

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

10-2-1992

Study of Feminist Activism

Maine Perspective

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Gender Equity in Education Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Maine Perspective, "Study of Feminist Activism" (1992). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 731. https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/731

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

The CUTTING EDGE

University of Maine Research on the Frontiers of Science

Study of Feminist Activism

Rank-and-file feminist activists are more likely than non-activists to be highly educated, to live outside the South and to trust in others, according to a national study comparing feminist activists and non-activists.

The study by University of Maine sociologists Steven Barkan and Steven Cohn, and former student Pat Dewey Dauphinais found several major differences between activists and non-activists. Not only are the activists more educated and less likely to be Southerners, they are more apt to have been in the labor force, to belong to voluntary organizations and to have fewer children.

Feminist activists also tend to be more trusting in others and to have less confidence in their political leaders. They are further distinguished from non-activists by their pro-choice beliefs and their approval of non-traditional women's roles.

The findings were presented in August at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

"There have been national studies that looked at leaders of feminist organizations, but not at the invisible members of the women's movement. Who are these rank-and-file activists? What are their backgrounds? What factors explain their participation in these more commonplace activities?" ask the authors.

Using national data from the 1983 General Social Survey, the



Photos from the early decades of the 20th century, like this one of Penobscot Governor Frank Loring, also known as Chief Big Thunder, left, and an Indian constable, right, are part of a new Hudson Museum exhibit: "Penobscot Images: Early 20th Century Photographs by Frank Speck." The exhibit, which opens Oct. 13 with a public reception 5:30-6:30 p.m., will feature 20 photos taken by Speck to illustrate the culture and lifestyles of the Penobscot people. Speck (1881-1950) was an anthropologist from the University of Pennsylvania who studied various Wabanaki groups, including the Penobscot. A total of 50 photos from the photographic archives of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, have been purchased by the Hudson Museum, and will rotate into the "Penobscot Images" exhibit in the coming months. A complete set of prints of Speck's photographs from the University Museum and microfilm images of his photographs from the American Philosophical Society will be deposited in Special Collections at Fogler Library. "Penobscot Images" was funded by a contribution from the University of Maine 125th Anniversary Celebration and a grant from the Maine Humanities Council. It will become a part of the Museum's permanent Penobscot exhibit.

Photograph used with permission of University Museum, University of Pennsylvania (Neg. #11913).

researchers found that 18 percent of the women in the survey had engaged in such ordinary activities as contributing money to women's rights organizations or writing to legislators about women's issues.

Somewhat surprisingly, the authors note, the activists don't differ from non-activists in other respects. "Despite commonplace views of the women's movement, they are not more likely to be white or politically liberal," they say. Neither are activists more likely to be unmarried. And they are, on average, the same age as non-activists, the researchers conclude.

Apple Research

The first fruits plucked from an experimental growing project at University of Maine's Highmoor Farm are showing promise for a new growing technique that could give Maine apple producers an edge.

Apple trees trained to grow in a "Y" and other unnatural shapes are bringing quicker yields and higher quality. "There is some evidence that the way you train the trees to grow has something to do with how soon they yield fruit," explains James Schupp, assistant professor of pomology and fruit specialist with the Cooperative Extension.

The trees, planted in 1989, have been trained to grow in a "Y" shape, others grow in an "I" and still others grow in pyramid shapes. Altering the canopy, Schupp says, lets more light in so that all the leaves on the tree are producing sugar at peak efficiency.

"There's a saying that an apple grower just starting out goes 500 Saturday nights without a paycheck. Well, we're trying to cut that in half," Schupp says.

The ongoing research could be important to new growers in the state. Schupp estimates that it costs \$3,000-\$5,000 an acre to start an apple orchard. Then it takes three or four years before there is any return, and at least eight to 10 years before the initial investment is paid back.

Although Maine is only 15th in apple production of the 50 states, the industry represents about \$18 million in annual revenues. Maine now runs neck and neck with Massachusetts as the largest New England apple-growing state and produces more apples than New Hampshire and Vermont combined.

Maine growers this year are harvesting a record crop, up 15 percent over average production and estimated to be 2.3 million bushels.

Surplus Sale - NEW ITEMS: The University of Maine offers for sale, on an as-is where-is basis, the following: (1) 8" METAL CHIMNEY, HIGH TEMP, includes 8 3' sections, 2 top caps & 2 floor/roof adapter rings, \$320; (1) 1966 INTERNATIONAL 1600 TRUCK, 2.5 ton, engine okay, body needs work, \$800 or best offer; (5) 10 PACKS OF USED 5.25" DS-DD DISKETTES, \$2.50 per 10 pack; (1) DISKETTE TRAY, \$5; (1) RUSSELL WRIGHT CHINA, Iroquois casual, 25 pieces, \$200; (4) TV 925 TERMINALS, \$25 each, (1) IBM TERMINAL, \$25; (1) PERKIN-ELMER 550 TERMINAL, \$25; (1) IBM SELECTRIC TYPEWRITER, \$25;

Off-campus inquiries are welcome.

Items usually sell for the prices specified, however, lower offers are sometimes considered. For further information contact Ron Logan, Purchasing Department, 581-2692.