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Maine NOW Times (Winter 1995)

National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter Staff

National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter

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Pro-Choice Activists Gather to Respond to Clinic Closings

Pro-choice activists from around the state gathered in October to share information and develop plans for action in response to escalating anti-choice violence around the country and the closing of two abortion services in our own state (see related article on next page). The meeting, sponsored by Maine NOW, was attended by about sixty activists representing a variety of organizations and individual concerns.

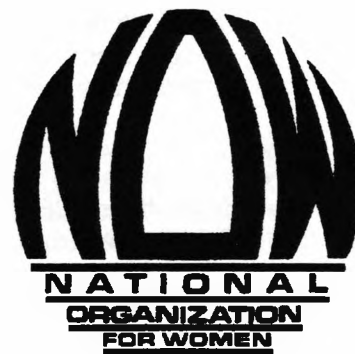
The idea for the meeting grew out of discussions at the Maine NOW Annual State Conference in Bangor on October 1, two days after the announced closing of Dr. Greg Luck's medical practice in Falmouth.

The meeting opened with introductions and information sharing. Although all committed and working toward this common goal, geography, the variety of our approaches, and time constraints conspire to keep activists often unaware of the details of each others' experience. Perspectives and information were shared by campus activists, healthcare professionals, political activists, and many speaking from personal connections to the issue. Although Ruth Lockhart had reported to the Maine NOW State Conference that the Mabel Wadsworth Clinic in Bangor had to that point escaped being a target of picketing, she now had to report that they have become the next target of the group behind the recent troubles in Falmouth and Rockport.

Following a lengthy brainstorming session, committees formed to develop specific plans around several of the suggested strategies. A partial list follows.

Already, on November 19, several of these activists and a few others met in Augusta for a Clinic Support Training led by Lib Jameson of Maine NOW.

All the committees are now functioning under their own steam, and for the most part, independent of the Maine NOW Board. Additional volunteers are needed and welcome!



MAINE NOW TIMES WINTER 1995

Communications

Contact: **Helen Scalia 828-0932**

This group has developed and will maintain a phone tree for interested activists to keep in contact about events, legislation, or special action alerts. Call Helen if you'd like to receive or make calls.

Walk for Access

Contact: **Sandra Holland 729-4663**
Portland/Brunswick coordinator
JeanAnne Sturrup - 827-7789
Greater Bangor area coordinator

This group is planning a public walk to raise money, awareness, and visibility in two locations: Greater Bangor and Greater Portland. Money raised will go to the SAFE Fund (a private Maine abortion fund) and the Mabel Wadsworth Clinic. This

Action Groups

Formed at the October meeting

group is committed to increasing access to abortion for women who can't afford them and to help providers stay afloat.

The Bangor walk will be January 22. Planning meetings are every Monday.

The Brunswick walk will be in April, and the next planning meeting is January 9.

Increasing Access to Abortion Services in Maine

Contact: **George Hill**
622-7524 (days) or 773-4796
(evenings & weekends)

This group agreed to begin networking with residency programs throughout the state. This group is setting up meetings with educational institutions and medical facilities about integrating abortion training into residency programs. The more providers there are, the less pressure there is on any single practitioner or facility.

Pledge-A-Picket

Contact: **Val Howard 877-7627** or
Joan Shapleigh 564-2776

In true feminist spirit, pro-choice activists will make fund-raising lemonade from anti-abortion lemons. Organizations and individuals will pledge donations every time an anti-choice picketer/ (continued on page 3)

Clinic Closes in Falmouth

Although this may be old news to many of you, most papers printed only excerpts from Dr. Luck's press release. Below is the release text in full. The providers' perspective is an important one in this debate and many of the points made here are not yet coming across in coverage of the issue.

On Friday, September 30, I will close my medical office at 367 U.S. Route One in Falmouth which over a period of more than ten years provided medical services for women in the State of Maine. In the past, I have declined to provide public comment on issues associated with the office in order to protect the medical privacy which of right belongs to every citizen of Maine. In view of recent events in Rockland and associated news coverage, however, a due respect for the public interest dictates that I provide background on the factors which require me to close the office.

First and foremost, the delivery of medical service requires a calm and peaceful environment for both the patient and the medical staff. This is especially true of surgical procedures associated with gynecology. The physicians and staff must work in an environment that fosters the concentration necessary to assure that the patients can be safely taken through surgical procedures.

Although this office has provided medical services in privacy for many years, a small number of individuals have seen fit to conduct picket lines at my office in order to let it be known that abortion procedures violate their personal religious and moral beliefs. This group is led by Ed Gerrish of Stockton springs, Jeff Harden and Elizabeth Harden of Hancock, and Lloyd Sylvester of Searsport, along with others such as Chad Ridge and Dale Morrell. The above named individuals have destroyed the environment necessary for the safe delivery of medical service, by among other things, causing extreme anxiety in or pre-operative patients.

It is clear that these individuals

do not understand the differences that must exist in civil society between personal religion and public law. They do not understand reproductive biology and they misuse the words of the standard English language. Backed by a self-righteous belief that they alone are vested with moral wisdom, they use their misunderstandings of law, language, and biology to sanctify their unjustifiable and continuing harassment of patients and staff at my office. Their use of the totalitarian process for intimidation and indoctrination rather than the democratic process for discourse and debate underscores their lack of respect for the community, which protects them and gives evidence of their own realization that the beliefs they hold cannot be sustained through rational dialogue. Citizens and legislators should have a great deal of concern when the techniques of harassment, distortion and indoctrination are injected into the debates conducted in a democracy, for the techniques can and have in the past created situations which get out of civilized control. Already it is apparent from the violence encouraged by the techniques they use, that many of the mentally unstable have been drawn into the web, as two physicians have been killed. Many others have been threatened and violence is commonplace.

Because of these individuals, an environment has been created which is disruptive to the entire professional park. Women arrive at the office complex for many reasons — to choose among many offices or other medical specialties. Women have been subjected to harassment irrespective of whether they had planned to visit my office or another

office, and irrespective of what medical service they require. Because of these factors, the attendant stress, and the threat of violence, I have come to the conclusion that it is no longer possible to assure the safety of the patients, the standards of privacy, and the quality of medical service that my office has provided over the years.

After consulting with other members of the medical community associated with reproductive care, I have determined that closing my office will not materially reduce the availability of reproductive health care or abortion services in the State of Maine. With this assurance, I have concluded that the best course of action at this time is to close my office at this location permanently.

What the future holds is uncertain. It is clear that abortion services are needed in the State of Maine and will be needed in the foreseeable future. It is also clear, however, that there will be those who compile distortions into personal religion and morality, and that their methods of projection preclude the appropriate delivery of medical service. As a result, the medical community will need to find ways of providing the services required in the presence of existing laws and legal abstractions which currently offer little hope and no understanding that free speech hollered into an operating room during a surgical procedure places the patient at grave risk. According to members from the Attorney General's office, all current state and federal laws offer no protection from the harassment tactics used by these individuals, even against the use of binoculars by Chad Ridge attempting to look through our windows perhaps to try to see

women undressing. This preclusion includes the Maine "Anti-Stalking Law" and the Federal "Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances" law.

I do not know how long it will be before the citizens of Maine can take back their state from the few individuals who imagine that divine inspiration gives them the only correct view of human morality. Nor do I know if our legal machinery will ever be able to protect the citizenry from those who practice intimidation and harassment. What I do know, however, is that the physicians who have performed abortion services for women in Maine over the past five years, cannot by themselves carry the medical, political, legal and philosophical burden alone in the presence of violence and personal attacks. The community — all member of the community — must provide the force to sustain the community's declaration that it is a woman's right to choose an abortion and that when she does so, she has made a moral choice.

If the women of Maine are to receive the services they need, all the citizens of Maine must become active and use all the legal means available and necessary to stop this minority from practicing intimidation and harassment. The medical community must seek to expand the variety and availability of reproductive services so that the tactics of the few will not be disruptive. The news media must stop allowing distortions of fact, language and morality to be given air time and print on paper simply because they attract attention.

Political leaders must abandon ambiguous vacillation and provide clear leadership to sustain the rights of women more effectively. The law enforcement agencies must recognize a higher priority to threats directed at physicians, because the threats are in substance serious threats against the democratic process which the protesters seek to thwart. Finally, and foremost, the Pro-choice movement must articulate more clearly that the choice for abortion is sustained, not just as a right, but as a moral choice founded in the primacy of human judgment.

For my part, if I see an appropriate response from the citizens and political leaders of the State of Maine, I will begin to work with the reproductive health care community to find ways to provide reproductive services that take into account problems that can be caused by a few individuals. In the meantime, my thanks go out to the members of my office staff, both present and past, who have helped take care of the many patients we have had over the years. My thanks also go out to the many people in our office park and community who have expressed their support warmly and enthusiastically over the years. And finally, to the current members of the staff who will have to seek other employment, and to the patients needing medical service who will have to seek it elsewhere, I express my deepest sorrow and regret that under the present circumstances we can no longer provide reproductive health care in this office. •

ACTION GROUPS - cont. from p 1
demonstrator appears at the worksite of abortion providers. This will benefit Mabel Wadsworth Clinic, SAFE, and Maine NOW.

Clinic Support Training

Contact: Anne Levesque 990-6168 (days)

This group has developed training and strategies to offer protection and support to women and providers statewide. This group organized the successful clinic support training held in Augusta November 19. Lib Jameson is willing to lead additional trainings around the state where there is interest. How about your town?

Media Watch

Contact: Judy Lloyd 725-5854

This group has agreed to write press releases and letters to the editor, as well as monitor the printed media. The goal is to see that pro-choice issues and events are regularly visible, and that coverage of all related issues is fair and accurate.

Campus Organizing

Contact: Sharon Barker
581-1228 (days) or 945-6832

This group has agreed to identify who and what pro-choice groups are on various campuses, to network among campuses (both public and private) and to communicate via e-mail, B-Board actions, and events. When you call Sharon, she is at the Women's Resource Center at the University of Maine and a student intern will be available to assist you. •

Dates to Remember

- January 9 - Planning meeting for Brunswick Walk for Access- see "Action Groups" on page 1
- January 9 - Grater Bangor NOW meeting - call Joyce Blakney 825-3962
- January ? - Portland NOW planning meeting - great opportunity to get involved - info Cindy McGinn 854-1741
- January ? - Planning for a daylong forum/ conference on issues for women in education. - info Peggy 778-5609
- January 13 - Catie Curtis Concert - see back page - AND...remember to **donate those unneeded holiday gifts**
- January 14 - Maine NOW State Board Meeting - see page 7 "All the News That's Fit to Print"
- January 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - look for events in your area - talk w/ people about racism & liberation
- January 22 - Roe v. Wade Day - Bangor Walk for Access - see "Action Groups" on page 1
- January 29 - Farmington NOW Chocolate Event w/ music by Cynthia Phinney & Beth Edmonds - info 778-9682
- February 1 - Deadline for next issue of Maine NOW Times - call Chris Rusnov 873-0878
- February 12- Farmington NOW "Reading from our Sisters" readings from women writers of color - info 778-5609

!Quick Actions!

Who says young women today aren't feminists? They are, and they're organizing. (details on pgs 9 - 10). But getting to Washington is expensive. If you'd like to fully or partially sponsor one of the women from Maine, write a check today. Make checks payable to Maine NOW and mail to:

Young Feminists, c/o Maine NOW
PO Box 4012, Portland ME 04101

Did you hear the one about....
How Newt Gingrich wants to cut funding for the Women's, Black, and Hispanic caucuses in Congress? If you're not laughing either, write a letter to:
Newt Gingrich, 2428 Raeburn Bldg
Washington DC 20515
or
House Minority Leader
Dick Arney, 301 Cannon Ofc Bldg
Washington DC 20515

March is Women's History Month. NOW is a proud part of history/herstory in Maine and the U.S. But Maine NOW needs more members. We'll be having a membership drive in March, and encouraging you to invite a friend to join. More details in the March Maine NOW Times, but why wait? There's a membership form on page 11. It doesn't get any easier than this!

Colby College Faculty Member Charges Discrimination

By Becky Gerber

One of the biggest tragedies in the workplace today is the continuing discrimination against women and minorities. Unfortunately, those who ought to know better, administrators and managers, frequently look the other way or probably believe that they won't be charged with discrimination unless it involves harassment from sexual advances.

My story about discrimination happened at Colby College and resulted in denial of tenure in 1991. The events that led up to that decision and the evaluation process itself are now being challenged in U.S. District Court, and the case is expected to be heard in a jury trial in February 1995.

I entered the Music Department of Colby College in 1985. The search committee had expressed an interest in having me form an early music ensemble (*Collegium musicum*) since I was an early music specialist. I agreed to do so in my second semester. After my two week maternity leave in March, my new ensemble performed and I was asked to continue the group the following year. It was also decided while I was on leave that student would receive course credit for participating in my ensemble but that I would not, even though all the men in the department who directed ensembles (and had

received it from their first day of employment). That meant that the men taught only three other courses: it meant that I taught five courses and directed the ensemble.

In my third year I was told that I could write to the Dean of faculty and ask to receive one course to count toward the ensemble, but not two. I was to take a sabbatical the following year, which is standard, but my sabbatical replacement was told before I was that he would receive credit for directing the ensemble. I was also allowed to have a budget for the first time, which meant that the college would buy music and supplies for my ensemble instead of me buying them personally. Of course, the music ensembles run by the other male faculty member were getting between \$11,000 and \$25,000 a year; they gave me about \$2000 beginning in my fourth year. Along with the budget differences, there were major differences in how I was allowed to recruit students, conflicts of rehearsal times after I set up my times, omissions of my concert information on publicity letters, and other issues.

I was also assigned twice as many new courses as any male faculty member in a similar position. These assignments, in my view, caused me to continually have to prepare new material for new classes, which is more time consuming than

teaching a class for the second or third time. Since the tenure committees look for polished teaching, this standard is much harder to attain the first time through a course. Of course it also meant time away from research, which is an important criteria for tenure.

My department chair came to visit my classes numerous times, but he only visited the men's classes one or two times each. Since I rarely got any feedback, it began to feel like harassment. Just before my tenure review, I asked the new department chair not to allow him into my classes again, but the Dean of Faculty disregarded my complaint and the male faculty member came again to my class. At that point I could have predicted what was about to happen and it did" it was reported back to me later that these class visitations were not being portrayed accurately in the tenure review, and affected the committee's view of my teaching.

The rest of the tenure review went about the same. The department letter degraded every accomplishment I had ever made; they made insinuations about the journals I published in, but never bothered to look up the correct answers; they threw out all my publications completed before coming to Colby under very unethical pretenses; they applied criteria to my work that I had not

been informed of previously and that were not used in the evaluation of others in the department; they refused to accept all my ongoing research for a prestigious publisher, and treated me disparately in other ways.

I was denied tenure. So I appealed the decision to the same faculty members who made this decision. Since Colby is one of the few (if there are any other) colleges without a separate appeal committee, it was denied. Then I filed with the Maine Human Rights Commission and had two all day fact-finding conferences. The College did not present any evidence that convinced me I was mistaken about taking action. So the MHRC gave me a Right-to Sue letter and I filed in Federal Court last December.

In June, the court gave us access to the tenure files from 1987-91. Unfortunately, all the confidential letters that Colby fought so hard to protect with their court appeals seem to be missing in the files. They have not yet been able to explain why these tenure files are so incomplete, but they're still looking...

As you can imagine, my case is very expensive. The first two questions that Colby's attorneys asked my attorneys were 1) are you getting paid, and 2) is Gerber related to the baby food company. I wish! So any help you can give would be welcomed. You can contact me at 873-6251 or call my attorney John Paterson at 774-1200.

I believe that my case will be important to women at Colby and all over the country who are burdened by heavier responsibilities than male counterparts. I also believe that my case will have an impact on Colby's tenure evaluation process when we present in court their complete lack of objectivity in reviewing candidates for tenure. Nationally, my case is not isolated. Discrimination is still a problem at all kinds of institutions. If I lose, it gives Colby free-reign again in the tenure process, and I for one, can't let that happen. •

Did you think the election news was all bad? **Maine NOW PAC's JoAnne Dauphinee Crunches the Numbers!**

Sick to death of post-election analysis? Don't be. For one thing, the news isn't all bad. For another, discouragement, despair, and lack of information are among our worst enemies. So, here's how we did, and some of the news is good!

Three Maine NOW members ran for the Maine Senate, and all three won! They are Ann Rand, Dale McCormick, and Sue Longley.

In all, Maine NOW PAC endorsed or supported twenty-five candidates for the Maine Senate (including the three members). Of those twenty-five, fourteen won. That's an almost 60% success rate.

In the Maine House, Maine NOW PAC endorsed fifty-eight candidates including twelve Maine NOW members. Eight of the twelve won their elections: Elizabeth Watson, Sharon Treat, David Shiah, Jane Saxl, Hugh Morrison, Sue Dorr, Gail Chase, and Michael Brennan (Michael Brennan's partner is a NOW member which they consider a family membership. Michael won his endorsement in his own right).

Libby Mitchell has won the position of House Majority Whip. Even though several of us were rooting for Maine NOW member Sharon Treat, we are very pleased with Libby's election and are confident that she will be a good voice for women (Libby was

endorsed in her race for a house seat).

Some of the not-so-great news is that the Maine house had been among the leaders in the nation with over a third of it's members female (remember - we're over half of the population they represent). The house that convened in December of this year consists of only about one fifth women.

Also unfortunately, we found fewer candidates endorsable than we have in past elections, and we had less money to give them in a year when more resource than ever was needed.

Where we had raised \$7000 to give to candidates in 1992, this year we were able to raise only between \$4-5000. Even with the additional \$1000 we were able to obtain from National NOW PAC, this is over a thousand dollars less than in the last election.

But we did make those dollars count everywhere we could. Although our contribution to Elizabeth Watson's campaign was not large, we have learned that it was more money than her own party (D) contributed! We're glad we were able to support Elizabeth's winning campaign and, for us, it underscored the knowledge that it really is up to us to make things happen - but we knew that anyway, yes? •

▼ Maine Won't Discriminate ▼

Carolyn Cosby of Concerned Maine Families has submitted 60 thousand signatures calling for a statewide anti-gay ballot question which could be before voters in November of 1995. Maine Won't Discriminate is a coalition opposing the referendum. If the Secretary of State certifies the signatures the first step will be a signature challenge (you may remember that we successfully thwarted a parental consent referendum this way). to volunteer for the signature challenge, call the MCLU at 774-5444. If you can help in other ways - mailings, word processing, clip articles, call donors, make posters, or one of several other simple and, in many cases, at-home tasks, call Maine Won't Discriminate at 990-3420. Also, consider becoming Lesbian Rights Task Force Chair for Maine NOW. Call 778-9506

There are real people behind the rhetoric
Welfare - One Woman's Story

Hello. My name is Melissa Brough and I am here to tell you a little about myself. I hope to educate all of you on what it is like to be on welfare and be trapped. I also want to tell you how this experience has affected me as a person and how it has brought me together with people in this room.

I am a 1986 Honor graduate of Bonny Eagle High School. I was a top athlete of my graduating class. I learned many things from high school, but one sticks out very clear in my mind. A woman by the name of Faith Littlefield said to her Field Hockey team, "To be the best you have to do one important thing to win, and that is team work."

We did win the State Championship in my senior year. I finished high school feeling like a winner.

After high school, I worked for Casco Northern Bank, after which followed many other jobs. In 1988 I decided to go to college and get a degree to be a Legal Secretary. I finished one whole year and then I found out I was going to give birth for the first time.

I had many important decisions to make. I would have to prolong my education if I kept the baby. Adoption? Abortion? I was not married and had been in an abusive relationship since high school. My family was not accepting of this situation for many reasons.

I decided against abortion or adoption, and family acceptance was not an issue. People had to accept my choice whether they liked it or not. Today I am very fortunate to have the love and support of my family. It took a lot of work.

As I went along in my pregnancy I worked for the City of Portland part-time as a dietician at a local nursing home. I was living with a friend. I didn't make enough money to live independently with my new

baby, so I went to the welfare office. I considered it a disgrace to have to apply for welfare, but I figured it was better than not having my child.

I realized many things being on welfare. One, waiting lists are long and they are going nowhere. Two, you do not go to the welfare office for encouragement or positive motivation, and three, you are talked at, not to.

It seems like communication at the welfare office is, "Here is your check. Get out of my face." I have been treated like this many times but I will not tolerate it any more. I do not have to beg for respect. I deserve respect!

I am a human being that feels, hopes and dreams for a future of security and acceptance for myself and my family. I want my son, Nicholas, to respect me as a provider. How is he going to do that when he sees me belittled in the welfare office?

It's no wonder people get lost in the shuffle when competing resources seem to have money and statistics in mind instead of individuals. Welfare recipients, for instance, may be funneled into training programs that dictate to them what job skills they need. Lack of communication between similar programs results in participants learning the same skills twice, at taxpayer's expense, or learning to do a job they are not well-suited for.

I look back to high school at those two things Faith Littlefield taught me: team work and winning. I don't see any of that in the dysfunctional welfare system and, frankly, I'm disgusted. This is why I have dedicated my time and efforts to turning barriers into bridges. I'm only one person and I have moved the building material onto the lot, but I need a team of builders to help me. Is there anyone interested in getting rid of the same old same old and building bridges between people

and programs so that they really work? If there is, we can make a win-win situation out of a losing proposition.

I know it is easy to not look past your nose and blame the welfare recipient for the failure of the system, but we must take a look at the whole picture. Blaming welfare recipients is only a convenient excuse.

For example, welfare recipients may be looked at as lazy and unmotivated. The fact is that the underfunded ASPIRE program was overwhelmed by the huge number of recipients who wanted the chance to acquire the education, experience or job skills needed to get a decent job.

Welfare recipients don't have more children in order to get more money, either. I can't imagine anyone would believe that if they knew having an additional child only raised the benefit \$29 a week. That's not enough for one child's needs, let alone subsidizing the rest of the family!

Living on welfare is not the ticket for an easy life, believe me. AFDC families live at 50% of the Federal poverty level, with annual benefits for a family of four only \$7,000.

Section 8 housing opened many doors for me ... or should I say I opened many doors for myself after waiting for three years. I started out just needing some subsidized daycare, and I ended up trickling down through a dysfunctional system for four years. What a way to build self-confidence and self-esteem! It did feed us and gave us some home security. I am very grateful for that but I will not be a pawn of the welfare system anymore.

Today I am a proud Family Self-Sufficiency participant. People's Regional Opportunity Program has played a large role in my journey to success. I am very grateful to have Head Start and Child Care for

Nicholis. PROP handles the subsidized daycare crisis to the best of their ability and many people are waiting for the opportunity that I have in my hands.

I am also grateful to have had WIC which I have been enrolled in since I was six months pregnant. I do not know what I would have done without it for myself and my son. What an incredible service you provide!

For the past three years, I have been a recipient of Fuel Assistance. I have not had one communication problem with PROP. I see PROP as a well-rounded agency that cares about us.

I'm working very hard to get a job and be self-sufficient. I'm a perfect example of a woman who is trying to get herself out but has met many barriers. Those barriers include not being accepted by the business world as more than just an AFDC mom, and having to educate policy makers, legislators and people in high power social service jobs that cannot even relate to the social service they are providing.

One by one, I'm turning barriers into bridges. Presently I am volunteering my time to build the Family Self-Sufficiency Program at Westbrook Housing Authority. I'm on the National Alcohol Commission and the state AFDC Advisory Board. I'm a volunteer aiding VISTA and

I'm the new co-chair of the statewide Coalition for Economic Justice. I'm an advocate for welfare recipients, the elderly, the disabled and, believe it or not, I'm a very big advocate for taxpayers. I am dedicated and I do not give up.

If I'm a woman that is educated, smart, productive and who wants to work, but the system won't treat me as an individual or take the noose off my neck, what fighting chance do people with less skills, worse circumstances and more to overcome have?

Does anyone out there want a success story? I do and that is why I have taken this negative and am trying to build a positive so we all win. There is no room for positive change if all we have are self-serving dictators who just keep going down the same road of human destruction.

I have learned that in order to change the system, I can't do it myself. This is not only my responsibility, it is everyone's. Please help! Let's shed the preconceived ideas about what a welfare recipient looks like and is and instead ask each recipient what they need to alleviate themselves from the system. Then let's provide resources and support, without bias and stereotyping, to help individuals along the road to self-sufficiency.

Thank you. •

e-mail feminists

I first got an e-mail address this past spring as a way to keep in better contact with group of friends scattered across three continents but working together on a common goal. Following my initial struggles to acquire, install, and understand the technology. I am excited about the potential, and hope that some of you will want to join me in putting this technology to work for our actions in Maine NOW.

Via e-mail, in about five seconds beyond the time it takes me to type the information I want you to have, I can transmit messages to as many of you as I have addresses for. What if, when I got a call from National NOW notifying us of a red-alert on an important piece of legislation, I could get that information to 300 of you within fifteen minutes of receiving the call? What if, instead of getting a phone message telling you to call and say "&*\$%^@^%" you received three to eight paragraphs of details and background information so you could respond from a base of solid understanding, and as briefly or in as much detail as your time and inspiration allowed?

It's true that this technology costs money, and, even though it's very "cheap" by industry standards, you and I both know that \$100 (for the modem) and \$10/month (for the service) buys a lot of groceries. But some of you have free access through your work or school. And, let's be real here, a lot of us in this organization can afford that much money. So what do you think of putting it to work for feminism and women's liberation?

How long have we in Maine NOW wished we had the money for regular Action Alerts? Or the time and people power for much wider-reaching phone trees? If you have an e-mail address where this might be appropriate, e-mail me and I'll send you the full details of my proposal. If you're interested in getting an e-mail address but don't know where to start, phone me at 778-9506. • CPHIN@aol.com

All the News that's Fit to Print (and some that isn't)

Even if it doesn't fit in the newsletter!

The Maine NOW Board has a number of opportunities for you to keep up on all the latest breaking feminist issues, as well as satisfy your lust for commitment to a cause!

We are again in need of a scribe. For a commitment of about 10-12 Saturdays a year and the time to mail out the minutes you can get your feet wet in the world of feminist activism. We're patient tutors.

Is there a Lesbian Rights Task Force Chair out there?

How about someone with a passion for legislative issues?

Or...Still need somewhere to focus your Pro-Choice energies? Maine NOW needs a representative to the **Maine Choice Coalition**. The job consists of attending monthly meetings in Augusta - first Tuesday evening - and maintaining contact with the Maine NOW Board. For more details, call Chris Rusnov at 873-0878.

The next **Maine NOW Board meeting** is Saturday, December 14 at Merrie Allen's house in Portland, 10AM to 4(ish)PM.

874-2899 or 778-9506 for directions or info about the above jobs.

We Don't Have to Let Rush Limbaugh or His Supporters Make Money on Bigotry and Lies!

And we don't have to let misinformation or disparagement spread unchallenged.

NOW's campaign to Flush Rush from the Florida Orange Juice circuit was stupendously successful. Thanks to you all.

Our next step is to write the sponsors of Limbaugh's radio and television shows and demand that they stop their support of his message of hate. Below is a partial list of national advertisers that presently support Limbaugh's radio and television shows: Circulate this list and search out his sponsor in your area! (For a complete list, call 207-873-0878.) Let them know how you feel about the message Rush conveys and the misinformation he spreads.

If you haven't taken notes on the lies and bigotry you've heard him spread and want a few facts to include in your letters, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Rush Report, c/o Cynthia Phinney, RFD 1 Box 1467, New Sharon ME 04955 and I will send you a copy of an article produced and published by FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting)

Additionally you can contact the local radio and television stations to demand equal time for progressive viewpoints. For additional information, please contact the National NOW Action Center at 202-331-0066 (and let us know of your progress).

Alpine Lace Brands, Inc.
111 Dunnell Rd.
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Remington Products, Inc.
Re: REMINGTON AQUA CURL.
60 Main St.
Bridgeport, CT 06604

McDonalds Corp.
1 McDonald Plaza
Oakbrook, IL 60521

Sherwin Williams Stores Groups
PO Box 5819
Cleveland, OH 44101

Fisons Corp.
Re: DESENE
PO Box 1710
Rochester, NY 14603

Blue Cross
PO Box 6666
Oxnard, CA 93031-6666

American Heritage Magazine
Grand Central Station, PO Box 529
New York, NY 10163

Hunt Wesson, Inc.
Re: PETER PAN PEANUT BUTTER
1645 W Valencia Dr.
Fullerton, CA 92633

Marriot Corp.
Marriot Dr.
Washington, DC 20058

Promus Hotels
Re: HAMPTON INNS
850 Ridge Lake Blvd., Ste 400
Memphis, TN 38120-9976

Montgomery Ward
1 MW Plaza
Chicago, IL 60610

Cotter & Co.
Re: TRUE VALUE
2740 Clybourn Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614

Epson America, Inc.
20770 Madrona Ave.
Torrance, CA 90509

Long John Silver's
101 Jerico Dr.
Lexington, KY 40509

Amtrak
50 Mass. Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002

Columbia House
Re: ALL IN THE FAMILY TAPES
1400 N Fruitridge Ave.
Terre Haute, IN 47811

Smith Kline Beecham Corp.
Re: TUMS
PO Box 1467
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Sports Illustrated
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Sears Merchandise Group
3333 Beverly Rd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60179

Lenscrafters
8650 Governors Hill Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 95242-9580

Duracell USA
Berkshire Corporate Park
Bethel, CT 06801

Kinko's
PO Box 8000
Ventura, CA 93002-9928

Sunshine Health Products
Re: GINSANA
535 Lipoa Pkwy., Ste. 110
Kihei, Maui, HI 96753

Gateway Products
Re: HOOKED ON PHONICS
1045 W Katella Ave., Ste 20
Orange, CA 92667

Snapple Beverage Co.
175 North Central Ave.
Valley Stream, NY 11580

First Brands Corp.
Re: STP
83 Wooster Heights Rd.
Danbury, CT 06813

Dentco, Inc.
Re: SENSODYNE
257 Cronelison
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Denny's
203 East Main St.
Spartanburg, SC 29319



A record-breaking crowd at NOW's 1992 rally in Washington.

“We Won’t Go Back!”

Rally

ON THE MALL
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

RALLY AGAINST
VIOLENCE—
SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Join the National
Organization for
Women for a
massive action
against violence.



The Baltimore Clothesline Project on display as part of a NOW protest of a judge's sexist sentencing in a domestic homicide.

**FIRST NATIONAL DISPLAY OF
THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT—
APRIL 8-9**



Young feminists rally in support of the new Violence Against Women Act.

**YOUNG FEMINIST SUMMIT ON VIOLENCE—
APRIL 7-8**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: RACHEL LOWE AT 207-737-2329

In preparation for:

"We Won't Go Back" Rally
&
Young Feminist Summit on Violence

* Interested in Going to Washington?

Join others at a planning meeting to get us there:

Day & Time: Saturday, January 14th 10AM - 12

Place: TBD

* *Outreach*

* *Transportation*

* *Fundraising*

Please Call Rachel Lowe if you are interested: 737-2329.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Maine's Leading Feminist Grassroots Organization
Phone Number: 797-8508

Maine State Coordinator - Merrie Allen 874-2899
Assistant State Coordinator - Cynthia Phinney 778-9506
Scribe - VACANCY
Treasurer - Annie Lunt 883-1195

Task Force/Coalition Contacts

Affirmative Action Task Force - Valerie Howard 877-7627
Computer Wizards - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306
Consumers For Affordable Health Care-Mary Donnelly 729-5843
Dirigo Alliance - Beth Edmonds 865-3869
Lesbian Rights Task Force - VACANCY
Maine Choice Coalition - VACANCY
Maine NOW Phone Coordinator - Annie Lunt 883-1195
Maine NOW PAC Treasurer - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306
Maine NOW Times - Chris Rusnov 873-0878
Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition - Rachel Lowe 737-2329
Coalition for Economic Justice - Chris Rusnov 873-0878
Maine HIV Advisory Committee - Elizabeth Watson 582-2068

NORTHEAST REGIONAL NOW BOARD MEMBERS

Lois Reckitt, 38 Mrytle Ave., South Portland, ME 04106 799-8744
Gerry Miller, 7320 Aqueduct Ave. #13, Bronx, NY 10468 212-367-2435
Erima Vaughan, 37 Manor Ct., Hempstead, NY 11550 516-489-7262
Clarice Pollack, Reg. Dir., 1853 Central Park Ave., Yonkers, NY 10710 914-337-7159
Diane Welch, 15 W. 18th St., 9th Floor, NY, NY 10011 212-807-0721
Ellen Zucker, Boston NOW, 971 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215 617-782-1056

GREATER BANGOR NOW

P.O. Box 2672, Bangor, ME 04401
Coordinator - Joyce Blakney 825-3962
Meets second Monday of each month

GREATER FARMINGTON NOW

P.O. Box 375, Farmington, ME 04938
Coordinator - Peggy Stubbs- 778-5609

KENNEBEC VALLEY NOW

P.O. Box 503, Augusta, ME 04330
Contact - Sandy Friedman 623-4784
Call for meeting schedule.

BRUNSWICK AREA NOW

P.O. Box 133, Brunswick, ME 04011
Coordinator - Sandra Holland 729-4663
Call for monthly meeting schedule.

GREATER PORTLAND NOW

P.O. Box 4012, Portland, ME 04101
Coordinator - Cindy McGinn 854-1741
Call for meeting schedule.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

NAME (Please PRINT) _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

CHAPTER (see above) _____ If there isn't a chapter near you, leave this space blank and we will enroll you as an at-large member.

Dues rate includes membership at the national, state & local level.

\$ _____ dues enclosed. \$35 Regular Dues. A sliding scale of \$20 - 34 is available, if you need it.

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

☐ PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT MAINE NOW TO SHARE YOUR NAME WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. (see Maine NOW policy below)

☐ Please check here if you do not want National NOW to share your name with other groups.

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



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 - pages 9-10
 plus - Dates, Quick Actions, More Flush Rush,
 activist opportunities.....

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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 PERMIT NO. 808

MAINE NOW
 P.O. BOX 4012
 PORTLAND, ME 04101



Maine NOW presents
 singer-songwriter

Catie Curtis – January 13 USM



Friday night - 8:00 PM

Luther Bonney Auditorium

Sign Language interpreted - wheelchair accessible

tickets: **\$10 advance**
\$12 at the door

Advance tickets available at Amadeus Music
 and Raffles Cafe and Bookstore in Portland
 or from Maine NOW Board members

OR - mail a check (postmarked no later than
 January 6) with your address and phone# to:

Catie Tickets, c/o Maine NOW
 PO Box 4012, Portland Maine 04101

We'll hold these tickets at the door

FOR MORE INFO CALL 797-8508

***** Catie is a native of Saco, Maine, now living in Ann Arbor Michigan. If you missed her sparkling Maine NOW performance last January, you may have seen her at the Maine Festival or at Raoul's Roadside Attraction last summer.***** This tour celebrates the release of her new album *From Years to Hours*. *****

How about those unwanted/needed holiday gifts? Donate them for the NOW silent auction at the concert. Call 778-9506