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Mainely NOW vol. 1, no. 6 (February 1974)

National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter Staff

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MAINELY NOW



Vol. 1, No. 6

February, 1974

ERA Passes Me.!

Within three days, both Maine and Montana ratified the ERA, thus negating Ms. Phyllis Schlafly's confident statement at the Augusta hearings that "the backbone of the Equal Rights Movement has been broken." Georgia, not unexpectedly, did not ratify on its January 28th vote. Ohio is expected to ratify shortly. Things are looking good.

But the fact that the ERA seems to be well on its way to becoming the law of the land should not lull us into a false sense of accomplishment. There is much left to be done.

Maine has some 30 laws that must be examined in the light of woman's equality under the law. If left to our legislators, it is entirely possible that they would simply wipe all of these laws off the books without replacing them. A case in point is the protective labor laws that were invalidated over a year ago. Maine has not yet moved to reinstate those laws with the benefits extended to men. All workers, male or female, are entitled to a place to sit down, a ten minute coffee break and a lunch hour. Many union contracts, although not specifically mentioning the fact, have a 50 pound weight limit implicit in the agreement.

It becomes our responsibility as feminists to see that the laws are replaced in a way that will extend those benefits and protections once afforded women, to men.

The Governor's Council on the Status of Women will be examining these laws and will be making recommendations. It is up to us as feminists to give them our suggestions, our help and our support.

A.A.A. Again?

(ANTI-ABORTION ANTICS)

The Maine Right-to-Life, now calling themselves Pro-Life, held a protest meeting in front of the Federal Courthouse in Portland on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling on abortion. Prominently displayed was an American flag, red roses (for motherhood?) God as represented by three priests, prayers and the singing of the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

One feminist was heard to mutter, "The only thing missing is the apple pie!"

Several Pro-Lifers carried signs reading, "Choose Life!" which has a nice ring to it, considering that if they gain their objective, no woman will have a choice at all. NOW counter-marchers were accused of making light of a very solemn occasion.

There are several Pro-Life bills and amendments to bills in the Congress at present, including one that will forbid Medicaid payments for abortion. In effect, this will mean that a poor woman will be denied abortion, while those of us that can raise the money will have no problem.

The Pro-Lifers are bombarding Congress with letters supporting these bills. If you support the individual woman's right to choose for herself, write your Congressman immediately! Let him know that you consider abortion to be a personal choice and that Pro-Life laws force one religious/morality on everyone regardless of belief.

CHAPTER NEWS

PORTLAND

We have vacated our office at 97 Danforth St. Moving was accomplished by John and Fran Harriman, Bobbie St. Jean, Nancy Dibner, Sheila Karajin and Charlie Robbins and his truck.

Portland Chapter meetings are now being held in the Pheonix Room of the new Canal Bank in downtown Portland, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. It's time to set our goals for the coming year. Coffee hour is being reinstated now that we have electricity again, so come and get accuainted.

The January meeting heard Tom Mikilka speak on the United Farm Workers boycott of the Shaw's Supermarkets. These are minority farm workers who are fighting the large Agri-business such as Dow Chemical and Coca-cola. The UFW asks that we refuse to but lettuce or grapes that do not carry the union label, including grape wines such as Gallo.

In Portland, the Big Buy carries union lettuce. The boycott of Shaw's is five months old, and we are asked to approach your local market manager and ask him to buy only union-labeled produce.

The Farah strike continues. Harlan Baker asked NOW to send a delegation to see Mr. Porteous at PM&B regarding their selling Farah slacks.

Picketing continues at PM&B from 5:30-8:00 on Mondays and Thursdays; Saturdays, 9:30-11:00 AM. Morton's is being picketed from 11:00-1:00. Pick up your picket signs at the Tenant's Union office at 28 Preble St.

There will be a drive to collect food, clothing and toys for the families of Farah strikers (Amalgamated Clothing Workers) on March 11-15. If you'd like to help, call 772-1528, early morning or evenings.

YORK COUNTY

The Kennebunk Chapter has informally changed it's name to the York County Chapter and is now rotating its meetings for the greater convenience if its diverse membership. The February 7 meeting will be at Nasson College with Women's Studies as the topic. Contact Ann Brady for more info.

New officers for York County are:

Pres. Ann Hazelwood-Brady

Legislative Coordinator-

Britt Rose of Arundal

Sec'y- Vicki Hendrickson of Biddeford Pool

Treas.-Barbara Kimball of York.

WISCASSET

A new chapter will convene in Wiscasset on February 2 at 2:00PM in the old jail. Barbara Warner of Bristol is convenor. Contact at Box 5, Bristol, Me.

AUGUSTA

A new chapter is convening in Augusta. Contact:

Arllys J. Stritzel

26 Old Winthrop Rd.

Augusta, Me 04330

BANGOR

We'd appreciate news of the Bangor Chapter for the next news-letter

Rape

The Rape Task Force, Portland Chapter has contacted the Attorney General's Office regarding statistics on rape in Maine and is pleased to report that the interest, concern and support given this Task Force is excellent. Mr. Lund, Mr. Cohen and Mr. Atwood have been most helpful and have expressed support and offered many suggestions that should be implemented. Again, anyone interested should call the following numbers: 839-4076 or 839-6216.



Sisters

A sister in California needs information from her Maine sisters.

Cynthia Cornell of the Harbor South Bay NOW is researching the severe problem of sexual child abuse. This abuse ranges from fondling to actual intercourse within and without the family. As there are no real statistics on this problem, it is hard to judge how widespread it actually is, although people in the field of psychology and sociology feel that it is rampant within our society.

Since most (90%) of the victims are girls, she feels that this is a problem that should concern us as feminists.

She is currently gathering information on the subject, majorly in the form of personal experiences with the intent of presenting the data to NOW as a subject to be studied and acted upon.

If you have an experience to relate, do so anonymously, please. If you would like further information on the project, contact her at:

Cynthia Cornell
4610 Spencer #35
Torrance, Calif. 90503

Recently, Chris Hastedt and Meredith Malmberg approached NOW Portland about a project they have been working on and had recently finished. That project will be of great benefit to the many Maine women who are trapped in non-functioning marriages to men who have long since departed for parts known or unknown.

Maine women pay lawyers about \$300 for a divorce, far beyond the finances available to them. Meredith and Chris have been helping some of these women to get those unobtainable divorces at a cost to them of roughly \$20.

They have written a manual on Do-It-Yourself Divorce, entitled "PRO-SE DIVORCE". That manual is ready to go to the printers, but they are lacking funds to pay printing costs.

If you would like to help, please send donations, even a dollar will help to:

Divorce Reform, Inc.
Station A Box 5025 H
Portland, Maine 04101

A woman's place is in the House



.. and you can help put her there.

JADINE O'BRIEN
for Congress
1st district

*Please lend your talent at
headquarters or in the field*

JADINE O BRIEN FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE
Box 1901, Portland, Maine 04104 772-1986

FILM

For a special experience, be sure to reserve February 28th, when the University of Maine (Augusta) will present Ingmar Bergman's moving film story of two women whose personalities merge and flow in a hauntingly beautiful film.

Admission will be between one and two dollars. Sorry, no information on the time, but UM(A) should be able to give you that.

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

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.

PLEASE SEND NEWS ITEMS FOR MAINLY NOW TO:

Fran Harriman, She-Ed
RFD 3 Box 279
Scarboro, Me. 04074
Tel. 839-4076

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.

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

National Organization
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