

**Maine Bisexual People's Network Newsletter**

P.O. Box 10772, Portland, ME 04104

**Dec. 1992**

Hi Folks,

**This is the last newsletter. No more newsletters; no more monthly meetings.**

When several of us decided to form a support and discussion group last year, we hoped to find enough interested bis to make it go. Unfortunately, not enough people have turned out to make a viable group either in Brunswick or Portland despite announcements in *Our Paper*, *Apex*, and *The Maine Progressive*. Neither our Bisexuality presentation at Matlovitch Society nor a one time mailing to the entire MBPN '89 mailing list turned out any new group members.

One major reason for having the newsletter was to build interest in the group. Obviously, that didn't work. A lot of the folks on the mailing list live much too far away to attend meetings. Unfortunately, I don't really have the money to continue the mailings or the advertising. I need to be pursuing more paid work at this time.

If you want to make MBPN continue and have ideas about how to do that, please let me know.

MBPN won't completely disappear. I will continue to answer inquiries about bisexuality, counsel with bis about bi issues, refer people to bi-supportive organizations (when I can find them), maintain a lending library, and do outreach to schools and colleges when requested. Maybe more people will be interested at some later date and feel a little braver about coming out of the closet. Then, we might try again to form a support group.

In the last year, several Maine groups have opened to bi participation and become more welcoming of us. Some of them give good support and social contacts. Bis are still numerically underrepresented but gaining. You may want to try one or more of the following:

The **Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Parents' Group** meets monthly for support and discussion, usually in the Portland area. For information & directions, contact Jim Bratton at 799-1823.

The **Unitarian Universalist Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Fellowship of Maine** meets monthly for potlucks at 1st Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, at 6:30 pm. For information &/or to be put on the mailing list, contact Jim Bratton at 799-1823.

For women, **Out For Good** meets every Thursday at 7 pm in Saco. Altho advertised as a lesbian support group, several out bis are attending. Call Bobbie at 247-3461 for directions and info.

Also for women, the **Feminist Spiritual Community** meets every Monday evening, 7-9 pm, for ritual celebrations. This group welcomes women of all sexual orientations, races, classes, etc. (I'm a member.)



The **Matlovitch Society** meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:30 pm, at the Portland Public Library for presentations of G & L interest. The presentations are very interesting. Note: this is a L/G group. The management seems somewhat biphobic, but a lot of the members are welcoming. Equal Protection Portland organized out of this group. And the April March on D.C. (see below) will get a lot of its Maine energy from this group too.

Northern Lambda Nord has many lesBigay events in Caribou. Am Chofshi, a Jewish lesBigay chavurah, meets regularly in Portland. *Our Paper* or *Apex* for further info. For college students, there are campus organizations which include bis: the Bridge at Colby, Wilde-Stein at UMO, a bi women's group and a bi & gay men's group at USM; others at UNE, UMF, Bowdoin, & Bates.

Sign of progress: a recent ME Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) mailing included the word "bisexual!" A first!!

#### **Beyond Maine:**

**Biversity** (Boston area bi social organization) **Monthly Bi Brunch** is at 11 am on Sat. 12/19 at the Downtown Cafe, Boston. 1/16 at the S & S Deli, Inman Sq., Cambridge. 2/20 at Blazing Salads, Boston. They sponsor quite a few other social events too. Send a contribution and receive their calendar. Wayne Bryant, Biversity Boston, 95 Berkeley St., Suite 613, Boston, MA 02116.

**The National March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation** takes place April 25 (Sunday.) In conjunction with this event, there will be lots of bi activities as well as zillions of other activities by B/L/G organizations. (see enclosed flyer.) Organizing is already going on all over Maine. There will be cheap excursion fares on buses from ME and trains from Boston.

My bi activism continues in several ways: with the East Coast Bisexual Network as a Board member, writing and learning about fund raising; with the Unitarian Universalist Bisexual Network I co-founded as co-author of our quarterly newsletters; as an ex-officio board member of the Oberlin College GLB Alumni Association - their bi community contact.

Since a Dec. MBPN meeting has already been announced in various periodicals, I plan to be at Powers House at 1 pm on Dec. 20, 92 Bedford St., Portland, on the USM campus. If anyone shows up & wants to talk, I'll stay. (Powers House is a yellow house with brown trim, facing Bedford St but set back from it so that it is actually on Winslow St.)

Thanks to those of you who have attended meetings &/or made contributions to MBPN. And to those of you who are too far away to attend meetings, I hope you'll find ways to get bi support and be bi active. Everyone can read some of the great new bi books and/or the national bi periodicals.

Stay well. Stay courageous. Be bi proud.

Bye bis for now.

12/92