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## Inform - A Quarterly Newsletter for Maine Women (Jan-Feb 1984)

The Maine Commission for Women Staff

*The Maine Commission for Women*

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# Inform

Published by The Maine Commission for Women

## MCW

Three new members have been appointed to the Maine Commission for Women. Governor Brennan has appointed:

•**Kristina Caraganis-Gordon, Brunswick.** Graduate from Jackson College at Tufts University with a degree in biology. She is currently working on her Masters degree in business. Ms. Gordon has been employed by S.D. Warren since 1969. Presently she is Finishing and Shipping Superintendent at that company's Skowhegan location. In addition, she has been a board member for Junior Achievement, as well as being actively involved with the United Way, alcohol treatment services, and various financial institutions.

Speaker John Martin has appointed:

•**Brenda Maliska, Augusta.** Attended the University of Southern Maine with a major in education. Ms. Maliska has worked as an advocate for the elderly and disabled for eight years. She is a member of the board of the Maine School Volunteer Alliance. Currently, she is employed as Program Director for the Advocate for the Developmentally Disabled in Augusta until January 1984 when she will enter into private consulting.

•**Wendy Kindred, Fort Kent.** Graduate of the University of Chicago with both a Bachelor's and Master's of Fine Arts Degree. She taught for five years at the School of Fine Arts in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Currently, she is an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, where she has been on staff for 10 years.

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## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: BATTERING

**This issue is the last of a three-part series on "Violence Against Women". The past two issues of Inform have concentrated on incest and rape. The subject of this issue: battering.**

Domestic violence is illegal. It is now against the law in Maine for anyone including members of your household, to injure or to threaten you with a physical injury. Yet, every day of the year, Maine women are beaten. Across the country, every 18 seconds a woman is beaten. Battering of women crosses all socioeconomic, geographical and religious distinctions. It occurs in all age brackets, regardless of one's ethnic group, state of sobriety, or education.

"Violence is a startlingly common problem in American families. According to a 1976 national survey, at least 1.8 million American women are beaten each year in their homes. The researchers who conducted this survey believe that this figure substantially under-represents the extent of violence in American families, perhaps by half."

Murray A. Straus, Richard J. Gelles, and Suzanne K. Steinmetz, **Behind Closed Doors: Violence in the American Family** (Garden City New York: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1980).

"Battering tends to escalate over time, leading in some instances, to homicide or suicide. According to the 1979 FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 40% of female homicide victims are killed by family members or boyfriends. A study conducted at a Connecticut hospital revealed that battering accounts for one in four

suicide attempts by women."

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports 1979; and Evan Stark, Ann Flitcraft, M.D., et al., "Domestic Violence and Female Suicide Attempts," paper presented at the 107th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, New York City, 11/3/79.

"Battered women often cannot find relief from the police or the criminal justice system. A study of domestic homicides in Kansas City found that in 50% of the cases, the police had been called to the residence five or more times before the homicide."

M. Wilt, et al, Domestic Violence and the Police, 1977.

"Police rarely file reports on domestic violence and even more rarely arrest men for battering. In Cleveland, Ohio, during a 9-month period in 1979, police received approximately 15,000 domestic violence calls. Reports were filed in 700 of these cases, and arrests were made in 460 cases."

<sup>1</sup>Ohio Attorney General, The Ohio Report on Domestic Violence, 1979.

The Maine Commission for Women has invited Mimi Marchev, Director of the Family Violence Project (P.O.Box 304, Augusta, Maine 04330) to write an article about battering, reflecting her philosophy of the battered women's movement.

### SEXISM: THE ROOT OF WIFE ABUSE?

BY: Mimi Marchev.

In their book **Violence Against Wives**, R. Emerson Dobash and Russell Dobash

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MCW is in the process of sponsoring a series of public forums about **women who farm in Maine**. The discussions are focused around a slide-tape presentation developed by the Commission under a grant from the Maine Humanities Council.

During 1982, the MCW interviewed 40 women who farm in Maine—from the New Hampshire border—to Aroostook County—from midcoast to the western foothills. The women interviewed were potato farmers, sheep, vegetable and dairy farmers as well as apple growers and women who raise livestock. The presentation is a "portrait" of eight women in agriculture as drawn from their comments and experiences.

The number of people farming in Maine has steadily declined from 9 out of every 10 people who made agriculture their main means of support in 1775 to 1 out of every 50 (or 2%) today. However, for women the trend on the national level is just the opposite! U.S. Department of Labor statistics show that the number of **women employed solely or principally as farm operators and managers has doubled from 1970 to 1980**.

Discussions which follow the slide-tape presentation revolve around the roles,

responsibility and issues which have and do affect women who farm. Thus far, forums have been held in Windham and Rockland. Future forums will be held in: Ellsworth on January 17, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Ellsworth Town Hall; Presque Isle on January 21, 2:00 PM, at the Recreation Association Building; and Bridgton on a date in late January to be announced.

**The next meeting of the Maine Commission for Women will be at 1:00 PM on Friday, January 20, 1984**, at the Department of Transportation 3rd Floor Conference Room. Among other items, the MCW will be examining the legislation being submitted this session and positions it will be taking, as well as hearing from Michael Petit, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services regarding legislation in which his Department is involved. Also, the Commission will be finalizing plans for their **February Winning With Women regional workshops**, the **Violence Against Women Conference** for spring 1984 and a proposal to create an **advisory council for the MCW**.

\* \* \* \* \*

Too often during the pressures of day-to-day demands and seemingly never-ending

list of needs, wants, injustices and inequities, it comes to a point where one says to oneself with a long sigh... "Have we... can we even make a difference?" As we were completing the copy for this newsletter, the following prose fell out of a desk drawer. As we stopped for a moment to consider what we had accomplished thus far and how much more we need to do, these few lines seemed destined to be quoted: (even though they were not written by a woman).

"To laugh often and much;  
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;  
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;  
To appreciate beauty;  
To find the best in others;  
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;  
To know even one life has breathed easier because you lived.  
This is to have succeeded."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

With these thoughts in mind, the Maine Commission for Women wishes you a safe, healthy and successful New Year!

#### Violence Against Women con't. from pg.1

conclude that the roots of wife abuse are deep in the culture:

"The seeds of wife beating lie in the subordination of females and in their subjection to male authority and control. This relationship between women and men has been institutionalized in the structure of the patriarchal family and is supported by the economic and political institutions and by a belief system, including a religious one, that makes such relationships seem natural, morally just, and sacred."

In contrast a recent **Time** cover story on family violence (Private Violence, *Time*, September 5, 1983) dismisses the social theory of the cause of domestic violence in one facile sentence:

"There are those in the field who—like the Ellen Jamesians, the self-mutilating feminists of **The World According to Garp**—seem too quick to find in wife abuse a confirmation and dramatization of sexism, a bloody cartoon of male oppression."

There is nothing cartoon-like about wife abuse. If this tragedy is to be stopped, we must look beyond individual couples and acknowledge the societal causes so that the root of the problem can be attacked directly.

Analyzing individual couples and asking why a man hits his wife at a particular moment may be important, but it is not the same as asking why men as a group direct their violence at women. Further, attributing battering to such individual factors as stress or alcohol, or abuse in family of origin is not helpful in this regard. Many men under stress do not beat their wives; many alcoholic men do not beat their wives while many sober men do; many wife

batterers were not abused as children, and so on. In designing a theory of why wife-battering persists in this country, we must look at the broader pictures.

Wife beating is not a new phenomenon, nor is it unique to contemporary Western civilization. It has existed as a transcultural fact since the dawn of civilization. Today, it is conservatively estimated that millions of women are battered in their homes every year. The sheer numbers of violent male-female relationships indicate that we would be foolish to regard domestic violence solely in terms of the personal interaction between the two parties involved. To understand why it is happening, we must also examine the societal factors that influence this behavior. This includes a look at the history of marriage, prevailing attitudes towards women, sex-role stereo-typing, the expectations versus the realities of marriage, and the response of the helping agencies in times of crisis. All of these factors have a powerful influence on what we usually think of as a private relationship.

Historically, wife-beating has been openly encouraged and sanctioned by law. The first known written laws, dating to approximately 2500 B.C., decreed that a woman who was verbally abusive to her husband was to have her name engraved on a stick which would be used to bash out her teeth. (Ruby Rohrlich-Leavitt, *Tribunal on Crimes Against Women*, Columbia University, April 1976). In Rome, the Rule of Patria Potestas meant the husband's absolute rule over his wife. It condoned murder at his hands for adultery, drinking wine or any other "disgusting behavior". (Otto Templer, **Sexual Life in Rome**, Oxford University Press, 1921).

In medieval Europe, a husband had the moral and legal right to inflict corporal punishment on his wife. In this country, a

husband was permitted to beat his wife so long as he didn't use a switch any bigger around than his thumb. In 1874, the Supreme Court of North Carolina, in a case addressing the issue of a husband's right to "chastise" his wife, stated, "If no permanent injury has been inflicted, nor malice, cruelty, nor dangerous violence shown by the husband, it is better to draw the curtain, shut out the public gaze, and leave the parties to forgive and forget."

Although domestic violence is no longer officially sanctioned by law, the American legal system for the most part still treats wife abuse as a private family matter and leaves the parties to "forgive and forget". Rarely does a man suffer consequences for beating his wife. Until recently police were trained in "crisis intervention" and told to "diffuse" the situation rather than make an arrest on a "domestic call". When an assault occurs in the **home**, it suddenly becomes a **spat** and the criminal laws against assault and battery are rarely invoked. The responsibility for pressing charges is often placed on the wife who receives no support for doing so from the legal system and who is often openly discouraged by police, clerks or prosecutors. Recent changes in the laws have helped. However, the attitudes of those in the system have not changed significantly, therefore, these laws are not always enforced to the benefit of a battered woman.

Men's status is upheld by a general division of labor outside as well as inside the home that makes women economically dependent on men. All of our social institutions further reinforce that status and thus support the husband's "right" to control his wife. When a belief in the right to control women is combined with a belief in the right to use violence to exercise that

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## STATE UPDATE

**The 111th Legislature Returns.** On January 4, 1984, the second regular session of the Legislature will convene. This session will be shorter than the first session—only 50 Legislative days. A variety of bills have been submitted ranging from AFDC increases to a violent crimes bill. In addition to separate pieces of legislation, many departments and programs will be seeking additional appropriations for the remainder of the 1983-85 biennium.

While there will be many important bills to be monitored and influenced, the **Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition** has been developing key pieces of legislation which it will, as a coalition, actively promote. The five issues it has identified are:

- 1) To increase Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) standard of need/payments;  
-over 94% of Maine's AFDC recipients are women and children;  
-at present, the Maine AFDC grant is based on 72.5% of the 1975 "standard of need". This was a hypothetical figure established by the Department of Human Services in 1969 (based on Federal data) which was only a rough estimate of costs, leaving out or underestimating many essential items. Even if the needs standard were met in full (raised from 72.4% to 100%) AFDC families would receive only 65% of today's

lower living standard. Under the current formula, a "typical" AFDC family of three—a woman and two children—would receive \$341 per month or \$78.75 per week to purchase those food, housing, clothing and personal care items it needs.

- 2) Creation and funding of a Human Rights Development position for the Maine Human Rights Commission (MHRC).  
-currently, the MHRC caseload is so large that it has little staff or resources to develop educational materials and training sessions for employers, employees, landlords, tenants, schools, students and other to inform them of their rights and responsibilities.
- 3) To secure pay rates of State government classifications as a bargainable issue between the State and its employees.  
-according to a recent Maine Supreme Court decision, pay classifications are not bargainable under current Maine labor relations law. The concern of the Coalition is that unless such classifications are bargainable, the implementation of findings from the State comparable worth study (which is just underway) can only be implemented unilaterally by the State.
- 4) To target 25% of all jobs created with

the assistance of State funds to those persons who are eligible under the new Job Training Partnership Act.

-JTPA has replaced the old CETA program.

-a majority of JTPA eligible participants are women

-the Coalition believes that the State should target some of those jobs which are created through public funds to those persons most in need of training and employment. Such a policy would provide a significant "return on investment" in the long term.

- 5) Additional funding for Statewide Rape Crisis Centers/Programs

-In 1981, rape crisis centers in Lewiston, Portland and Bangor, alone, **documented** 415 rapes.

-currently seven rape crisis centers in Bangor, Bath, Farmington, Lewiston, Norway/South Paris, Portland and Waterville must divide among them the \$15,000 provided by the Department of Human Services.

Any organization interested in joining the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition can contact the Maine Commission for Women, State House Station #93, Augusta ME 04333 or 289-3417 or the Maine Women's Lobby, P. O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347, or 622-5798.

## CELEBRATE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK

March 4-10, 1984

**National Women's History Week** focuses on the rich and inspiring heritage of women's contributions in the U.S. It coincides with **International Women's Day—March 8**—proclaimed at the turn of the century to recognize the tremendous work of women in the labor movement and the international connections among all women.

The Maine Commission for Women urges all educational institutions, churches, community groups and individuals to organize events to commemorate the contributions of women. There is an invaluable resource available to you for only a small fee\* from the National Women's History Project, P.O. Box 3716, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, (707) 526-5974.

### What can you do?

- Contact your superintendent or site principle to make certain that March 4-10, 1984 has been designated for special observances on school calendars;
- Ask city and county governing bodies to issue a Women's History Week Proclamation recognizing the tremendous

contributions of women locally or on a State level;

- Volunteer to help your local schools with women's history presentations;
- Ask your local libraries to put up special displays for National Women's History Week;
- Contact local banks and ask for donations to buy women's history materials for school libraries and resource centers;
- Contact local press (t.v., radio and newspapers). Make certain that they know about the significance of the week. Ask if they will interview local women who have made contributions to the community;
- Ask women's organizations to sponsor essay contests in cooperation with your local schools. Students could write about the special women in their lives, or the women they see as role models, significant women of the past, what it means to be a woman in 1984, or a number of similar topics;
- Ask your church, synagogue, or place of worship to have a special remem-

berance in their service recognizing the important work of women or of particular women during National Women's Week;

- Plan a special dinner to recognize and honor women who have made contributions to your community;
- Recruit other people to begin organizing

## ATTENTION

The Maine Commission for Women asks that anyone who is planning an event to mark **National Women's History Week**, contact the MCW by February 15, 1984. The MCW would like to print a comprehensive calendar which could be distributed across the State.

\*5 copies \$1.00, 25 copies \$2.50, 50 copies \$4.00, 100 copies \$6.00, 150 copies or more, 5¢ each

# Events

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	EVENTS TITLE	DATE AND TIME	LOCATION	COST	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Displaced Homemakers Bangor #	Learning Anxiety Workshop. Preparing for school.	January 12-February 16 Thursdays	Bangor Community College	Free	581-6132 or 1-800-442-2092
Bangor/Brewer YWCA	Family Violence and Women	January 18, 8:00 PM	Bangor/Brewer YWCA	\$1.00 members \$1.50 non-mbrs.	942-6746
Displaced Homemakers Bangor #	Assertiveness Workshops	January 18-February 15 Wednesdays	Bangor Community College	Free	581-6132 or 1-800-442-2092
Displaced Homemakers Waterville #	Assertiveness Workshops	January 19-February 23 Thursdays	19 Hillside Ave Waterville	Free	872-9482 or 1-800-442-2092
Me. Div., AAUW	Winter Board Mtg.	January 21, 9:00 AM	UMO, Honors Cntr.		363-2942
Westbrook College	"A Listener's Guide to 20th Century Music" by Elliot Schwartz, composer/pianist	January 24, 8:00 PM	Moulton Theater	Free/Subscribers \$6/adults \$3/sen. citizens	
Displaced Homemakers Augusta #	Legislative Workshop. How the legislative process works.	January 24, 9am-3pm	Room 107, State Office Building, Augusta	Free	622-7131 x 337 1-800-442-2092
Bangor/Brewer YWCA	Learning from our Tribal Elders- Women, Nature & Spirituality	January 25, 8:00 PM	Bangor/Brewer YWCA	\$1 /members \$1.50 non-mbrs.	942-6746
Family Planning Assn of Maine	"Home & Community Family Life Education". Recertification & CEU's available	January 31-Feb. 1 9 am - 4 pm	Holiday Inn Augusta	\$50	622-7524
Displaced Homemakers Portland #	on-going support group for women in transition	Thursdays 10 am - 12 noon	TBA	Free	773-3537 or 1-800-442-2092
Displaced Homemakers Rockland #	"From Bread-maker to Bread-winner" (as a 1-day workshop) Career Planning Seminar	TBA	TBA	Free	1-800-442-2092
Westbrook College	Eldercenter Illumination: "Dialogue on Drama at the Local Level"	February 1, 2:00 PM	Wing Lounge Alexander Hall Westbrook	Free	
Colby College*	"Women, Race and Class" by Angela Davis	February 1	Colby College	Free	873-3097 ext 2207
Bangor/Brewer YWCA	Moral Implications of Nuclear Weapons	February 2, 8:00 PM	Bangor/Brewer YWCA	\$1 /members \$1.50 non-mbrs.	942-6746
Displaced Homemakers Topsham Area #	"From Bread-maker to Bread-winner", (as a 4-part series) Career Planning Seminar.	February 7-February 28 Tuesdays	TBA	Free	442-7070 1-800-442-2092
Bangor/Brewer YWCA	How Can a Feminist Worship God?	February 8, 8:00 PM	Bangor/Brewer YWCA	\$1 /members \$1.50 non-mbrs	942-6746

# Events

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	EVENTS TITLE	DATE AND TIME	LOCATION	COST	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Westbrook College	"Rosencrantz & Gildenstern Are Dead" by Tom Stoppard. Portland Art Troupe	February 9, 8:00 PM	Moulton Theater Westbrook College	Free/Subscribers \$6/adults \$3/sen. citizens	
Women's Studies Advisory Committee Colby College	"Women Writing" Some Observations"	February 9	Smith-Robins Rm Roberts Union	Free	873-1131 x 2275
Colby College*	Sexism Workshop with Joann Clarey	February 11	Colby College Waterville	Free	873-3097 x 2207
Family Crisis Shelter Portland	Valentine Dance-Featuring Ben Baldwin and The Big Notes	February 11, 9:00 PM	Sonesta Hotel Ballroom, Portland	\$5/advance \$6/door	775-1694
Margaret Fuller Forum	The Nonce Trio Concert	February 11, 8:00 PM	All Souls Unitarian 11 King St., Augusta	\$4.00	622-3232
YWCA/Portland	Series on Cooking With Whole Foods	February 14 February 21 February 28	YWCA 87 Spring St. Portland		
Westbrook College	Eldercenter Illumination "Gardening-It's Fun"	February 15, 2:00 PM	Wing Lounge Alexander Hall	Free	797-7261 x 259
Westbrook College	Posters from World War I Exhibit	Feb 15 through March 1	Alexander Hall Gallery	Free	797-7261 x 259
Bangor/Brewer YWCA	World Peace Through Children Film and Discussion	February 16, 8:00 PM	Bangor/Brewer YWCA	\$1.00/members \$1.50 non-mbrs.	942-6746
Bangor/Brewer YWCA	Art of Midwifery-"A View of Child-bearing Today"	February 22, 8:00 PM	Bangor/Brewer		
Displaced Homemakers Waterville #	Car Maintenance Workshops	February 28- May 15 6:30-9:00 PM Tuesdays	TBA	Free	872-9482 or 1-800-442-2092 ext. 334
Colby College*	Gender in Science by Evelyn Fox Keller	March 7	Colby College	Free	873-3097 x 2207
Women's Studies Advisory Committee Colby College	Notions of Parenthood: An Anthropological Perspective	March 8, 4:15 PM	Smiths-Robins Rm. Roberts Union	Free	873-1131 x 2275
Lewiston/Auburn YWCA	"Double Time". exercise & parenting discussion group for mothers of children aged 0-1	March 8-Mar. 29 9:30-11:30 AM	Lewiston/Auburn YWCA	\$20/member \$28 non-mbrs.	786-0657
Bangor/Brewer YWCA	Missing Children: Practical Strategies for Today's Parents	March 8, 7:00 PM	Bangor/Brewer YWCA	\$1/members \$1.50 non-mbrs.	942-6746
Margaret Fuller Forum	"Listen Because Tomorrow" World Premiere stage drama by Ted Bookey	March 9, 8:00 PM	All Souls Unitarian 11 King St., Augusta	\$4.00	622-3232
Lewiston/Auburn YWCA	Journal Writing	Wednesdays March 14-Apr. 11 7-9:00 PM	Lewiston/Auburn YWCA	\$15/members \$23 non-mbrs.	786-0657

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control, battering results. It is the social attitudes and institutions that lead to and reinforce these beliefs that must be challenged and changed if we are to stop the violence against women. □

#### WHY DOES SHE PUT UP WITH IT?

A frequently misunderstood aspect of battering is: why does the battered woman stay with her batterer? Two obvious reasons are: 1) she is unable to support herself financially and has nowhere to go; and 2) if she is a mother, she does not want to split up her family and deprive her children of a father. Less obvious and more complex reasons also exist.

The battering cycle consists of a) a tension stage; b) the assault; and c) the honeymoon or make-up phase. After a violent episode, it is common for a batterer to be contrite and loving. During this honeymoon period, the victim convinces herself it can't/won't happen again. Unwilling to give up and admit "failure", she reasons that if she adjusts her behavior and/or tries harder to win the approval of her partner, the battering will not be repeated.

The reality is, because her behavior was not the cause of the violence, her attempts to mollify her abuser will be useless. The battering will continue.

"In their research, R. Emerson Dobash and Russell Dobash found that the first violence is usually a single blow and is treated by both partners as exceptional; no one expects it to continue. The first violence, however, sets the stage for further abuse. Often, he rationalizes the attacks by focusing on what she did wrong; she begins to scrutinize her behavior.

She attempts to comprehend the violence in terms of her own behavior; to see her own "guilt", and both to forgive her husband and to seek a solution by changing her behavior so as to give him no further reason for hitting her.

The attacks become more violent over time. For her, fear, anger, shock, and humiliation intermingle with hope that he will change. Eventually hope gives way to depression and anger. Her feelings of self-worth decline." 2

The battered woman soon learns her violent partner will go to great lengths to keep her under his control. Attempts to escape are frequently followed by even greater brutalization; often accompanied by threats of death to the woman or her children. Not understanding the nature of the situation or the helplessness and isolation experienced by the victim, neighbors, and police and even family tend to "stand clear" or downplay instances of domestic violence.

Lack of societal understanding or legal support; fear of brutal retaliation; combined with a sense of personal worthlessness and failure, create an atmosphere of isolation for a victim of battering. She experiences a total lack of options, and as a result remains with her batterer.

"The battered woman who decides to leave her violent husband confronts the fear of retaliation...If her husband is particularly violent, she may be advised to hide out and refrain from contacting

family or friends who might give him her address.

...for a woman, a failed marriage raises potent and lingering doubts about her capability and even decency. Frequently her self-blame is reinforced by other family members, friends and institutions. Many consider it her responsibility both for causing her husband's violence and for not stopping it by leaving immediately; yet no one wants to help her depart. It is her fault that she is beaten and, in a double-barrelled attack, it is her fault if she feels too ashamed to ask for assistance.

The battered woman feels shame for 'failure'; she also feels particularly isolated in her victimization because of the cultural notion of the privacy and sanctity of the home; no one is to know what goes wrong in the family." 3

#### HELP IS AVAILABLE!

There are nine domestic violence projects in Maine. Seven have actual full-time shelters and two have a "safe home system" (a group of confidential family homes where women can go in an emergency). In these shelters, women are provided with the safety and support to decide how to proceed with their lives.

There are some variations among the nine shelters, however, the fundamental procedures remain the same. A woman and her children can enter the shelter on an emergency basis and remain for up to approximately four weeks. There are no special expectations placed on her for the first three or four days. If she chooses to remain at the shelter beyond that time, it is expected that she will actively work toward a change in her life. Residents are requested to attend a weekly support group for battered women. Counselling staff at the shelter help the victim make such decisions as: how to get back into her home to collect her personal belongings; does she want to pursue legal action; does she need financial assistance and where to find it.

There is a slight fee which can be paid once her life and income have stabilized. Each shelter has a 24-hour hot line.

#### EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR DOMESTIC ASSAULT VICTIMS

Auburn-Abused Women's Advocacy Project	783-2042
Augusta-Family Violence Project	623-3569
Bangor-Spruce Run	947-0496
Dover-Foxcroft-Womencare	564-2016
Machias-Womankind	255-4785
Portland-Family Crisis Shelter	773-5516
Presque Isle-Family Support Center	498-6224
Rockland-New Hope for Women	596-0100
Sanford-Caring Unlimited	324-1802
	282-5188

#### WHEN A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE BECOMES A PERPETRATOR OF VIOLENCE...

The consequences of violence have ramifications far beyond the immediate trauma of brutalization. As reported in the September/October issue of *Inform*, survivors of incest are very often victims of other forms of violence. Family violence shelters and mental health centers in Maine

are discovering that large proportions of their clientele are also victims of incest. *SURVIVE*, an incest survivors advocacy organization, reports that incest victims often become rape victims. It has been theorized that incest, rape, and battering are inter-related and produce a "socialized victim":

—a woman whose self-esteem was destroyed during early childhood by sexual abuse:

—a woman who grew up believing she was not capable of (or worth) protecting herself or who was never taught self-protection, who consequently becomes a rape victim:

—a woman who values herself so little that she remains in a violent adult relationship.

In November, Peg Ricker, a member of the MCW staff, interviewed two women at the Maine Correctional Center who had been sentenced for crimes of violence. They are, perhaps, living examples of "socialized victims". Here are their stories:

•Susan (not her real name) was raped by her biological father when she was 10 years old. Several years later, she was raped again by her step-father. All through elementary and high school she remained at home for several days at a time in order to hide her bruises that resulted from her mother beating her. Out of 7 children, Susan was the only child that was beaten. (Years later, Susan asked her mother why she beat only Susan. The reply: "Because you were the one who took it.")

At 19, hoping to escape her brutal home-life, Susan married. It was an unfortunate choice. Her husband violently and repeatedly beat and raped Susan right from the start of their marriage.

As a couple, they owned a grocery store. Susan's husband was an active alcoholic and took no responsibility for running the store. In an attempt to improve their lives, Susan and her husband sought marriage counselling. However, her husband threatened further violence if she spoke of his drinking or of the beatings she received. Therefore, the drinking and violence continued.

Four babies in four years; a fulltime store to run; and a drunken and abusive husband with which to contend proved to be too much for Susan. (According to a later diagnosis by doctors) Susan entered into a psychotic depression. She has no memory of this period of time in her life. However, it was during this depression that a tragedy occurred. In her psychotic state, Susan stopped feeding her eight-month old child. Consequently, the child died. Susan and the child's father were sentenced to 10 years in prison.

•Laura (again not her real name) was raised in a family of twelve children. Laura's mother handed over the discipline of Laura to her brothers. They beat her frequently, leaving bruises and broken bones over the years. When asked about any incestuous experiences, Laura said, "When the boys went out on dates and couldn't get what they wanted from their girls, they always came after me when they got home. They never got me, though—that's one thing."

Laura's first marriage was the result of a judge's "sentence". Arrested for shoplifting at 15, Laura was told by the judge she wouldn't be sentenced to jail if she married

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# Events

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	EVENTS TITLE	DATE AND TIME	LOCATION	COST	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ME State Nurses Association	Nurses Legislative Day	March 14	State House		622-1057
University of Southern ME	5th Annual "Women in Management" Conference	March 29	Hotel Sonesta Portland	\$45	780-4045
Colby College*	Lecture by Laurel Ulrich	April 4	Colby College	Free	873-2097 ext 2207
Women's Studies Advisory Committee Colby College	"Aphra Behn-- Restoration Dramatist"	April 5, 4:15 PM	Hurd Room Roberts Union Colby College	Free	873-1131 ext 2275
Colby College*	Lecture by Bernice Sandler "The Classroom: A Chilly Climate for Women".	April 12	Colby College	Free	873-3097
Women's Studies Advisory Committee Colby College	Women in Socialist Countries	April 26, 4:15 PM	Smith-Robins Rm. Roberts Union Colby College	Free	873-1131 ext 2275

\*A series of programs and events sponsored by Colby College, with the unifying theme "Celebrating Diversity; Confronting Intolerance." For further information, contact Stephen Simcock at 873-3097, extension 2207.

#For further information regarding any Displaced Homemakers Project programs, call toll free 1-800-442-2092 extension 334.

If your organization is sponsoring an event you would like to see listed in "INFORM", send the information (in the same format as above, please) to: **Inform Events**, State House Station #93, Augusta, ME 04333. The next issue will cover events occurring from March 31 to May 31. **Deadline is February 17.** While we recognize that **any** issue/topic or event will be of interest to any number of women, due to space constraints, we want to focus on events that address the special interests/needs that relate specifically to women.

## Violence Against Women con't. from pg. 6

her boyfriend so he could take care of her and keep her out of trouble. Upon her marriage, Laura's brothers informed the groom that the way to keep Laura in line was to beat her. He took them at their word. The marriage was short and stormy.

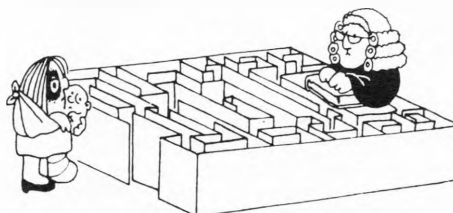
At 17 Laura entered another relationship that off and on lasted for 16 years. The man was obsessively jealous and violent. The last five months they lived together, Laura was hospitalized five times as the result of beatings from her boyfriend. Of their last fight, Laura said, "He told me he would NEVER let me go. I knew, just the way he said it, tonight was the night. He was gonna kill me tonight. But I wasn't gonna let it happen." Laura said she believed then and still believes her relationship would end only with the death of one of them. Her attempts to escape (including trips across country and marriage to another person) had never been successful. For one reason or another, the man had tremendous influence over Laura. "I loved him then, and I love him today." In the course of the fight that evening, Laura killed her boyfriend.

Looking back on her life and thinking of the battering, Laura said, "If there was just one thing I could say to other women, it would be, 'If they don't put a stop to it when it first happens, there's no stopping it ever!'"

1. Information source, Center for Women Policy Studies, 2000 P Street, N.W. Suite 508, Washington, D.C. 20036-5997
2. Susan Schechter, **Women and Male Violence**, South End Press, Boston 1982.
3. Ibid

For further information on battering:

- Susan Schechter, **Women and Male Violence**, South End Press, Boston.
- Faith McNulty, **The Burning Bed**, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York and London.
- Jennifer Baking Fleming, **Stopping Wife Abuse**, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York.
- Lenore E. Walker, **The Battered Women**, Harper & Row, Publishers, New York.



Liz Maltby, SPARE RO, June 1975 (England)

## CONFERENCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Maine Commission for Women, the Coalition on Rape, SURVIVE and the Coalition of Family Crisis Services are sponsoring a two-day conference on violence against women: rape, incest, and battering. Tentatively, the conference is scheduled for the **week of March 12, 1984** in Augusta. The primary intent of the conference is to raise awareness of the extent of such violence, its interrelatedness, as well as its lasting impact on victims. Conference planners expect that this event will bring together community leaders, organizations, service providers, criminal justice officials, educators, clergy, public policy makers and women's groups to help formulate an action plan.

Details of the conference will be disseminated in February through the media and direct mail to a variety of groups. For more information, contact the Maine Commission for Women.

## RAPE CRISIS—HOT LINE UPDATE

In the November/December issue of **Inform**, we listed the hot line numbers for Rape Crisis Centers Statewide. Since that issue, the Farmington area Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES) has had their hot line installed. The **24-hour emergency number is: 778-9767.**



# MEMBERS OF THE MAINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

F. Celeste Branham, Lewiston  
 Caroline Gentile, Presque Isle  
 Kristina Caraganis-Gordon, Brunswick  
 Evelyn Greenlaw, Lewiston  
 Barbara Hamaluk, Portland  
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 Carolyn Ridge, Portland  
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# ATTENTION

A "mailing list law" (M.R.S.A. Title 1, Section 505) requires that mailing lists be updated for all items printed at State expense. If you wish to continue receiving "INFORM", please fill out this form and return it no later than February 24, 1984. If you do not reply, your name will be removed from our mailing list. Thank you.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return to:

Maine Commission for Women  
 "INFORM"  
 State House Station #93  
 Augusta, Maine 04333

☐ PLEASE SEND INFORM TO PERSON LISTED BELOW

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