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Feminist Voices (Fall 1997)

Greater Bangor Chapter of the National Organization of Women Staff

Greater Bangor Chapter of the National Organization of Women

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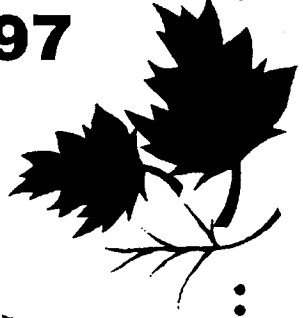
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Autumn

1997



F

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V

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Greetings!

Susan B. Anthony Meets GBNOW! That's the title of the locally written, produced, and directed play — by the same folks who brought you *Here Come The Brides!* — coming soon to a theater near you ...

- **Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine** (co-sponsors!)
- **Tuesday, August 26th, Women's Equality Day, 7 pm**

Of course, this is your local NOW Prez flexing her creative spirit again! With a lot of help from GBNOW activists and Peace & Justice Center activists, we plan to perform an across-the-centuries conversation with a variety of U.S. feminists and suffragists. How has the "Feminist Agenda" changed or stayed the same? Was winning the vote a transforming experience for U.S. women? How have racism, classism, and sexism divided and united feminists through the decades? ***Susan B. Anthony Meets GBNOW!*** will use feminists own words as often as possible to explore these questions and more.

GBNOW has had a quiet summer, and looks forward to planning some Fall & Winter rowdiness. Here are a few calendar items GBers will be attending &/or assisting:

September 6 Libby Roderick benefit [Clean Clothes Campaign] concert, UU, Bangor

September 19-21 Common Ground Fair (Maine NOW booth)

October 18 Maine NOW Conference & Silent Auction, Portland - Watch *Maine NOW Times*, or call NOW closer to the date for more details!

October 25 CUREs Community Day, Bangor

Also note: **P & J Center Peace Action Training** (military budget) is 9/13, and their **Harvest Supper** event is 10/4. And, 1998 will be the **20th anniversary** of Maine NOW PAC, the **25th anniversary** of *Roe v Wade*, & the **30th anniversary** of no-end-of-things from 1968!

Libby Roderick

Concert & Reception
Benefit for the Bangor Clean Clothes
Campaign

Saturday, September 6, 1997 8:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist Church
120 Park Street Bangor, Maine



Tickets Available at: Grasshopper Shop ~ Bangor
Green Store ~ Belfast
\$12.00 Advance/\$15.00 Door
For more information call 862-6387 or 947-4203

CELEBRATE



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY!



TUESDAY

AUGUST 26TH 7PM

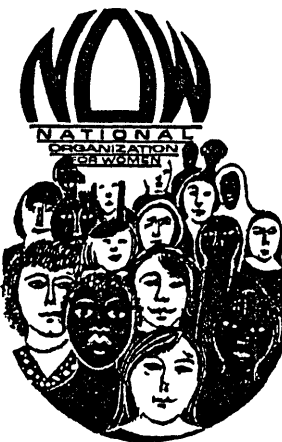


PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER of
EASTERN MAINE

AN ORIGINAL PLAY — SUSAN B. ANTHONY
MEETS GREATER BANGOR NOW

20TH & 18TH & 19TH CENTURY FEMINISTS CHAT ABOUT THE ISSUES

CO-SPONSORED BY
PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER OF EASTERN MAINE, AND
GREATER BANGOR NOW



EVERYONE WELCOME!
INFORMATION 989-3306 OR
942-9343



Greetings NOW Members & Friends!

FALL FAST TRACK

Hope your summer is going as well as mine! I'm an old-timer at B.M.H.I., so I have a lot of vacation time for a lucky. This year I broke it up a bit to accommodate some music events and such, and got strategically "sick" with other days off once or twice. Seems I've had a lot of great days, and I still have a 2 week vacation at the end of August!

GBNOW's International NO Diet Day, last May 6th, was one of our most successful events in ages! The house was filled with (almost all) women — fat and thin, young and old — all munching and chatting and having a good time! I forgot half the food, I was so thrilled at the turnout! See ya next year!

The **H.O.P.E. Festival** was a great success too, and the **GBNOW** table was both fun & fruitful — sign-uppers and money-wise. We also displayed again the International Women's Day action "tee-shirts" of Myths & Truths about women's lives.

Happily, the **World's Largest Garage Sale** brought in \$2 or 3 hundred, or more? Anyway, lots! My garage is ever ready year-round to accept yard sale stuff! The hoped for action/fundraiser for **Take Our Daughters to Work** day did not pan out. We did have a table at the **UM Women's Center** events though. Maybe next year we can take a different approach and do it in Bangor?

Red Alert! Three things are this fall's hot potatoes: two Veto campaigns- one good, one bad, and NAFTA/GATT reviews and decisions.

One Veto campaign is by the Christian Civic League to bring the Lesbian & Gay Anti-discrimination bill to referendum. We'll be needed if they succeed!

Also trying to collect the required 51,000+ signatures by September are folks trying to stop the **BIW corporate welfare** giveaway program! [see article pg.10] Jan Anderson of *Feminist Times* is leading this effort.

Activists have a real chance to stop **NAFTA** - North American Free Trade Agreement - and the President's option to **FAST TRACK** its expansion. The only beneficiaries of NAFTA so far are the bigwigs and large investors in multinational corporations.

NAFTA's Broken Promises, The Cost to Maine of Our Failed Experiment With NAFTA released June 27, 1997, by Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch in cooperation with Maine Coalition for Fair Trade [of which, Maine NOW is a member] details the many failures of NAFTA. I'll just mention a few.

Increased shipping volume & inadequate funding have greatly increased the volume of tainted



food and illegal drugs coming into the U.S. Fewer than 1% of the 3.3 million trucks entering the U.S. each year are inspected. Imported crops from Mexico have very high rates of **illegal pesticides**. Also, the trucks can carry in anything from corrosives to toxic waste.

Real wages for the majority of workers are **declining in all three NAFTA countries**. High wage, high-tech jobs have led U.S. NAFTA job losses. By everyone's measure - including the government's - NAFTA has cost us jobs, from Maine more than 2000.

Threats by companies against **workers trying to organize unions** that the companies will move to another country have increased significantly. The rate at which the threats are carried out have tripled under NAFTA.

Mexican and Canadian workers are also suffering. In Mexico, while over 8 million have slid from middle class to poverty, the employment in the maquilas/ sweatshops is **UP more than 60%** since NAFTA!

If all this were not enough, health and environmental problems have gotten worse under NAFTA. And, the U.S. trade surplus has turned into a trade deficit, to the tune of billions of dollars.

ACTION: URGE THE MAINE COGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO CO-SPONSOR & SUPPORT THE NAFTA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT! CALL TODAY!

ODDS & ENDS

What's all this about I-MESS(?!), some shock jock coming to Bangor? I don't really know who he is, but I do know he insulted my favorite Mayor. On the other hand, I've been wanting to cover up that dopey Paul Bunyan statue for years. I just doubt a TEE is enough. As you can see to the right here, feminists have already altered the statue years ago. Maybe the I-MESS TEE is fitting after all!

•The **Peace & Justice Center** film series will show "**Defending America, The Price We Pay**" on Friday, September 12. A discussion follows the film. **Peace Action Maine** will do an activist training on cutting military spending on the 13th, at the P&J.

•MLGPA, Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance annual meeting will be Saturday, September 27, 10am-1pm. For more info call MLGPA 1-800-556-5472

•Just a reminder - if you'd like a Maine directory of over 1,200 non-profit social action & social service organizations, including the first Green Pages directory, you want the **Maine Alternative Yellow & Green Pages**, an INVERT publication, just send \$10 to GBNOW!

GBNOW Prez-JoAnne Dauphinee
989-3306
VP -Joyce Blakney
Treas- Karen Hartnagle
Scribe- vacant
Affirmative Action - Jo, K.C.
Edes, Amanda Blake
Minority Seat - vacant



In 1975 women's libbers in Bangor required Paul Bunyan to have a vasectomy

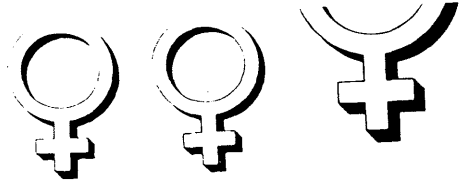
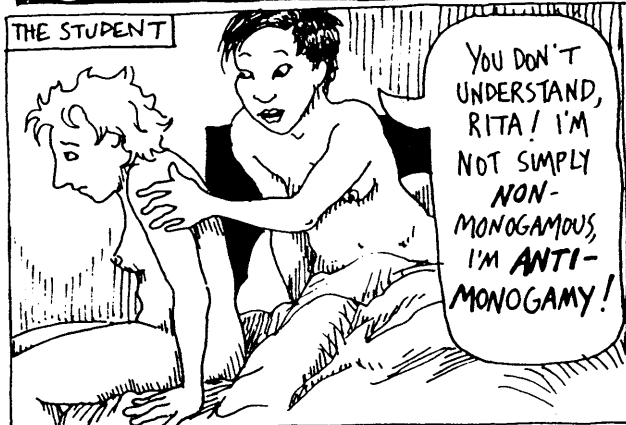
MANY THANKS to all who contribute to our wonderful chapter! Whether you give time, money, goodies, space, activism...it all has meaning!

Special thanks to our activists and those who attend our events!

And, a special thanks too, to the **Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine** for their generosity in supporting NOW's work and that of so many others! Love, Jo

the Seven Ages of Lesbians

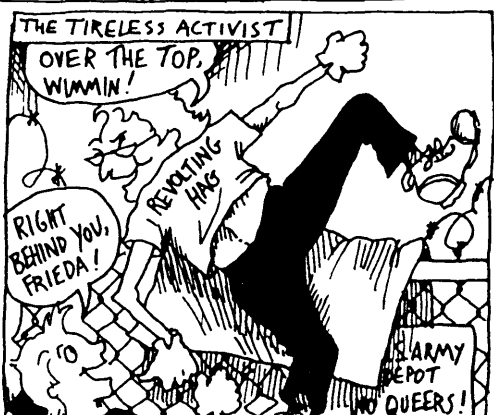
"ALL the world's a stage, and all us lesbians are merely players; we have our exits and our entrances, and one woman in her time plays many parts, her acts being seven ages..."
 - Shakespeare's sister, Judith



There is nothing, nothing, nothing that TWO WOMEN cannot do before noon.
 Anonymous



"LAST scene of all, which ends this strange, eventful herstory, is renewed hope and young idealism."





Bangor CUREs Project Update

June rounded out the Bangor CUREs Project's "Spring into Action" campaign with a month packed full of community activities.

A lone voice promoting respect and safety in the face of targeted residential picketing in our community, the Bangor CUREs Project gained its reputation as the leader in the effort to address abortion debate-related violence during 1996. CUREs began its second year by focusing its efforts to reach broader and deeper into the Greater Bangor Area communities. The project's three-month multifaceted public awareness and outreach campaign concluded this June. Far from winding down, CUREs is heading into the summer with more than double the support it had just three months ago and planning more sure to be memorable events.

June Signature Ad an Opportunity to Sign On for a Safe Community

CUREs published its second annual signature advertisement in the Bangor Daily News on Wednesday, June 18. Last year more than 120 area health care providers signed a quarter-page ad condemning abortion debate-related violence. This year, CUREs ran a third-page signature ad signed by 175 Greater Bangor Area community residents and elected officials.

The second annual signature ad symbolizes the growing recognition of abortion debate-related violence as a community issue. Area health care providers took the first step in bringing this concern to light in our community with the then bold publication of the signature ad. The "Physicians' Statement of Support," as it has come to be known, remains one of the most recognized and talked about accomplishments of CUREs in our community.

Since that ad ran, CUREs has reached thousands of individuals through movie screenings, special community events, public hearings, conversation groups, a window poster campaign, press conferences, school group presentations, church services, editorials, public service announcements, the H.O.P.E. Festival, the Common Ground Fair and one-on-one interviews.

Those 123 physicians are now being supported by hundreds of community members who also condemn the use of threats and intimidation in this very emotional controversy. CUREs is making signing on the line for a safe community a safe thing to do.

"Get on Board" Billboard Campaign

CUREs is also bringing the message of "Our Community Respects and Protects" to the streets, by way of the side of THE BUS. Our billboards were up on the Greater Bangor Area's sole source of public transportation from mid-April until the end of June and will be brought back again in the fall. Each billboard poster, which averages six feet in length, has the potential to reach 3,000 people every single day it's on display! Imagine the difference if 93,000 people decided to "Get on Board" with a commitment to nonviolence, communication and community safety!

In addition to being a creative way to gain further recognition for the project, what we do and how to get in touch with us, THE BUS campaign has been a much-needed boost for the people who have been involved in the work of CUREs during the past year and for the women and health care providers we are working to protect. Every time THE BUS drives by an office that is being picketed or throughout a neighborhood which has experienced the stress and fear of targeted residential picketing, it serves as a reminder that "Our Community Respects and Protects." It is a very large and unmistakable declaration that CUREs is an active, welcome part of our community and that it is making a difference.

Bangor Declares June 27 "Our Community Respects and Protects Day"

June also marked the proclamation of Friday, June 27, as the first official "Our Community Respects and Protects Day" by the Bangor City Council. Mayor Patricia Blanchette presented CUREs Project coordinator Deanna L. Partridge with a framed proclamation stamped with the city's gold seal.

In honor of this historic day, the *Bangor Daily News* published an editorial in support of the Bangor CUREs Project and our work. In addition to the editorial, the "Our Community Respects and Protects Day" op-ed page consisted of four pieces written by community members involved with or who support the efforts of CUREs to find a fair balance between free speech, personal privacy and community safety through dialogue.

Among the op-eds, a Pro-Life and a Pro-Choice state legislator declared their joint commitment to the condemnation of threats or violence and the promotion of respect and safety in the abortion debate although they share differing opinions on abortion. A member of the CUREs clergy conversation group detailed the shared social responsibility among his peers to promote understanding, protection and dialogue throughout our community because of their theologies, not despite their differing beliefs. A Pro-Life woman described her personal experiences living with abortion debate-related violence because of her employment with abortion provider and how she is now sees the broader picture of her experiences as a potentially destructive community issue.

Outreach Campaign Doubles Community Action Network

Our concentrated outreach campaign was scheduled to conclude at the end of June, but has been extended into July because of community demand to be involved. Since March, CUREs has nearly doubled its network of concerned citizens willing to publicly speak out against abortion debate-related violence in our community. A part-time outreach coordinator was hired temporarily to help to meet the high interest for more information about the CUREs Project. A second outreach campaign is already being planned for the fall.

One-on-one interviews with community members and conversation groups form the backbone of the project's extension throughout the Greater Bangor Area. Conversation groups are two-hour facilitated discussions with six to 12 individuals. Participants are usually linked by something they all have in common, such as a profession or the neighborhood in which they live. Other groups are formed based on the interest of community members with widely differing concerns but similar schedules.

For example, in June, CUREs facilitated a discussion between local health care providers and a representative from the Attorney General's office to address legal questions, civil rights issues and hate-motivated violence. CUREs also facilitated a group that brought Pro-Choice and Pro-Life activists together with other issue-oriented community activists. This conversation group created new understandings and opportunities for cooperation among activists who have seen themselves as competing for scarce resources, at the very least, and in some cases as complete enemies for more than 20 years.

Whether it be through paid advertising supported by community donations, media support and recognition, community events or small group dialogues and outreach interviews, the Bangor CUREs Project's "Spring into Action" campaign more than met its goals. CUREs exists to address abortion debate-related violence with grassroots community organizing, facilitated dialogue and conflict resolution education. In the past year and a half, our efforts have begun to replace the atmosphere of fear and intimidation that has existed in our community with support, protection and a new collective sense of social responsibility to keep all members of our community safe from lawlessness and violence. CUREs is working to ensure "*Our Community Respects and Protects.*"

For more information about the Bangor CUREs Project or to get involved, stop by MWWHC or contact CUREs directly by phone at 945-4024 or by mail at P.O. Box 238, Bangor, ME 04402-0238.

Upcoming events:

Weekend of Prayer and Action, October 24-26.

Second Annual Communities United Day, Saturday, Oct. 25.

SPECIAL INSERT!!

✶ ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT!!

GBNOW'S annual election meeting shall be JANUARY 12, 1998.

✶ OFFICERS NEEDED!

GBNOW will be electing the following officers: Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, Recorder, Treasurer, Affirmative Action Coordinator, and a Racial & Ethnic Diversity Coordinator. Any member of GBNOW in good standing, may run for any office, except that the Racial & Ethnic Diversity Coordinator must be a person of color. Even if you have not been previously active in the chapter, you may run for office!

OPERATING RULES — AMENDMENTS PROPOSED: Below are GBNOW's Operating Rules. Proposed changes are contained within, with additions appearing **In Chicago font**, and deletions indicated by ~~strike-throughs~~. These changes will be voted on at the November 10, 1997 meeting.

GREATER BANGOR NOW OPERATING RULES - AUGUST 1997

NOTE: Greater Bangor NOW adopted Model Chapter Bylaws April 25, 1979. The following operating rules supplement the Bylaws and may repeat Bylaw language in some sections.

Section 1. Name: The name of this chapter shall be the Greater Bangor chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). It shall exist and operate as a unit thereof.

Section 2. Purpose: The purpose of the Greater Bangor Chapter shall be to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society NOW, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men. This purpose includes, but is not limited to, equal rights and responsibilities in all aspects of citizenship, public service, employment, education and family life, and it includes freedom from discrimination because of marital status, parenthood, or sexual preference.

Section 3. Policy: This chapter shall be bound by the National Bylaws and may not take action which is contrary thereto. Where there is no established national policy, this chapter may express itself on any subject which is directly related to the purposes of NOW. Greater Bangor NOWs Bylaws take precedence over these operating rules, should any discrepancy arise.

Section 4. Membership: Any person who subscribes to NOW's purpose shall be eligible to become a member of this chapter and upon payment of National, State and chapter dues, shall be enrolled as a member of this chapter. No person shall be excluded from membership, segregated, or otherwise discriminated against within the organization because of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, economic status, marital status, parenthood, sexual preference, or handicap.

Section 5. Structure: The structure of the chapter shall be as follows:

(A) The Officers, who together shall constitute the Executive Committee;
(B) The Board of Directors, which shall consist of the Officers, Greater Bangor NOW's Maine NOW Board Representatives, and, as they exist, chairpersons of the following standing committees

- 1) Finance
- 2) Membership
- 3) Legislative
- 4) Legal
- 5) Public Relations
- 6) Affirmative Action**

(C) Only Chapter Officers, or those designated specifically by the Officers or by the chapter, shall have authority to interpret chapter policy.

(D) The chapter may create sub-units to implement chapter programs and to participate in National programs in the manner set up by the National Board. ~~A committee can consist of no fewer than three members.~~

(E) The Chapter may seek loose-knit, non-structured alliances with other feminist and progressive groups, but formal structured coalitions will only be entered in accordance with **Maine NOW and National NOW Coalition Guidelines.**

Section 6. Officers and Duties: There shall be a President (also referred to as a Coordinator), Vice President or Assistant Coordinator, Secretary or Recorder, ~~and~~ Treasurer, Affirmative Action Coordinator, and Racial & Ethnic Diversity Coordinator; any office may be served by two officers at the discretion of the membership, except that for purposes of record-keeping which may require it, one President and one Treasurer shall be designated. In the event the chapter chooses to fill only two offices, President and Treasurer, they shall share the duties which normally fall to the ~~Vice President and Secretary~~ **other officers**; and, they shall encourage membership to fill all ~~four~~ offices. These officers, no fewer than two ~~and no more than eight~~, shall constitute the Executive Committee.

(A) The President/ Coordinator(s) shall be the chief executive officer(s) of the chapter; shall call and provide for facilitation of the membership meetings and other meetings as needed; shall be responsible for causing the submission of required reports to National NOW, **including a required annual report, a copy of which shall go to the State Coordinator**; shall encourage mutually beneficial cooperation and communication with Maine NOW, sister chapters, and the various other branches of NOW in and beyond Maine; shall perform or cause to be performed the requirements of these bylaws and operating rules, in accordance with NOW policies and procedures; and, shall be ex officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

(B) The Vice President/ Assistant Coordinator(s), in the absence or inability of the President/Coordinator(s), shall perform the duties of the President/ Coordinator(s); shall assist in performing the duties of the President/ Coordinator(s) as requested or as needed; and, may be chairperson of any committee or sub-unit of the chapter.

(C) The Secretary/Recorder shall keep a record of the proceedings of the meetings of the chapter and of the Board of Directors; shall keep, or cause to be kept, membership records; shall conduct chapter correspondence not specifically assigned to others; and shall send out, or cause to be sent out, notices of Membership meetings to at least the current membership.

[note: this can include by newsletter]

(D) The Treasurer shall receive all funds of the chapter and shall deposit them in such bank or banks as may be designated by the chapter; shall disperse these funds by check in accordance with the approved budget; shall make regular reports to the Board of Directors, the membership, and shall file any reports required by National NOW; shall be ex officio a member of the Finance Committee; shall surrender the account(s) and reports for review or audit as requested by the Board of Directors; shall prepare, or assist in preparing, the annual fiscal report and the annual budget.

(E) The Affirmative Action Coordinator : The requirements and duties of this office are delineated in Section 14 Affirmative Action.

(F) The Racial & Ethnic Diversity Coordinator: The requirements and duties of this office are delineated in Section 14 Affirmative Action.

Section 7. Board of Directors: The Board shall manage the affairs and control the funds and property of the chapter; shall report its activities at each membership meeting; shall formulate and present the annual budget; shall supervise the conduct of chapter activities, the implementation of chapter policies and directives, and insure that the duties of the Executive Committee are performed. The Board shall meet as often as it deems necessary, or upon call of the President or any two officers.

Section 8. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall carry on the day to day business of the chapter between meetings of the Board and of the membership and shall report its actions thereto; shall meet upon call of the President or any two officers; shall facilitate and promote mutually beneficial cooperation and communication with Maine NOW, sister chapters, and the various other branches of NOW in and beyond Maine.

Section 9. Membership Meetings: There shall be at least eight (8) regular meetings of the membership each year, one of which shall be designated the annual meeting. The ultimate authority for chapter action shall reside in the membership, which shall have authority to overrule the decision of any sub-unit of the chapter.

Section 10. Finances: (A) The fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31. The Treasurer, or one designated by the President, shall prepare an annual fiscal report for the members no later than January 5th. An annual budget proposal shall be prepared by the Board of Directors, the

Treasurer, or one(s) designated by the President no later than November 1st; and a proposed budget will be adopted at the annual meeting or no later than the end of February.

(B) Any member whose dues are in arrears by three months may be notified and may be dropped from the rolls. Some privileges of membership are explicitly denied to non-members such as exclusion from the privileges of holding the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, ~~or~~ Treasurer, **Affirmative Action Coordinator, or Racial & Ethnic Diversity Coordinator**. However, membership privileges not specifically denied, such as receiving newsletters or organizing for chapter activities, shall ~~continue to be~~ at the discretion of the membership.

(C) All checks must be signed by either the President or the Treasurer of Greater Bangor NOW.

(D) Special consideration shall be given to anyone unable to pay part or all of their dues. An active participant's membership dues may be paid by the chapter at the discretion of the members, in recognition that activists often "pay their dues" in ways other than monetary.

Section 11. Nominations and Elections: Between September 31 and December 31, volunteers to serve as officers shall be sought for nomination. If necessary, a nominator or nominating committee shall be chosen to seek volunteers. A January meeting shall be designated the annual meeting, and members will be notified no later than 30 days prior to the election. Nominations for office shall be made from the floor. Elections shall be by majority vote of members in good standing, present and voting. Any member may request a secret ballot vote. Any member who subscribes to NOW's purpose and whose Chapter, State, and National dues are paid is eligible to vote or hold office in the chapter. At the conclusion of the January meeting, officers shall assume their new duties **for a term of one year. No officer may serve for more than four consecutive terms.**

Between Annual elections, vacancies in offices may be filled by a majority vote of those chapter members present and voting at any Membership Meeting, except that the Vice President(s) automatically become President(s) should the office of President be vacated; in the event of co-Vice Presidents assuming the office of President, the Board shall designate one for purposes of record-keeping which may require it.

Section 12. Grievance Procedure: As soon as a grievance is brought to the attention of the members, it is the responsibility of GBNOW to attempt to resolve it and, failing that, to refer the grievance to the Maine NOW State Board for resolution. **If not solved at the local or state level in a reasonable timeframe, it shall be referred to National NOW.** "Grievance" shall be defined as a charge that the chapter or a designated representative of the chapter has acted contrary to NOW's goals and/or policies and/or is in violation of GBNOW Bylaws or Operating Rules. At the meeting when the grievance is first raised, the undisputed members present who are not directly involved in the grievance, shall choose by lot, a committee of three or all undisputed members - whichever is fewer - to constitute a grievance committee. this committee one set of related grievances or a single grievance, whichever the members present think more reasonable.

The committee's minimal responsibilities include to

(1) Notify, in written form, all parties directly involved in the grievance and all GBNOW members who request in writing to be so informed, that the committee seeks in written form all pertinent facts and welcomes all reasonable suggestions for resolution of the grievance.

(2) Act in a timely fashion to resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the parties involved and/or at least 2/3 of the committee.

(3) Keeps accurate records of all procedures used by the committee, all correspondence, and all information submitted to the committee, copies to be made available upon written request to any party involved or to any undisputed GBNOW member.

Section 13. Amendments: The Chapter's Operating Rules may be amended by a 2/3rds vote at any meeting of the chapter provided notice of such proposed amendments shall have been sent to each member at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The Model Chapter Bylaws may be amended in the same manner, except that the President must be notified 60 days in advance. **National NOW must be notified of any successful amendments.**

Section 14. Affirmative Action: GBNOW recognizes that a simple policy of nondiscrimination is not sufficient to overcome the deeply entrenched, systematic, and insidious biases against all women, all children, and minority people. GBNOW is dedicated to creating human relations not based on structures of oppression such as sexism, racism, heterosexism, classism, able-bodyism, looksism, et cetera.

(A) Greater Bangor NOW shall, from among its members, appoint **or elect** an Affirmative Action Coordinator who shall be responsible proposing and/or evaluating:

- (1) Activities promoting and celebrating diversity within GBNOW, and by GBNOW in the general community;
- (2) Plans or policies for recruitment of minority women for leadership positions in GBNOW;
- (3) One action or project annually focusing on minorities in Maine.

(B) GBNOW shall schedule a minimum 10 minutes of every ~~regular business~~ **membership** meeting for discussion focused on minorities.

(C) The Affirmative Action Coordinator shall **work with the Racial & Ethnic Diversity Coordinator and others to promote and impliment these NOW goals and policies; and shall, with the Racial & Ethnic Diversity Coordinator,** provide at least one written evaluation of GBNOW annually, in the Fall.

(D) Greater Bangor NOW shall, from among its members, **elect a Racial & Ethnic Diversity Coordinator, who shall be a person of color. If a person of color does not become available to serve at the time of the election of officers, then the Executive Board will search for qualified members to persuade to stand for office.**

The Racial & Ethnic Diversity Coordinator shall serve on the Executive Committee; shall suggest and evaluate chapter actions and goals, especially as they relate to racial and ethnic issues; and, shall work with the Affirmative Action Coordinator and others to promote and impliment these NOW goals and policies.

Note: An up to date copy of GBNOW Operating Rules and Bylaws must be on file with National NOW. Chapter Bylaws and Operating Rules must not contradict National NOW Bylaws or Policy.

Ceremony for Completing a Poetry Reading *Chrystos*

This is a give-away poem
You have come gathering
You have made a circle with me
of the places where I have wandered
I want to give you the first daffodil opening from the earth I have sown
to give you warm loaves of bread
baked in soft mounds like breasts
In this circle I pass each of you a shell from our mother sea
Hold it in your spirit & hear the stories she will tell you
I have wrapped your faces around me, a warm robe
Let me give you ribbonwork leggings, dresses sewn with elk teeth
moccasins woven with red & sky blue porcupine quills
I give you blankets woven of flowers & roots
Come closer
I have more to give this basket is very large
I have stitched it of your kind words
Here is a necklace of feathers & bones
a sacred meal of choke cherries
Take this mask of bark which keeps out the evil ones
This basket is only the beginning

SAD GOODBYE

It was a time of great activity in GBNOW, in the late 1980s, when Karen Hartnagle was Coordinator, Pam Wallace, Amy Manville-Graham, Chris Astran, I and several others were forever scheming to bring feminist musical talent to the Bangor area. We brought Holly Near, Casselberry & DuPree, Deidre McCalla, Dianne Davidson, and others!

Amy was always in the thick of it, and served for some time as our Publicity Coordinator. So, it is with great sadness I tell you that Amy Manville-Graham died recently of cancer. She will be remembered by many Bangor area NOW members.

There is something in my arms for all of you
I offer you
this memory of sunrise seen through ice crystals
Here, an afternoon of looking into the sea from high rocks
Here, a red-tailed hawk circling over our heads
One of its feathers drops for your hair
May I give you this round stone which holds an ancient spirit
This stone will soothe you
Within this basket is something you have been looking for
all of your life
Come take it
Take as much as you want
I give you seeds of a new way
I give you the moon shining on a fire of singing women
I give you the sound of our feet dancing
I give you the sound of our thoughts flying
I give you the sound of peace
moving into our faces & sitting down
Come
this is a give away poem
I cannot go home
until you have taken everything
and the basket which held it
When my hands are empty
I will be full



Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center

334 A Harlow Street - P.O. Box 20 - Bangor, ME 04402-0020 (207) 947-5337

Spring NEWS 1997

Ruth L. Lockhart, Executive Director

MWWHC SERVICES

All of you are responsible for the growth and continued good health of the MWWHC. In turn the MWWHC is responsible for helping to improve the health of women in the area. Our health care providers are physicians and nurse practitioners who volunteer their time to serve women who are mostly uninsured or underinsured.

We know that a lot of the publicity we receive centers on our abortion services, and we want you to know about the other health care services we offer. At MWWHC we offer PAP smears, breast exams, pregnancy testing, pregnancy options education, birth control, lesbian health care, and any other basic reproductive or sexual health care services women may require.

Soon we will be caring for women who choose to continue their pregnancies. Our future plans call for hiring a primary care physician. Our goal is to be a full service women's health center. We keep our fees as low as possible and can provide payment plans for non-abortion services. We accept Medicaid and Medicare. Services are by appointment.

IK Picketing Update

MWWHC continues to be picketed regularly by a small group of people opposed to a woman's right to control her own body. Although it's less than ideal to have them out front, they certainly don't stop us from serving the women who need us. One result of their vigilance is the PLEDGE-A-PICKET Program Fund. Since its inception, this Fund has brought in over **\$4,500!**

THANKS to all who participate. Call if you want to pledge so much each time your favorite picketer is out front. Call the Center at 947-5337.

WE'RE MOVING!!!

We have great news! Last year we welcomed and added the volunteer efforts of more registered nurses and physicians. We grew so much we had to buy a new client chart cabinet. Terry Marley-DeRosier who is a nurse practitioner and a co-founder of the MWWHC will join us in September 1997. Terry and her co-worker, Teresa, will bring their OB/GYN practice to the Center. This means we will move from part-time to full-time services and will add prenatal care to our list of offerings. A long time dream is coming true.

AND we are moving. We will be moving to a larger site, just a few doors down, still in the InTown Plaza. The space will be twice as large as our current office. This is planned for late summer 1997. We will need the financial support of the community to make this move and trust you will help us. Please see our wish list for other ways you can assist MWWHC.

Who is Mabel Wadsworth?

Mabel Wadsworth is one of the co-founders of MWWHC. She was instrumental in bringing quality reproductive health care to women who couldn't procure it otherwise. Because of her spirit and dedication, Sharon Barker suggested the Center be named in her honor. Mabel is an inspiration to all of us.

\$5,000 Challenge Update

Last year an anonymous donor issued a challenge of a \$5,000 gift IF donations were given specifically towards the challenge. You donated, we reached our goal and the \$5,000 was given by this donor. Now the donor has reissued the challenge of another \$5,000. Please give towards the challenge and mark your donation, CHALLENGE. Thanks!

Chris Suddick



Changing Maine "Re-inventing Democracy" -3rd Annual Gathering for Maine Organizers and Activists, Saturday, November 1, 1997, 9 Am - 4 PM Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 209 Eastern Ave., Augusta Registration \$10 by 11/1 (Childcare - contact by Oct 25) Sponsored by INVERT FMI: Larry Dansinger at 525-7776 ASAP

Common Circle for Human Rights - Equal rights & social justice. Facilitates respectful discussion and exchange of ideas, works toward more informed citizenry, and increasing bonds of friendship and understanding among diverse people. Sept 5 - 13, 1997 Love Makes a Family Photo/Text Exhibit, Spring St Gallery, Belfast *Friday, Sept 5 Reception 5 - 7 p.m. Panel at the Belfast Free Library, Abbott Room from 7:15 - 9 p.m. on Sept 5 FMI: Mitzi, 338-5889

PICA - Bangor Clean Clothes Campaign Phase II at the P & J Center; Activities with Carasque, El Salvador - our Sister City; Libby Roderick performs as benefit for BCCC on Sept 6; & Auction - November 8 FMI: 947-4203



Does Pollution Cause Breast Cancer?

Much media attention has focused on genetic causes of breast cancer, and the best diet and exercise program to prevent breast cancer. Now **Bella Abzug** of the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) is calling for more information on environmental causes of breast cancer.

"I'm sick and tired of reading about all these studies that don't get to the root causes of the problem," Abzug writes in the WEDO newsletter. WEDO's Action for Cancer Prevention Campaign sponsored a World Conference on Breast Cancer, July 13-17, in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. One day of the conference was devoted to ecological links to breast cancer. For more information or to contribute to the campaign call WEDO at (212) 973-0325.

Day of Conscience to End Sweatshops

The National Labor Committee along with the People of Faith Network, the United Methodist Church Women's Division and UNITE, the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, are calling for a Day of Conscience to end Sweatshop Abuses on Saturday, October 4.

This day of nationwide "mobilization and educational outreach" will come one month before the final report of President Clinton's Apparel Industry Task Force is scheduled to be released. Anti-Sweatshop organizers hope that the October 4 festivities will influence the debate and decision making of the Task Force and initiate a "Holiday Season of Conscience" where informed consumers can reward companies that have signed on to the Task Force's Accord to Address Sweatshop Abuses and punish companies that have not.

Most sweatshop workers are women and many are underpaid and work in unsafe conditions. Contact Maggie Poe or the National Labor Committee at (212) 242-3002 to receive a campaign packet including a petition and ideas for action. —O.G.

Suffrage Statue in Rotunda

The statue of three women's suffrage leaders was finally moved to the Capitol Rotunda, more than 75 years after it was first carved and presented to Congress.

The statue of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony was presented to Congress in 1921. But after a dedication ceremony in the Rotunda — the large public area under the Capitol dome where all the statues were previously male — the statue was moved into a basement storage room.

After years of pressure, and after raising private funds to move the statue, the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign succeeded in having the statue moved on Mother's Day. However, Congress only agreed to the move for one year, during which time they are supposed to decide where else to move it.

In addition, after the legislation to move the statue had passed, an African-American women's group, the National Political Congress of Black Women, objected to the statue because it did not include Sojourner Truth, whose "Ain't I a Woman" speech is an eloquent plea for women's suffrage and equality. Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) has introduced legislation to create a separate statue of Sojourner Truth.

Maine Lesbian, Gaymen, Bisexual & Transgendered's

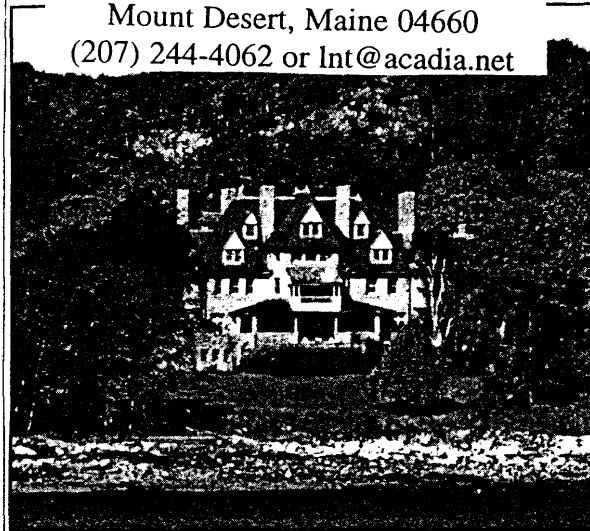
GAY TIMES
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August 16th—18th, 1997

College of the Atlantic

On the Ocean

Bar Harbor, Maine



SPRUCE RUN

P.O. Box 653

Bangor, ME 04402

CONTACT:

Maureen or Sue - 945-5102

BE A VOLUNTEER!!!

SPRUCE RUN, A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCY WHICH PROVIDES SERVICES FOR BATTERED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, WILL BE OFFERING A FORTY-THREE HOUR HOTLINE TRAINING IN SEPT. 1997. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING ON OUR HOTLINE AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF BATTERED WOMEN AND YOU ARE ABLE TO MAKE A ONE YEAR COMMITMENT, PLEASE CALL OUR RESOURCE CENTER AT 945-5102 FOR A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION BY SEPT. 15



MARS ROBOT 'Sojourner' Named By Black Girl To Honor Abolitionist Sojourner Truth



Black history heroine Sojourner Truth is being remembered in a special, grand way. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) selected the name "Sojourner" for its new robot recently used to kick off a historic exploration of the planet Mars. The *Sojourner* is the first mobile vehicle to roam and explore another planet.

Valerie Ambroise of Bridgeport, CT, was 12 years old when she came up with the name "Sojourner" in a worldwide essay contest. She won the contest a year later at age 13 and is now 15.

The *Sojourner* is a tribute to Sojourner Truth, an abolitionist and champion of women's rights who lived during the Civil War era. She was born a slave in 1797 or thereabouts in upstate New York and died in 1883.

Valerie Ambroise's Sojourner Essay

The name of the Pathfinder should be Sojourner Truth. I chose Sojourner because she was a heroine to Blacks, slaves, and women. She acted on her strong feelings about life and the way it should be. Her greatest companions were God and her beliefs. Her greatest achievements included the book of her life written through her by a friend, meeting President Lincoln, meeting President Grant, her speeches and tours, her work at hospitals for soldiers during the Civil War, and her intellect (considering that she was illiterate). She went on many journeys and told many truths. She spoke with such eloquence that she moved people with simple words and understandings.



Valerie Ambroise

It's only logical that the Pathfinder be named Sojourner Truth, because she is on a journey to find truths about Mars. The Pathfinder should be able to have strong personalities in order to go under harsh conditions like that on Mars. Truth, while on tours, went under many harsh conditions. Even before, she went under harsh conditions as a slave.

Like Sojourner, the Pathfinder should be able to survive with what she already has. She should not need any extra equipment for surviving. The Pathfinder could use its feet like wheels, for transportation. Sojourner used her feet to travel a lot.

To research Mars, first, Sojourner would find out all she could about it. She always tried to understand further about what she was fighting for. When she got her information, she would use this information in Mars to study it more and add it to hers. She would act quickly to get what she wanted or what she felt was needed. Her talents in her work would be the same on Mars. She would use her eloquent voice and powerful actions. You must admit, Sojourner and the Pathfinder are important.

Do you think men and women have equal talents, abilities, and potentials?

Do you think men and women should have equal pay for equal work?

Then you are a feminist.

Do you think women who spend their lives for their families deserve respect for the jobs they are doing?

Then you are a feminist.

Do you think men and women should have equal access to school scholarships, sports facilities, and higher education degrees.

If you think you are a feminist

Then you are a feminist.

equal opportunity, equal responsibility, and equal treatment for both men and women.

It is as old as the human desire to be treated fairly and judged equally. But it is an idea whose time has come.

me? a feminist?

Is not a new phenomenon.

Handwritten word: **Feminism**

Compiled by The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. which has been working toward the goal of equality for men and women in this country since 1919. They are

170,000 working women whose programs on day care, business and finance, prenatal care, aging and education have contributed to the growing recognition of women's leadership in the community.

CORPORATE WELFARE

BIW BILL MEETS RESISTANCE!

On Wednesday, June 11, in a private gathering with BIW management and worker representatives, Governor Angus King signed a bill into law previously approved by the State legislature that would give a tax break to Bath Iron Works. This is only one of many forms of corporate welfare subsidized by the public of Maine that are being granted to BIW, subsidiary of defense giant General Dynamics, in the name of "competition." On Tuesday, June 24, Jan Anderson, editor of the Feminist Times out of Belfast, submitted a veto initiative to election officials at the State House in Augusta. The initiative, with enough signatures, could be placed before Maine voters as a referendum issue.

The \$60 million tax break would be funded by the people of Maine by allowing BIW to retain employees' state withholding taxes for up to 20 years or until 30 ships are built. BIW, who currently employs 7300, can only qualify for the annual tax break if the shipyard employs at least 5000 workers in the first four years and at least 3500 workers beginning in 2003.

BIW also is expecting to receive \$53 million in state tax credits through a separate program and \$80 million more in aid from the city of Bath. BIW is still seeking additional aid from the State in order to complete a modernization process that would help it compete with Ingalls Shipbuilding in Mississippi. In early June the murderers at the Pentagon tentatively committed to a deal with Ingalls for 8 destroyers and the modernization of 27 cruisers, and with BIW for building six destroyers.

The shipyard is expected to invest \$150 million in modernizing its main facility at Bath in the first five years and at least another \$50 million in the subsequent 5 years, all to increase its capacity for "competing" in an industry based on the mass loss of human life. If General Dynamics really wants to compete, they shouldn't be asking for so much support from the Maine public, which needs the funds badly in many other places.

Jan Anderson, not representing any one group, said that she is merely one of many outraged Mainers who doesn't support the tax break. The initiative must be worded at the Secretary of State's office, and following that there will be a 90-day period where a minimum of 51,000 signatures on petitions must be gathered before September 19.

Anderson may be contacted for the petitions once the wording is complete. Each town may have one petition. Anderson is asking for 60,000 signatures to make up for any incorrect signatures.

JOIN THE RESISTANCE TO CORPORATE WELFARE:

Call Jan Anderson at 338-1429 for more information.



Maine Coalition for Food Security

Volume 5 Number 3
Summer 1997

Ending Hunger in Maine: Legislative Recommendations by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Hunger and Food Security

Many of the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Hunger and Food Security were introduced in separate bills in the 118th Legislature. Here is the status of those recommendations as they have been addressed.

- Increase the state minimum wage to 25 cents higher than the federal minimum.

All minimum wages increases were carried over to be considered later.

- Extend the Medicaid program to low-income working families.

After much controversy about how to spend the tobacco tax, LD 1904, "An Act to Discourage Smoking, Provide Tax Relief and Improve the Health of Maine Citizens," was passed. It established the Maine Commission on Children's Health Care and set aside \$8 million to address the problem of uninsured kids.

- Create a refundable Maine Earned Income Credit equal to 25 percent of the federal earned income credit.

One proposal was killed but the Taxation Committee intends to reconsider the issue next session.

- Eliminate State income tax liability for filers who do not have to file federal tax returns.

An Act Concerning Tax Relief was passed. It raised the state income tax filing threshold to the federal level of \$10,000.

- Establish an indexed "Maine Out of Poverty Wage" for State employees and employees of organizations contracting with the State sufficient to raise a family of three above the poverty line.

A proposal to set living wage levels for State sub-contracted work was killed.

- Extend unemployment benefits in times of economic recession.

• Provide unemployment coverage to persons forced out of work through involuntary loss of essential child care or transportation.

A commission to study the unemployment system will report to the Labor Committee by December 1, 1997.

- Preserve transitional child care for persons leaving the welfare roles for work.

Expanding the state's current mix of child care services, including transitional eligibility, were addressed in An Act Regarding Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Welfare Reform.

- Expand the School Breakfast Program to all schools in which at least 35 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced price school lunches.

Not addressed

- Establish a Maine Office of Food Security to coordinate and monitor State efforts and to promote public/private cooperation to end hunger. This office will develop a Coordinated Food Security Outreach Program to inform Maine residents about potential eligibility for existing nutrition and nutrition education programs.

Not addressed

- Create a State of Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger and Food Security to assess progress.

Not addressed

- Create an optional Food Security License Plate. There is a moratorium on new Maine license plate options.

- Permit a state income tax check-off with revenue administered by the State Office of Food Security.

Not addressed



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

COUNT ME IN! I wish to join NOW and commit myself to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men. **MAINE NOW, P.O. BOX 4012, Portland, ME 04101. Make check payable to MAINE NOW.**

NAME (Please PRINT) _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND (optional) _____ to help us analyze our organization's diversity.

CHAPTER: ME 0025 GREATER BANGOR NOW

Join the National
Organization for
Women



Dues rate includes membership at the national, state & local level.
\$ _____ dues enclosed. \$35 Regular Dues. A sliding scale of \$20 - 34 is available, if you need it.

\$ _____ additional contribution enclosed. \$ _____ Political Action Committee contribution. Payable to Maine NOW PAC.

- PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT MAINE NOW TO SHARE YOUR NAME WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. (see Maine NOW policy below)
- Please check here if you do not want National NOW to share your name with other groups.

NAME SHARING POLICY: Maine NOW shares our member list for coalition work, in which we are active (see list above). We also occasionally, on a case-by-case basis, will share the list with progressive groups who are advertising events or sharing information.

Above & Beyond - CONSIDER A MONTHLY DONATION (\$5, \$10...) AND RECEIVE THE MONTHLY JAM - Jo's Action Messages newsletter!
You may make a one-time contribution or sign up for the sustainer program by using the form below.

Sustainer Program

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>I pledge to support Maine NOW by making a monthly contribution.</p> <p>I would like my contribution to go to (choose one):</p> <p>_____ Maine Now and Maine NOW PAC (50/50)</p> <p>_____ Maine NOW only</p> <p>_____ Maine NOW PAC only</p> <p>\$ _____ amount per month.</p> <p>Occupation: _____</p> <p>_____ I prefer to be sent a monthly reminder</p> | <p>I wish to have it taken automatically from my <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard</p> <p>Card # _____</p> <p>Expiration Date: _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Town, State, Zip _____</p> |
|---|--|



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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Brewer ME 04412

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ORONO ME 04469

MAINE NOW CONFERENCE & MAINE NOW PAC SILENT AUCTION, PORTLAND, OCTOBER 18TH!



MAINE NOW PAC SILENT AUCTION

To make this a big a success...

WE NEED ITEMS:

WHITE ELEPHANTS - BOOKS - POSTERS -

- PLANTS - CRAFTS -
- GIFT CERTIFICATES -

(restaurants, massage, professional services, movies,
bed & breakfasts, book stores, health food stores etc.)

Buy something and donate it...
Get donations from businesses...
Look around your house... Ask friends and family...
Donate your skill or product...
help out in some way!!!



WHAT DOES FATHER NATURE DO?