Palombo and Title IX

a turning point for UMaine and athletic gender equity

by Tracy Lord

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving financial assistance.

Title IX of Public Law 92-318

ORONO — If Title IX is about federal law dictating terms for financing men's and women's sports equally, then Joanne Palombo, women's basketball coach at UMaine, is about developing a respect for women's sports while pursuing excellence — something money can't buy. Put those two elements together and you have a powerful combination of law and ethics plotting to put the university on the gender equity map.

That's what appears to be happening on the grounds of Orono after a few tempestuous weeks between Coach Palombo and UMaine's administration.

Palombo, whose job offer from Long Beach State University late this spring came as a lightning bolt to UMaine's numbed administration, played the offer like the All-American winner she is. Using it as an opportunity to drive home the importance of women's athletics, Palombo, whose Black Bear coaching skills attracted more than $3,970 fans to the Alfond Arena last year, held her ground over the next two years, a $79,000 shot in the arm to the university's nine women's varsity sports programs by 1997-98 and spend $7.75 million over an unspecified period of time to upgrade facilities — without cutting the budgets of UMaine's 10 men's sports programs.

"1997-98 will see a program that has made a major leap from where it is today. It will be a much more equitable place for men's and women's athletics," said Estler who has been working since 1986, through several campus administrations, to improve Maine's Title IX compliance. According to the plan, those funds will come from increased revenue from the Alfond Arena's expansion, the university's inflationary funds, which will kick in an additional $98,000 each year for four years, and accumulated endowment income.

Palombo feels the adoption of the equity plan is both an enormous step forward for women's sports and the university. She is confident that the plan is more than just pieces of paper, that it also represents adoption of a philosophy of commitment and respect for intercollegiate athletics.

"I definitely think The Dream will come to fruition. And we'll be trailblazers because we've chosen the high road to create equality, like UMass and UConn," said Palombo, who secured two high-profile UConn advocates of women's athletics, Dr. Donna Lupiano and Sheyl Swopes, to be featured speakers for her own vision, Realizing the Dream: Celebrating Women in Athletics, presented at UMaine this spring.

"You know, this is not just a numbers game with us," she says, referring to the common practice at some of the larger schools of manipulating percentages of women players and diluting the impact of Title IX. "They are committed to creating an infrastructure. We have a new person coming on board in marketing and a trainer. We'll have a full-time sports information director next year. Things are really shifting."

Estler, quick to respond to Palombo's decision to stay, said "I am very happy the situation resolved the way it did. Palombo has a good with President Hutchinson, the state and schools. I felt she was negotiating for women. And that extends beyond her own career goals."

Palombo's cause may have been aided by one of her strongest assets: belief in herself. Her dossier is an open book of success: the state's first Parade Magazine's girls basketball All-American in 1983; a first team Big Ten All-Academic Selection at Northwestern University; an All-Big Ten Honorable Mention selection, a member of the Kodak All-American Selection Committee and a member of USA Today's Top 25 Committee and is in her third season as head coach at UMaine.

Married to Dr. John McCallie and mother to 9-month-old Madeline, Palombo, 29, feels her experience growing up as a Brunswick athlete was not hindered by being female; if anything, it helped. Sitting in her third-floor office in UMaine's Memorial Gym, overlooking the common, Palombo reflects on the fact that she's the first woman head coach at UMaine.

"I think that the environment has opened up for us. We have our own vision, Realizing the Dream: Celebrating Women in Athletics presented at UMaine this spring."

(continued on page S)

FEMINIST TIMES

A monthly journal of feminist thought

July 1995

Vol.1, Issue 1

185 High St.
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1429
**EDITORIAL**

**What's in a Name?**

Creating this newspaper has been a long and thoughtful process.

When the question was first asked, "Should we do a newspaper?" The answer was, "Yes, we need a newspaper, and we should call it the Feminist Times - Mirror." Then we launched into the could we, should we, will we phase. At every turn were unanswered and unanswerable questions. We were certain readers would appreciate the metaphor of Times - Mirror, but would we turn some people off by using the word "feminist"? And what about advertisers? Would they advertise in a newspaper with feminist in the banner?

Many names were considered. Using "women" in our name seemed to say it was only a newspaper for women; whereas, "feminist" implied it is for anyone who considers themselves a feminist or is interested in the feminist point of view. In other words, defining by philosophy instead of by gender.

In the end, what clinched the decision was historical: How much harder it must have been for our ancestors to call themselves a feminist in 1850 than it is today? Would we betray their memory by avoiding a term we are all proud of? Don't we owe it to those who come after us to honor the memory and struggle of those who went before? Can we afford a priceless word to be stolen from us by those who would distort it for their own purpose?

Since the publicity surrounding our beginning, we have been gratified by the response. Not only have women praised our decision, many men appreciated that "feminist" included them and offered their support.

To everyone we extend our heartfelt thanks for your encouragement, and we look forward to hearing from you.

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**Awakening**

On May 29, the day after the death of Margaret Chase Smith, MPBN news aired an excerpt of an interview of her in which she said she had never called herself a feminist, had not felt comfortable identifying herself as a feminist as it implied she was concerned with women's issues, and she never distinguished between women's issues and human issues. I was touched by this elderly, frail woman, the embodiment of feminism, saying she had never called herself a feminist. She was so obviously a product of her time, a generation before women re-claimed the title of "feminist." But she was right in saying she never distinguished her concerns as "women's issues" but saw them as human issues; feminism is a humanitarian political and philosophical perspective.

Because our roots are in the 18th and 19th centuries, when women were struggling for equality with men and before women were acknowledged as human, we call ourselves feminists in alliance with that tradition and in recognition that the struggle still continues. But a complete understanding of feminism leads to the vision that everyone will benefit from its success, children and men as well as women, and the non-human inhabitants of the planet as well.

**Media Contract**

If you listen to the news on the radio or television, or read a daily newspaper, you are aware that the same news is recycled in each forum. Where does this news come from, and why is it considered valuable news; whereas, other events are considered invaluable news? A study done by the Columbia School of Journalism Review and reported in Norman Solomon and Jeff Cohen's book *Adventures in Mediasphere* found that more than half the news stories reported in a typical issue of the *Wall Street Journal* came from corporate press releases. Other stories come from the Associated Press, and most often the news considered valuable comes from government entities or individuals or corporations. Do these institutions reflect the news or shape the idea of what is newsworthy and guide and reveal to readers what they think important?

The media in a democracy has accumulated an honored place of respect for its courage and commitment to objective truth. Even in this day of intense cynicism and distrust, there is still a general belief that a contract exists between the media and the public to give a full representation to all points of view.

In this new publication, our contract with the reader will be to ask the questions that have not been asked. It is for you, the reader, to judge how adequately we succeed.

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**Letters:**

**To Feminist Times:**

I'm a 74-year-old grandmother of 10, a former teacher, radio broadcaster, public relations specialist, and age 65, spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Central America. "Making good things happen is more fun, by far, than making money." I like the idea of a feminist times publication. Count me in your corner.

Katy Perry
Hallowell

**To Feminist Times:**

There is a quote from Elizabeth Karmarck Minnich: "The problem is always to decide what we mean by 'feminist' - no small task, it would seem. I believe that it means what we are making it mean -- that it is a term still in process, just as we are people still in process."

Congratulations!
Linda Beckmaster Baldis

**To Feminist Times:**

I was thrilled to hear the great news regarding the publication of the Feminist Times. I do agree there is definitely a need for a feminist newspaper.

Robin Cattell
Bucksport

"The things you have to be prepared for is that other people don't always dream your dream."

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**Reader's Write**

We are aware that many readers have the need to write about their experiences in ways that lend themselves to more creativity than a letter to the editor. As a service to reader's we plan to devote a significant amount of space (depending on responses) to your writings on various topics. Each month will feature a different topic, intentionally broad to allow room for full expression. Writing style isn't as important as thoughtfulness. If we need to edit due to length, we will be sensitive to your expressions. Feel free to submit under "name withheld," but please include name and address for us to respond to you. We may choose to withhold your name in the interests of privacy or libel concerns.

Reader's Write will begin in the October issue. Deadline for inclusion in this issue is September 1st.

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**Coming topics and deadlines are:**

- Anger and Creativity - September 1
- Forgiveness - October 1
- A Room of One's Own - November 1
- Loving - December 1
- Money - January 1
Welfare Reform and Policy Making

by Stephanie Seguin, Sharon Barker, and Sandy Butler

There is a vast difference between how military policy and social policy are made in the United States. Elliott Abrams, who generally insists that those who make defense policy be experienced military personnel. Thus, Clinton and others have been criticized for lacking the requisite military experience to make defense policy correctly. Presumably, this is based on the view that one should have knowledge of a particular system in order to make sound and sensible policy. That may be a reasonable requirement. But, in a double standard all too familiar to women, those who participate in the welfare assistance system—single parent women—have not been asked to sit at the table to help shape welfare policy reform. Instead, a group of relatively wealthy people, predominantly men, are making policy about their lives in which they have very little direct experience. And it shows.

For example, the claim is frequently made that women on welfare are not working for their benefits. Call this Myth #1. The fact is that primarily women parents work long and hard hours at unpaid labor. National studies show that in 1987, married spouses who work at home logged 51 hours per week on housework and child care. That's work. So much for what if you put it. It may not be paid for but it's work. A recent survey of Maine AFDC recipients found that single parents with children over 5 logged on average 77 hours per week in housework and child care. Those making this claim that this group does not work appear not to know much about the lives of single parents and the effort involved in caring for kids.

Another myth (Myth #2) is that women's own behavioral attitudes are the reason for reliance on AFDC. Words like " laziness," "welfare dependency" and "immorality" are often used in conjunction with this notion. Yet, a simple look at the facts suggests that single mothers on AFDC want paid jobs. But some of the obstacles they face in getting and keeping a paid job are: affordable child care, access to stable jobs, and reliable transportation.

Still another myth (Myth #3) is that women can easily find jobs that pay enough to support them and their families at a minimal standard of living. The fact is, on average, women in Maine earned $7.78 per hour in 1993—a wage that is too low for a single mother to support herself and two children, even if the works year-round full time. The annual income shortfall for Maine women in this category earning the average female wage is estimated to have been about $7600 in 1993. In addition, a large number of women work at jobs without health insurance or other necessary benefits.

Simply put, the wages women are paid for their hard work outside the home just aren't enough to support families—hence the need for public assistance. On the other hand, Maine men earned on average $12.40 an hour in 1993, an amount that is 60 percent more than women's average hourly earnings in that year and enough to support a family of three with two children under 6—and still permit the father to save $2,000 per year.

Myth #4 is the view that women welfare recipients are producing babies irresponsibly, with the knowledge that society will take care of them. The fact is, this day and age, many women still don't have complete control over their bodies. Women may end up pregnant against their will, or have partners who abandon them, beat them, or die, leaving women with children to care for and with no income.

Many women have followed society's strictures that good mothers should stay home and care for the kids while men go out to earn a living. These women are at a severe disadvantage when they lose their partner. Women who have previously been homemakers have had hard time supporting their families through paid work when they don't have the skills or job experience needed to land a good job—and when employers don't value the substantial skills mothers bring to the labor market. The transition to paid employment could be made easier if women who are single heads of household had

(continued on page 4)

Newt Gingrich comes to Portland

When Newt Gingrich arrived at the Eastland Hotel in Portland Saturday, July 10, demonstrators chanting slogans and carrying signs. Demonstrators representing organizations such as the Money and Politics Project whose sign and stickers read, "Take money out of politics" and "Politics to the highest bidder" waited for Gingrich to arrive. The Maine Coalition for Food Security, NOW, and the Creating a Common Agenda series of the National Priorities Project Inc. were also there. Other signs read, "Cut Star Wars Not Student Aid," "Newt Gingrich is the least dangerous man in America," "Hey Fat Cats! What do you think you're buying?" "Newt happens when 61% don't vote," and "No Newt is good news.

Gingrich didn't see the demonstrators. His limousine delivered him to a back door. The well-dressed men who paid $250 a plate to have lunch with him and were waiting in the front entrance, finally entered the hotel, signalling he was inside.

A demonstrator asked, "Is it important for me to be seen? He knows we're out here." Another demonstrator told one of the police officers on duty not to assume that all the people demonstrating were poor people. There were also people there who had money and a conscience. "Some of us just know rights from wrong," she said. The police officer nodded in agreement and said he knew who was working in his best interests. "Police officers know how to vote," he said.

One elderly woman, a member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (founded in 1915) said she was sure she had demonstrated on behalf of peace and even spent 30 days in jail in Washington, D.C. in 1972, typically, peace groups don't exchange money for clout.

Another demonstrator said it was very important for "the American people to see it is possible to protest policies such as the Contract on America. People may have a hard time realizing they can be against the contract, when in fact I believe the majority of Americans are against the contract and against Newt Gingrich. The media monopoly and whitewash make us believe we are the minority, but that is not the case. We need to remember that only 27 percent of the people voted. Newt needs to know there is a huge opposition out here."

Another demonstrator who had spent the winter in Florida, said she was in Portland for the Haitians and the Cubans who are starving and suffering because of U.S. policy. "There is a whole segment of Americans who don't want to know that people are starving and homeless. I have been on welfare and I have been well-off. I know both ends of the economic picture. I used to be one of the people who didn't want to know." Cuba, Haiti, the lack of common sense in running America changed her. "We have to understand all the people of the earth," she said. Her message for Gingrich, she said, is "Read Harry Truman and go have a talk with Jimmy Carter."

Demonstrators in Portland. Photo by Lizzy Poole.

Palombo and Title IX

"I made varsity in seventh grade and never left the sport. We had a really solid program. We always had great coaches. In my way I was deprived of participation. In fact, the girls outreached the boys," she recalls.

It wasn't until Palombo became assistant coach at Auburn University in 1988 that she realized inequities existed."I became privy to budgets and realized that there were some discrepancies. Even in a school like Auburn which is very pro-active." Palombo, who had been told by her high school coaches that she would be a good coach, did not plan on entering the field professionally. "I got my MBA in political science thinking I'd go into communications. But I realized that it wasn't for me pretty quickly."

In less than two years she left the private sector, accepting her position as head coach at Maine in 1992. "Maine is a basketball state and I wanted to coach in a basketball state. I was selected to be head coach."

Her philosophy on the sport and the larger advantages of athletics carries over to her life and the lives of her team. "Basketball is a great sport. You learn to rely on people and they on you. As a coach, I am developing people, not just athletes. My team had no expectations. They learned the values of independence, competition and inspiration, and those are values they'll carry with them the rest of their lives. Something that money can't buy."

Demonstrators in front of Eastland Hotel. From the Fish Rappler Digest. Lizzy Poole Photo.

The claim is frequently made that women on welfare are not working
Welfare Reform...

(Cont. from page 3)

Some form of financial assistance combined with access to training and secondary education. Yet, this type of support is notably missing as a component of the proposed Republican welfare reform package at both the state and federal level.

Myth 4 is that welfare expenditures are a budget-busting burden on taxpayers. Fact: AFDC expenditures make up one percent of the national budget. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, AFDC expenditures add up roughly 25 percent of our federal tax dollars. If AFDC is such a small part of the budget, why have those in positions of power, who claim it’s a huge problem? It could be due to divert attention from the very serious problems in our economy.

To enumerate just a few—rising secular unemployment rates, increases in the number of people who would like full-time work but can only find part-time jobs, falling wages, the expansion of low-wage jobs, growing job insecurity, and severe wage and job discrimination against women, stemming from unaffordable wage inequality. An example of the latter problem is that women with a college degree in Maine who were fully employed in 1979 earned $19,000 a year compared to men who had a high school diploma.

The current welfare reform debate dominated by women—the very group facing serious discrimination and unfair treatment in job markets. A better strategic would be to address the real economic problems that face our society face — the state of the U.S. economy, poor job prospects, and the continued discriminatory treatment women receive in this economy.

Solutions proposed by women from diverse backgrounds that reflect their own experiences as single parents and workers earning women’s wages in America are: universal health care so that kids are covered whatever the mother’s pay, a higher minimum wage (67 percent of those earning the minimum wage are women), the elimination of job and wage discrimination against women, affordable child care, and the creation of good jobs that pay a living wage.

The wide gaps between welfare myth and reality suggest that those enacting legislation might do well to adopt the same procedures for setting welfare policy we do with military policy — go after the “reformers,” as is clear by the current debate.

Solution 1: Women in Maine were fully employed in 1979 earned $19,000 a year compared to men who had a high school diploma.

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Solution 1: Women in Maine who were fully employed in 1979 earned $19,000 a year compared to men who had a high school diploma.
Green Party Delegates Adopt Bylaws, Resolutions

by Tammy Lacher

The most difficult piece of work to come out of the Green Party's first statewide convention last month was a set of bylaws adopted through consensus.

Delegates met Friday night to assign time for Saturday's agenda items, the bids for how much to adopt a platform ... a platform, candidates, actions fueled by competition ~ a snowstorm of paper and plastic waste.

When delegates met Friday night to assign time for Saturday's agenda items, the bids for how much to adopt a platform ... a platform, candidates, actions fueled by competition ~ a snowstorm of paper and plastic waste.

Delegates adopted a platform... "Shall," argued someone, "was more of a directive than "may.""

The first debates came with the bylaw's preamble, which enumerates the party's "10 Key Values." An objection was raised to the listing of "Social Justice" because, the objector felt, it should read "Social and Economic Justice." Some wanted to add "Free Speech," and list it as "11 Key Values." But the term "Postcapitalist Values" drew the most fire because, several people argued, it was an obscure phrase not understood by the general public, and besides all the values of the Green Party were postcapitalist, so listing it was redundant.

Convention facilitator Marilyn Wentworth kept the group of close to 100 delegates on track, allowing time to state objections and then quickly moving on to the next section of bylaws. But the dream of having bylaws adopted by lunchtime Saturday was gone. By the end of the morning session, it was clear that a block of time in the afternoon would also be needed. And when that session also ran over, time was allotted on Sunday to complete the work.

Wentworth's method of facilitating consensus helped the group pass six of the 11 bylaw articles outright. When the preamble was revised on Saturday afternoon, the word "economic" was added to the value of "Social Justice." Freedom was not added, being implicit in all the other values, and "Postcapitalist" was allowed until another word was found to replace it.

The bylaws draft stated that endorsed Green Party candidates could not receive PAC money or any other large donations. Some delegates wanted candidates to be able to receive money from certain groups, such as the League of Women Voters. Some objections were raised. One delegate said allowing such contributions betrayed the heart and soul of what the Green Party stands for ~ an alternative to politics as usual. The proposed amendment was not adopted.

Article X, "Candidates for Office," outlined the qualifications for candidates who wanted endorsement from the Green Party and the process in which they earned it. In what many described as a victory for grassroots politics, the process by which a candidate earned or lost endorsement was changed from having the statewide council of the Greens make decisions on who would be endorsed, to giving the most local Green organization that authority.

Wentworth's method of consensus allowed all delegates to weigh in on issues by raising a hand "from fist to five." A fist meant strong objections that could not be overcome by raising a second or third hand. Two raised hands showed the degree to which a person supported an idea. If there were several fists, a proposal failed. If there were only a few, objections were aired and those few were asked to stand aside if they could. Most did and consensus was reached.

The delegates engaged in considerable discussion on when, or not electoral politics is obsolete. Although many people question the value of limiting minimal resources and energy to getting elected, the Greens have established an office in Augusta and are raising monthly expenses through a "Green-ways" campaign. They plan to monitor events in the Legislature and, of course, to prepare for the 1996 election, when they hope there will be Greens on the ballot from every district in Maine.

TEN KEY VALUES

Biological Wisdom

Diversity

Social and Economic Justice

Respect for Diversity

Personal and Global Responsibility

Sustainability and Future Focus

Credit Unions Opens in Belfast

Solving economic problems in the cooperative spirit. That's the ethic behind Belfast's newest financial institution.

After three years of organizing, the dream became a reality on May 1, when the Waldo Community Development Federal Credit Union opened for business at 351 1/2 High Street in Belfast. WCDCFU is the first credit union to be chartered in Maine in over 20 years. It is also the first-ever community development credit union in the state of Maine.

There are more than 300 Community Development Credit Unions (CDCUs) in 40 states. Some were organized a half-century ago, others were formed in the 1980s as a response to redlining or bank branch closings in low-income regions. CDCUs focus on local economic development and have an explicit mission of community reinvestment. Some concentrate on personal credit, others specialize in loans for housing, agriculture, or small and minority business development. All are designed to bring capital to distressed people or communities, and are recognized as effective self-help institutions.

Like a bank, credit unions are regulated by the government, and access to low-interest loans, deposits, and technical assistance from the Community Development Revolving Loan Program. All credit unions have a common bond which defines the group of people who can become members, called a field of membership. In WCDCFU, the field of membership is "persons who live in Waldo County with the exceptions of the towns of Winteport and Stockton Springs, persons who regularly work, worship, perform volunteer services, or participate in associations headquartered in Waldo County, Maine, persons participating in programs to alleviate poverty or distress in Waldo County, incorporated and unincorporated organizations located in Waldo County, members of Waldo County, spouses of persons who died while within the field of membership of this credit union, employees of this credit union, members of their immediate families, and organizations of such person." Winteport and Stockton Springs are higher-income towns, subtracting these two towns from the county lowered income figures enough for the credit union to receive its low-income designation. Residents in these two towns, by participating in other activities in the county, can still be members of the WCDCFU.

The WCDCFU mission states, "We are a member-owned organization of people helping people to improve the economic well-being of Waldo County. We are committed in the principles of running a not-for-profit institution cooperatively, locally, on a small scale and involving the whole community. Our educational mission is to help people understand the principles of thrift, savings and financial management."

Newly chartered credit unions are closely regulated. WCDCFU had to agree not to make loans of more than $5,000 nor to borrow more than $30,000, not to accept brokered funds, to keep all records current and in balance, and to deposit and invest only in federally insured institutions.

The WCDCFU began with the germ of an idea in the fall of 1992 when Larry Dansingier of Monroe, working on behalf of INVERT ~ Institute for Non-Violence Education Research, and Training, presented the idea of a federal credit union to a group of citizens that now constitutes the core leadership. In 1993, the organizing committee distributed a survey throughout Waldo County. Over 500 Waldo County residents, workers, business owners, and organizations responded with virtually unanimous support, indicating initial deposits of over $400,000. Needed for loan capital was especially high, with requests for over $2 million in loans.

Survey results answered key questions for organizers. Respondents overwhelmingly favored a Belfast location, while six unanswered questions requested checking accounts (available this summer.) Many people volunteered to help, indicating that a member-owned financial institution would be viable in Waldo County.

Finding sponsorship, membership, volunteers and staff, a formal board, developing a business plan, a federal charter, and beginning operations required the energy and resources of thousands of hours of voluntter time and donated personal funds. The group was rewarded on May 6 when over 50 county residents became Credit Union members. As of June 8, the WCDCFU had 201 members and its totalizing $394,000.
On August 24 -- the 75th anniversary

The Fifth Amendment declares that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." The Fourth Amendment guarantees against unreasonable search and seizure. Both are casualties of the drug war.

Why does no one dare say Stop! Enough! The answer is money. It is estimated that $50 billion of our tax dollars are being spent annually on federal, state and local law enforcement. The DEA, the criminal justice system, the builders of prisons, lawyers, police -- all are making money on the war on drugs.

All drugs, if abused, are harmful, even drugs sold over the counter or by prescription. It is not the abuse, it is the abuse of the substance. If all drugs were legal, controlled and regulated, organized crime would have no product, turf wars would have no purpose, cities would be safer, property crimes would decline. If the billions spent on illicit drugs were instead spent on education, drug treatment centers and job training so young people in inner-city America would not be hared into the drug trade and could have a chance at a real job.

We must have open debate on all issues in the war on drugs. A free society demands education, responsibility, and the freedom to make our own choices. (For a better understanding of this issue read America's Longest War: Reopening Our Tragic Crusade Against Drugs, by Duke at Gross, 1993.)

Susan Collins speaks to Women's Business Development Corporation

Susan Collins was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Women's Business Development Corporation. Her topic was "lettering the glass ceiling," appropriate for a woman candidate for governor. Although she lost the governor's race in 1994, she was the first woman nominated for governor in Maine history, winning the Republican primary.

"I was tempted to call this speech "Get into politics or get out of business," Collins said. "Why? Because you have almost a duty to get involved in the political debate because government has such an influence on your lives." Businesses are affected by government in that government determines the minimum pay for employees, Social Security, etc. A banker told Collins that he would vote for her for Congress but he couldn't imagine a woman running the state and Collins, however, made people throughout Maine tell her that she was the first woman governor. A woman governor represents change for the better, a new style of leadership and fresh ideas.

Collins believes there was a significant amount of harassment directed at her during the campaign because she was a woman from the legal challenge to her Maine residency status by Mark Fiska, tossed out and termed by one Supreme Court justice as "fishing." To her pro-choice position on abortion. Although all four candidates for governor were pro-choice and Collins alone was picketed for her stand. In addition, the media covered Collins' candidacy differently, asking inappropriate questions about her personal life that would never be asked of male candidates calling her a "Girl Scout." In spite of her extensive experience at the U.S. Small Busi Small Business Administration in New England and a member of the Governor's Cabinet in Maine, reporter's ignored her credentials and executive experience. "The Portland Press Herald came for more on my views on controversial social issues than on my detailed plans to strengthen Maine's economy, reform our public educational system, and overhaul our welfare system."

Collins believes her campaign underscores the need to care that women are treated fairly and equitably by the press and to speak out when they aren't and the need to work harder to ensure opportunities for women.

In her position as a leader of the new Center for Family Business at Husson College, Collins is determined to help women in family businesses. The result of the "glass ceiling" in business is that women are going into business at twice the rate of men and there are many women-owned businesses, such as Auburn Manufacturing, Kathy Leonard, president and Snow & Neale with Lois Neale president. Women-owned businesses grew 18 percent between 1991 and 1994 and employ more people in the United States than all of the Fortune 500 companies put together. "Women can be a president, school superintendent, or governor. Whatever this is about is having choices and options. The realization that all women couldn't imagine a woman running the state. Nevertheless, Collins said hundreds women running for executive offices face obstacles men do not encounter."

"I have reluctantly concluded that women who run for executive offices face obstacles men do not encounter."

9to5, The National Association of Working Women

Creating better working conditions for women

by Lynn Kaplanowitz

In 1973, a group of office workers in Boston got together to talk about issues which at the time had no name -- sexual harassment, work and family conflicts, gender discrimination, pay equity. Today 9to5, the National Association of Working Women, has helped put these issues squarely on the public agenda. Now in its third decade, 9to5 continues to empower women to make their own choices, to choose their own paths, to reach their full potential.

Looking back, we can see that while the thinkers and statesmen fifty years ago may have argued for as best meeting the immediate needs of the day the organized suffrage movement in all the most advanced countries should long ago have broadened their platform, and explicitly set before their own members and the public as their objective not merely "the vote," but "the political, legal, and social equality of women.

Alice Henry, 1917
In the Spotlight ~

Diane Courant: The Fabric of Life

by Alice Pratt

To walk through artist Diane Brott Courant’s home on Cedar Street in Belfast to reach her studio on the second floor of the attached barn is to walk through what seems at first an agglomeration. Her home is filled with a medley of art, photos of family and friends, plants, and everywhere, books, books, books.

Her studio holds the making for her art—loom, hundreds of spools of fiber, plain and metallic threads, materials, paints, large and small objects—some of which are lined up neatly on shelves or tumbled into many baskets of all shapes and sizes, and everywhere, color, color, color.

To be in her home and studio is as exciting a visual experience as looking at her fiber art. All an exotic jumble. And what at first appears to be a confused mass of disparate elements becomes a realization of this artist’s total immersion in the external that feeds the inner. Courant’s studio and living space, which she shares with her second husband, Charles, is a reflective collocation of her 63 years.

In her own words, Courant grew up wanting to be an intellectual, but even after receiving a bachelor of science degree from State University of New York at Buffalo in 1959, she felt she was poorly educated. So, with her first job after graduation, she began to buy books and started on a lifetime pursuit of self-education.

She married, had three children, two sons and a daughter, and immersed herself in raising a family. It was after a neighbor taught her to sew—she discovered she was in harmony with patterns, colors, fabric and buttons. Her creative juices flowed.

Soon after moving to Maine early in the 1970s, she impulsively bought a loom, a bench and a spool rack for $125 through an advertisement. The loom sat idle for about a year. Then she took a course at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts on Deer Isle in 1972 to learn the techniques of weaving. But it wasn’t until six months later, when her youngest son went off to school, that she was able to find unbroken time spans to sit at her loom and begin the process of learning her craft.

She has learned it well. In 1976, she was awarded the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation grant. She has exhibited her work in galleries in Maine, including a solo show at J.S. Ames in Belfast in 1991, New York City and Hawaii. She has given slide lectures, including at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., and the New England Weavers Seminar at University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her wall hangings are in churches, schools and private collections around the world. She owned and directed Fine Art and Fine Art-To-Wear Gallery in Camden, representing 30 other artists and craftpeople, for 20 years. And she has written articles for Faith and Form magazine and the magazine Convergence. In fact, Courant was sitting on her patio enjoying her garden, the birds at her feeder, watching the antics of her cat, while working on another article for Convergence when I visited her.

Courant admits to being an "Omniuous reader," a fact immediately apparent on a visit to her home. Stacks of books are scattered throughout. The walls are lined with bookshelves. So many, a visitor once was prompted to remark he liked her "wallpaper." It is not surprising that many of her wall hangings are inspired by literary classics found in books.

The Goose Girl, a Grimm's fairy tale, is the inspiration for the first in a series of sculptural pieces. Falada, which the artist says speaks about women's empowerment, is her first attempt shaping fiber into a three-dimensional form. For the armature, she unsuccessfully experimented with hard and firm materials, such as chicken wire. She tried everything and had almost given up in despair when it dawned on her to use the same material within as without—fiber. So she shaped Falada with wool. It was the right thing to do and reminded Courant to remember to wait and listen.

Courant believes every work of art has something to say during the process of creating.

Another successful first for Courant came about while working on this sculptural piece. She had tried many times to paint on the surface of fibers, but the paint would always bleed into adjoining threads. By experimenting, she discovered that 14K gold paint gave the effect she wanted and used it to outline a triangular opening, the triangle being the symbol of birth, in Falada.

Not only does the Belfast artist use books as a source for inspiration for her fiber art, she uses life experience; the death of her daughter; loving and relating to people; the ordeal of being a single parent; the process of finding her own spirituality.

She unabashedly admits to being a feminist. "The word 'feminist' comes from the Latin word femina, which means woman," said Courant.

And she uses the many universal and age-old symbols of feminaleseness, triangles, spirals, circles, in her work. Throughout her life, women, young and old, have supported her, have helped her in times of stress, have been her friends and she honors them by placing bits and pieces of their presence, either symbolically or with memen­tos. For instance, in her wall hanging to pay homage to all her older mothers, Listen to the Matriarchs, she uses strands of gray human hair, a gift from one of those friends.

Since all this artist's work is so feminine, she says her sons do not fully appreciate what she creates. So she is planning a piece to be called Letters to my Children. It will be made of spun horsehair—tough, strong, durable, but when spun is soft and pliable.

Courant has always made her art where she lives; it has never been a separate endeavor. In a quote taken from an article, Courant said: "Women know we have to make our art while we make our families, where we live. There is very little separation. I don't think many men have that point of view and our culture as a whole doesn't have it. Maybe, as it becomes clearer, out of our desperation, it will help us see the unified field, see the connected thing. We have to know about change, about flexibilities, wholeness.

Courant believes her purpose for being is to put this wholeness, this richness, in every fiber piece she creates.
I have been struck by lightning and I am alive.

Ms. Ehrlich keeps reminding the reader of the ecoscientist principle that our relationship with Earth is intimately connected to our relationship with our bodies. Sometimes, she is very direct in the passage above. Other times, she is subtle. In this passage, one of the many that describe the natural history of lightning, she uses the image of the human heart to explain how lightning works:

"The violence and energy produced by a thunderstorm starts with a spark, then many sparks conjoined and flowing as if to illuminate a dark patch of ground or make incandescent every window of a darkened city with its sudden, ephemeral light. The electricity inside a cloud sweeps back and forth, up and down, always seeking the path of least resistance, while the dynamics of convection works like a heart, pumping electricity through the valve of the clouds and pushing electricity down through an artery. "She seeks out evidence of this relationship between the human heart and nature not only in science, but in culture and mythology. For instance, she honours Saint Barbara Dickerson, protector of those threatened by thunder and lightning, the Navajo understanding of thunder as Ow, that which means indefinably and the Tibetan Vajra, the lightning sword of clarity which slices through self-delusion, preconception and neurotic fear."

The landscape, where she is, plays an important part in Ms. Ehrlich's healing. Much of the exquisite prose in this book effectively blurs the lines where landscape ends and where human beings begin. When she seeks out the solace of the Pacific Ocean and experiences its dashan, the presence and wisdom it offers, she remarks, "It is not the street, but what is beyond it, the souls, a love of language and a fierce commitment to finding truth in their lives. Greetl Ehrlich will inspire you and break your heart open with her magnificent prose. Perhaps, you will also join her laughter as she jokes about the experience of being struck by lightning and says, What a way to get enlightened."

Indeed.

Susan Klimeczak is a teacher with the Audubon Expeditions.
**July**

**2 Sunday**

**ORONO**

*An Evening with Richard Thompson*, 8 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts. FMI, 622-4499.

**3 Monday**

**BLUE HILL**

Blue Hill Pops, 7:30 p.m., George Stevens Academy gymnasium, Union Street; tickets $10/$15/$25. FMI/reservations, 374-5121.

**5 Wednesday**

**ELLSWORTH**

Creative Writing, 4-day workshop, Wednesday and Friday mornings, Ellsworth Public Library. Fee $30. Registration, 667-7707.


**Bar Harbor**

*The Spiritual in Landscape*, Christine Fork, Birdsnest Gallery, Desert St.; 288-4054.

**7 Friday**

Downeast dulcimer and folk harp festival, 7:30 p.m., Bar Harbor Congregational Church, Mt. Desert Street.

**8 Saturday**

Downeast dulcimer and folk harp festival, 7:30 p.m. Bar Harbor Congregational Church, Mt. Desert St.

**13 Thursday**

**ELLSWORTH**


**14 Friday**

**BAR HARBOR**

Bar Harbor Music Festival piano recital, 8:15 p.m., Bar Harbor Congregational Church, Mt. Desert Street.

**15 Saturday**

**BELFAST**

Garden Walk, benefits Waldo County Hospital Aid, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., featuring eight gardens and dessert. Rain or shine. Cost $7 in advance; $8 day of walk; FMI/reservations, 548-2439 or 338-3822.

**BAR HARBOR**

Bar Harbor Music Festival tea concert, 4 p.m., Breakwater 1904, Hancock Street.

**19 Wednesday**

**ELLSWORTH**

Letter Writing for Kids, 2-day workshop, Ellsworth Public Library, $15. FMI/registration, 667-7707.

**Greg Brown with Bruce Pratt**, 8 p.m., The Grand. Ticket $10 adults in advance; $12 at the door; $8 seniors; $6 children through age 16; 667-9500.

**20 Thursday**

**ELLSWORTH**

*Mama Roma*, film in Italian with English subtitles, 7:30 p.m., The Grand, through July 23; 667-9500.

**26 Wednesday**

**ELLSWORTH**

Creative Writing, 4-day workshop, Wednesday and Friday mornings, Ellsworth Public Library, $30; register, 667-7707.

**Ongoing**

Through July 2: *West Side Story*, 8 p.m. Sat., 5 p.m. Sun., Junction 35 & 114 north, Sebago Lake Village; $10/$8. FMI/reservations, 642-3743.


Through July 2: Chocolate Church Arts Center, Bath, paintings by Lena Sochor and sculpture by Phil Kaelin, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tue.-Fri.; noon-4 p.m., Sat.; 442-8627.

Through July 2: *Frick Gallery*, Belfast, *Black Ties & Comix*, Scott Davis; mixed media group show *Winter's Work*; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m., Sun.

Through July 2: *Deer Isle Artists Association*, Barbara Blanchard, Siri Backman, Darwin Devison and Susan Chase, 1-5 p.m. daily.


Through July 28: *Colorful Abstractions*, Rebecca Cuming, Margaret Manter and James Schubert, Creative Living Center, Route 172, Blue Hill.

Through July 30: *Kate Faribish, Flora of Maine*, an exhibit at two sites at Bowdoin College, documents of the flowering plants of Maine in watercolors by the 19th century botanist. The first major exhibit of her work, it is times with the publication by Tilbury House of a book assembling Faribish's art and field notes, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Walker Art building; and Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, Maine Street, Brunswick. FMI, 725-3275.

Through October: *Maine State Museum*, Augusta, Special Glass Exhibition by Tiffany, Bo and Sandwich Glass Co., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat.; 1-4 p.m. Sun.


Permanent Exhibits: *Hudson Museum*, Maine Center for the Arts, UMaine, Realms of Blood and Jade, *From Native Hands, Penobscot Primer Project.*
Bovine Growth Hormone

by Jean English

Last year, the Maine Legislature approved a "Maine Quality Label" that was intended to showcase dairy products made from cows that were not treated with recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH). However, when Carl Flora of the Maine Department of Agriculture wrote the regulations for the Maine Quality Label, he wrote them in a way that stated that farmers must follow the regulations of the FDA, whose guidelines prohibit labeling for rBGH.

This year the Agriculture Committee again had a chance to require labeling on milk and milk products from cows treated with rBGH. This, but killed the bill, fearing a lawsuit by Monsanto that would cost millions to defend. The committee wrote a letter to the Agriculture Department asking that it work with Maine dairy and milk products producers to publicize the Quality Seal enacted last year and to let consumers know what it means. It comes from a cow not treated with rBGH.

One company that has labeled its product despite regulations is Kate's Homemade Butter of Old Orchard Beach. Kate's butter is sold wholesale to Hannaford Brothers and Bread and Circus, to food coops and health food stores. "We buy our cream from Oakhurst, and carefully, it says [the cream] is from their farmers had to sign statements saying they were not using BGH," says Karen Patry of Kate's. Dan Patry defined the label, "If you read the label carefully, it says [the cream] is from animals that are not treated with [rBGH]. It doesn't say the milk 'doesn't contain rBGH.'" He says most companies are afraid of a lawsuit by Monsanto if they label their products. According to the December, 1994 issue of The Ecologist, Monsanto has filed a lawsuit against two dairy cooperatives which label their products rBGH-free, claiming that this declaration is unfair slander against the company. Monsanto says that since lab tests cannot differentiate between milk from treated versus untreated cows, the labeling is insignificant.

Labeling of dairy products may become unnecessary since treated cows seem to be labeling themselves. A March 14, 1995 press release from the Wisconsin Farmers Union says that "over the last six months, adverse [rBGH] reaction reports filed with the FDA have jumped 80 percent. In the majority of these cases, reports reflect problems with many cows and multiple disorders on a given farm, including death of cows, incurable mastitis, hoof and leg maladies, infections, breeding problems and internal bleeding." They cite the experience of Jay Livingston of Lisbon, New York, who milks 200 cows. "For the first couple of months on BST, our cows seemed to be doing okay. Their milk production increased from 40 to 65 pounds per day, then they just went all to pieces. We had half a dozen die and the rest started experiencing major health problems, going off their feed, severe weight loss, mastitis, twin births, a devastating situation for a farmer in that virtually none of the calves survived and the mortality rate for the herd is 50 percent." Monsanto claimed Livingston was the only farm with problems, even though the problems only began with the injection of rBGH.

Monsanto has filed a lawsuit against two dairy cooperatives which label their products rBGH-free, claiming that this declaration is unfair slander against the company. Monsanto says that since lab tests cannot differentiate between milk from treated versus untreated cows, the labeling is insignificant.

Bruce Krug of the Wisconsin Farmers Union says, "All reports indicate that the number of farmers from California to New York State using BGH is decreasing. The only way to manage the risks associated with BGH is to stop using BGH." The loss of business has led Monsanto to issue $150 vouchers for veterinary care to farmers who initially ordered rBGH. WSU says, "these veterinary practices pushed BGH very hard...now we're talking about many thousands of dollars, a blatant kickback to the veterinarians." Livingston points out that vets profit through more than just the vouchers. "After our problems started...we experienced over a $3,000 vet bill!"

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How to Afford the Rising Cost of Your Children's College

by Sandra Blake

It's a significant moment in people's lives, to see their name on a diploma after years of college graduations. Unfortunately, it's becoming more and more expensive to experience that moment. Paying for your children's college education requires a lot of lead time and some investment "homework." A recent study that appeared in the Wall Street Journal states that in 18 years, the four-year cost of a public college education will be $112,255, compared to $41,687 for a child starting in the fall of 1995. This means that parents of a newborn must start saving $232 a month for the next 18 years to afford tuition without the help of loans, grants of scholarships.

The biggest key to saving for your children's education is to start now. Here are some options to consider that potentially could take some of the burden off your shoulders:

* Growth Stocks. Growth stocks offer a couple of advantages if you're considering stocks that typically perform better than other types of investments over the long term. (Keep in mind that past performance is not necessarily an indication of future results.) Second, if the stocks you purchase appreciate in value, you do not pay any taxes on the appreciation until you sell the shares. Growth stocks are especially suited for investors with a five-year or longer time horizon because although stock prices can fluctuate over the short term, they have traditionally appreciated over the long term.

* Mutual Funds. As many investors are aware, mutual funds are professionally managed portfolios (normally comprised of stocks or bonds) purchased with the pooled investment funds of many individuals. They offer a level of diversification that is difficult for many individual investors to duplicate. Many mutual funds have a low minimum investment with a regular investment plan allowing you to invest a regular amount each month or quarter. These programs are well-suited for college investing because they provide a steady, disciplined approach to saving.

* Zero Coupon Bonds. Unlike typical bonds that pay interest semiannually, zero coupon bonds pay no current interest. Instead, similar to a savings bond, you buy a "zero" at a discount and receive its face value at maturity. Your return is the difference between the purchase price and the face amount. Treasury Zeroes are backed by both the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government and you can buy bonds that will mature in the years you will be paying tuition bills.

Remember, however, that even though you do not receive current interest payments, you must pay federal taxes on Treasury Zeroes. Also, these long-term investments typically react to changes in interest rates with more price volatility than investments that pay current interest. If you are concerned about current taxes, you may want to consider municipal zero coupon bonds, which are free from federal, and in some cases, state and local taxes. (Certain issues are still subject to the alternative minimum tax.)

The longer you wait to start saving for your children's education, the more difficult a task to place upon yourself. A professional investment broker can help you determine if these or other investments best match your financial goals and suitability, so you can concentrate more on how your children are doing in school, rather than worrying about whether or not you can afford to keep them there.

Sandra Blake is an investment counselor with A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., Member SIPC.

Unwelcome Guest

Monosanto is like the house guest who stayed too long and did too much last year, the company pushed Bovine Growth Hormone "down our throats," as one farmer says. This hormone, which is administered to dairy cows to make them increase milk production (in a country where excess milk is already produced and dairy farmers are going out of business), can be harmful to the health of treated cows, and its use has not been proven to be safe to consumers of that milk.

How did this technology come about? It occurred because Monosanto funded university researchers—at public land grant universities—to study the hormone, then Monosanto and the researchers pushed the technology on the farmers. The farmers, meanwhile, had been asking the universities to tell them how to use their pastures more efficiently, but the universities had, for the most part ignored these requests. The farmers didn't have as much money as Monosanto.

This year Monosanto is back with a genetically engineered potato, developed at Island Falls, Maine, that contains the gene from the soil bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis (known to farmers and gardeners as Bt) that produces a protein that kills Colorado Potato Beetles (CPB). There is nothing wrong with Bt itself. In fact, it is a very important tool when used wisely for controlling CPB. In Massachusetts, potato growers have been to control the beetles almost entirely organically using Bt instead of other, more expensive pesticides that were used in the past.

The problem with incorporating the Bt gene in potatoes is that it will be present in the field throughout the growing season, and it will be present throughout the potato. Not only that, but Monosanto has obtained the potatoes so that the leaves contain 1000 times more pesticide and the tubers contain 10 times more pesticide than wild strains of Bt. All of this adds up to the great potential for beetles to evolve resistance quickly to one of the most useful organic insecticides ever developed. Will the potato be safe for consumers to eat? Monosanto says yes. Will the resistance problem be overcome somehow? Monosanto says yes, and it want to release the potato to growers in Maine this spring. Just last July, however, Monosanto told The Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener (see July/August issue) that the company wouldn't know how to use the potato without promoting the resistant beetles until 1996.

Other questions about this engineered potato remain, as noted by Sharon Tisher in the March/April/May 1995 issue of Maine Organic Farmer and Gardener. Tisher, who is an environmental lawyer who teaches at UMO and who chairs the public policy committee of The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, asks how pollen containing Bt will affect honeybees and aquatic invertebrates, what the environmental impact of seeds from the plant will be on birds and mammals, and how decomposition of the high Bt plants will affect soil organisms. Dr. Carol Eckert, the physician member of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control, wants to know how the potato will affect food safety.

These two examples show what kind of house guest Monosanto is. Where no problem existed (with milk production), it created a technology that was unnecessary but that made farmers compete more with one another. If one farmer doesn't use BGH, he produced less than his neighbor who does. Where an organic insecticide was effective, Monosanto made it "more" effective but overdid the job.

Monosanto is like the house guest that threw a huge pile of laundry into a washing machine they built especially for you with boiling water from a megagallon water heater, then says "I was just trying to help" when the clothes fade and shrink. Life would be better without this house guest.

Jean English is a writer and an organic gardener in Lincolnville.
From Haiti:

After being restored as president of Haiti in October, Aristide opened the Ministry of Women’s Rights and Conditions and appointed Line-Marie Dejean head of the agency. First proposed in 1991 after his election, some women’s groups felt it was premature and that the country should first take care of other pressing matters. However, the systematic oppression of women by the military during Aristide’s exile convinced women of the necessity of establishing women’s rights and protections immediately.

The ministry is located fittingly in the former headquarters of the Haitian military. One of the goals is addressing the most pressing need, according to Dejean, of establishing a credit bank for women. Economic independence and security will enable other kinds of freedom to follow. Most of the Non-Governmental Organizations working with women focus on family planning and domestic training, focusing on culinary skills and nutrition. Meanwhile, the literacy rate is only 25 percent. Literacy is the second foundational piece for freedom, and the new ministry will attack this problem.

Last January, a 3-day conference on women’s issues was held in Dame Marie where 380 women exchanged ideas and experiences and heard lectures on the role of women in Haitian history, human rights, and AIDS. At the end they elected a board to help promote their needs.

In Kenya:

Women’s groups are growing across Africa, addressing everything from legal rights to farming and obtaining credit. Most of the members of these groups donate $1 each to a rotating fund to help the poorer members and help feed the sick and poor. This is the only way most members can get a chunk of cash at one time since they are limited by law from obtaining credit.

Hamine, a leader of Idia, which means “woman” in Somali, says they aim to make women more economically independent. This group, founded in 1989 and still operating in spite of Somalia’s civil war, operates in a house in Mogadisutu, where women work at sewing machines to create cloth items to sell at the market.

Legal rights and economic independence are the cornerstones of independence, and many women don’t know their legal rights with regard to property and sexual violence. The International Federation of Women Lawyers says that violence against women is increasing, compounded by the fact that the police don’t take complaints seriously.

Worldwide Web of Women

Nations around the world are gearing up for the United Nations conference on women in Beijing this September. The first conference in 10 years, already there are four times as many women signed up to attend.

Preparatory conferences on several continents have been held to define the issues. Organizations participating in or reporting on the women’s groups which have contributed to the conference include the International Women’s Tribune Center in New York, the United Nations nongovernmental liaison service, Grassroots International in Boston, the International Women’s Center for Research in Washington, D.C., the International Women’s Rights Action Watch in Minneapolis, and the Women’s International Network. A clearinghouse located in Lexington, Mass. Nearly 2,000 women attended meetings in Argentina and Austria, and nearly 6,000 attended the forum in Senegal. Women are becoming organized through the membership is fluid and beginning to speak in a collective voice. By participating in UN conferences, women are increasingly holding their governments accountable for representing women’s concerns and implementing changes. It has also meant more financial aid for women’s projects.

In 1992 at the UN conference on the environment in Rio de Janeiro, a group of women drafted the “Women’s Environmental Agenda” and presented it to conference leaders. Bella Abzug, spokesperson for the group, was outraged that the fate of the Earth would be decided without input from 50 percent of the population, "the Earth’s primary caretakers." Afterward, Abzug organized the Women’s Caucus that has been present at the Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993 and the UN population conference in Cairo in 1994.

Essentials Day Spa

Price List

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24 hours notice must be given for cancellation.

For more information, call Susan Page at 338-9934

Women... In the World

Buenos Aires

Every Thursday at noon, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo march to Government House. They wear white kerchiefs on their heads with the names of their missing children embroidered on them. They are protesting the “disappearance” of their children, among the 6,000-15,000 persons who have disappeared since the start of the military government in 1976.

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The new government has established the Family and Promotion of Women Ministry to address the problems. Because 75 percent of the population is Catholic, there is strong opposition to abortion, and the country is financially unable to care for the children in orphanages. The Ministry is promoting adoption by widows and women who lost children in the war. The hospital in Kigali reports that there are three or four births a week in the maternity ward, where women lie dead and silent.

For more information, call or write: Feminist Times, 598 Commercial Street, Portland, Maine 04101 761-1881

Citizen's Guide

to the

1780 Maine Legislature

Belfast

Therapeutics

Jane Sanford, CMT
27 High Street
Belfast Maine
338-3854
Although "power" is an elusive quality, Hillary Rodham Clinton is considered by the mainstream media to be the most powerful woman in America. Her role has been as ablaze as power and the focus of criticism from both politicians and journalists. As the most prominent feminist in the United States she occupies a place in the hearts and minds of feminists, both conscious and unconscious, filtered to a great extent by the media.

In a recent interview published in the Christian Science Monitor, Mrs. Clinton was asked if her experience as First Lady is something she would wish on her daughter. Mrs. Clinton replied, "I wish for her what is best for her. And if circumstance were to lead her to end up in the position I'm in, I have every confidence that she would handle it with grace and make the most of it... by doing what was appropriate for her.... That is what I wish for every woman."

We asked women what advice they would like to give the First Lady, if they were to meet in a social situation and had the opportunity to talk with her. Three women having lunch in Portland shared these thoughts:

Betty Williams: "I would tell her to do her own thing, and to stand her ground. To act as she believes, and not let people confuse, mislead, or divert the cover the "new and improved" product."

Betty: "I would ask Hillary to influence her husband to influence the Congress not to increase the military budget and not to wage war."

Liz: "I'd like to say, 'cut out the crooked crap.' The news out of Arkansas is a very dirty deal. Come clean. Let Al Gore run for President.""}

"If he is President's advisors have made you feel that you are damaging his image, don't listen. He is responsible for his own image."

"If the President's advisors have made you feel that you are damaging his image, don't listen. He is responsible for his own image."

"You are a powerful role model for women and girls. Your trip to Pakistan and India with Chelsea gave women an opportunity to see you honored and treated with respect, and Chelsea more than proved her self an able student. Women are looking to you for leadership, not perfection."

"Among teenagers, Isabel Schneider had this to say: "There isn't enough emphasis in America on arts for young people. I just returned from France and evidence of know ledge in the arts is everywhere. I would ask her to be an advocate for a nationalized program for children in arts education. More arts education would inspire young people in ways academic subjects don't."

"The environment is very important. I would ask you to speak up on behalf of a "Help for the homeless is also a priority."

"Kathy Pratt said, "I would like you for President."

"In general, a limited random sample of women was encouraging, warm and thoughtful in their response to the question, "What would you say to Hillary Rodham Clinton if you met her at a social event?"

"I would ask Hillary to influence her husband to influence the Congress to examine options, to critique, to weigh choices. We often accept deception as a fact of life."

"We have now devoted far more energy to improving our efficiencies, to using well what we have already created. Quality of life is going to increasingly be our major focus on this planet during the coming decades, brought about by the hastening degradation, and increasing overpopulation of the planet."

"What does all this have to do with my 5th Avenue candy bar?"

"I think it all ties together. Integrity, individual and corporate responsibility, quality products and service, a clearer education of each individual and waste less time trying to fit half the students into one special program or another, we can improve efficiencies."

"We no, Mama couldn't have taught me in 1944 what was to happen in the 50 years that followed. Values changed. Expectations changed. Interrelationships with people, technology, and the rest of the world changed far more than anyone could ever imagine. Thank goodness, our neuro-anatomy has not."

"Patricia Felton is author of a book and articles on various issues, including disabilities from brain injury."

"I wish for wish for her what is best for her. And if circumstance were to lead her to end up in the position I'm in, I have every confidence that she would handle it with grace and make the most of it... by doing what was appropriate for her.... That is what I wish for every woman."

We asked women what advice they would like to give the First Lady, if they were to meet in a social situation and had the opportunity to talk with her. Three women having lunch in Portland shared these thoughts:

Betty Williams: "I would tell her to do her own thing, and to stand her ground. To act as she believes, and not let people confuse, mislead, or divert the cover the "new and improved" product."

Betty: "I would ask Hillary to influence her husband to influence the Congress not to increase the military budget and not to wage war."

Liz: "I'd like to say, 'cut out the crooked crap.' The news out of Arkansas is a very dirty deal. Come clean. Let Al Gore run for President."

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"You are a powerful role model for women and girls. Your trip to Pakistan and India with Chelsea gave women an opportunity to see you honored and treated with respect, and Chelsea more than proved her self an able student. Women are looking to you for leadership, not perfection."

"Among teenagers, Isabel Schneider had this to say: "There isn't enough emphasis in America on arts for young people. I just returned from France and evidence of know ledge in the arts is everywhere. I would ask her to be an advocate for a nationalized program for children in arts education. More arts education would inspire young people in ways academic subjects don't."

"The environment is very important. I would ask you to speak up on behalf of a "Help for the homeless is also a priority."

"Kathy Pratt said, "I would like you for President."

"In general, a limited random sample of women was encouraging, warm and thoughtful in their response to the question, "What would you say to Hillary Rodham Clinton if you met her at a social event?"

"I would ask Hillary to influence her husband to influence the Congress to examine options, to critique, to weigh choices. We often accept deception as a fact of life."

"We have now devoted far more energy to improving our efficiencies, to using well what we have already created. Quality of life is going to increasingly be our major focus on this planet during the coming decades, brought about by the hastening degradation, and increasing overpopulation of the planet."

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I have been uncomfortable to declare "I am a feminist." Over and over I hear or read interviews of women who say, "Well, I am not a feminist, but..." as if saying one is a feminist is an admission of some character defect. For everyone who avoids this label there is probably a different motivation. Some avoid the label out of fear. What will other women, men, my parents, my students, my teacher, colleagues at work, think of me? Some avoid this label from a sincere belief it will interfere with their ability to be effective in advocating for social change.

We have come to this place through a process of complicated and overlapping incidents, but the one thing the incidents have in common is they were mediated to us by the media. First of all, since we’re human, we do not all agree with each other as to our goals. Some feminists have a whole list of ideals which to them define what it means to be a feminist. Others want one set of characteristics and not another. Some women believe the only way to achieve our goals is through confrontational tactics; other women believe that our goals will be achieved through consensus instead of winning and losing. When reporters notice this disagreement, they make the disagreement the head line of the story. They are not intent on serving the cause of women; their own cause to create sensation and diversion among women which will give them more stories to write about as women fall into the trap of fighting each other instead of our common enemy, a system of injustice. Women who are confronted by reporters with a list of questions that define feminist, feel they must deny they are a feminist or have the press discard them.

I’ve said and oppressive that a once proud term has become a “scarlet letter.” Being a feminist is the center of many women’s lives. Upon this foundation is built our view of the world and ourselves, our moral stature, our political consciousness, our social determination, our loves and hates and wants and needs, our voice and our identity and self-esteem.

Perhaps this after all is what it means to be a feminist.

Attention to what is censored in the media and spoken, feminism. While the media meant when a woman speaks, the media follow what is not saying or what to say, the media become the court of opinion. The whole feminist movement, in the struggle for human rights, has been about preventing human rights discriminations to keep Catholics for Choice unacceptable to women organizers.

To attend the Fourth World Conference on Women in the People’s NGOs 30 miles from Beijing, totally to keep Catholics for Choice unacceptable to women organizers. To contribute to Beijing travel scholarship fund, mined to prevent human rights discriminations to keep Catholics for Choice unacceptable to women organizers. To contribute to Beijing travel scholarship fund, mined to prevent human rights discriminations.

In spite of the media women who are lo- and have national recognized for women in a national fo- exist at a grassroots level in reporting fighting and disagree- around a national stage, time to pursue their goals, even as other organizers are declaring the feminist movement dead, women join hands and stand together against oppression. We may not all fight the same battles in the same way, but in our own way we insure that the next generation of women will have a new birth of freedom. Perhaps this after all is what it means to be a feminist.

STAAR in Dialogue

Students Together Against Acquaintance Rape (STAAR) joined forces with Real Men of Penn at the University of Pennsylvania to stop sexual violence. They solicited nominations from every ethnic, religious, athletic, and academic group on campus to judge essays on the question, "What can you do to prevent sexual violence?" The 14 winning Real Men were pictured on a full-color poster, together with a quote from each against sexual violence. The posters are distributed free to students and are permanently displayed around the campus.

Send-A-Sister-to-Beijing

Over 20,000 people are expected to attend the Fourth World Conference on Women in the People’s Republic of China in September.

The Vatican has been lobbying heavily to keep Catholics for Choice and other reproductive rights groups from attending. The Chinese, determined to prevent women’s rights demonstrator, have moved the meeting of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) 30 miles from Beijing, totally unacceptable to women organizers. The importance of this conference cannot be overestimated, and problems need to be worked out so the focus can be positive and productive. To contribute to the NGO forum’s Send-A-Sister-to-Beijing travel scholarship fund, or find out more about the September conference, write: NGO Forum of Women, 211 E. 42nd St., Suite 1500, New York, NY 10016.
Deaths of Children

The deaths of children in the Oklahoma bombing testify to America's deep concern for children. Statistics say otherwise. Year after year shocking headlines tell the story of children who are killed or die of neglect in the care of those who love them. A 248-page federal report, "A Nation's Shame: Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States," tells of 105 children killed by adults who should have protected them. According to Richard J. Gelles, director of the Family Violence Research Project at the University of Rhode Island, an estimated 650 to 700 of the approximately 1300 to 2000 who die each year, are killed by mothers. Studies show that mothers who kill their children usually fall into five categories:

- They suffer from severe mental illness;
- They decide they no longer want their child;
- They accidentally kill a child to death;
- They want to seek revenge against a spouse; and
- And they sometimes feel they are protecting their child from suffering.

Post-partum depression, a psychosis that occurs after childbirth, has been the cause of about 36 deaths in the past 20 years. A severe mood disorder linked to changing hormones, stress and fatigue, there is no way to predict the illness. It can be treated and personality changes. It can be treated. Studies did not indicate why fathers kill their children usually fall into five categories:

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Water, Water Everywhere...

In May, the House of Representatives passed a revision of the Clean Water Act, scaling back the protections of the nation's rivers and streams and redefining "wetland," requiring the land to contain standing water for 21 consecutive days, instead of the current definition of 7 consecutive days. This will allow 60 to 80 percent of the currently designated wetlands to be destroyed. Currently less than half of the original wetlands exist in the 48 states, with about 11 million acres having been destroyed since the 1950s. Destroying wetlands means the destruction of nature's sponge, which soak up and gradually re-lease excess moisture, nature's kidneys, which purify and recharge groundwater which is our drinking supply, and wildlife habitat.

According to the University of Maine Extension Service, the water table in Maine is fairly close to the surface, often less than 20 feet. The groundwater supply is estimated at 100 trillion gallons, approximately 20 times the amount contained in the state's lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

The quality of groundwater in Maine is considered good, but experts estimate that 10 to 15 percent is probably polluted. Because groundwater moves slowly and is out of sight, the effects of water polluting may not show up for years. Once polluted, groundwater is forever polluted.

The most serious groundwaters contamination in Maine include the Mackin toxic waste site in Gray, the town dump on the Cobbossee Watershed in Winthrop, and the 12 families whose wells were contaminated by a leaking underground gasoline tank. Contamination that occurs in small amounts also affects Maine's water quality. Salt and sand piles, faulty septic systems, landfills, and underground gasoline storage tanks, misuse, pollution, and forestry chemicals, household chemicals, and minerals could contaminate groundwater.

Groundwater is never entirely pure Rainwater and melted snow seep down and flow through soil, sediments and bedrock dissolving a wide range of minerals and chemicals. These are harmless, and some improve the taste of water and some are important to health. The taste and health are the reason for the popularity of spring water, such as Poland Spring water. Spring water taps into the same aquifer as well water, which supplies the drinking water of more than 50 percent of the Maine population. Is the groundwater in Maine limitless? No natural resource is limitless. With increasing population growth and increasing demand both in-state and out-of-state, Maine's reserves will shrink, as they have in other parts of the country. Americans use an average of 120 gallons of water per day per person. In Maine, we use an average of 80 gallons per day per person. The World Health Organization considers 3 gallons to be the minimum necessary for health and hygiene. Can we replace tap water with bottled water? Bottled water comes from the same groundwater and surface water sources as tap water. And, bottles do not have to include on their label the source of their water. Bottled water currently only has to meet standards for 22 contaminates.
NRA Campaign: Women and Weapons

by Jan Anderson

The National Rifle Association is recruiting new members to its cause, targeting the largest unaligned group in America: women.

Preying on women's fears of crime, the NRA has launched a series of high-profile campaigns to lure women into buying guns to protect themselves, encouraging women to exercise their right to choose to refuse to be a victim. In an ironic twist, the NRA is encouraging women to be exactly the kind of woman devalued in the past: strong, capable of defending herself from harm, and unwilling to be or remain a victim. It seems obvious to the fact that domestic violence is the single biggest threat women have to face, that the majority of women are injured or killed by men who profess to love them.

I must confess, part of me cheered at the prospect of women defending themselves. I don't like to see women victimized, unable to break the bonds of physical and psychological pain. Just recently, Sen. Bill Cohen held hearings in Portland on family violence against the elderly, calling it "one of our society's most secret problems." He said at least one study has concluded that more than 1.5 million Americans may be victims of elder abuse each year "by the people who are closest to them—their spouses, children or caregivers."

I am equally outraged by the threat of random violence from "strangers," the targets of the NRA campaign, and acquaintances. I would be thrilled to see women lose their target status as they gain the ability to protect themselves and gain the self-confidence that goes with that ability. But there is another part of me that senses this achievement to be an attack on the community. Community is the antithesis of the individual though it is made up of individuals. Community means that for the sake of a higher good, we will subject individual "rights" to the rights of the group to survive and thrive. We are losing the sense of community that implies an unspoken contract between its members, some of which includes looking out for each other's children; contributing to the health and welfare of our neighbors if we are not secret prudings on others' right to privacy and respect; giving people the benefit of the doubt and applying a heavy dose of acceptance, understanding and forgiveness when necessary; not damaging another's economic opportunity. On the active side, the community sets standards of behavior toward each other and establishes moral guidelines. It is this sense of community I feel is threatened by the NRA campaign. During recent campaigns in several states for legislation authorizing police to confiscate guns from men who assault women or violate restraining orders, the NRA kept silent.

We are living in the midst of a history where the individual is exalted. We are expected not to need our neighbors, nor to expect them to need us. We are isolated emotionally, economically, socially, and spiritually to the extent we desire. This elevating of individual independence is embodied in the NRA campaign and threatens us all.

We all need each other, not because we are helpless or powerless or vulnerable, but because we are human, and the human spirit is nurtured in relationship with other human spirits. If each of us accepts the responsibility of guardianship of our community, we will be outraged when members of the community are threatened or feel threatened; we will hold up the standard we expect of members in our community and offer to others the acceptance, respect and acknowledgment that makes membership in the community invaluable. We say we believe it is possible to solve problems without resorting to violence, that we can find common ground, communicate and form connections with others, understand and honor the special circumstances of individuals. This is imperative to the survival of the community we all say we long for. But we must also face the fact that when the balance of power has been established, women can be forced to negotiate peaceful solutions to domestic problems.