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MAINELY NOW



Vol. 1, No. 5

December, 1973

STOP RAPE

The Rape Crisis Center, Portland area; that is being formed by Bobbie St. Jean and Fran Harriman, is off to a slow and somewhat disorganized start. Contact has been made with a local Police Dept. which we hope will result in our being contacted when rapes are reported there.

We hope to find an M.D. or gynecologist, a lawyer and a psychologist as consultants. If you are or know one of the above and would like to get involved...on a volunteer, non-paid basis...call Bobbie at 839-6216 or Fran at 839-4076.

If you were ever raped, or were close to someone who was, and want to help a sister survive an indescribable experience, get in touch with us. It will demand your time, your love and your strength, for it won't be easy on your emotions.

There's a lot to do that won't involve counseling right away. There are consultants to find, hospitals and police departments to contact, flyers to write, print and distribute. There are only two of us and we need you.

RAPE: A COMMENT

I have just spent three days observing the reality of a rape trial. Since I was an "objective!" observer, I'd like to pass on some thoughts.

First, while the Prosecution intended well, I felt they depended too much on one single point of evidence. They placed the full burden of proof on the

woman and the investigating police officers. Other witnesses that might have given weight to the woman's testimony, were not called. Some important material evidence at the scene was not included; indeed, was not even taken, by the police. It was left at the scene and given only cursory attention, if any.

Second while the investigating officers were above reproach in their handling of the case, the collection of evidence left much to be desired. This was due to a heavy case load carried by the evidence officer, overwork, but primarily, I believe, to the fact that he was not advised of the nature of the case and therefore did not look beyond the obvious.

If women are to be advised to report to the police when sexually assaulted or raped, they will have to be assured that every effort will be made to get all relevant evidence presented to the court and that there will be no halfway measures in investigation or prosecution.

Rape is, to any woman who has experienced it, the ultimate invasion of privacy, on an equal basis with murder. We, as women, must demand meticulous care by the legal system when a rape is reported and prosecuted. Only then will the odds against a man getting away with it be so high that he will think it a poor risk.

-Fran Harriman

CONFERENCE ON AGING

Govenor Curtis hosted the 1973 Blaine House Conference on Aging last week. Among the topics discussed were supplementary incomes, housing and transportation.

It was established that Transportation was a vital need of the elderly, especially in Northern Maine, where some people are 85 miles from the nearest doctor or hospital.

A resolution asked the Legislature for fair and adequate attention be given to the needs of the elderly, and that older persons be given a high priority in the allocation of heating fuels during the current crisis.

Sen. Muskie was the keynote speaker, and spoke to the conference by telephone from Washington, where he was successful in defeating a proposal that would have increased to \$84 the hospitalization not covered by Medicaid.

Rep. Kathy Goodwin is the chairperson of the Committee on Aging in Maine.

STATE COORDINATOR'S MEETING Newark, N.J. Nov.3 and 4

The National Convention will be in Houston, Tex. Memorial Day weekend. The 1976 Convention will be in Philadelphia.

We spent a lot of time discussing state structure, new chapter formation and procedures of National NOW, so if your having any problems, please contact me.

For your information, there are only three rigid rules for a chapter: it must have by-laws, there must be a "president" and "treasurer" and anyone who speaks for NOW or interprets policy must be elected.

For those of you who have been distressed by the time lag in membership services, you are not alone! All states have similar problems. We did some brainstorming on solving this and registering our complaints.

Finally, if your chapter wants to file a lawsuit against a schoolboard, city council or whatever, you **MUST** get in touch with the relevent National Task Force and NOW's Legal Vice-President. Get in touch with me and we'll work together.

-Lois Reckitt
799-8744



school daze

We're presently gathering data on inequities in funding of school athletic programs in preparation for filing suits under Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, which stipulates that schools receiving Federal funds cannot discriminate on the basis of sex.

Please send Lois Reckitt, 38 Myrtle Ave. So. Portland, Me. a copy of any information you might have. Keep an eye on revenue sharing expenditures in your town. Several suits are pending in other states.

ERA COALITION

KENNEBUNK CHAPTER

No meeting December 27th.

- Jan. 10. Annual meeting. Election of officers. Location will be announced.
- Jan. 31 Women's Studies. Maggie Tripp will speak.
- Dec. 13 Women-Changing roles in Religion.
Panel:
Mrs. Philip Sneider-Jewish Community
Sister Ann Marie Lamire-St. Andre's
Mrs. Thelma MacLaughlin-U/U Women
Methodist Women
- Will be held at Unitarian Church, Kennebunk, at 7:45 PM.

PORTLAND CHAPTER

- Dec. 13 Do-It-Yourself Divorce
Speakers: Christine Hastedt and Meridith Malmberg, who have written a book titled "Pro-se Divorce Manual".

7:30 PM at 97 Danforth St
Portland.

STATE STEERING COMMITTEE

Thanks to our friends from Bangor for coming. We are continuing the Newsletter, as you can see, and will work on materials for housewives and factory workers on the ERA. It has since come to light that NOW National is working on a union strategy, so we are deferring briefly to work on the factory pamphlet and proceeding with housewife literature. These will be distributed through NOW chapters and at-large members, so you'll be hearing from us.

-Lois Reckitt

The ERA Coalition has moved into its new office in Room 163, Holiday Inn, Augusta. Tel. 622-9690.

MCLU has formed a legal research group. If you have a legal question on the ERA, contact Mary Iyer, 17 Stacey St. Saco or Lois Reckitt, 38 Myrtle Ave. So. Portland.

If you know of any ERA activities near you, contact your area coordinator (see Nov. Mainely NOW).

It has been suggested that an advisory board be formed to gauge the mood of the Legislature.

Keep Lois or Mary posted on the status of Rep. Simpson's (of Standish) ERA referendum. It is still too early to predict what will happen.

I was generally felt that there should be little, if any, State House lobbying this year, but if there is a public hearing, a big turnout there would be good.

Keep your letters to the Legislature on a down-to-earth level. Send them to the State House while the Legislature is in session and try to give the strong "Yes" ERA legislators a break!

any~

Sen. Cyril Joly, of Waterville, has stated publicly that he would give free legal advice and services to anyone discriminated against in credit due to sex. He believes this does not happen.

Lets help him see the light by requesting help when needed.

takers?

We hear that the Maine Human Rights Commission is handling discrimination cases involving housing loans under its public accommodations section. Contact them at State House, Augusta, Me. 04330.

NOW SUPPORTS THE FARAH STRIKE! DON'T BUY FARAH SLACKS!

If you would like to give support, there is picketing every Monday and Thursday night at 5:30 PM in front of PM&B.

On Dec. 17, there will be a rally to support the Farah Strike. Place will be announced.

Write your representative in Washington for the following:

Rep. Martha Griffith's Report on "The Economic Problems of Women," held before the Joint Economic Committee in the first session.

ADS DESPERATELY NEEDED. Full page, \$40; half-page, \$20; quarter page, \$10. Classified: \$1 first 15 words, 5 cents each additional word. Send camera-ready copy to RFD 3 Box 279 Scarboro, Me. 04074. Checks payable to N.O.W. - E.R.A.

MAINELY NOW is free to NOW members. Subscribers \$3.00 per year.

Peace On
Earth
Good Will
to
People &

*Thanks,
Anne!*

NOTE: MAINELY NOW has a new editor. Anne Hazelwood-Brady has resigned to resume her long-neglected writing at her new home in Kennebunk. Our thanks for the artistry and professionalism that made MAINELY NOW a paper to be proud of. May her poems always reach the hearts of those that read them.

She Ed is now Fran Harriman, and we will try to keep the high standards set by Anne.

MEN, THEIR RIGHTS AND NOTHING MORE;
WOMEN, THEIR RIGHTS AND NOTHING LESS!
-Susan B. Anthony 1868

JOIN N.O.W. TODAY. \$10 National dues. \$5 Chapter dues. Special memberships \$5.

Checks payable to:

N.O.W.

c/o Maggie McLaughlin, Treas.

16 Fairmont St. Portland 04103

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