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9-1-1983

## Spruce Run News (Undated)

Spruce Run Staff

*Spruce Run*

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### Repository Citation

Staff, Spruce Run, "Spruce Run News (Undated)" (1983). *Maine Women's Publications - All*. 272.  
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HELLO, HELLO, HELLO!!!

Life at Spruce Run has been very busy! We have the capital campaign, shelter renovations, shelter reopening, staff vacations, a reduced number of office volunteers and lots of direct service!! Thank you to all SR. volunteers who are so helpful during this busy, yet exciting time! Hope you all are enjoying your summer! Stay cool!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: On June 21st April L. celebrated her 22nd b.day (Sorry for missing you last month!) Tina P.- 11th and Cindy W.- 16th!!!!

**IMPORTANT HOTLINE VOLUNTEER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

BEEPERS- (750-4285) Hotline workers, please refer to the enclosed sheet for important beeper information.

BACK-UP COVERAGE- REMINDER:

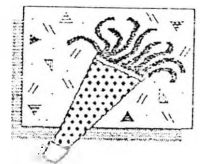
Beginning June 1, we have extended our scheduled beeper back up coverage. Please folks use your back ups! I continue to hear folks saying, "I didn't want to bother you". If you are feeling upset, fearful, angry, confused, uneasy or have trouble letting go of the call or falling back to sleep, please call your back up!!!

Shelter Renovations update:

The renovations are almost complete! We hope by July 15th everything will be done. Hotline and Kid Workers: We have scheduled 2 tour dates - July 13 5:30-6:30pm or July 14 12:00-1:00pm. If you would like a tour please call MF or ET before these dates to let

**Capital Funds Campaign Update:**

The great news is we have received pledges for almost 80% of the campaign goal of \$200,000! SR members should be receiving a campaign brochure and pledge card providing an opportunity to contribute to this project. Many of you have already made a contribution or have helped out with mailings etc. All of your help has been greatly appreciated. We are really busy completing last minute details as the campaign must be completed by June 30. A final tally of the pledges and summary of renovation plans will appear in the next newsletter.

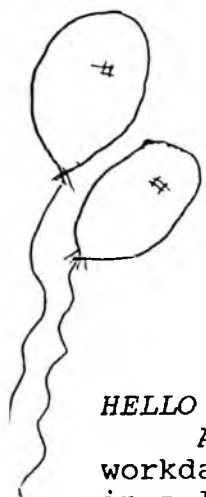


Anne-Marie

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 1.**

Volunteers who travel to Lewiston and would be willing to bring back food for shelter from the Good Shepherd Food Bank. Call Elaine!

2. Vol's. to pick up food from Old World Gourmet Shop between 5:15- 5:45pm when we need it.



Thanks Felicity! (to James V. Carter)

HELLO WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!!!

April was very full, rich and wonderful!! The staff did 4 workdays of program planning which gave us the first opportunity in a long time to focus on each of our program areas! Also April was volunteer appreciation month! The Volunteer Committee had a fun time planning our celebration party for volunteers (more on this later). Summer is nearly upon us; let's all hope for lots of warm sunny days!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Elaine T.- 4th, Debbie S.- 8th, Laurie W.- 13th, Ency W.- 16th, Janet E.- 17th, Francine S.- 20th!!!

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Volunteer Update:** Naomi L. is off the hotline sched. for the summer. She is doing her 10th year at a day camp for kids! See you in Sept.!

**Shelter Renovations update:** The walls are up and being taped. A new driveway, paved and wider, is on the horizon! We are hoping to complete renovations at the shelter by June.

**Postal carriers food drive:** On May 13th there will be a food drive organized by postal carriers. Anyone interested in volunteering time to help put food away, please call Elaine.

**Kid Worker Training!!** - Kid worker training is over and was a big success! Welcome to 9 wonderful new kid workers: Catherine Erdman, Chris Leighton, Cynthia Walker, Jennifer Athyn-Schlenker, Joan Hileman, Katrina Opitz, Kendra Sewall, MaryLynne Murry-Ryder, and Terri Greenleaf!!

**Capital Funds Campaign Update** - The past month has been a busy one for the Capital Funds Campaign. We held three training sessions for volunteers who will be soliciting funds for the Capital Campaign. We now have 25 wonderful, enthusiastic people who are already, or will soon be, out in the community explaining and promoting the Campaign and soliciting funds for the Resource Center. Spruce Run is very lucky to have the strong support of these special people to add to our already great volunteer force. More on the Campaign next month!! Anne-Marie

**ART WORKSHOP-** On April 20th, Wanda Garland offered a workshop on using art as a way to express ideas, issues and experiences of survival from abuse. In late May, another art workshop will be offered. For those interested, please contact Sally for more information. See enclosed flyer about the art exhibition.



**\*\* Why did you call the police? \*\***

"I was scared and I wanted it to stop."

"He was hitting me and that's against the law. Isn't it?"

"I thought they would take him away. I just couldn't live like this anymore."

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"What will happen to him if charges are pressed?"

- On average time intervals between date of arrest and sentencing were as follows:
  - 25% in 1 - 30 days
  - 16% in 31 - 45 days
  - 24% in 46 - 60 days
  - 23% in 61 - 90 days
- Of those reported in 1987 44% were prosecuted and in 1991 66% were prosecuted
- In 92% of those cases prosecuted the defendant either pled guilty or was found guilty
- Of the cases reviewed by the D.A.'s office in 1991 27% were dismissed (14% dismissed after consideration of the victim's request)

**\*\* Why did you ask that the D.A. drop the charges? \*\***

"We're getting along and I can show my support/trust of him if I drop the charges."

"I'm too afraid to testify, he'll come after me when he gets out."

"He said he'd leave me alone if I would just drop the charges."

"He says if he goes to jail he'll take the kids when he gets out."

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"What punishment will he get if he's found guilty?"

- Of those sentenced 68% were convicted of assault - all others of various charges I.E. - criminal mischief or trespass, terrorizing, etc, all of which are Class D crimes punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000.00 fine.
- 45% of those sentenced were ordered to pay fines
  - 82% of those so ordered had no other penalties imposed
  - 67% of those so ordered were fined from \$100 to \$200
- 57% of those sentenced were ordered to serve time in jail
  - 60% had their jail time reduced by suspension
  - 45% had their jail time completely suspended
- 38% of all sentences included 6 month or 1 year probation and special conditions - 25% counselling, 8% no contact, 5% pay restitution

"Yeah! He paid his fine, spent 12 hours in jail and came looking for me. He beat me again because he had to pay a fine and go to jail."

"While he was in jail he sent his friends over to slap me around."

"Now his whole family hates me, and says I've made him a convict."

### A RESPECTFUL WAVE

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

We bid a sad farewell to Lynn B. our Children's Services/Community Education Coordinator. Lynn's accomplishments in 5 years at S.R. were many. To name a few: several successful hotline and children's volunteer trainings, superb public speaking in schools, churches and civic organizations, a nationally presented training for children's workers, and a helpful book for kids in shelter.

Lynn B. has been a warm, loving, caring presence in our office. Her dog stories were a delight and we looked forward to her daily. Lynn is passionately committed to our social change vision and our grass roots approach to that change. We miss her immensely and we envy those in her congregation as she ministers to a church in southern Maine.

### \*\*\* SHELTER WISH LIST \*\*\*

Our shelter is consistently in need of many things. Some of which our benefactors supply. But still we like to dream. If you would like to support Spruce Run here are some ways to do so:

Towels	Cleaning items
Blankets	Lamps
Housewares	VCR
Pajamas	New underclothes
Diapers	Canadian rockers
baby items	Gift certificates
Picnic table	Answering machine
Infant swing	Lawn furniture
Sewing box	Bedspreads
Hampers	Chairs/Benches
Brooms	Sewing machine
Fans (large)	Rakes
Craft items	Playing cards
Clocks	Pads of paper

### MOST RECENT EVENT

Domestic Violence and  
How Can Health Care  
Personnel Respond

Spruce Run's Hancock Outreach Coordinator, R. W. in conjunction with Club of Hancock County Tri-Hospital Educational put together a full day program to provide info and guidelines to assist health care personnel in identifying, treating and referring victims of domestic abuse and violence.

Mary Cathcart was the keynote speaker for the held at the White Birch Ellsworth on May 6th.

Family Violence  
A Katahdin Area Cor

Spruce Run's Norther Penobscot County Outre Coordinator, Sally S. Millinocket area church schools, civic and service organizations are producing second Public Forum on Violence on Thursday, 30th.

Community awareness in putting an end to violence. This group beginning a much needed service considering the family violence is the consistently occurring in the Millinocket area



## POLITICAL/PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENT

(Developed 1/10/81 by Spruce Run Association)

The Big Problem: The Source of Abuse is Power Imbalance.

A power imbalance exists. Power is always in flux. Power is the ability to act, and we each have inherent personal power.

The use of power is not necessarily abusive. When the power imbalance is maintained so that it results in oppression and domination, it must be dealt with.

Historically, people have used power to dominate and oppress. This is an abusive process, and women and children are traditional victims.

We believe that change is possible and a nonabusive process can exist for dealing with the power imbalance. Acknowledging the recurring, ongoing nature of the power imbalance, we believe that we must engage in continuing struggle (personally and collectively, professionally and politically) to equalize the power imbalance.

We believe that the process for equalizing the power imbalance is to empower the victim.

We as women share common experiences, including victimization. The only people we can truly empower are ourselves and we choose to share that empowering process with other women and children.

Life is full of sorrow  
With no time for me to borrow  
yet left with no hope for tomorrow  
Leaving me feeling empty and hollow.

Sometimes I feel like a rag doll  
That's been tossed around like a rubber  
ball  
Waiting for the rest of the pieces of my  
life to fall  
With no good memories to recall.

It's come to pass my darkest hour  
For no longer am I in your controlling  
power  
That turned our dreams sour.

For so much have I lost  
And look how dearly was the cost

No matter how hard I tried  
You managed to strip me of some of my  
pride  
Now I feel like all I can do is hide  
Because I'm scared of your darker side  
But now longer by your will do I have to  
abide.

To me you were not kind  
You tried to take away my mind  
There were no silver clouds for me to  
line.

You left me without a home  
and all I can do for now is roam.

Our life together was not meant to be  
But at the time this I couldn't see  
For to my misery you held the key  
And now from your abuse I have set  
myself free  
But it was not done easily.

The road ahead is long  
And at this time I know not where I belong.

-A Survivor

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## SHELTER WISH LIST

Bath towels (white & light colors)  
Sheets  
New underwear & socks (for women and children)  
Bubble bath  
Shampoo  
Deodorants  
Non-prescription pain relievers (Tylenol, Advil)  
Cough drops (adult & kids)  
Hand lotion  
Chapstick  
Mouthwash  
Hairspray  
Hairbrushes (we have combs)  
Hairdryers  
Diapers  
Paper towels  
Toilet paper  
Sanitary napkins & tampons  
Batteries  
Lightbulbs  
Lamps & nightlights  
Cleaning supplies  
Kitchen stuff (pots & pans, dishes)  
VCR  
Alarm clocks  
Paper & pens  
Cigarettes (being in shelter is a hard time to quit)  
Baby bottles, pacifiers, thermometers  
Baby powder & baby oil  
Diaper rash ointment  
Baby monitor  
Crib sheets & blankets  
Formula

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### NEXT STEP'S HOTLINE GOES ON LINE

As many of you may be aware, there is a new domestic violence project underway in Hancock County. The Next Step officially opened its doors (and phone lines), on November 1.

Spruce Run has been working cooperatively with Next Step to facilitate a smooth transition of services in Hancock County. We are excited by Next Step's promising beginning and we wish them all the best.

RESOURCE INFORMATION: The Volunteer Lawyers Project has begun operating Maine's new Pro Bono Immigration Project, designed to provide legal services to low-income Maine residents who face serious legal obstacles to their continued residency imposed by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. Migrants receiving the highest priority under the Project are political asylum claims and deportation matters involving domestic violence, family unity and other compelling humanitarian concerns. If you are or become aware of anyone who has immigration related concerns, and may qualify for MVLPP's assistance, please have them contact the Volunteer Lawyer Project at 1-800-442-4293 or 774-4344.

#### INSERVICES!

June - The Somebody Else Was Us performance, by the Feminist Oral History Project, was wonderful! On behalf of Spruce Run, I would like to say Thank you to all the members of this project for all your incredible work!

Note: The volunteer committee has decided that we would not do inservices in July and August given the amount of folks who vacation during these months. The committee will continue to meet over the summer and will be working on a new 6 month inservice plan beginning in Sept. Thanks again to all of you volunteers who have attended the past inservices and events!! If you know of anything you would like us to do an inservice on please call or send me that feedback. The committee would also be happy to hear any feedback about inservices or volunteer appreciations of the past year! Thanks!!

FOR YOUR FUNNY BONES: Two male flamingos at the Rotterdam Zoo formed a loving relationship and are raising a female chick. The pair repeatedly tried to steal eggs from female flamingos to hatch as their own. Finally, moved by the persistence of the birds, zoo keepers provided them with a fertilized egg which the two hatched. The proud fathers have remained at their youngster's side ever since.

From: The Lesbian Connection Newsletter.

## USING THE LEGAL/JUDICIAL SYSTEM

"Using the Legal/Judicial system can mean taking control of our lives - saying we will not be beaten, we will insist on our rights. Using this system means giving up some of our power. When we ask the police for protection, we are saying to ourselves and our abusers that we cannot protect ourselves. When we ask the courts to decide child custody or property rights, we are saying that we are unable to do that ourselves. We are also asking the State, which knows nothing about what kind of people we are, or what our lives are like, to make a decision about our lives according to laws we know nothing about. To even make the initial decision to start a legal process, we need to know what the trade-offs and possible outcomes are."

- Sue Bradford

### **Criminal Charges:**

The basic purpose of the criminal justice system is to provide safety for it's citizens, to deter, punish and rehabilitate criminals in that order and to maintain peace in our communities by enforcing the laws of the state without infringing upon the civil rights of the individual. Therefore, we must bear in mind that the court's first priority is to deter perpetrators of domestic abuse from acting again. It is the duty of the police officer to investigate and recommend charges and the District Attorney's duty to make decisions as to whether or not charges will be prosecuted. Once victims have made the decision to involve the police they no longer make decisions about charges or prosecution, although, they can make requests of the District Attorney regarding the case sentencing. The Victim Services Coordinator tries to provide support and information to victims throughout the process and to coordinate the needs of the victim with the needs of the criminal justice system.

25 to 40% of domestic violence incidents are reported to police, possibly less since this percentage is an estimation. Given different police departments and their policies there are different results to reports of domestic violence. Some calls result in no charges, some are summoned and some are charged. The following data refers to those incidents reported to the police and in which charges were brought by the police to the District Attorney for a decision on prosecution.

According to data collected by the Penobscot County's Victim Services Coordinator, Michelle Soucy and myself:

"Should I call the cops?"

- Cases of domestic abuse reported to the District Attorney's office have increased from 158 in 1987 to 417 in 1990 (264% increase).
- In 1990 61% of these abusers were arrested and in 1991 70% were arrested.

**\*\* "Why didn't you call the police?" Judges ask. \*\***

"I've called before and they didn't do anything."

"He told me he'd kill me if I got him arrested."

"The last time they let him out on bail he came back to my place."

"I live outside of town and by the time the cops get there it's too late."

"I was too embarrassed!"

# Man sentenced to 18 months for killing wife

## Women's activists outraged at judge's sympathy for husband

By John Roll

TOWSON, Md. (AP) — A man who shot his wife to death after catching her in bed with her lover drew 18 months in prison from a sympathetic judge in what women's activists say amounts to giving spouses a license to kill.

**"This case explodes the myth that there is justice for domestic violence victims in Maryland."**

— Carol Alexander, House of Ruth shelter

"This case explodes the myth that there is justice for domestic violence victims in Maryland," said Carol Alexander, of the House of Ruth shelter for battered women. "He's sanctioned and approved an execution."

Circuit Judge Robert E. Cahill said he was reluctant to give any jail time at all to 36-year-old Ken-

neth Peacock, who killed his wife hours after finding her in bed with another man. He could have received 25 years in prison.

"I seriously wonder how many men married five, four years would have the strength to walk away without inflicting some corporal punishment," Cahill said Monday. "I am forced to impose a sentence only because I think I must do it to make the system honest."

Sandra Peacock, 31, was shot in the head with a hunting rifle Feb. 9 after her husband came home unexpectedly during a snowstorm. Finding her in bed, he went downstairs, had a few drinks, got into an argument with her and killed her. Her lover was not hurt.

"This is 1994, and we have a judge who excuses a man who gets so jealous that he murders his wife," said Judith A. Wolfer, a lawyer active in domestic violence issues. "If this judge's message gets out that it's OK, that's not a society I want to live in."

Kim Gandy, executive vice president of the National Organization for Women, said: "It's outrageous and at the same time, it's not an uncommon treatment of women who are victims of male violence."

The judge did not immediately return calls for comment.

## BROOM-HILDA



Happy May Day & Moms Day!!!

**THE CHOCOLATE PARTY** was a great success. There were almost 300 people in attendance! Sue B. found the Reader's Theater to be inspiring, informative and entertaining!!

**SHELTER SERVICES COMMITTEE** needs more members. Please call Elaine T. if interested. Meetings are held the last Monday of the month. This is a great year to work for on this committee, the focus will be making of a handicapped accessible unit, etc. Also, the annual basement cleaning is happening on Sat., May 14th at 9:30am. As ET. puts come have some food, fun and filth!!!

**VOLUNTEER COMM. REPORT:** We also need more members. At our last meeting we talked primarily about the annual meeting. We also will be developing an annotated volunteer list. This list will provide us with information about what tasks S.R. volunteers are willing to be asked to do. We will begin by focusing on direct service tasks (ex. Are you willing to take overflow calls?) I will be talking with hotline vols. when I gather June schedules.

**ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING:** On Wed. May 11th from 6 - 9pm and on Sun. May 15th from 12 - 5pm. we will be having Spruce's Annual planning, on Wed. the meeting will be held at Anne Schonberger's house 40 GARLAND ST. and is a potluck. Sun. we will be meeting at the SR. office. If you're interested call Debbie - 941-8435, so you can have info. send to you before these meetings.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Elaine T.- 4th, Debbie S.- 8th, Lisa C.- 12th, Laurie W.- 13th, Ency W.- 16th, Francine S.- 20th, Ellen M.- 22nd.

**COMMUNITY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IN APRIL & MAY:**

**WELLSPRING EDUCATION GROUP, BANGOR THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY CLASS, AND BANGOR POLICE TRAINING.** Good job Sally & Francine!

**NEW RESOURCE:** Next Step is now providing a support group on Tues. 9:30 - 11am. Women interested should call 667-4606.

"It becomes apparent that if violence against women is a societal problem, ending it would require a major restructuring of society. It is therefore easier to view battering as an individual problem - individual men batter individual women." Ellen Pence

Shelter 990-4247

Maureen

