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Maine NOW Times (Summer 1992)

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National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter

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Beware the Anti Civil Rights Petition

The Maine State Superior Court has ruled that Jasper Wyman and the Maine Christian Civic League may begin immediately circulating their petitions to place on the ballot a question that they hope will prevent lesbians and gay men from gaining equal protection under the Maine Human Rights Act. Maine NOW had been among several interveners in the case, *Wyman v. Diamond*, in an effort to prevent the petitions from being circulated (see *Maine NOW Times*, Winter 1992).

The petition, if successful, would place the following question on the ballot in 1993:

Do you favor the change in Maine law concerning voter approval in a statewide referendum of legislation pertaining to discrimination based on sexual orientation, as proposed by citizen petition?

If passed, the referendum would require voter approval of so-called "gay rights" legislation before it could become law. Passage in the legislature would not be sufficient.

In his ruling the judge stated that he could rule on whether the subject matter of the petitions was valid after the petitions were turned in to the Secretary of State but not before. In effect, he has said that the timing of our arguments is premature, not necessarily that the objections are invalid. Because the judge's opinion was so well reasoned and he did not rule on any of our substantive arguments, the interveners will not be appealing the decision. If Wyman is successful in gathering signatures, we will go back to court on the same grounds after the petitions are turned in to the Secretary of State.

As stated in our original press release on the case and our participation in the intervention, we believe that the majority of Maine people are in favor of fair treatment and opposed to discrimination, but also that the referendum process will stir up the vehement hatred of a few citizens in such a way as to jeopardize the safety and well-being of gays and lesbians and those perceived to be gay and lesbian.

We are now charged with the task of minimizing and thwarting this hatred and keeping the duration of this excuse for viciousness to the shortest timeframe possible. This will mean, at the very least, convincing people not to sign the petitions and challenging their validity in court again if necessary. Throughout this process, it will behoove us to remember that the petitions are only a symptom of the real problem and every step we can take toward eliminating the fear and misinformation that even makes them possible will move us all forward.

Bettina Blanchard has recently taken on the task of heading up Maine NOW's Lesbian Rights Task Force. Your input and assistance will be welcome and important. You can reach Bettina by calling 737-2822. It is the job of the task force to use the resources it has available to inspire, guide, and implement NOW's movement to eliminate the oppression of lesbians. You need not be an expert to help or participate.



M A I N E

N . O . W .

T I M E S

SUMMER , 1992

GAY PRIDE MONTH

The third annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival runs from June 5-7 at the Portland Performing Arts Center. To get an early schedule call Out and Out Productions, 828-4714.

The annual Portland Pride March is June 6. Call 883-6934 for info.

First Annual Gay/Lesbian Freedom Celebration will be held at Paul Bunyan Park near the Bangor Civic Center on June 20, beginning with a parade in downtown Bangor at 10:30 a.m. At noon there will be entertaining, music, and other "gay" activities. Write GLFCC, P.O. Box 462, Hampden, ME 04444.

Maine NOW PAC Candidate Analysis

Maine NOW PAC was formed in 1978 to act as the political arm of Maine NOW. All members of the PAC are volunteers. Our goal is to identify and support candidates who are aware of the extensive discrimination against women in our society and who are committed to working for legislation that will address this injustice.

The following is a list of candidates for the Maine Legislature that we have, at this time, given our endorsement or support to for the **primary election on TUESDAY, JUNE 9. Endorsed** candidates must support our four priority issues—reproductive rights (abortion, pregnancy, contraception, etc.), ERA and economic justice, lesbian and gay rights, and racial equality. **Supported** candidates support all of our issues but may have reservations about one of them **OR** as explained below do not meet our strict Pro-choice position.

By policy Maine NOW PAC only endorses PRO-CHOICE candidates. We have in the past been somewhat generous in our definition of pro-choice. In these embattled times however, we decided to use a more absolute standard for endorsement. We made it clear to candidates that pro-choice **necessarily** includes support of state or federal funding for abortions and for care during pregnancy and

delivery. Also, pro-choice **necessarily** excludes harmful restrictions such as spousal or parental notification or consent laws, waiting periods, or any rules meant to punish women either for choosing pregnancy or abortion.

We base our decisions on the following factors: candidates' surveys, legislative record (if an incumbent or if they have served in the past), electability, type of candidate and campaign, depth of commitment to issues, willingness to lead on issues, stature with colleagues, "dreadfulness" of opponents and so on.

Finally, in some races we have not, as yet, made any decision to support or endorse a candidate for various reasons: candidates are not involved in primary races; survey not returned or needs clarification; none of the candidates are acceptable; or both candidates look good and we need to get more decisive info.

IN SEPTEMBER, THE COMPLETE MAINE NOW PAC CANDIDATE ANALYSIS WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOU IN THE MAINE NOW TIMES. It will list all candidates for the November general election with their positions on all of the issues addressed in our survey (if returned) and/or their past voting record.

1992 Primary Election SENATE Candidates

Dist.	Party	NOW Position	Name, Town
1	D	S	Judy Paradis, Frenchville
3	D	S	Harold B Dickinson, Orient
4	D	E	Diana White Farmington
7	D	E	Harry Vose Meddybemps
9	D	E	Ave Maria Dover, Newport
10	D	E	John Baldacci, Bangor
11	D	E	John J. O'Dea, Orono
13	D	E	Ralph Conant, Winslow
14	D	E	John M. Hyk, Prospect
16	D	S	Georgette Berube, Lewiston
18	D	E	Dale McCormick, Monmouth

Dist.	Party	NOW Position	Name, Town
19	D	E	Beverly Miner Bustin, Augusta
20	D	E	Trina Wallace, Jefferson
21	D	E	Rochelle Pinegree, North Haven
22	D	E	John Cleveland, Auburn
23	D	E	James Handy, Lewiston
24	D	E	Robert Cummings, Phippsburg
25	D	E	Bonnie Titcomb, Casco
26	D	E	Nancy Randall Clark, Freeport
27	D	E	Merle Nelson, Falmouth
29	D	E	Joseph Brannigan, Portland
30	D	E	Gerald P. Conley, Jr., Portland
35	D	E	Mark W. Lawrence, Kittery

1992 Primary Election HOUSE Candidates

Dist.	Party	NOW Position	Name, Town
4	D	E	Mark H. Glaze, North Berwick
8	D	E	Jason Wentworth, Arundel
9	D	E	Donald Gean, Alfred
12	D	E	Richard Rhames, Biddeford

Dist.	Party	NOW Position	Name, Town
21	D	E	Stephen Simonds, Cape Elizabeth
22	I	E	Lois Galgay Reckitt, So. Portland
23	D	E	N. Thomas Richardson, So. Portland

Dist.	Party	NOW Position	Name, Town
24	D	E	Birger Johnson, South Portland
25	D	E	Anne Rand, Portland
26	D	E	James Oliver, Portland
27	D	E	Herbert Adams, Portland
28	D	E	Fred Richardson, Portland
29	R	E	Deborah Curtis Donovan, Portland
30	D	E	Harriet Ketover, Portland
31	D	E	Elizabeth Townsend, Portland
32	D	E	Annette Hogland, Portland
34	R	E	Robert H. Smith, Westbrook
36	D	E	Anne Larrivee, Gorham
38	D	E	Deborah Shaw Rice, Cumberland
37	D	E	Carol Kontos, Windham
41	D	E	James Mitvhell, Freeport
43	D	E	Sophia Douglass Pfeiffer, Brunswick
44	D	E	Donnell Carroll, Gray
46	D	E	Thomas Foote, Hiram
49	D	E	Rockie Graham, Riley Township
54	D	E	Conrad Heeschen, Wilton
55	R	S	Roger Lambert, Strong
56	D	E	Frank Warren Landford III, New Sharon
58	D	S	Richard Tracy, Rome
59	D	E	Charles Woodward, Leeds
63	D	E	Susan Dore, Auburn
66	D	E	Danielle Yates, Lewiston
67	D	E	Stacey Bellows, Lewiston
70	D	E	Michael Fitzpatrick, Durham
74	D	E	Maria Holt, Bath
76	D	E	James Reed Coles, Harpswell
78	D	E	Marjorie Kilkelly, Wiscasset
80	D	E	Joseph Mayo, Thomaston
84	R	E	Linnette Gushee, Appleton
85	D	E	Gail Chase, China
87	D	E	Elizabeth Mitchell, Vassalboro
88	D	E	Beverly Daggett, Augusta
90	R	E	Sumner Lipman, Augusta
91	D	E	Susan Farnsworth, Hallowell

Dist.	Party	NOW Position	Name, Town
92	D	E	Sharon Treat, Gardiner
93	D	S	Waldo Gilpatrick, West Gardiner
95	R	E	Omar Norton, Winthrop
98	D	E	Ruth Joseph, Waterville
99	D	E	Dan Gwadosky, Fairfield
101	D	E	Tracy Goodridge, Cornville
105	R	E	Carol Kealiher Stirling, Twp. A Range 12
106	D	E	Louis Golob, Dover-Foxcroft
109	D	E	Alice Cheeseman, Unity
110	D	E	Jason Burleigh, Montville
111	D	E	Jennifer Hill, Belfast
115	D	E	Everett Pederson, Bangor
116	D	E	Jane Saxl, Bangor
117	D	S	Patricia Steven, Bangor
118	D	E	Sean Faircloth, Bangor
119	R	E	Hugh Morrison, Bangor
123	D	E	Glenith Gray, Sedgwick
125	D	E	Virginia Constantine, Bar Harbor
128	R	E	Kirk Ramsay, Bradley
129	D	E	Mary Cathcart, Orono
130	D	E	Kathleen Stevens, Orono
132	D	E	Vanessa Nutter Bruce, Enfield
137	D	E	George Townsend, Eastport
144	D	E	Carol Mahany, Easton
148	D	E	Rachelle Girard, Van Buren

NOTE:

Rep. Susan Farnsworth (Dist. 91), a NOW member, is running for the House Majority Leader position.

Lois Galgay Reckitt, candidate in House District 22, is a former National NOW Vice President, former Maine NOW state coordinator and a long-time Maine feminist activist and friend.

MNT Credits

Thanks to all who wrote articles and otherwise contributed to this issue. Thank you to Cynthia Phinney and Greater Farmington NOW for mailing the newsletter and to Merrie Allen and Annie Lunt for dealing with the post office. We encourage all of our readers to send (or call in) articles, commentaries, cartoons, poems, event notices, etc. to the editor.

Maine NOW Times is looking for a designer to layout the newsletter. Interested? Call Chris, 873-0878.

Layout and design: Nora Cameron. Editor: Chris Rusnov, 11 Bolduc St., Winslow, ME 04901, 873-0878. Deadline for fall newsletter: Wednesday, July 25, 1992.

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

to Benefit the Newly Formed
Maine Chapter of 9 to 5
National Association of Working Women

Saturday, May 30,

8 a.m.-1 p.m.,

51 Ocean Park, Saco.

Volunteers and Old Towels Needed.

Contact Lynne, 284-1910

Abortion Rights Update & Action

In March, The Maine Choice Coalition, of which Maine NOW is a member, worked with pro-choice legislators and the governor to introduce a MAINE Freedom of Choice Act. A majority of the legislators agreed to support the bill (House 77/Senate 22). But some of the promises softened once the anti's and the press became aware of our efforts.

We think some legislators were waiting for the governor to boldly move forward and introduce the bill before they signed on. Others also cited "the timing" as being inappropriate since the session would close in a week.

As you know, the governor did not introduce the bill but said he might in the special session (called for workers comp) in late summer or early fall. As you also know, it is imperative that we pass a MAINE Freedom of Choice Act in order to prevent a 48-hour waiting period for abortions in Maine. (We of course would prefer that Congress pass a Freedom of Choice Act so that women in all states would be free to choose!)

ACT NOW



- 1) **Call/write** Governor McKernan and your state legislators NOW and until we pass the law.
- 2) **Encourage** at least four other people to do the same. Share info.
- 3) **Write letters-to-the-editor** to local and statewide newspapers. Get the word Out!

- 4) **Meet** with your state legislators and candidates to discuss this bill. Invite friends and neighbors.

- * **EXPRESS YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE BILL WAS NOT INTRODUCED.**
- * **ASK THAT IT BE INTRODUCED IN A SPECIAL SESSION.**
- * **EXPRESS YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE 48-HOUR WAITING PERIOD.**
- * **REMIND THEM THAT THE MAJORITY OF MAINERS ARE PRO-CHOICE.**

Thanks to Betsy Mahoney and the Family Planning Association staff for creating and distributing the fact sheets for the Maine Freedom of Choice Act and the 48-hour waiting period.

Another thank you to Betsy Mahoney, Family Planning Association, Mary McPherson, Maine Women's Lobby, and Debbie Noone, Business and Professional Women. They testified on behalf of the Choice Coalition before the Judiciary Committee of the Maine Legislature on the Wathen nomination for Chief Justice to the Maine Supreme Court. We understand they were treated quite rudely by several legislators not unlike the pro-choice leaders (women) who testified against Souter and Thomas in Congress. Elected officials need to remember who they work for and who can fire them.

The Facts About Waiting Periods for Abortions

Maine's law calling for a 48-hour waiting period for abortions, enacted in 1979, was enjoined by a federal court and has never been enforced. The court found that the 48-hour waiting period may increase the medical risk, emotional stress and financial cost of an abortion.

That court and other federal courts have found that waiting periods:

1. **Increase the risk of medical complications:**
 - The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists opposes waiting periods.
 - Waiting periods delay some abortions longer than two days, per-

haps as long as a week, because of scheduling problems.

- Mandatory delays increase the risk of major complications by 20 to 30 percent each week of delay.
 - They may cause a first trimester abortion to become a second trimester abortion, thereby greatly increasing both the medical risks and the costs to the woman.
2. **Decrease access to services, especially among the poor, the young and those in rural areas:**
 - Waiting periods cause great hardship to women living in rural areas who have to travel long distances.
 - They burden the poor and the young who have the least financial resources, and those who have difficulty explaining their whereabouts, such as battered women, school age women and working

women without sick leave.

- Every woman seeking an abortion will have to make at least two trips to the physician, forcing her to double her travel time or stay overnight and incur more expenses for food and childcare, adding to the overall cost of the abortion.
 - Many women will lose wages or put their jobs in jeopardy if forced to miss work on two separate occasions.
3. **Cause a woman serious emotional distress:**
 - Mandatory waiting periods can create additional emotional trauma for women who are already facing a difficult situation.
 - The vast majority of women have no doubts about their abortion decision after talking with the doctor for the first time.

The Facts on a Maine Freedom of Choice Act

What would the legislation do?

The purpose of the bill is to preserve current Maine law regarding the role of the State in a woman's personal decisions about her own pregnancy.

The proposed legislation would continue the State's policy not to limit a woman's access to abortion except after viability. After viability, abortion would be allowed only if the mother's life were in danger. It would not change current Maine law requiring adult involvement in a minor's decision to have an abortion.

Why does the Legislature need to act?

The United States supreme Court recently agreed to review Pennsylvania's restrictive abortion law. The Court is not expected to overturn *Roe v. Wade* this year, but it is expected to uphold Pennsylvania's 24-hour waiting period for abortion, among other provisions.

Maine has a similar law on its books, calling for a 48-hour waiting period. This law, enacted in 1979, was never enforced due to a court injunction. The proposed legislation would have the effect of repealing this mandatory waiting period.

What will happen if the Legislature doesn't act?

If the Supreme Court upholds Pennsylvania's 24-hour waiting period, Maine's 48-hour waiting period could be triggered. The decision could come as soon as June of this year, and anti-choice forces in Maine could petition the court here to lift the injunction immediately afterwards. Maine women could be faced with a 48-hour waiting period if the legislature doesn't act to effectively repeal the old law.

What's wrong with a 48-hour waiting period?

The federal court that barred enforcement of Maine's law found that a 48-hour waiting period may increase the medical risk, emotional stress and financial cost of an abortion.

The court noted that the mandatory delay would: 1) increase the risk of major complications by 20 to 30 percent each week of delay; 2) decrease access to services, especially among those in rural areas who have to travel long distances to receive services; and 3) burden those who have the least financial resources by increasing travel and other costs.

Finally, the court found that 48-hour waiting period would not, "induce any woman to rethink their position" on having the abortion.

How do Maine people feel about this issue?

A 1989 poll conducted by the Family Planning Association of Maine showed that 82 percent of Maine citizens feel that abortion is a private issue between a woman, her family and her doctors and the government should not get involved.

Pennsylvania Decision: What To Do, When It Happens?

The Supreme Court will announce the Pennsylvania case decision in late June or early July. We know it will result in further erosion of our abortion rights. The case contains provisions on parental consent, husband notification, a 24-hour waiting period, and information and record keeping guidelines for abortion providers, with the possibility of records being open to the public.

Actions are being planned to demonstrate our determination to fight this oppression and to show our strength. We need your help and input.

Join us at a planning session at our next state board meeting, Wednesday, June 3, 5:30 p.m., Augusta City Hall. We need help to organize a state-wide phone tree to spread the word on this and future work. We will also brainstorm and plan an action. If you cannot join us for the meeting, call ahead with your pledge to help and with your ideas.

We urge every one to keep your eyes open for events in newspapers and on bulletin boards. Call Maine NOW and NOW chapters if you haven't seen any info by June 20. Join us June 3 or call us now with your ideas and your offer to help organize and spread the word. Contact: Chris Rusnov, 873-0878.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- * Rally in Kennebunkport
- * Our own July 4 Parade
- * Civil Disobedience at Federal Buildings
- * Honk for Choice at Federal Buildings
- * Hitting the shopping centers to gather pro-choice signatures
- * Your idea _____!

WE PLAN to submit press releases immediately when the decision is announced. Also, on the suggestion of a member...

**WE ARE
ENCOURAGING
ALL PRO-CHOICE
SUPPORTERS TO ATTACH
"Purple" RIBBONS TO
TREES, CARS, HOUSES,
YOURSELF,
SPREAD THE WORD
It's quick, easy and
public!!!**

Over 700 Mainers Protest in D.C.

On April 5, 1992, people on the five Maine NOW buses were joined in Washington D.C. by hundreds more Maine folks, who took alternate ways of transport. We were part of the *million pro-choice activists demanding our rights and promising to replace elected officials who "don't get it." Thanks to National NOW for organizing this event and single handedly financing it to the tune of \$500,000.

As bus organizer, I want to thank all of the Maine folks who helped with money, mailings, phone calls, press, signs, the rally . . . and as bus leaders. It was thrilling and encouraging that so many wanted to go and/or to help. (But for time restraints, we would have had a sixth bus.) If I've left any loose ends hanging, call and let me know. (Chris, 873-0878)

Now that we're back home, we need more than ever to continue our work to keep abortion and birth control safe and legal as well as to work for changes that will reduce the need for abortions and ultimately improve the quality of all our lives. Throughout this newsletter there are suggestions on ways to get active. Just do it!

*The Department of the Interior ordered the Park Police to report no more than 250,000 marchers to the press. National NOW negotiated with the Washington D.C. police to report at least 500,000. However, March officials with clickers stopped counting after one million. We who attended knew there were at least one million.

Bus Riders' Journal Entrees

"I remember life before 1973 and legalized abortion. . . . We Won't-Can't Go Back! It's a great experience to participate in this march. And I hope we all keep up the work and enthusiasm when we return home."

"This is my first time in D.C. ever, but

where ever I am, I intend to rally for the right to choose. Not only is this a fight over reproductive freedom, but a fight for the end of oppression. We are standing up in Washington for women but also to end, or at least to begin, an end of oppression of all sort. No one is free until we are all free."

"WOW! This is my first march in Washington and it was amazing! All of those people, all of that positive energy, all walking toward one thing—the freedom to make a CHOICE! I'm very tired and yet I feel energized. I feel like I've spoken and that I've made a difference. I think everyone should have the privilege of experiencing a march like this one. It's a life-affirming experience."

"I was very active in the early women's movement. I remember burning my bra in 1968 and believing that things have changed. Well! things have changed. I couldn't get a credit card after my divorce because I "no longer had a supporting head of household." It didn't matter that I had a job and was supporting two children. I worked in a large company office—the only one (person) with a college degree—and made one half the money as the others (all men). I was told, and refused, to shave my legs and threatened with job loss.

"O.K! Things have changed-but I believed that in 25 years, we would really be in control of our lives. We still only make three fifths of a man's wage and the right to control our reproductive systems is in jeopardy.

"I am now past childbearing age and have never had an abortion, but by God, I never want my daughter or my granddaughter to bear a child she does not want or to be told what is "good for her." That's what we fought for 25 years ago—the right to choose, the right to be a "grown up," the right to decide our life styles, the right to make our own mistakes, the right to have our own triumphs.

"We MUST hold on to our successes (Roe v. Wade). We mustn't go back!"

"The personal is political. The voices of

hundreds of thousands of women will bring this home when we start voting for those with common goals and thoughts.

"I'd heard that the younger generation of women didn't think there was any reason to continue working for women's rights. I'm overwhelmingly glad that was only a bad rumor.

"Thanks to all the young women for carrying on the fight we've been waging for the past 100+ years."

"Some of my friends did not feel they could afford to come to the march, either because of time or money. I say, I could not afford not to go. I will carry this march and these beliefs with me always!"

Favorite Signs and Chants

Mother of 12 for Choice

Keep a woman's right to choose unless George Bush is free to babysit

Feminism is the radical notion that women are human

Bush stay out of mine

We're here, we're pissed and we're not going shopping!

Breeding Unit #061

If I can't be trusted to make a choice, how can I be trusted to raise a child

Racist, sexist, anti-gay...George Bush GO AWAY!

I fuck to come, not to conceive

Abort Bush in the first term

Men can not own this means of production

Abortion on demand and without apology

Not every ejaculation deserves a name

Becky Bell would have been here, if she could

I am not an incubator for the state

Why Nonviolent Civil Disobedience—Why NOW?

The Declaration For Women's Lives campaign calls for activists to commit to engage in nonviolent civil disobedience when the next decision is handed down from the Supreme Court that further restricts women's reproductive rights.

NOW is known for and excels in nonviolent direct action. Rallies, marches, pickets and letter-writing campaigns are all forms of nonviolent protest. Civil disobedience extends the nonviolent protest to the refusal to recognize laws that restrict women's freedom or right to self determination.

The decision to risk arrest is an intensely personal and political decision. Activists need to examine closely their own beliefs, commitment and lives. A commitment to engage in lawful protest can be made for those who are not able to commit to nonviolent civil disobedience at this time.

For the young women and poor women who have already effectively lost access to legal abortion, and for the women who will not be able to travel to states where abortion is legal, for all the women who are, and will be,

.....
• One of our member activists cre- •
• ated the pink flyer (center in- •
• sert), made 2000 copies and is •
• distributing them throughout •
• the state. She also informed Sena- •
• tor Mitchell of her actions so he •
• realizes our determination. (She •
• got this idea from Rep. Pat •
• Schroeder when she spoke in •
• Portland last December.) We •
• include the poster in this news- •
• letter for you to do the same. •
• Make copies, post everywhere, •
• distribute to friends, at shop- •
• ping centers, meetings, •
• churches, stores etc. . . . and let •
• Mitchell know! Thank you •
• Susannah! •
• •

turning to the back alleys, we must not only say "We Won't Go Back!"—we must demonstrate our commitment by adding another tactic in the fight for our rights.

*Patricia Ireland, President
National Organization for Women*

All who commit to engage in nonviolent civil disobedience must take part in a nonviolence training.

In Maine, training for groups covers the history, legal ramifications, affinity groups, CD process, and role playing. For info or to plan a group, call Lib, 799-8744.

Gag Rule Update

Title X gag rule guidelines were issued in March. They appear to ease the impact of the gag rule by allowing physicians to provide abortion counseling. In fact, they will have little impact because doctors are not the clinicians providing counseling to the patients.

On April 16, National Family Planning Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) filed a suit in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., charging that the Bush Administration failed to observe the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act by promulgating an additional interpretation of the gag rule without a public comment period. The case could result in an injunction on implementation of the gag rule as early as May 25. Planned Parenthood Federation of America filed a similar suit in District Court in Colorado.

In the meantime, Family Planning and Planned Parenthood clinics of Maine have made their own decisions about accepting or rejecting federal dollars. Contact them for details.

CONSUMERS FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

INVITE YOU TO

A UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE RETREAT

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

9 a.m.—6 p.m.

**at the FRIENDS CAMP
in SOUTH CHINA, ME**

**Call Harry Brown
761-4400**

Maine NOW is a member of CAHC

See Something You Like . . .

Or don't like on TV, call or write!

ABC—1330 Avenue of the Americans, New York, NY 10019, 212-887-7777.

CBS—51 W. 52nd Street, New York, NY 10019, 212-975-4321.

FOX—P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213, 213-277-2211.

NBC—30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112, 212-664-4444.

PBS—1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-739-5000.

Marge Pruitt Clark



Courageous, persistent, feminist leader representing District 70 in the Maine House of Representatives. First "out feminist" in the Maine Legislature. Former Brunswick NOW and Maine NOW coordinator. Former director of the Adolescent Pregnancy Coalition. A woman who has made a difference in the lives of all Maine people, personally and politically. We, her feminist friends, are grateful and wish her happiness and success in her new work and life in Washington D.C. Thank you Marge. We love you!

Farewell

As I get ready to leave Maine, nostalgia forces me to look back. We are currently bombarded by national leaders who talk only about holding the line and/or retrenching. We in Maine need not to feel that way. We can be very proud of gains made.

Due to the hard work of the Maine Women's Lobby, the Maine Commission for Women, Maine NOW and other members of the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition, women have made significant gains—in health care, in economic justice, and in personal safety. Childcare is more available now than even five years ago. Young women and poor women have more control over their futures than previously.

The expansion of Medicaid coverage for pregnant women and young children up to age five—if the family income is less than 185 percent of poverty—was clearly a victory for poor families, many of whom are headed by women. Additional women and children have been able to obtain health care coverage through the Maine Health Program.

Beginning in 1991, insurance companies were required to cover screening mammograms for all women over age 40 as well as to pay for reconstructive surgery following mastectomy. Insurance reform has slowed the process of "creaming" healthy young males at the expense of women. Another major gain in the area of insurance is that workers can now change jobs without loss of insurance for pre-existing conditions (including pregnancy). New health and safety requirements for persons working on VDT's are also in place.

Maine has one of the most generous Family and Medical Leave Acts in the country. Not only does the law require unpaid leave of up to ten weeks for maternity/paternity leave or time off to care for a seriously ill family member, it signals to families that they "count" in the workplace.

Last year we also strengthened a person's ability to resist sexual harassment in the workplace. Employers are

required to provide training and posting of rules thus strengthening the ability of employees to file and win grievances.

Maine also established much-needed job training programs targeted to women in the 1980s. This year we added important assistance for women wanting training in nontraditional occupations. While programs like ASPIRE, STAR and the Dislocated Worker Benefit Program are currently underfunded, the programs are still in place despite the fiscal crisis.

The statute of limitations for incest and child sexual assault crimes has been repealed and the statute of limitations for civil suits for such wrongs has been extended. Rape laws have been modernized and strengthened. The penalties for marital and date rape have been increased. We have made significant progress in our understanding of and laws against domestic violence. This year it appears we will establish a victims compensation fund.

Maine has made a major investment in childcare, targeting money for several groups of at-risk children. While there has been some erosion of state commitment to childcare, new federal dollars will assist this vulnerable group.

Maine's adolescent pregnancy rate is below 1986 highs. Not only have we continued to fund pregnancy prevention programs but more services are available to help young mothers stay in school so they can provide for their children. The requirement that an adult be involved in a teen's decision to obtain an abortion was much better legislation than the so-called parental consent bill that it replaced.

I am proud of the work we have done over the years. I have appreciated the opportunity to be part of these gains, first as the Brunswick NOW chapter coordinator, then as Maine NOW state coordinator and for the last six years, as the legislator from District 70.

Rep. Marge Clark, D-Brunswick

Color Blind?

On January 25, 1992, Maine NOW sponsored a tremendously successful march and rally for abortion rights in Augusta. Although temperatures dropped to -30 degrees with the wind, over 500 supporters participated.

The media also attended giving us fairly decent coverage. However after viewing Channel 5 (CBS) News, we noted that all of the speakers except one, an African-American woman, appeared in the newscast. All of the speakers were filmed. We decided to write to the station about our concern. Printed below are copies of our letter and their response.

There's much work to be done!

January 28, 1992

Don Colson, News Director
WABI-TV 5
35 Hildreth St.
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Mr. Colson:

We are writing on behalf of Maine NOW concerning your newscast of our pro-abortion rights action at the Capitol on January 25. First of all we would like to thank you for covering the event.

Secondly, we would like to point out that every speaker at the event appeared, at least visually, in your news clip except for Valerie Howard, a Black-American woman. Your camera person taped all the speakers since the content of their speeches was of equal importance. In fact, the topic of Valerie's speech, RU 486, was mentioned by your reporter. While we are delighted that this information was used in the broadcast it made the visual absence more blatantly obvious.

The omission, conscious or unconscious, is a form of racism. We acknowledge that we've all been raised in a racist society and have much to unlearn. Maine NOW members have accepted the elimination of racism as a personal and political goal. That is why we bring this omission to your attention—to raise the consciousness of your staff especially those making editing decisions.

We suggest a way to rectify this mistake would be for you to admit the omission in some way, perhaps even to Valerie herself.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,
Chris Rusnov, Merrie Allen
Maine NOW State Board Members, Jan. 25 Event organizers

Feb. 3, 1992

Chris Rusnov
Maine NOW
P.O. Box 4012, St. A
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Chris:

For the record, Channel 5 has not discriminated, does not discriminate, and will not discriminate.

I am offended that you suggest that we might.

The fact that Valerie Howard was not in our story is further testimony to that fact. We do not see color when we report news! If we did, we would have shown pictures of her, to show some kind of difference, I suppose. She was not shown because of her position during your program or location in the crowd, and for no other reason.

We covered the event at the Capitol on the 25th, to the best of our ability, and frankly, I thought we did a pretty good job considering the limited time we have during a newscast.

You can argue about our coverage and I'll be all ears. I really appreciate opinions about that.

I will not accept, for a second, accusations that Channel 5 News is racist, consciously or unconsciously. **We are not!**

Thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,
Don Colson
News Director

Lesbian Rights

The issue of lesbian rights is every woman's issue. We know that more than 10 million American women are lesbians. But lesbians are often invisible to the rest of the population because they must keep their sexual orientation secret for fear of reprisal.

Because they are woman-identified, lesbians have always challenged the assumption that women must be primarily defined in relation to men.

The label "lesbian" is still used to intimidate women, especially those who seek freedom from sexist policies, practices and attitudes, or those who seek nontraditional jobs or roles. Simply put, the threat of being called a lesbian keeps many women "in their place" because under current law and custom, women labeled lesbian are targeted for violence, harassment, ostracism, and discrimination in all areas of their lives.

In order to secure the rights of ALL women, we must rid our society of the fears, prejudices and laws that prevent ANY woman from realizing her full human potential.

NOW is committed to fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation in all areas, including employment, housing, child custody, public accommodations, protecting our families and military and immigration policy. NOW asserts the right of lesbians and gays to live their lives with dignity and security.

NATIONAL NOW CONFERENCE

Honoring Our Racial & Ethnic Diversity

Chicago, Illinois

June 26-28

Look in the latest National NOW Times for info or call Cynthia, 778-9506, or Chris, 873-0878. Sliding scale. Preregister for alternate housing and childcare.

Conference participants will join the Chicago Gay Pride March on Sunday, June 28.

After the conference, NOW is asking volunteers to stay on to help elect **Carol Moseley Braun** as the first African-American woman to the U.S. Senate. NOW encouraged Carol to run for this seat and has been and will continue to be at her side until victory in November. If you want more info, call Chris, 873-0878, or National NOW, (202) 331-0066.

EGG ACTION

The Maine Animal Coalition (MAC) and Nest Eggs, a subsidiary of Food Animal Concerns Trust, are working to promote an alternative egg that is not produced using highly exploitative production methods.

Nest Eggs offers consumers a chance to combat factory farm abuses typified by the DeCoster Egg Farm, Maine's largest and the country's seventh largest egg producer. (See story

in Spring '92 MNT.)

Nest Eggs hens are uncaged and are fed drug/chemical-free diets.

MAC asks consumers to join a campaign to convince Hannaford Brothers to stock Nest Eggs by writing letters to local Shop N Save stores and to Hannaford Bros. Co., 145 Pleasant Hill Rd., Scarborough, ME, 883-2911. More info: MAC, P.O. Box 6683, Portland, ME 04101/781-7170

Maine NOW State Board

Next Board Meetings

Wednesday, June 3, 1992—5:30-9p.m., Augusta City Hall

Saturday, July 11, 1992—10a.m.-4p.m. (place?)

All members/activists are welcome to participate in meetings.

"UNANIMOUS GRATITUDE" is given by the state board to Merrie Allen for assuming the position of interim scribe as well as performing all her other NOW functions. We welcome and extend the same unanimous gratitude to Donna Dolham of Auburn, our new State Board recorder, to Valerie Howard, chair of our new Affirmative Action Task Force (877-7627), and to Bettina Blanchard, new chair of the Lesbian Rights Task Force (737-2822).

Summer Intern Program in D.C.

National NOW will be employing 15-20 students this summer to work in the national office in Washington, D.C. Interns assist in the daily routine, learn the inner workings of a non-profit and are exposed to a variety of career opportunities. Many interns leave NOW ready to organize and mobilize their campuses and communities. For info and application call Amy Tracy, (202)331-0066, or in Maine call Chris, 873-0878.

**We don't
expect every
woman
in America
to join
NOW**

**Just the
100 million
who are
discriminated
against**



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Maine's Leading Feminist Grassroots Organization

Phone Number: 797-8508

Maine State Coordinator, Cynthia Phinney, 778-9506

Assistant Coordinator, Merrie Allen, 874-2899

Recorder, Donna Dolham, 784-5524

Treasurer, Kathryn Dunn, 626-3554

GREATER BANGOR N.O.W.

P.O. Box 2672, Bangor, Maine 04401

JoAnne Dauphinee, Coordinator, 989-3306

Meets first Monday of each month

BRUNSWICK AREA N.O.W.

P.O. Box 133, Brunswick, Maine 04011

Leslie Livingston, Coordinator, 737-2661

Meets first Wednesday of every month

GREATER FARMINGTON N.O.W.

P.O. Box 375, Farmington, ME 04938

Peggy Stubbs, Coordinator, 778-5609

KENNEBEC VALLEY N.O.W.

P.O. Box 503, Augusta, Maine 04332

Ruth Gabey, Coordinator, 582-1004

Meets second Wednesday of every month in Augusta

GREATER PORTLAND N.O.W.

P.O. Box 4012, Portland, Maine 04101

Co-coordinators: Jennifer Halm-Perazone, 871-0618

and Kathryn Baptista, 879-0877

Meets fourth Tuesday of each month

GRADUATION GIFT IDEA . . . A NOW Membership



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.

NAME _____ PHONE (____) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

National, State and Local Dues:

\$35. Regular Dues

\$15-34. Reduced Dues Amount Enclosed \$ _____

To be completed by Chapter Treasurer only.

Chapter Number _____

Total National Dues

Accompanying this form _____ 5/89

\$ _____ additional contribution enclosed

\$ _____ Maine NOW/PAC contribution: JoAnne Dauphinee, Maine NOW/PAC, 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer, ME 04412

Send to: Maine NOW, P.O. Box 4012 Portland, ME 04101



Maine NOW PAC Endorsements Page 2

Primary Election Day
Tuesday, June 9

MAINE N.O.W.
P.O. BOX 4012
PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PORTLAND, MAINE
PERMIT NO. 808

STOP OPERATION RESCUE

OR is planning to come to Boston in June. Won't you join the front lines to keep the clinics open? Carpools are being organized for weekend clinic defense. For up-to-the-minute information call Ellen Corsano:

362-5641



100% Recycled

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JUST TO LET YOU KNOW...

SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL SAYS HE IS

PRO-CHOICE.

**YET HE REFUSES TO SIGN ON TO
THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT IN
THE U. S. CONGRESS.**

Unless the Freedom of Choice Act is passed in Congress, we risk fifty different responses to "WHO DECIDES?" This means that women with resources will be able to travel to states where abortion is legal. Those without resources- low income, young, and women without a support system- will be forced to resort to life-threatening, illegal and back-alley abortions.

***DON'T BE FOOLED BY WORDS- DEMAND
GEORGE MITCHELL TAKE A LEADERSHIP
ROLE. AFTER ALL, HE IS THE SENATE MA-
JORITY LEADER!***

Freedom of Choice Act

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the "Freedom of Choice Act of 1991."

SECTION 2. RIGHT TO CHOOSE

(a) In General.--Except as provided in subsection (b), a State may not restrict the right of a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy--

(1) before fetal viability; or

(2) at any time, if such termination is necessary to protect the life or health of women.

(b) Medically Necessary Requirements.--A State may impose requirements medically necessary to protect the life or health of women as referred to in subsection (a).

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF "STATE".

As used in this Act, the term "State" includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and each other territory or possession of the United States.

CALL OR WRITE SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL

176 Russell Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Portland 874-0883 or Biddeford 282-4144

Created by a proud feminist and Maine NOW member!