

[Dec 1980]

Portland Women's Community Newsletter

issue #3

MAINE



WOMEN

HEX



by sparky

PENTAGON



On the weekend of Nov. 15th, 34 of us Maine women caravanned down to our illustrious capitol to respond to the current military escalation with the help of gas scholarships from Maine Women for Nuclear Free Future and Take Back the Night Coalition. We felt it most appropriate to focus our action on the major center of power based on violence, the Pentagon.

We arrived late Friday night at the Langley Meetinghouse in Maclean, Va. which was generously provided for us by the American Friends Service Committee. After a short but restful night sleep we attended day-long workshops next morning surrounding various feminist issues and networked with other northeast women's groups. Some fine music was played for us in between a couple of very special speakers, Grace Paley (anti-nuclear activist and originator of the encirclement) and Jo Butler, a local woman from Washington. Jo spoke to us of her dear black sister Youland Ward, a dynamic 22 year old social reformist who was recently assassinated in what was deliberately staged as a robbery. In the evening we participated in a street vigil dedicated to her sweet spirit; it was a heartening experience for all of us.

Sunday morning we rose to finally initiate our plan. We began by marching through the Arlington Cemetery in silence followed by the first stage of the action, MOURNING at which point we all adorned ourselves with black cloth. Soon we were joined by the 4 huge haunting but very impressive puppet heads created by Bread and Puppet Theatre of N.Y. Gathering around the Pentagon Parade Grounds

cont'd pg. 10

DYLLAN



AS SILKWOOD

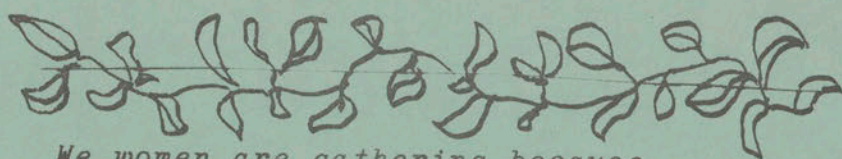
by Susan Nadeau

Thursday, November 20, Jehane Dyllan resurrected Karen Silkwood in a one-woman show, "Silkwood," at the USM campus. Dyllan's energy and determination, unfettered by a rigorous schedule of six performances per week, arise from and emphasize the commitment that Karen Silkwood (and Jehane Dyllan alike) represent to us in the elimination of exploitation, oppression, and destruction ("poison for profits"). Dyllan's solo acting communicates/reiterates the tremendous struggle Silkwood faced...ALONE. As an actress, Dyllan successfully meshes her spirit with Silkwood's. They are not separate for me or from me. They (or we) share a common enemy, a common struggle, and though each is (or was) alone, each is

cont'd pg. 11



published by the Syracuse Peace Council



*We women are gathering because
life on the precipice is intolerable.*

*We come to mourn and rage and defy
the imperial power which threatens us all.*

No more amazing inventions for death.

*All is connectedness - we intend
to defend life, health, growth for the
earth and all her peoples.*

Women and Life on Earth

women's Party for survival

Chickie Cusick

There's a hopeful new political party in this country for all women, regardless of color, race, age or sexual preference. Membership is open to all peace-loving people. The Women's Party for Survival was founded by Dr. Helen Caldicott in the spring of this year.

Caldicott, the mother of three children, author, doctor, and scientist has been warning people all over the world of the dangers of nuclear power since the mid-1950's. She believes that the arms race must be reversed within the next two years, or it will be out of human control. Early this year, Caldicott stopped practicing medicine at Boston's Children's Hospital where she worked on the research and treatment of cystic fibrosis. She's now working full-time organizing women because she believes the nurturing instinct and power of women can save our planet from impending doom.

The Women's Party for Survival has stated the following platform: 1) To ban all production, testing, recycling, deployment, research, and development of nuclear weapons in the U.S. 2) To initiate immediately negotiations with the U.S.S.R. for a bilateral freeze on production, testing, recycling, deployment, research and development of

nuclear weapons, and for immediate renunciation of the first strike option.

3) To establish a Department of Peace to negotiate constructive solutions to problems of international policy and to sponsor the design and implementation of strategies for the demilitarization of the American economy. 4) To open channels of artistic, religious, educational, and political communication between our country and the U.S.S.R. in order to improve relations to reduce the danger of war.



for all your art
supplies and
custom framing
too...



CHROMA
artists supply co.

35 SILVER STREET PORTLAND

YES ? RITUAL NO ?

11-3

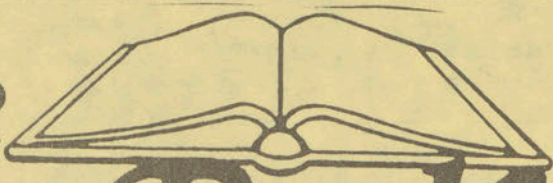
Nicole d'Entremont

It can be as the first gray light of day seeps under the door, or when the alarm clock goes off, in any event, I am awake and thinking about coffee. Thus begins my morning in a ritual that has probably been more of a constant, through various geographical and life style changes, than any other reality in my life. "I am human after coffee," people say, or, "don't talk to me until I have my morning cup." I know this has something to do with a substance called caffeine, but I know, for me, it also has something to do with a substance called space and silence. Every sequence of coffee preparation is paid attention to, from boiling water to measuring out the beans, the aroma, the first sip, the feel of the warm mug in my hand - so the transition from the world of sleep to the world of activity is accomplished. My suspicion is that this ritual is a fairly common one and a fairly accepted one in our society. It certainly does not provoke the controversy that the current subject of "the place of ritual in the women's community" does, however. I think it's useful to look at the rituals we accept and the rituals we have a hard time accepting.

I remember the sense of relief I had when I broke with the Catholic Church - no more Sunday masses, no more interminable sermons, no more dark confessionals where I'd whisper my sins to some whiskey and garlic breathed priest. Goodbye to every bit of that. Now, years later, I find myself looking at ritual in a completely different way. Ritual becomes something not imposed upon me by a Church and alien from my own growing sense of culture as a woman. Ritual becomes something I choose to be a part of, to experiment with, as a way of reclaiming my culture that has been beaten down and denied. Yet, at the same time, I find myself resisting ritual at times - sometimes it embarrasses me or amuses me, sometimes it makes me uncomfortable with its intensity and forms. Yet, I am drawn to it.

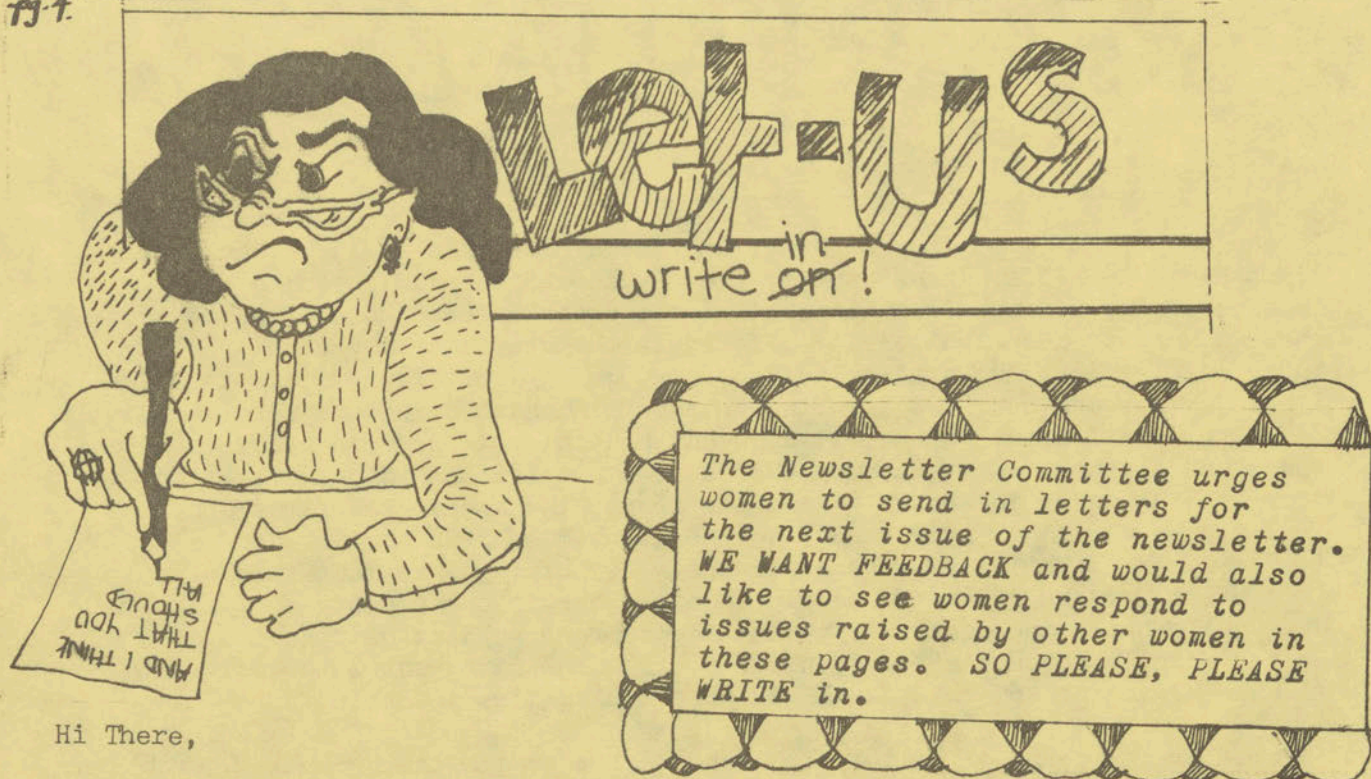
Because I have been on both sides of the fence in the current ritual debate, I thought I'd share some of my observations. Because women's culture, as we are rediscovering it, is new, alot of what we try ritualistically is experimental. Also, as a technological society, we are embarrassed by silence, song, and swaying bodies. We are more "comfortable" with ceremonial toasts, canned Christmasses, and after-sex cigarettes. Rituals, in our society, are as male-dominated as anything else. In the Catholic Church, at least when I last went to it, the central mystery of the changing of water and wine into the body and blood of Christ was all but lost between an interminable sermon and the collection plate. Ritual should enliven, not put you to sleep.

con't pg. 6


**The
Open Book
& Arts Forum**

114-1W Commercial Street / Portland, Maine 04111

Proposal Writing and
Grant Writing / Management
Workshop
DEC. 6th / Attention
to women's projects -
Conducted by Maria Theresa
Associates - If interested
contact Marlane Spillinger
882-5480

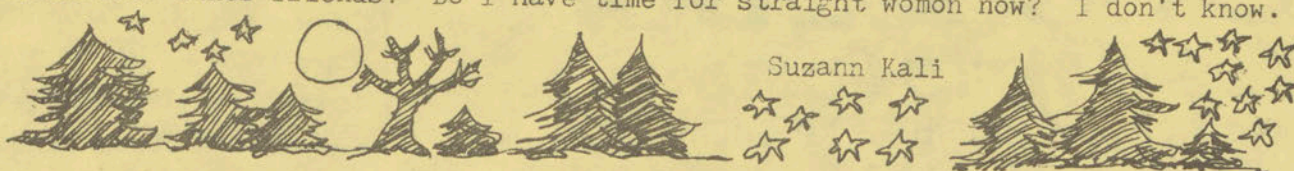


Hi There,

I recently saw an issue of the community newspaper and pondered the apparent gay/straight split which seems to have cropped up. Goddess knows I've pondered that issue since coming out--agonizing over the seemingly unending duality women must endure as they become aware of millenniums of oppressive forces and yet are caught in webs which prevent full emancipation from this painful HIS-torical patterning. No doubt, there are reams to be written about cohesion and vision and a system of equitable charitable bonds among sisters (humans? beings?). However, in a finite life, we are forced to make choices about energy flow and direction--choices which may only placate our needs, but will in fact give us tangible, visible ledges on which to continue climbing.

One of these choices I have made is in dealing with my mother (a straight, oppressed woman, among others) in a continued intensity. After recently speaking with her, and openly using the term "lesbian" to define a celebrated rebirthing, I was forced as usual to endure hours of brutal name-calling, and dis-owning from my family. Throughout my life, I, and many other women, have endured this brutality and bleeding not only from moms, but from the "boys," traditional institutions, straight women, and all bodies of thought which have been, in some manner, possessed by that all-consuming Patriarchal spirit. My worst regret, is that for most of my life, I believed this painful rhetoric, and was not strong enough to surmount that force which was eating away my innards like horse-hair worms...not strong enough to help exorcise that spirit and aid in continuous human rebirthing. I simply bled and bled, and THEN got angrier and angrier, creating a moat around myself and a small, safe supportive womb. Just recently, I am learning how to build bridges and trust again...but healing is a slow, exhausting process; and that moat is far from dry; and I still must make choices (with my limited energy), about where to construct. Shall I bond myself with other lesbians who I have previously abandoned because of difficulties? other families? other friends? Do I have time for straight women now? I don't know.

Suzann Kali



AN APPROPRIATE ROWDY Time had by ALL!

pg 5

The fourth meeting of the Portland Women's Community was held on Sunday, November 23, at the Williston-West Church. The business meeting began at 2:30 P.M. with Nicole d'Entremont going over the agenda for the day. First were reports from the various task forces.

Ann Houser reported that the Fun & Bonding Task Force, still needing new members, is planning a Nostalgia Night on December 4 at Mary MacIntyre's, 15 Deering Ave., 3rd Floor, 774-3329. All welcome - bring pictures, diaries, toys, anything to share a bit of your past with other women.

Other events that will be happening throughout the month will be announced soon in the newsletter. Members of the Fun & Bonding Task Force at present are: Laurette Valentine, Linda Bernard, Balenda Ganem, Marie Locke, Ann Houser, Laurie Mitchie, and Erna Koch. Anyone else interested, call Ann, 774-7166.

Diane Elze gave a newsletter and financial report. At present, we've received 56 subscriptions and 3 ads solicited by Sparky, for a total of 292.50. The cost

of the last two issues was \$156.52, leaving a total of \$135.98 in the newsletter fund.

We have a general fund of \$66.33. Diane mentioned that the quality of the printing has been expensive, but there seems to be no adequate alternatives. We obviously need to raise money to continue the newsletter. It was suggested that the Fun and Bonding Task Force have some events to raise money; however, most people felt that a separate committee is needed for that task. It also was suggested that we try to have events that attract people from outside the women's community.

Deborah Cole reported on the Internal Process Task Force which led to a combined discussion with the Feminist Ethics Task Force. Joyce Rowe reported that the Feminist Ethics Task Force hasn't met lately and seems to be at a standstill. Joyce's main point was that though we do not have a document stating our purpose and goals, the newsletter has brought out some very high quality articles which represent certain ethics. It was decided that the two committees

cont'd pg. 6

NETWORKING IS CURIOUS but A JOB WELL DONE !

MAINE WOMEN FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE FUTURE by Debbie Jenney

Twenty-one wommin came together on November 5 to discuss future goals for the group. Each wommon in turn shared her thoughts and interests bringing a wommon's perspective to the anti-nuclear movement. So many of us deeply felt that "it's gonna be the wommin who'll make things change."

As the evening progressed, we realized the necessity for the continuation of MWFNFF. To do this we decided through consensus to establish three committees. The ORGANIZING COMMITTEE will develop a workable structure for the group and a statement of purpose. A NETWORKING COMMITTEE will strategize for effective outreach to wommin statewide from all walks of life. And the NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE will work towards providing an educational forum on nuclear-related issues. In addition, this newsletter would share healing and hopeful information on survival skills and alternatives to nuclear power. We welcome input from the women's community. Call 772-6953 about January's meeting date.

yes? RITUAL NO? cont'd

Women's ritual attempts to cut through and speak of our deepest sense of self. We use images of birthing, reclaimed bodies and blood, our own stories, chants and dance. So, what's the problem? Why is there uncomfortableness? Maybe it's because women are feeling coerced or maybe the rituals are not integrated enough into the fabric of the event. Or, maybe it's because we get scared.

Ritual invites a shared look into a deep place and maybe we get frightened or don't sufficiently trust one another to allow for that vulnerability in a group. Whatever the reason, or combination of reasons, I think we ought to examine why we are resistant to ritual. It's too easy to just dismiss our reluctance as, "I don't go for that spiritual stuff" or "I don't like holding hands every time I go to a meeting."

Native peoples have beautiful rituals, songs and chants of healing, personal strength, songs for joy and sorrow. We would not think to demean the integrity of those rituals and ways. We are reclaiming our ways now, our women's culture and, I think, with seriousness and joy, we should try to rediscover our ritual.

Rowdy Times cont'd

meet today to further discuss this issue. Deborah suggested that we really need to concretize these ethics in a document.

The issues of Lesbian/straight women within the community was raised by Julie Silverman, who expressed a desire for us to deal with it within the community in a discussion format. This will

happen at the next general meeting for any women wishing to discuss concerns about sexual preferences within the community. Julie will co-lead the discussion with another woman yet to volunteer.

Debra Kaufman reported on the Child Care Task Force. The group decided that the committee which organizes the general meeting will also organize child care for that meeting. There should be a quiet room in the same building as the meeting for child care. Any parent(s) needing child care should inform the meeting committee at least two days in advance whenever possible. Parents can bring children to the meeting if they'd like. The group decided that to validate the importance of child care, we should pay minimum wage (\$3.35 as of 1/1/81) and hire from outside the women's community in order to allow women to take part in the activities.

A donation of 50¢ will be asked of each person attending the general meeting to assist in paying the child care worker(s). A ratio of 1 adult to 4 children was suggested.

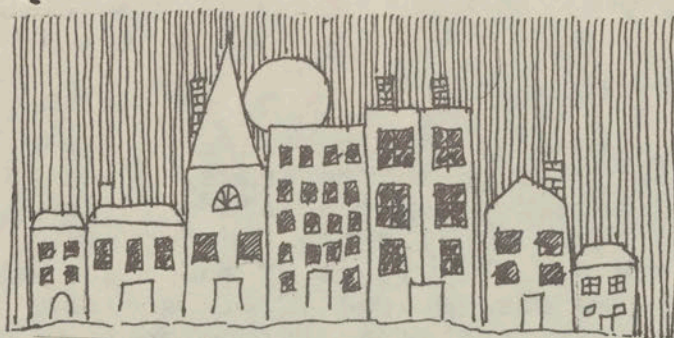
The next general meeting will be organized by Julie Silverman, Debra Kaufman, and any other interested women. Please contact Debra or Julie if you'd like to help. Call Julie at 767-3530, or Debra at 772-1424.

Debbie Jenney reported on the Women's Pentagon Action last weekend in Washington, D.C. which attracted 1500 women from the Northeast. Debbie summed it up by stating that she's never experienced anything like it in her life.

The general meeting came to a close with time set aside for small groups to meet and a workshop for new members.

The feast followed, and nearly 60 women shared much dancing and laughter. A wonderful Harvest Celebration! Thanks to all who put their energy into a wonderful day.

Ann Houser

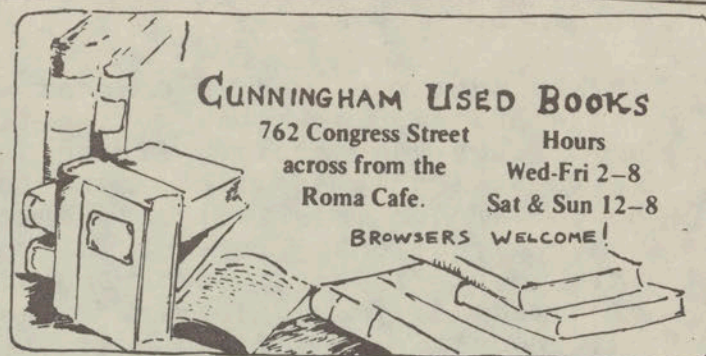


women's community

and

by Andrea Kelly

women who live with men



I have written this partly to respond to Betsy Neale's letter, particularly her thought-provoking comment, "Now I feel it's important for me to make peace with my heterosexual identity and cultivate friendships with people who also struggle with men (at whatever level). Are there other women who feel it appropriate to deal with these issues within the Portland Women's Community? Or, do women want the community to be a refuge from men?" My feeling is that women's community should be both. I need straight feminist women as friends, both for themselves and to discuss the joys and trials of making lives with men. The moments of identification and learning I have gotten from these women have been matchless and important.

And yes, I want women's community to be a "refuge from men." (I'm not sure if this is what is meant by Betsy's comment, but I'd like to address the issue anyway.) The business of "excluding" men gets twisted, I feel, by not being looked at in the proper context. We were all born as girls into a male-controlled, male-defined world. The art we have looked at, the books and magazines we have read, the plays and movies we have watched, the houses and communities we have lived in, the jobs available to us, and even the relationships we have formed, have been created, named and evaluated from a male point of view. What women's

community offers us, then, are the merest morsels of time and space that we control and name, wherein we can begin to define from our point of view, who we are and what sort of community we wish to build. This time/space having nourished and enlightened us, we re-enter the male world, go off to our male-created jobs, in our male-designed automobiles, to (often) soothe the ills created or exacerbated by a male-controlled society.

Viewed in this light, "including" men seems absurd self-sabotage. We desperately need all the time we can set aside in the most womanly possible environment. And from this perspective, straight women have an especially urgent need. Our personal lives are entangled with men's, and our struggle to be ourselves starts, quite literally, in our bedrooms. However exemplary as individuals our men might be, they have grown up knowing that the world was theirs. We have grown up knowing that the world was not ours. These learnings, felt more than known, affect every woman's relationship with every man. To reclaim ourselves and our world, we must have other selves; other females for support and identification. We can take our newly-nurtured Selves proudly home and work at reconstructing heterosexuality.

This is no wistful fantasy. This has happened to me, over and over, in friendships with women.

con't pg 8

pg. 8 women's community and

As straight women begin connecting with sister selves in more intimate and regular ways, we inevitably face an inner hurdle - that of our own homophobia. Living in a society that ranges from mildly to violently hostile toward lesbians, we all carry inside us, no matter how intellectually enlightened, deep fears of woman-to-woman affections. To exorcise these we must make a gut-level leap into identification, into removal of lesbians from that category of hated and feared "Other." Lesbians make this leap in the coming out process. We must make it in our own coming out, as we confront the depth and power of our feelings for other women; as we remember with surprising, visceral passion a girlhood friend; as we recall our workshop of a female teacher or camp counselor. We can re-discover the Lesbian within us all, left behind in adolescence. We rediscover her, honor her, lose our fear of her. We cannot, after all, fully love ourselves if we block our feelings for our own kind.

This process has been a joyful and terrifying one for me. What will happen, I wondered (shaking in my shoes), if I let go and actually have a sensual fantasy involving another woman????? What happened was, it was a wonderful fantasy and it lessened by homophobia. It did not cause lightning to strike my home nor me to pack my bags and walk out. My relationship with my husband, after all, has many more components than a mere fetishized "sexual preference." (The fetishization and separation of sexuality from the rest of existence is another male construct.) It allowed me to integrate my Lesbian self into my Self (and also perked up my fantasy life a bit).

And so, straight ladies of Portland, we have much to gain from the women's community. Our processes of getting what we need from it will all be different - mine is only one experience, though I am sure it contains threads common to us all. And we have much to give as well as get.

Proposal and Grant Management Workshop

Saturday, December 6, 1980
Augusta, Maine

Offered by: Maria Theresa & Associates
Santa Cruz, California

This all day workshop will focus on identification of funding sources, program budget planning, program evaluation, and other aspects of writing a winning proposal.

The workshop is designed for representatives from agencies, and for individuals who are seeking to obtain private or public monies.

Remember: \$11,000,000 is given away every hour in the United States!
Sliding Scale Fee.

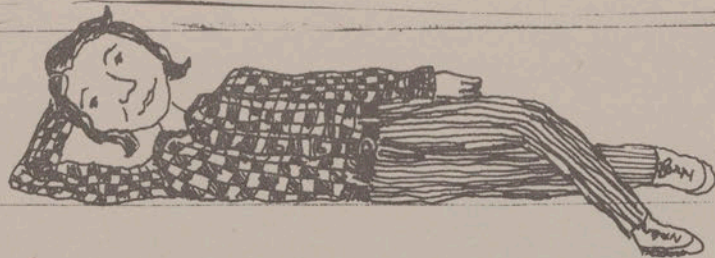
For more information, call (207) 882-5480 or write:

Marlane Spillinger
RFD 1, Box S665
Wiscasset, Me. 04578

Women's Week Coming

April 13th to 19th. Find out more at the next Women's Community Meeting.....





HETTY LEZBI

column

pg. 9

Hetty my darling, I've awoken nightly in a hot sweat ever since I saw you rapturously reclining in your Cleopatresque position on the page of the Portland Women's Community Newsletter. Your designer checked shirt sends sensuous shivers to shimmering shins. Your zebra style pants unzips my pounding heart. I don't know if I can control myself for another issue. I must meet you in the flesh. At 10:13 pm, I will be behind the bar at the Deli. Please greet me there on Sunday so I can relieve my dreaming, and see your luscious lips.

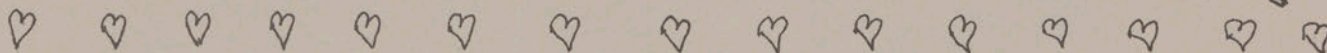
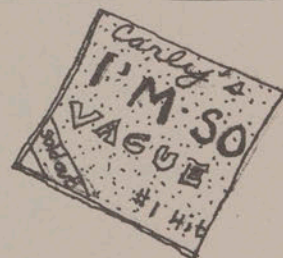
Sweating in South Portland.



Dear Sweaty darling,

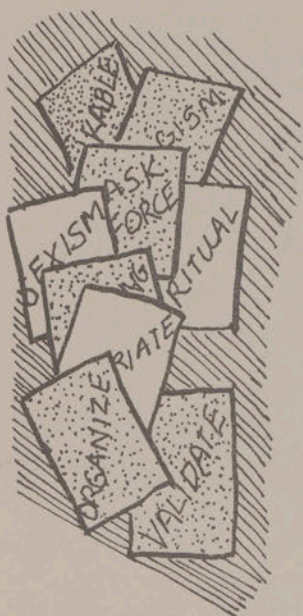
I am flattered by your lust, but to maintain my position as spiritual guru I must distance myself from such personal involvements so as to keep the respect of all. I hope you understand.

Warmly,
Hetty Lezbi.



Dear Hetty Lezbi, On the way home from some sort of meeting, the nature of which I can't remember, I slipped in my new L. L. Beans Boots and hit my head on some ice. I seemed to have developed amnesia. When I went to my Monday Night meeting, I opened my mouth to speak and the only word I could remember was 'appropriate'. I feel so vague. I feel so inappropriate. Can you please write some of the proper words to remember, so I can make flash cards before the next meeting.

♪ I'm so vague. ♪



Dear I'm so Vague, Are you really Carly? The words you must remember are networking, consensus, workshop, task force, facilitate, strategize, classism, ageism, patriarchy, ritual, validate, racism, sexism, outreach and education, workable, reformism, affinity group. and don't forget your fav 'appropriate.'

And if you are Carly, the newsletter needs a benefit concert. Please consider.

Hetty Lezbi

19.10 *HEXING The Pentagon cont'd*

we lamented the death of several women who have been victims of the nuclear or military industry. A cardboard gravestone was planted into the ground for each woman as we vocalized our collective sorrow for this inexcusable waste of human life. The second stage, RAGE, allowed us to express our righteous anger. Beating on our drums and tamborines, we chanted, "No More War" and "Shame", etc. with pointed fingers and shaking fists directed at the annoyed faces gazing down at us through the war machine windows. Then, extending scarves between us, 1300 of us began the 3rd stage called EMPOWERMENT or the encircling; our symbolic and political statement of united woman power. 'Twas a success! Five women from Maine out of approximately 140 had made the decision to go one step further by doing non-violent civil disobedience, so they broke away from us to blockade 3 of the four entrances to the Pentagon. Thus the final stage, DEFIANCE. Each affinity group, arms around each other, braced themselves against possible arrest and/or a assault by police officials, but to our relief, no violence was done to them. The arrests were

routinely made one by one; each woman was pulled through the Pentagon doors into their temporary cells. As of the writing of this article, four of the five Maine women decided to remain in jail until their hearing next week. They felt that posting bail would be buying into the oppressive legal system. Sandy Kaplan of Portland among others is pushing her protest as far as it can go by fasting. We all wish each of them a healthy body and spirit and warm welcome home soon. On the

On the way back to Maine, all of us shared many feelings about the weekend and ourselves and grew very close in such a short amount of time. Our bond is one of respect and love for the earth

and each other, and will last a long time.

The Women's Party for Survival is sponsoring another action on Mother's Day, May 10, and if anyone is interested in helping to coordinate it, come to a MWFNFF meeting. Much work went into the planning of the last one, and with more input we could make this coming Mother's Day one of even greater power and rebirth.

I AM A WOMAN

I am a woman, a human being of extraordinary strength, wisdom and grace.

My woman's body was created in the body of a woman. I am daughter, sister, mother in thousands of generations of women whose skills created peaceful and bountiful civilizations, women who preserved remnants of our knowledge when the civilizations passed.

I am a woman. In me lives the knowledge and experience of all beings. I can use that knowledge and experience to create a loving, spontaneous world.

I am a woman. I'm learning anew the basic women's skills: healer, planter, nurturer, mystic, protector, defender, builder, poet, musician, festival-maker, storyteller, connection with the source of life and knowing.

I am a woman, a part of and the whole of the first circle, the circle that transcends space and time, the circle of women joined.

I am a woman, a human being of extraordinary strength, wisdom and grace.

And this is true.

Sumitra Music

"A WOMAN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE"

79-11

First, as a pure expression of joy - I want to thank all of those who participated in and organized "Take Back the Night" and who helped bring the play "Silkwood" to Portland. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by myself and I expect many others.

So often when I face the realities that confront us in this society - the sexism, the fears and threats upon our physical and emotional well-being, the insensitive controls forced upon too many workers - I am appalled, overwhelmed, and feel like crawling back into a safe, dark, warm place (and with the energy crisis, that's even harder to find now!)

The play "Silkwood" inspired/challenged me to fight again. But, guiltily, I wondered how and what for? A true romanticist and idealist, I'd prefer to take pretty pictures and live a quieter "Happy life." However, too many elements of sexism and patriarchal control enter my sphere of dreaming and so it's impossible to escape anywhere.

So what can I do? What do I want to do? What impact and meaning will my actions have on others?

I do little things. I listen and talk daily. I help out when I feel like it. I don't choose to become inactive by being overwhelmed. I encourage others to remain involved, be active, organize. I share with co-workers things I learn. I confront people who park in handicapped parking and are able. I show up to events - donate money and time when I can or want to. Very little big.

But thousands of little actions, thousands of voicing, singing - thousands of hands reaching out to each other, thousands of open minds create large waves and movements.

It's always one step at a time. Join my inspiration. My action. My helping out. Help out in your own way - it's important and helps. Thanks.

Mary MacIntyre

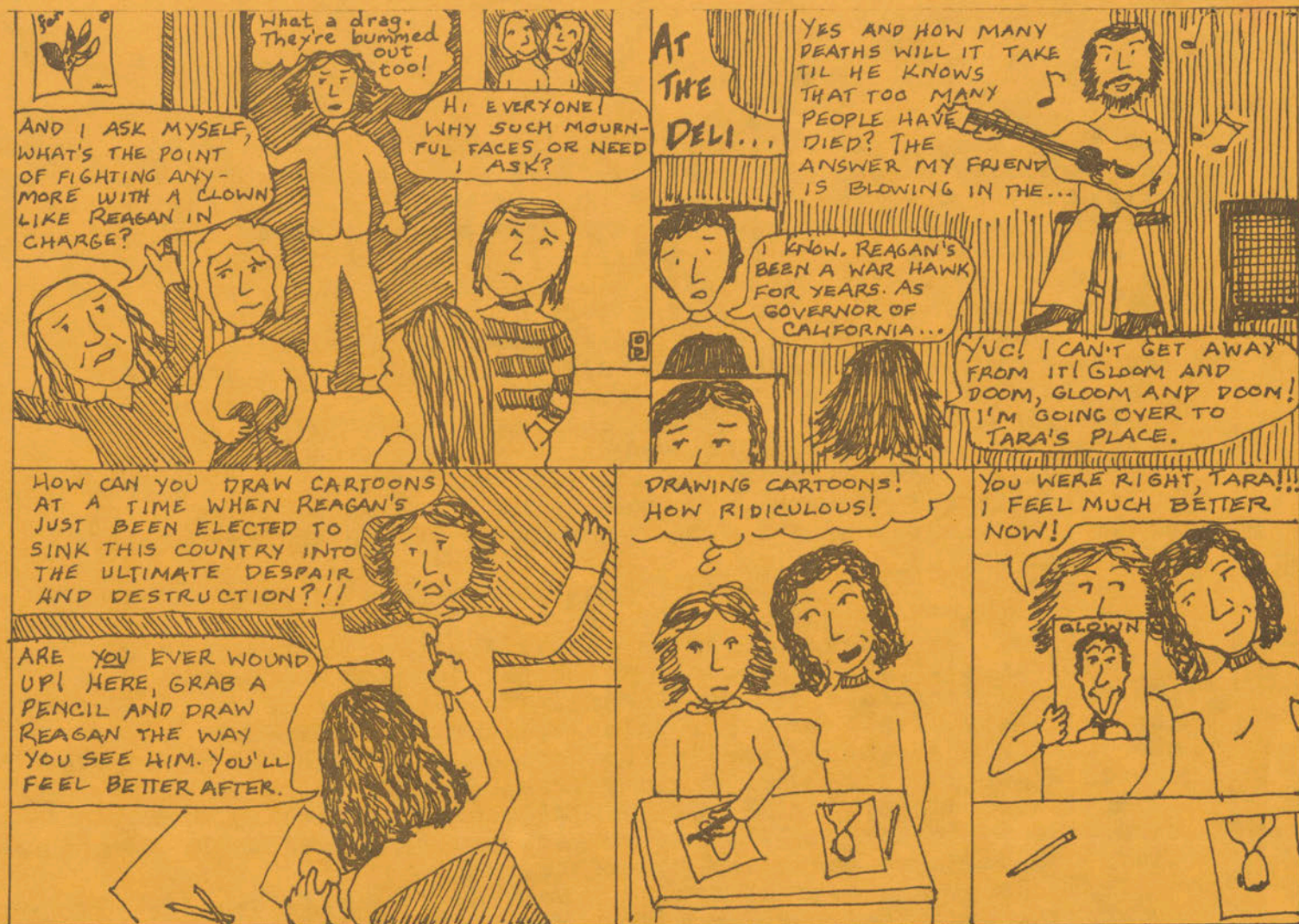
Silkwood cont'd

necessary for success. The strength these two women share spews forth and spreads, strengthening others struggling alone. The audience recognizes and acknowledges Dyllan and Silkwood (and themselves) as sharing this common bond and responsibility with a standing ovation.

A discussion between Dyllan and audience which solidifies Dyllan's identity with Silkwood's followed the play. Dyllan tells of her own childhood in Memphis, Tennessee, where her grandmother works in factories, and consequently suffers and dies of brown lung. Dyllan as a child asks her grandmother why she works in such a place. Her grandmother responds, "When you're poor, that is your fate." Dyllan, as Silkwood, refuses to accept this premise and chooses to base her actions on the premise that she alone

can make a difference. Here lies the message for me of Dyllan, as Silkwood, and if Dyllan through Silkwood effects change in one of us, she is right.

The Women's Party for Survival is organizing the Mother's Day Pentagon Action, a nonviolent women's demonstration opposing the military violence of the Pentagon and the sexual and economic violence of our everyday lives as women. For more information on the Women's Party for Survival, write: Janice Trickett, 7 Gilmore Street, Everett, MA. 02149. Annual membership dues to the Party are \$20 individual, \$25 family, \$10 student/fixed.



Feminist Spirituality / Womancraft / Psychic

I'd like to begin a once monthly Feminist Spirituality/Womancraft/Psychic Work for Wimmen group at my home in Sheepscot. We could work on different issues in our lives at each meeting. (i.e., the-world-situation out-there-and-what-to-do-individually-and-collectively-to-make-changes-inside-and-out; or, how to be richer monetarily; or, how to relate in ways we'd like ourselves better; or,...) Solutions/suggestions would come from the individual woman, and group support, feedback, and psychic help would push her onward to realizing her goals in this physical reality.

Or, we could take a course I've already facilitated which uses guided imagery/meditation; work on our basic, core beliefs; psychic readings; healings; Goddess work: meditating on her-our higher selves, chanting, looking inward for solutions, listening for our inner guides/guidances. A suggested reading list and handouts would be available.

I'd need to be recompensed for facilitating these all-day workshops. \$15 more or less, or trade, sounds good to me. How about you?

First workshop will be held on Solstice Sunday, December 21, 11 A.M.-4 P.M. at RFD 1, 3665, Wiscasset, 04578. I'm Marlane Spillinger and can be reached at 882-5480 early mornings or most evenings. Please pre-register.

REMEMBER: WE CREATE OUR REALITIES. LET'S BE CONSCIOUS AND POSITIVE IN THEM.

Work for Women Group



ANNOUNCEMENTS

cottage industry

You are cordially invited to attend a tribute and celebration of women's cottage industry skills. The exhibit will consist of pieces such as handwoven, crocheted and embroidered works (just to name a few!) which generally are executed with a high degree of craftsmanship, yet are rarely described within the realm of "art." This is an opportunity to display your sister's, mother's or grandmother's handcrafted "masterpiece." Teas and homemade treats provided for the celebration.

At the Maine Movement Center, 155 Brackett St. in Portland across from Reiche School, December 7th, 1980 from 2-5 p.m. (partial exhibit from Dec. 7th through Dec. 18th). Please call ahead if you wish to exhibit a piece. For more info: 775-6392, Diane.

festive fun

The Fun & Bonding Task Force is sponsoring a festive get together on Sunday, December 14 at 4 P.M. at Ann Houser's, 224 Ocean Avenue, Portland. Bring goodies, musical instruments, friends, family and whatever spirit the holiday season arouses in you. Any questions, call Ann, 774-7166.

bring out the gargle!

Feminist women interested in Christmas caroling over the holiday season call Balenda, 780-4155, between 9A.M. and 12 noon.

THEMIS, newsletter of the new Women's Religion is a small but growing publication celebrating Goddess worship. Subscribe at \$5 a year: Susan B. Anthony Coven #1, Member of C.O.G., P.O. Box 42121, Los Angeles, Ca. 90042.

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP

For November we've been discussing May Sarton's I Knew a Phoenix and Journal of Solitude. We'll be starting Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing in December. We warmly welcome newcomers to the group. We meet Mondays at the Women's Room at the YWCA at 5:30.

We also invite everyone to view Karen Saum's film "She Knew a Phoenix" about May Sarton. The University Women's Forum is sponsoring this event on Saturday, December 6 at 7 pm. Call 780-4086 for additional info.

Stumper

WHO WAS THIS FAMOUS WOMAN?

She drifted through the west in the late 1800's, attaching herself to construction gangs, wearing "men's" clothes, cussing and chewing tobacco. She also nursed the victims of a smallpox epidemic in South Dakota.

answer to issue #2
stumper: EDNA ST.
VINCENT MILLAY, poetess
of the 1920's.

Full Circle is a monthly calendar of events in northern New England (especially New Hampshire) of interest to women. Listings of cultural events, workshops and conferences, meetings and actions share the spotlight. For a sample copy or a subscription (\$7.50/12 issues), write to Full Circle, PO Box 235, Contoocook, N.H. 03229.

Anyone interested in dog-sitting for the winter? I am looking for a home, preferably in the country for my small, one-year old part beagle - terrier, Squirt. She's great fun and I'll pay for her food. She needs a home until next summer when, hopefully, I'll be able to find a place to live with her. Please call Mary MacIntyre, 774-3329 evenings. Thanks.

Just Published - Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood - Our Goddess and Heroine Heritage by Merlin Stone, Volume 1 and II. For more information, write to New Sibylline Books, Inc., Box 266 Village Station, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Wanted: Fleamarket items to sell for you. Call B.J. at 774-6085 for details.

Bah-Humbug

Charles Dickens' Party at Balenda's, 111 Grant St., on December 19, 7:30 P.M. Come in 19th century attire. Please bring a 19th century English reading. B.Y.O.B.

PURSUE PEACE BY PROMOTING THE WORLD PEACE TAX FUND BILL:
Many Americans cannot, in good conscience, support the use of military strength as a means for resolving conflict. War in the past relied on large numbers of conscripted men. War today relies on very expensive weapons. Taxpayers participate in war and the preparation for war through the federal tax system. Nearly half of one's income tax is spent to finance inflationary and life-threatening military programs. No legal alternative exists for those taxpayers who are morally opposed to this participation. Therefore many of these citizens are forced to violate the law by withholding all or part of their tax money, or to violate their consciences by supporting the military machine. To find out more information, write the National Council for a WPTFB, 2111 Florida Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

monie malone monopoly tourney

The First Monie Malone Memorial Monopoly Tourney will commence the very next blizzardy snow day of this winter time season.

Game strategy is as follows: As soon as the no school/work alarm is sounded, begin popping popcorn, mulling cider, preparing munchies, etc. & get yourself ready for some heavy duty competitiveness!! We're hoping we can organize games in the major neighborhoods of Portland so no one need drive. Hopefully, there will be enough snow days and interest amongst the women's community so we can have playoffs and maybe send our biggest cheats to the National Monopoly Playoffs!!

For more information, call: Gina "LaCrook" Kelley at 773-7152 or Chickie Cusick, 775-0643. Only serious players need call. Bridge rings, strategy books, and lucky trinkets welcome. Cigar smoking in most circles will be discouraged.

December 11 at the Women's Room, Craft Sharing Evening - The "Take Back the Night" T-shirt silkscreen will be there. Bring a 100% cotton shirt/material, and hopefully it will work this time. 7 P.M. on.

DECEMBER

sun.	mon.	tues.	wed.	thurs.	fri.	sat.
	1. Reading Group 5:30 & Rm Y.W.C.A. ♀ Spirituality 7 p.m. State St Church	2. ME, ♀ for Nuclear Free Future 81A Vesper 6:00 Pot Luck 7:00 meeting	3. ☆ Hanukkah	4. ♀ Rm Y.W.C.A. 6:00 potluck 7:00 Trans- actional Analysis (Donna Bryant) Nostalgia Night 15 Deering St. 7:30	5.	6. Film: "She knew a Phoenix" 7 P.M., Luther Bonney & U.S.M. See pg. 13 Proposal Writing Grant Management pgs
7. ♀ Cottage Skills Exhibit 155 Brackett St. (2-7) Exhibit begins see pg. 13	8. ♀ Spirituality 7 p.m. State St Church ♀ Reading Grp YWCA 5:30	9.	10	11. Helen Caldicott Speaking Cambridge Craft Sharing Evening (♀ Rm Y) 7:00	12.	13. ♀ party State's Restaurant 9:00 (Hallowell)
14. Fun & Bonding Festivities 4:00 Ann Houser's 224 Ocean Ave. See pg. 13	15. ♀ Spirituality 7 pm State St Church Reading Group ♀ Rm YWCA 5:30	16.	17.	18. ♀ Cottage Industry Skills Exhibit Ends Dried Flower Arranging (Marie Senechal) YWCA ♀ Rm 7 p.m.	19. Chas. Dickens Party Marie & Balenda's 111 Grant St. 7:30 See Pg. 14	20.
21. Winter Solstice Women's Community Meeting Full 2 p.m.	22. ♀ Spirituality 7 p.m. State St Church Reading Grp 5:30 ♀ Rm YWCA	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.
28.	29. 7 p.m. ♀ Spirituality State St Church ♀ Reading Grp. 5:30 ♀ Rm Y.W.C.A.	30.	31.	Christmas		

New Years Eve

Celebrate the Solstice with
the Portland Women's Community
Sun. 21st 2 p.m. at Williston West Church,

Bring Food for potluck (5:30), inexpensive grab bag gift, own utensils



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HASN'T SUBSCRIBED??????????

We encourage all recipients of the Portland Women's Community Newsletter to push this on your friends (Hee...Hee...). Seriously though, we would like to expand our subscription list. How about giving a friend a subscription in celebration of the Winter Solstice?!?!?

Subscriptions are \$5 (more if you can, less if you can't) for 12 monthly issues. Please return the form to: D. Elze, 15 Deering Avenue, Portland, 04101.

The deadline for the next issue is December 19. We encourage all of you to send in articles, poetry, graphics, announcements, cartoons, news items, columns, birthdates for the calendar, letters, etc. etc. Send to: Nicole d'Entremont, 71 Walnut St., Portland, 04101.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount enclosed _____ (Checks can be made out to "The Community")



Elze