged to write to Gov. Joe Brennan, Augusta 04333 and to Commissioner Stewart Smith, Dept. of Agriculture, Augusta 04333 asking them to distribute the cut more evenly throughout the Agriculture department or to significantly reduce or eliminate the animal welfare cut.

For more information on how to help, contact Marjorie Johnstone, pres. of the Maine Federation of Humane Societies, 15 Kling St., Augusta 04330, 623-8765.

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TOWN MEETINGS CONTINUE

Following up on a well-attended town meeting debate over the nuclear referendum, the State Town Meeting Committee will take its format to Bangor, Gardiner, Skowhegan, and Presque Isle to present voters in those senate districts with issue-oriented debates to help them make informed choices in the November 4 election.

The final two meetings will feature congressional incumbents and challengers debating on Oct. 25 in Lewiston and a presidential forum with several of the candidates or their representatives in Portland on November 1

More details on these meetings are available from the State Town Meeting Committee, Hubbard Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick 04011, 725-8731.
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"Those who sling mud generally lose ground."

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There will be a back-packing/meditation retreat for women to Caribou Mountain in the White Mountains on Oct. 24-26. This will be a chance for women to be together in the wilderness, to experience nature, to push themselves physically, to be still and quiet in nature.

The cost is \$50, plus \$20 for room and board (some negotiation possible). To register, send \$35 deposit (check payable to Cynthia Finn) to Tova Schwartz, 23 Bay St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139. For more information, contact Sandie Harris at Birdsong Farm, Box 143, N. Berwick 03908 or call 676-4038.

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Women Workers Learn Their Rights

Working Women in the Portland area will be discovering their legal rights at a conference at Wing Lounge, Westbrook College, from 9:30-4 on Nov. 1.

U. S. Attorney Janet Mills will give a keynote address to the conference and representatives from 9 to 5, an organization of clerical workers in Boston, will facilitate a workshop. Workshop topics include affirmative action/equal employment opportunity, equal pay legislation, sexual harassment, safety and health in the office, and women and finances.

The general public as well as women clerical workers are urged to attend. The conference is free, and daycare will be provided. PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Diana Fried at the Maine Civil Liberties Union, 97A Exchange St., Portland 04101, 774-5444 can give more details.

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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 have no money to spare now. Please keep sending it.
- ☐ I like the newsletter and want to contribute. Here is \$4 (one year) 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.

Economic Literacy for Maine Women

Do you ever ask yourself what "stagflation" is? When a politician says we must balance the budget (by cutting day care funds) to reduce inflation, do you wonder what the connection is? When they talk about tax cuts to "stimulate" the economy, would you like to know whether this will stimulate your economy? How does all of this affect you as a woman in Maine? What economic forces are acting to keep women at about half the incomes of men?

Find out the answers to these and other economic questions at a series of workshops on Economic Literacy for Maine Women. Sessions will be held one evening a week for three weeks in a row, to end before Thanksgiving. Sessions will be in four cities; Brunswick, Portland, Augusta, and Lewiston.

Contact Jackie Potter, Maine Commission for Women, State House, Augusta 04333, 289-3418 for more info.

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CHOOSING TO ACT, ACTING FOR CHOICE

October 25 is the date for an action by pro-choice advocates in support of choice and reproductive rights for women. The action, sponsored by the Maine Chapter of NOW (National Organization for Women), will be on Saturday evening in the Lewiston area. Other details have not yet been worked out, but they are available from Marilyn Kirby, PO Box 5195 Station A, Portland 04101 or by calling 772-2753 in the evenings.

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"91% of new homes being built in the
CMP-served part of Maine have electric heat."

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My correct
mailing
address is:

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Subscription Policy: Fact and Fancy

The subscription policy for the newsletter seems to have caused confusion for more than a few people. Here is an attempt to clarify that question:

All subscriptions are on a calendar year basis. Therefore, all subscribers need only pay once during each calendar year, at whatever time is convenient for them. Many have been receiving this newsletter since the beginning of 1980, while others have been added in more recent months. If you think \$4/year is a fair price (Most people who have paid have given that suggested amount), then you can give less if you have only been getting it for part of the year.

There is no requirement that people pay for the newsletter or even that they send back a subscription form. The main point is that they use it to become better informed and to get more involved in social change activities. However, it costs money to print and mail the newsletter and to pay basic travel and phone expenses. It would be nice to pay for the labor of those who work on it regularly, also. Subscriptions have slowed to a trickle and are barely covering the costs. Help is needed.

Do you get valuable information from this newsletter? Is it worth our effort to put it out? Then please indicate that by sending back the feedback form even without any money, if you don't have any to spare (and aren't one of the 400 plus who have already responded). If you aren't throwing this in the wastebasket, please tell us, so we won't weed you out (to save money and paper) at a later date.

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 people who would like to receive this newsletter, please send us their names and mailing address. Thanks!

ENERGY, HOUSING, AND COOPS TO MESH

The Energy Efficient Cooperative Housing Project, in conjunction with Rural America, Inc., will present "A Look at Cooperative Housing" on Tuesday, October 28 at 7 PM in the Farmington Municipal Bldg., South Main St., Farmington. Rural America is a national advocacy organization for rural and small town residents, with special emphasis on housing development.

Members of Lily House Coop will present information on their housing coop project. Formed to combat high rental costs and as an alternative to expensive home ownership financing, the coop hopes to combine stable residency, energy efficient design, and reasonable costs for owner-occupants.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone with an interest in low-cost and/or energy efficient housing or in cooperatives is urged to attend. Suzanna McCarthy at Dill House, Univ. of Maine, Farmington 04938, 778-4944 has the facts on this.

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Contraptions Invade Dover-Foxcroft

The second annual Contraption Day is rapidly approaching. The event, which drew 600-800 people to Brown's Mill in Dover-Foxcroft last year, will again encourage small scale and appropriate technology inventions. Last year 15 inventors brought their contraptions. Persons wanting to display their unique or wierd ideas should call Charles MacArthur at 564-8614 (5-9 PM is best) or write him at 16 Vaughn St., Dover-Foxcroft 04426 to arrange for a display.

The public is welcome at this extravaganza, from 10 AM to 5 PM on October 13, Columbus Day. There is no charge.

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SHOESTRING'S TRICKS AND TREATS

The annual Shoestring Theater Halloween torchlight parade will be held again on Oct. 31, beginning about 6-7 PM from the West End of Portland (gather at the People's Bldg.). There will also be workshops throughout October to make masks and costumes. Call Shoestring at 773-0899 if you can help out.

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The Frost and the Referendum

The frost is a turning point.
Not everything is gradual.
Gradually things turn,
Til suddenly they really turn around.
That's how it would have been
Had we won the vote by one.
That's how it will be.
The nights are getting cold.

So, look to you big grey tomato,
Mr. Thurlow.

Check out your golden dome, Mr. Brennan.
Someone's in the melon patch.
And as for you Randazza,
Watch what you say about democracy.
Winter will come.

The will of the people exists
As inevitable as the seasons.

By Abby Shahn and lee sharkey

VACATION IN THE MARITIMES

The Maritime Energy Coalition is hosting another Safe Energy Festival, this time sponsored by the Ecology Action Centre of Halifax. Over 50 tapes and films will be shown, on topics such as health, environment, nuclear waste, alternatives, and power/weapons connections. Many other events are also planned.

Judy Barrows, PO Box 774, Camden 04843, 236-3610 (after 10 AM) is planning to attend the last few days of the festival, to be held from Sept. 29-Oct. 5 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She reminds everyone of how beautiful Nova Scotia is this time of year and hopes others will carpool with her.

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Inmates Break Out

The latest "hot off the press" item from Dog Ear Press is On the Horizon/Nothing Is Moving, a collection of poems from inmates at Maine State Prison in Thomaston. Compiled by Jim Bishop of Pemaquid Harbor, who also wrote the introduction, the book includes poems by Mike Blanchard, from whose writing the title was taken, and James Lewisohn. All eleven authors express in some way the desolation and determination, the emptiness, and the hopelessness or hopefulness of prison life.

Send \$2 plus 75¢ for postage to
Dog Ear Press, Hulls Cove 04644.

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