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National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter

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OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ISSUE 1981 MAINE NOW TIMES Editor-JoAnne

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MAINE NOW'S PROJECT ERA WAS GRAND SUCCESS

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SO, NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE DOING FOR ERA, LET US HEAR FROM YOU!! NEED A SPEAKER? PAMPHLETS TO HAND OUT AT YOUR SHOPPING CENTER? TICKETS FOR YOUR RAFFLE? BUTTONS AND SIGNS FOR YOUR RALLY? IDEAS? CONTACT NOW...JUNE 30, 1982 is up to you!!!

Women's Liberation is finally only personal. - Sally Kempton, 1970

MAINE NOW

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PO BOX 5195 Portland 04101

ASSISTANT

- Joan Tronto 725-7621 11A Maple Brunswick 04011

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- Nancy Boothby 729-8139 6 Curtis Brunswick 04011

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- JoAnne Dauphinee 942-2830 23 March Bangor 04401
(phone machine may answer)

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GREATER PORTLAND NOW

MARILYN KIRBY 846-4644

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE SEVERAL
CHANGED ADDRESSES, PHONES, AND
FOLKS FROM OUR LAST LIST.

ESPECIALLY NOTE NEW PHONE# FOR MARILYN IS 846-4644 !!

INSIDE THE MAINE NOW TIMES

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FOR THOSE WHO CELEBRATE, HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL AND TO ALL EQUAL RIGHTS
AND IF YOU GET THIS, BY OCT 31, BEST WITCHES OF THE SEASON TO YA!!!

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

November 7, 1981 Women Unite, Take Bake The Night. The second annual TBTN March will be held in Portland. Over 400 women participated in 1980 and the event was a resounding success. (see MNT, Jan-Feb '81 issue) It was fun, exciting, and thought-provoking.

Women from the greater Portland area, concerned with the widespread problem of violence against women, formed the TBTN Coalition in 1980. The group consists of women from a varied array of organizations, united in a commitment to educate the community about the reality and severity of the physical, psychological and sexual abuse of women.

This year's event will include workshops, a rally, and a nighttime march through portland. For more information:

Take Bake The Night Coalition
PO Box 8313, Portland 04104
or, University Women's Forum
780-4086
or, Rape Crisis Center
774-3613 (answering service)

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THE CHOICE IS OURS...NOW

Forty people or more gathered at the mall in Auburn in early October to affirm the the extent and diversity of support for the Pro-Choice ethic, and to alarm the community to the very real and invidious effects a so-called "Human Life Amendment" would impose. A doctor, a minister, a civil libertarian, a feminist, a nurse, a lawyer...the list goes on. Each one spoke out from various perspectives on the urgent need to STOP HLA. STOP HLA. STOP HLA. STOP HLA. STOP HLA.

1982 JUDY CHICAGO,
DINNER PARTY CALENDARS

Time to think about buying your new calendar for 1982!! The Rape Crisis Center in Portland is selling the new and beautiful 1982 Judy Chicago Dinner Party Calendar, produced by the Women Resources Distribution company of Philadelphia.

The Dinner Party, a landmark work of art, produced under the direction of Judy Chicago, required the dedication and creativity of nearly 400 people over a five year period. It has been touring the country to widespread acclaim since 1978.

The Dinner Party is a symbolic history of women's achievements and struggles told through 39 exquisite china painted plates and elaborately embroidered runners covering a triangular table. Each place setting represents an important mythological or historical figure.

The 1982 calendar is 12" by 14" on high glossy paper. It notes significant dates in women's history as well as those of traditional holidays. The calendar is \$6.95 and is a special fundraising event to support the services of the Rape Crisis Center.

Calendars will be on sale Nov 7th in Portland at the University of Southern Maine at the RCC table during daytime activities of Take Back The Night.

Rape Crisis Center
PO Box 1371 Portland 04104
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A rape occurs every 3 minutes in the United States.
=====

WHEN IS A RAPIST NOT A RAPIST?

by

Christine Torraca

In June of this year, the Boston Globe reported a rape trial taking place in the city. During the course of the three week trial stories appeared frequently. The guilty verdict was given front page coverage. When the sentence was handed down by the judge, Globe reporters solicited comments from other lawyers and interested individuals in the community on the "justice" of the sentence. Angry letters to the editor appeared for weeks. An exclusive interview with the victim appeared in which she identified herself, and stated, "I was shocked that they were convicted."

There were over 300 reported rapes in Boston in 1980. What made this one different enough to deserve continued front page coverage in the Globe, and to generate such widespread interest? A white woman was raped by 3 white men - race was not the factor. A 28 year old woman was raped by 3 men about the same age - age was not the factor. What was it?

A nurse was raped by three (Harvard) physicians.

They all knew each other and the rape occurred after a party they had all attended. The men, who admitted that repeated sexual intercourse had taken place but who claimed that the victim was a willing participant, were convicted of rape and sentenced to 3-5 years in prison with all but six months suspended.

One of the non-involved attorneys questioned by the Globe for his comments re: the trial and sentence defended the sentence as appropriate for the crime and those convicted of it, and stated "No matter how strident one is about the crime of rape, no one with half a brain would compare this rape - where four people knew each other - to the rape of a woman who is dragged off the street with a knife to her throat." Maria Karagianis of the Globe staff, wrote in response, "I'm endlessly fascinated by how the liberal attorney and others who don't generally have to worry about the possibility of rape, determine that it is preferable to be raped by three of your acquaintances than by three strangers. A trust betrayed, they seem to be saying, is preferable to a random act of violence."

"The liberal attorney's remarks inspire other realms of inquiry. Is it better to be raped by a person with a college education than by a functional illiterate? Is it better, when you are the victim of a multiple rape, to be raped by three doctors than by three plumbers?

"Rape is rape...Rape happens to those who do not ask for it, to 80 year old women, who do not smile suggestively or dress provocatively, and to two year old children. Rape is not sex. It is violence.

- continued -

"Not all rapes should be punishable by life imprisonment...But what message about justice in America do we get from cases like this? The father of one of the doctors noted that his son is feeling 'depressed and he's feeling anger, anger, anger.' When I think about the double standards of justice, so do I." (Globe 7/3/81)

In her interview with the Globe, the victim detailed the events of the evening. She had been forced into a car and was driven to a location on the North Shore of Boston. She said she still wasn't really afraid, even after the four arrived in Rockport. "I kept thinking they would sober up and realize they were tired and that we'd just turn back to Boston. I thought, 'They'll stop horsing around.' I mean I just denied everything."

"Right up until the last minute, I kept denying it. I mean, my god, there were three doctors. Three professionals, educated people. I just thought they have to come to their senses. They couldn't possibly do something like this."

Finally when one of the doctors slammed the bedroom door shut, she felt fear. It was total and paralyzing.

"You know damn well you didn't do anything to deserve this," she said. "You know you didn't flirt, but even if you do, goddamn it, they have no right to rape you. You know they are sick people. Yet you can't stop asking yourself... 'Why me?'" (Globe 8/20/81)

After the rape conviction, one of the three physicians was hired by a New York hospital, on the basis of recommendation letters from three physicians associated with the Harvard Medical School, none of which made reference to his rape conviction. On September 17, the Globe reported that this same physician was being charged with two additional counts of rape (of hospitalized patients in 1978). The first convictions are under appeal. No date has yet been set for the second trial.

II

On October 7, the Globe reported on another rape trial in the city. Seven men were charged with gang raping a 38 year old woman. Five of them were on trial. The defence lawyers for the five insisted that the woman willingly accompanied the men to the wooded area and offered to engage in sex with them, one at a time, for \$200. Somehow that doesn't explain the fact that she was found with "...bruises on her arms and legs and one side of her face...swollen and discolored." Or that her wrists had been tied during the rape and were red and bloodied. Or that all the windows in her car were smashed in and it had been overturned. But, to continue with the story...

In a plea bargaining arrangement, the five pleaded guilty to the rape charge and were sentenced to 3-5 year suspended prison sentences and fines of \$500, to be paid in \$5 weekly installments. As the Boston Globe editorial of 10-10-81 stated, "The public was outraged,

- continued -

understandably so. The atmosphere was already charged by events surrounding the conviction earlier this summer of three doctors who raped a nurse. The facts of this case fanned the flames.

"The five men admitted that they raped a former beauty queen(sic) after meeting her in a bar in Holbrook. They pleaded guilty to committing an ugly crime and, in exchange, Judge Abrams let them off the hook. Abrams said that his decision was influenced by the strong denial of the defendants, by their lack of previous criminal records and by their claim that the woman offered to have sex for money. He added that he had factored the woman's questionable character into his sentence.

"It is shocking that the judge failed to understand that character has nothing to do with rape. Children can be raped. Grandmothers can be raped. Married women...can be raped. Prostitutes can be raped. Rape is intercourse without consent. It is as simple as that..."(10-10)

A special hearing was called of all involved. The judge revoked the suspended sentence, which, it appears, may have been illegal in the first place due to the nature of the crime. At the time of this writing, the final outcome of the sentence is unknown.

III

In her column on October 15, Ellen Goodman wrote:

"These two cases were enough to jog our minds into thinking about what has and hasn't changed, in the law, in society, in our minds. In the law, rape is defined neatly, as intercourse without consent. But consent is much tougher to define. The best of the new rape laws no longer allow testimony about a woman's sexual history. These same new laws use staircase sentences to differentiate between levels of crime. Yet in many minds there are only two levels of rape: the "real" rape by a stranger with a knife in a back alley, and the questionable rape by an acquaintance.

"Of the one out of three women in this country who will be sexually assaulted, 60 percent will be raped by someone they know. Yet, virtually every rape defense between people who are not strangers will hinge on whether or not he forced her, whether or not she 'consented'.

"Rape trials often pit her word against his...until we erase those pervasive cultural doubts about rape itself, we will read more about glowing recommendation letters for rapists and \$5 a week penalties for those who plead guilty.

"And we'll read more about the men who still believe that it is okay, normal, everyday, legal, to force a woman to 'consent' ". (10-15)

In an article entitled Rape: Stereotype vs. Sensitivity (10-16) Globe staff writer Richard Higgins interviewed several Bostonians about the recent rape convictions. What follows are some excerpts from

- continued -

their comments.

"In the last couple of days, it occurred to me for the first time ever that I really don't know where seduction ends and rape begins. It's almost like there is a new concept of rape. I used to think it was pretty clear cut. And you can't fall back on the old chestnut that a woman saying 'no' really means 'yes'. It's confusing. I wondered for the first time whether or not a magistrate might some day adjudge me to be a rapist." (30 yr. old)

"I was sensitized by my wife. I think it's hard for any man to have a feel for what a woman goes through in rape, what it must feel like to be totally overmastered and degraded. That alone diturbs me."
(lawyer)

"Any girl who leaves a bar or party with a man and gets raped is guilty of stupidity. Let's face it, when they walk out, they're ready. If she doesn't know that, she's a made loser." (27 yr. old)

When asked to consider a hypothetical case in which a woman willingly accompanies a man to his apartment and is forced to have intercourse against her will, a 25 year old man asked "Is that rape? It's a good question. You don't even think of it that way because you figure she knows what she is doing when she leaves, right? I don't know. It's true that a lot of guys will keep on going after she says she wants to leave. Is that rape? If that's rape, then there is an awful lot of crime going on in Boston I never even thought about."

No comment.

MY AUNT'S HOUSE by JoAnne Dauphinee #####
He didn't jump out of the nite. He picked me up at my aunt's house.
After a nice conversation with my aunt,
We set out in broad daylight. Everything seemed all right.
I was 16 then, a "tomboy" they said.
I loved climbing high in a tree, or flying fast on my sled.
When, o when, they kept asking me,
Will you put on a dress and fix that hair on your head?
He didn't have a knife. He didn't act mean,
'Til we got to the field where he'd set up his tent.
He said "Get inside." Still, I thought him a gent.
All at once I realized he was not what he seemed.
My life changed that day, in ways not clear to me yet.
It comes back to me still, on a date, in a dream.
First, I wouldn't remember, then I couldn't forget.
I wispered it, "rape", like a silent scream.
Now I am 30 and I take back the night.
Now I stand for the cause of women's rights.
Now I name my oppressors in the cool clear light.
Now I call on my sisters to join in the fight.

WHO WE ARE

MAINE NOW-PAC is a state political action committee created to raise and distribute funds to candidates (or on behalf of issues) to promote the interests and rights of women, in concert with the goals and priorities of Maine NOW. Current members include Joan Tronto, JoAnne Dauphinee, Marilyn Kirby, Christine Torraca, Lois Reckitt, Chris Rusnov, Lois Tetreault, and Nancy Boothby.

WHAT WE DO

Among our responsibilities to our supporters and financial contributors are the following: study candidates for state office, research & analyse voting records, research the candidates' electability and future promise, determine the degree of commitment to feminist issues by the various candidates, find out the need or desire of the candidates to receive campaign contributions (or other kinds of support), make ourselves and our issues well known to all candidates, and distribute funds and resources to the greatest possible advantage.

WHY WE DO IT

We believe that a crucial aspect of women's emancipation is women's rights, public law and policy, and the more humane and equitable distribution of public funds. Grass-roots (even majority) support for the issues is not enough. Lobbying is not enough. Public figures deserve more than our respect - they deserve our concrete support - when they publically champion the goals and issues we support.

WHERE WE'RE AT

On June 15, 1981 MNP had \$103.25. Jo then offered a "Match-money Scheme" for all donations received by September. I'm pleased to report that our treasury now stands at \$245.57.

OUR THANKS TO...

MATCH MONEY CONTRIBUTORS:

Dorothy Brown, Ruth Hakens, Cathy Marquez, Melody Bonnema, Pam Prodan, Jean Whynot-Vickers, Frances L. Brody, Jill Pingree, Julia Smith, Natalie Smith, Judith Dann, Pat Houghton, Monique Crochet, Carol Wycoff, and Karen Black.

WHAT'S NEXT

It's the brand new, MAINE NOW-PAC fundraising - YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE -scheme.

THE GREAT CANDLE-FISHING POLE DRAWING!!!

Anyone who contributes \$2 or more to MNP between now and December 10, 1981 will have your name placed in Jo's hat. On December 10th several feminists, sober and true, will be invited to JoAnne's apartment for refreshments and fun AND to witness the uprightness of drawing the lucky winners! First Prize- A GENUINE NEVER-OUT-OF-THE-PACKAGE JOHNSON ROD AND REEL, CENTURYFISHING OUTFIT Second Prize- AN ORIGINAL WOMAN-MADE LARGE DECORATIVE AND FUNCTIONAL CANDLE (made by MNP's own JoAnne Dauphinee) AND we will have third and 4th prizes too. In fact between now and the drawing I plan to scrounge up as many neat prizes as I can find for free! Any potters, painters, or others wishing to contribute prizes send them to MAINE NOW-PAC

23 March, Bangor

Do it by December 10th - THANKS! If we get more prizes than donors Jo will give them out as holiday gifts - JUST KIDDING!!! We'll run the contest again in 1982!

Do you want to remove from office a legislator whose response to the problem of marital rape is, "legislators can't get involved in a family matter like that..."? Would you like to have representing you in Augusta a senator who will vote for compulsory pregnancy?

We can't just wish them away. When the Compulsory Pregnancy Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is voted on in Maine (if it should find its way out of Congress "in their collective wisdom") in 1982, or '83 or whenever how will your state representative vote?

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE

I heard about a fundraising scheme at a meeting a while back. I have checked with various government agencies to find out if it is legal for MAINE NOW-PAC to do it. They won't tell me. They say, "Here are all the rules and statutes. Check with your legal advisor." I don't have a lawyer on retainer. Some weeks I even run low on catfood.

Anyway, I have some folks looking into it but meanwhile back at the ranch we need a good fund raiser. So I'll describe it. If you want to play, call or write me (JoAnne) and as soon as I'm sure it won't land me in jail I'll start the game.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

There are a maximum of 35 players, first come, first serve. No new players until the whole game runs its course and a new one begins. Each player agrees to contribute \$5 per month for six months to the MAINE NOW-PAC, for a total of \$30. Each month, once per month, a drawing is held from the pool of paid players, and the name drawn receives a gift of \$25. The sixth and final drawing of the game would be for a gift of \$50. I have about five players or more. If interested send your name, AGE, and address to MAINE NOW-PAC, First Come First Serve, 23 March Bangor 04401. Legal opinions welcome.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINES

LEWISTON-AUBURN NOW

From Jennifer DeLong-White
L-A NOW PO BOX 353
Auburn 04210

First, we'd like to thank all who participated in the October 3 Pro-Choice/Stop HLA Rally in Auburn. Special thanks to speakers:

Mark Levine, Women's Medical Center
Lewiston

Pixie Williams, Family Practitioner
Bethel

Nefia Douglass, Assistant D.A.,

Androscoggin County

Rev. Addison Steeves, Universalist
Church, Auburn

Sherry Huber, State Representative,
Falmouth

Christine Swanson, Women's Awareness
Group, Bates College

Christine Torraca, JoAnne Dauphinee,
Nadine Edris, Marilyn Hackett, (and me!) all from NOW.

Also thanks to Annie Schnieder-
man for musical entertainment.

We're still riding high from the October 3 rally. The planning committee for that event plans to follow through with rally participants by mailings and legislative updates. Another rally by-product: we'd like to co-sponsor a couple of events with the Women's Awareness Group at Bates, now that we have become familiar with their organization.

A sub-committee is working on publishing a quarterly newsletter which will publicize upcoming activities on the state and local levels, as well as provide general informational articles.

L-A NOW is still quite interested in forming a consciousness raising group. It seems we have enough interested folks to start, as soon as we can get a couple of facilitators trained.

We continue to hold general meetings every third Tuesday. Our permanent meeting place is Androscoggin Home Health Services, 79 Main St Auburn. - cont -

Sign of the times: we've started sharing information about available jobs that we know of at our meetings. It seems that many of us in human service fields are unemployed (or paranoid about becoming unemployed), or seeking a change. It's a survival issue for many of us who head single-parent families or live alone, and it's frightening...We'll gladly rally around that one...anyone in the mood to join us?

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FEMINIST COLLEGE...IN MAINE!!

Did you know there is a Feminist College in Maine? It's true.

Purpose: Feminism begins with the experiences, needs and contributions of women. College is a process of learning that lasts throughout life. Learning begins with a conversation among people.

Feminist College offers an education that encourages co-operative study and problem solving, reflects the resources of all learners, relates survival issues and global concerns, envisions a more just and humane future.

Structure: Feminist College consists of students, facilitators, staff and council. All are members of the College. The College is composed of "Centers" which evolve from issues and/or geographical locations. The College is structured around three seasons of learning. An annual community meeting is held to develop the next year's curriculum.

Curriculum: The curriculum combines the resources of many disciplines, cultures, and practical experience. There are in-depth courses, workshops, and individual study projects.

WOMEN'S PENTAGON ACTION

Last year several thousand marched outside the Pentagon and several hundred (some from Maine) were arrested when they committed civil disobedience. This year's action is set for November 15, 1981, a date chosen to commemorate the death of Karen Silkwood. Silkwood worked at the Kerr-McGee plutonium factory and just hours before she was to deliver evidence on the nuclear radiation dangers in the plant, she was killed in a car "accident". Since then Friends of Karen Silkwood have raised funds and carried on a court battle to get at the truth behind her untimely death.

Organizers for the Women's Pentagon Action anticipate holding extensive training about militarism and civil disobedience and welcome trainers and trainees. For more information on the WPA send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Sheila Garrett, PO BOX 429, So. Harpswell 04079 or call 833-5502.

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IF WOMEN CAN SUPPLY NO COUNTER-BALANCE TO THE BLINDNESS OF MALE DRIVE THE AGGRESSIVE SOCIETY WILL RUN TO ITS LUNATIC EXTREMES AT EVER-ESCALATING SPEED. - Germaine Greer

(cont from column one)

The curriculum is directed toward developing insights and skills. No degrees, credits or grades are offered at this time. Evaluation takes place in conversation between facilitator and student. Costs will vary, and limited scholarships will be available. Write: feminist college PO BOX 4705 DTS Portland, Maine 04112

NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINESWASHINGTON COUNTY NOW

from Lois Tetreault
Woodland 04694
427-6951

Washington County NOW continues to be a fairly transient group. We have had several of our original members move on to greater places. We generally have a few new faces at meetings, some return, some do not, and there have been very few who have actually decided to join NOW.

The International Festival in late August was a success. We had a booth where we distributed pamphlets, sold buttons and bumper stickers. We also sold women's music which was made available to us by the very kind assistance of New Leaf Books in Rockport, Maine. Thank you, Sive. Equal Times, a feminist publication out of Boston, sent up about a bale of their publications which were complimentary copies. Thank you, Equal Times.

September meeting was not heavily attended, but it was productive all the same. Sue Dow is interested in getting a CR Group going. While there are those of us who are enthusiastic about the possibility, we are hoping to get together with people who have done CR workshops before we get going on it.

GREATER PORTLAND NOW

from Marilyn Kirby
PO Box 4012, Sta A
Portland 04101
846-4644

The Greater Portland Chapter would like to thank all the folks that helped to make the Project ERA rally a success. The organizers of the rally had fun (and it seemed so easy!), and we hope that all those who participated enjoyed themselves and learned a lot.

Portland, cont

The Greater Portland chapter also thanks those who took the time to answer our questionnaire. The format of the chapter's monthly meetings has been changed - for the next couple of months we plan on showing films. Chapter meetings can be fun and informative.

Oct 27th we're showing a film on sexual harassment - "Workplace Hustle" - followed by a discussion with Shannon Eaton (former staff of Maine Human Rights Commission).

Nov 24th we're hoping to show "Killing Me Softly" - a film concerning the portrayal of women in the advertising media.

Chapter meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Public Safety Building, 109 Middle St., Portland.

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MOST WOMEN CAME INTO THE MOVEMENT VIA THE RAP GROUPS; AND MOST GO OUT FROM THERE. THERE IS NO EASY WAY TO MOVE FROM A RAP GROUP TO A PROJECT; WOMEN EITHER STUMBLE ONTO ONE OR START THEIR OWN. MOST DON'T DO EITHER.

Jo Freeman, The Politics of Women's Liberation, 1975

THE PEOPLE WHO DEMAND AUTHORITY FOR EVERY THOUGHT AND ACTION, WHO LOOK TO OTHERS FOR WISDOM AND PROTECTION, ARE THOSE WHO PERPETUATE TYRANNY. THE THINKERS AND ACTORS WHO FIND THEIR AUTHORITY WITHIN, ARE THOSE WHO INAUGURATE FREEDOM.

History of Woman Suffrage
E.C. Stanton, S.B. Anthony,
M.J. Gage, eds., 1881
EACH OF US IS THE REVOLUTION.
Ti-Grace Atkinson, 1969

GREATER BANGOR NOW

from JoAnne Dauphinee

Special thanks to all who participated in August's Project ERA, which I was proud to organize and coordinate. Particular thanks to staff and residents of Homes Unlimited who walked and biked beyond the call of duty; special recognition to our new chapter president, Cyndie Smith, who (due to recent knee surgery) wheelchaired herself one mile; and the bravery award to Pat Finnigan who jogged 'til midnight on Rt 2 to keep us on our tight schedule. It is impossible to thank everyone individually but everyone was flexible, enthusiastic, and worked hard to make the dream a reality.

On Sept 9, I was invited to speak at UMO to a crowd (friendly & inquisitive) of about 50, through the organizing efforts of the Focus on Women folks. And I was privileged to speak again at the Pro-Choice rally in Auburn in early October. Thanks to L-A NOW and Mother Nature. The day was beautiful and so was the foliage!

Bravo! to chapter member, Kit (Katherine) Smith who made a bid for City Council seat in Bangor. Kit, we look forward to your next try for public office, and success, with great enthusiasm!

By the time this is read, we will have had a Pro-Choice Vigil in Bangor. GBNOW sponsored the Vigil to coincide with the start of the Compulsory Pregnancy Convention also in Bangor.

We've been joined on The Feminist Voice newsletter staff by Barbara Harriman, recieved a few new memberships and donations, have a few offers of assistance now that summer is most emphatically over, and we are looking forward to the coming months as a growing time for the chapter. As usual, we are in need of people and money!!!

23 March St, Bangor 942-2830

ON MORALITY

...NOTHING COULD BE MORE GROTESQUELY UNJUST THAN A CODE OF MORALS, REINFORCED BY LAWS, WHICH RELIEVES MEN FROM RESPONSIBILITY FOR IRREGULAR SEXUAL ACTS, AND FOR THE SAME ACTS DRIVES WOMEN TO ABORTION, INFANTICIDE, PROSTITUTION AND SELF-DESTRUCTION.

Suzanne La Follette, 1926

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BRUNSWICK AREA NOW

from Joan Tronto

11A Maple Brunswick 04011
725-7621

In August, Brunswick Area NOW staffed a table at the Common Ground Fair in Bath, helped with Project ERA, and held our annual picnic at Barbara West's house on the Kennebec River. Our September meeting began with a showing of a film about the Women's Pentagon Action last Fall. Then we planned some ERA fundraisers for October: on Oct 16 a concert by the Caldeewood Consort, performing Renaissance and Medieval music to benefit ERA; on Oct 24, before the Cris Williamson concert at Bodoin, a community supper to benefit ERA. During September, a CR Group began.

We now meet on the third Monday of the month. Future plans include training sessions and action to recruit members of the ERA message brigade. Some members want to follow up on domestic violence. We will soon enjoy some feminist poetry at one of our meetings. Join us!

SATAN HAS TAKEN THE REINS OF THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO DESTROY ALL GODLINESS.-Rev Robert Grant PH. D. of American Christian Cause (ed.-But, can he type?)

=====NOLAG/MAINE=====

NOLAG, the National Organization of Lesbians and Gays, is a newly-formed, nation-wide, grass-roots organization. It was created this past April at a national conference in Los Angeles by lesbian and gay activists from around the U.S., including 3 representatives from Maine.

NOLAG works for lesbian and gay rights and liberation through action and networking. NOLAG plans to initiate and coordinate political actions such as national marches, lobbying days, and boycotts. We are also a network of activists, sharing information about the many political, cultural, educational and legal projects going on in our local communities.

NOLAG is committed to participation and representation of all segments of the gay and lesbian community in a concrete way. When a representative or office is chosen, there must be as many women as men, at least one quarter must be people of color, and one quarter must be from rural areas. Specific representation requirements for youth, older people, and the physically challenged will be worked on soon as well.

NOLAG, an organization focused primarily on lesbian and gay issues, is also committed to working in coalition with other groups in other political and social movements.

NOLAG/MAINE will work for lesbians and gays in Maine. There are currently 13 gay and lesbian organizations in Maine - some are very active, some merely on paper. NOLAG/MAINE will act as a statewide coordinating body to facilitate communication between existing groups as well as encourage the creation of new ones.

NOLAG/MAINE intends to work for the next lesbian and gay rights bill in the Maine legislature, help support and promote the 9th annual Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium to be held in Bangor, and work toward the

creation of a lesbian-gay radio program for Maine.

NOLAG/MAINE will provide individuals with a unified voice in Augusta and throughout the state - and it will provide Maine with a strong voice in the national movement. Membership is based on income - pay what you can afford. Part of your membership stays in Maine and part goes to the national office.

For more information or to join NOLAG/MAINE write:
NOLAG/MAINE PO BOX 1117
Caribou, Maine 04736
or call 764-1055

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DISABILITY RIGHTS EDUCATION
AND DEFENSE FUND, INC.

DREDF, a non-profit public interest law corporation, has received a grant from the Women's Educational Equity Act Program to conduct a national survey of handicapped women to identify their educational experiences and needs. The purpose of DREDF is to foster the growth of the disability civil rights movement on a regional and national level.

We are distributing a short questionnaire to people with all types of handicaps: people with physical, mental, visual, hearing and hidden disabilities. We are particularly concerned about finding people who are less likely to appear on lists of most organizations: people who live outside of urban areas, people who can not leave their homes or live in institutions, and so on. All information will be confidential and will be destroyed upon completion of the study. Write: DREDF, 2032 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, Cal. 94702.

DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS

The Bangor area will soon have (may already have by the time you read this) a Displaced Homemaker Project. Gilda Nardone is helping to set up the project and a number of local people have expressed interest.

The expansion of the DH Project into the Bangor area was funded in the same compromise action that ended the WTEP Program. For more information on the DH project nearest to you call Gilda toll free:

1-800-452-1947

FOCUS ON WOMEN AT UNO

Each Wednesday "Focus on Women" provides an informative forum on women's issues for people in the greater Orono community. A variety of topics are presented during the noon hour, each facilitated by professional, well informed women from both the University and the community at large.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your lunch if you like, relax, and take a closer look at the many issues women (and men) are dealing with today. The gatherings are held in the North Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union (student union) on the Orono campus.

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SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE...

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS

Maine Lesbian Feminists (MLF) was formed at Symposium III. The purpose of the organization was, and is, to provide a basis for support, consciousness raising and political action. Also a celebration for Lesbians throughout the state.

MLF meets about once a month at various locations throughout Maine, but MLF may begin to meet less often unless the current women responsible for it can generate a bit more assistance.. In many parts of Maine there is precious little opportunity for lesbians to meet and socialize in a non-threatening environment. MLF has served the Maine Lesbian Community well and deserved as much support as we can muster.

Send encouraging words, money, and or yourself to MLF. For a subscription to the newsletter send \$5 to MLF, POBox 125, Belfast 04915

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EVERYWOMAN'S CENTER

Everywoman's Center (EC) was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1978. It was created by a group of local women wishing to explore and develop women's resources in the Waterville-Skowhegan area. It has been located at the Waterville Boys'-Girls' Club since the Fall of 1979.

In the last two years they have offered numerous programs and workshops on such subjects as sexism in education, women's health, rape, career options, current legislation, violence, alcoholism, stress management, divorce and many other topics.

EC also houses In Transition: Displaced Homemakers Project, and the Family Violence Project. As well as current services and new programs, EC is exploring ideas such as a women's craft co-operative, a job bank & counseling service, and activities for

(cont)

EVERYWOMAN'S CENTER, cont.

handicapped women. To get on the EC mailing list is only \$2.50. But those of us with a few pennies to spare should dig a bit deeper:
\$5 - Supporting member or
\$10 - Sustaining member
(either automatically put us on the mailing list). Mail to:
EVERYWOMAN'S CENTER
PO BOX 1170 Waterville 04901

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...MOST PEOPLE, NO DOUBT, WHEN THEY ESPOUSE HUMAN RIGHTS, MAKE THEIR OWN MENTAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROPER APPLICATION OF THE WORD "HUMAN"...

Suzanne La Follette,
Concerning Women, 1926

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ORONO-BANGOR WOMEN EXPLORING OPTIONS?

Individual and group counseling for women in transition is available at UMO. The Women's Development Program is encouraging women who are exploring job, career, educational, or life options to use the consultation and counseling services of the Professional Practices Center of the College of Education, UMO. Services are available on an individual, group, couple, or family basis.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling 581-2710 or by calling Dr. Freeman 581-2691.

"The Women's Development Program is promoting the economic, educational, and personal development of women," said Dr. JoAnn Fritsche, Director of the Program. "We encourage use of services that already exist, in addition to developing new services and programs."

According to Senator Mitchell:
OF THE 22 MILLION PEOPLE
RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS, 15 MILLION
OR 69%, LIVE IN HOUSEHOLDS
HEADED BY WOMEN.

M.A.I.N.

...is a coalition of groups from Sanford, Portland, Lewiston, Augusta and Bangor, committed to advocating for low income people taking more control of their lives. M.A.I.N. targeted 14 bill in the 110th legislature, and was successful in gaining approval of close to 75% of their issues. The group works closely with their lobbyist - Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Legislative Office, 39 Green St Augusta 04330.

For more information about the WDP, contact JoAnn Fritsche 581-2245. JoAnn is interested in obtaining indications of need for or interest in services or workshops for "Women in Transition". People who would like to be involved in planning and developing services or programs for women should call JoAnn and leave, with the secretary their name, address and the nature of their interest(s).
581-2245
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IF WE AIMED ONLY AT WHAT
WE COULD REACH, WE SHOULD
REACH NOTHING.

Julia Wedgwood 1869
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THE MAINE NEWSLETTERS

From Pine Tree Legal Assistance
Dear JoAnne: 7-20-81

Just read your July-August newsletter. Thanks for the kind words on LD 1662. We're also proud that we drafted and worked on LD 974,739, 1625 and the Domestic Violence amendment. In addition we got in the shelter funding amendment and lobbied for the 7 AFDC increase.

Given our bunker state of mind these days, we're looking for good words wherever we can find them. (Especially to Congress).

One other point. LD 1123 did pass in a form that requires DHS to get legislative approval for their AFDC plan, which must contain maximum possible work incentives. In light of the federal changes to AFDC that are coming there is a strong likelihood that the Department will make the formula change envisioned in LD 1123.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Marshall Cohen

Director, Legislative
Unit

Dear Marshall,

Your welcome, and thanks for the correction. Here's hoping we all survive the radical right and its influence on the power brokers - right, left, and especially those on both sides at once!

For a hint of the spirit that will sustain us read on.

For Justice and Equality,
JoAnne

From the Women's Training and Employment Program

Dear Friends:

Although it is very sad for us at WTEP to close our doors on September 30th, we are heartened by

knowing that we have been of real assistance to many women in Maine and that our efforts have been for real needs and that those efforts have been appreciated. Your letters of thanks have been most welcome.

"Remember the dignity of your womanhood: do not appeal; do not beg; take courage, join hands, stand beside us, fight with us."

Christabel Pankhurst

Thank you all for your support. Do not forget there is much to be finished.

Sisterhood is Powerful,
Diane Paige

Dear Diane,

Thank you and thanks to all who made WTEP work. Your effort to save WTEP in the last legislature was remarkable. It could not have been better defended.

Special thanks too for your letter above. It calls to mind still another quote:

"Courage calls to courage everywhere, and its voice cannot be denied."

Millicent Garrett Fawcett

"The Women's Victory and After, 1900"

For Justice & Equality,
JoAnne

IT IS EMBARRASSING TO HEAR AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT PROFOUND THE PLAIN CRUDE ILLITERATE SUPERSTITIONS OF THE POPULOUS OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

said of Reagan by
Ayn Rand, 1981

NEWS BEYOND MAINESEPT 21...THE HUMAN LIFE FEDERALISM AMENDMENT

Yup. Still another new twist from the country's most misnamed groups. On Sept 21 the HLFA was introduced to Congress. It reads: "A right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution. The Congress and the several States shall have the concurrent power to restrict and prohibit abortions: Provided, that a law of a State which is more restrictive than a law of the Congress shall govern." Hearings on the bill were held in October, and it will be a subject of heated debate in the next several months. This "state's rights" "compromise" would prohibit a state from enforcing any law regarding abortion that was less restrictive than Congressional laws. The HLFA is the product of Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), not so easily dismissed (power and respect-wise) as Sen. East of HLB (one-sided) hearing fame. The danger in the Hatch approach is its appeal to Senators who won't to go on record against abortion in a more "reasonable" way than the supposedly more outrageous HLA or HLB. BUT THIS BILL IS EVEN MORE EXTREME THAN HLA. IT WOULD ALLOW CONGRESS TO PASS, IF IT WISHED, A "HUMAN LIFE BILL" AND IT COMPROMISES THE BALANCE OF POWERS BY GIVING FAR LESS WEIGHT TO THE JUDICIAL BRANCH. HATCH HOPES TO HAVE DEBATE ENDED BY YEAR'S END TO FACE SENATE ACTION IN 1982.

DEFEAT THE FAMILY PROTECTION ACT

Now pending in Congress this bill overrules separation of church and state by withdrawing federal funds from public school systems which do not institute prayer periods. It would also promote censorship by requiring schools' texts to depict women only as homemakers and moms.

EMERGENCY PLEA!

The NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE sent out a plea this summer for contributions. They were in danger of having to close their offices and lay off their staff. We will receive many pleas similar to NCADV before the Radical Right moves out of the White House and the halls of Congress. I hope we will answer the calls for help as often as we are able. I hope too we will each commit as much as we can to political action so our government's priorities may some day be similar to our own.

For info on, or to send contributions: NCADV, 1428 N. Street, N.W. Suite 201, Washington DC 20036

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

Proving employment discrimination will be more difficult after Texas Dept. of Community Affairs vs. Burdine, which held that defendants need not prove non-discriminatory hiring when plaintiff has shown a prima facie case of employment discrimination.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF COMPARABLE VALUE

The "comparability" concept is an alternative to the limited scope of an equal pay for equal work concept. Equal pay for equal work has been required since the Equal Pay Act of 1963. In the case of County of Washington vs. Gunther, the Court ruled 5-4 that compensation claims brought under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act are NOT restricted to claims for equal pay for "substantially equal" work. This case leaves open the possibility of developing in law a "comparable work" standard, but is not a green light to file "comparable" work cases expecting sure success.

SPEAKING OF COMPARABLE WORK & WORTH

Last July striking city workers in San Jose approved a contract that included \$1.5 million to help reduce the pay gap between women and men in comparable jobs. The contract was negotiated by Local 101 of AFSCME (American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO). San Jose is a nice place to know the way to - they also have a female mayor, and the majority of their City Council are women.

KAREN SILKWOOD, AN UPDATE (see also, WPA story, p.10)

In 1979, the first Karen Silkwood case, an Oklahoma jury found the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation guilty of willful, wanton, and reckless conduct in causing Karen Silkwood's radioactive contamination, and the jury awarded the largest personal injury judgement in the history of the U.S. courts. But Karen's children haven't seen a penny, and now phase two of the court case needs support.

In the second case, Karen's family is charging that she and her co-union organizers were victims of criminal anti-civil rights conspiracy by Kerr McGee and 4 FBI operatives. For more information, or to send a donation: "Karen Silkwood Fund", Youth Project, BOX 22068, Washington DC 20002. There is now a book available The Killing of Karen Silkwood by Richard Rashke, free to you if you contribute \$25 or more to the Fund, or \$11.95 at your bookstore.

THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT - CHILD CARE CONNECTION

The federal goal (haha) of equal employment opportunity for women is being undermined by the lack of adequate child care services, according to a report released by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. (surprise.) For a detailed analysis write for a copy of "Child Care and Equal Opportunity for Women" from: Publications Warehouse, 621 North Payne St, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

BOYCOTT NESTLEBOYCOTT NESTLEBOYCOTT NESTLE

The largest peddler in the world of infant formula, their advertising budget alone is larger than the entire budget of the World Health Organization. 10 million cases a year of infant malnutrition and infectious disease are directly attributable to improper bottle-feeding. Thousands of infants die each year do to high-power hard-sell techniques. When the U.N. voted recently on whether to adopt the WHO proposals to restrict advertising, promotion and free samples of infant formula to Third World Nations, the vote was 118 to 1. The 1 was us, the U.S. that is. "We" don't believe in interfering in free enterprise.

BOYCOTT ALL NESTLE PRODUCTS INCLUDING: Nestle CRUNCH, Quik, Toll House Chips, Taster's Choice coffee, Nescafe, Nestea, Decaf, Pero, Libby's canned foods, Stouffer frozen foods, Souptime, Beech Nut Baby foods, L'Oreal Cosmetics, Beringer Brothers wines, Swiss Knight cheeses.
The list goes on and on and on...READ THOSE LABELS!

It would be well for a woman to feel that she has the whole world to work in. Virginia Penny, 1869