

## from the staff

Please read questions slowly. Be sure you understand each one before answering. Mark your answers with the special pencil not supplied with this issue. You will not be graded, but your answers may affect the future of this paper. Begin when you hear the bell.

- Q: What can I, an able and willing-bodied woman, do for the Maine Freewoman's Herald?
- A: Select responses from the following choices:
- 1) I can find distribution outlets for the paper and earn a free subscription for every one I find (providing me with great holiday gifts). I can get simple details by writing to the paper.
  - 2) I can sell papers along the bustling main street of my town, at my women's group, any gathering, and earn more valuable subscriptions.
  - 3) I can get ads for this unique paper. It's easy and means a lot to the thin MFH budget.
  - 4) I can donate--or find someone to donate--an electric typewriter, or bi-monthly use of one.
  - 5) I know of free or low-cost office space in central/southern Maine that would be ideal for a permanent spot for the gypsy-like MFH staff.
  - 6) I have a couple of bucks I don't know what to do with. Guess I'll just send them along.
  - 7) I don't have spare time and have no idea what "spare cash" means. But I will matronize MFH advertisers and mention I saw their ad.

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ESSAY: MFH knows of a Portland apartment (central) with two rooms and bath, plus a room with layout tables and repro camera. We would love to have this as an office, but the paper can't pay the rent. However, if one of our readers is looking for an apartment (mid-Nov.) and would let us invade from time to time in exchange for part of the rent, we could take advantage of this unusual offer. Reply in many words or less if you're interested.

QUANDARY: We want to include a list of gifts made by Maine women in our next issue. In order to do this, we need you to send us the names of women producing "gifts". Know some? STOP!

Read the following paragraph before you go on. Sandy Lucas, who is to this paper as Hershey is to chocolate, decided other parts of her life needed tending and retired from the full-fledged staff. Sue Brown, who did her share, and then some, for several issues, made a like decision. What can we say? They are missed. A lot. We hope they can rejoin us. Soon.

### STAFF

Charmaine Daniels  
Mary Lou Dietrich  
Meg McMullen  
Barbara Woodbury  
Sue Walker  
Lynn Salisbury

Cover photo by

Barbara Koch

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Kay Sandy Lucas, Kitty,  
Richard, Scott, Joanne.

### CHOSEN WORKS

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# MAINE FREEWOMAN'S HERALD

vol. III issue 2 Oct./Nov. 1975

40 cents



Do You Know About D.E.S?  
Maine's Revised Rape Law  
Poetry & Humor

page 3

page 8

pages 6 and 7

and more...



# maine freewoman's herald

## ROBBING THE POOR TO GIVE TO THE POOR

A crowd of about 200 demonstrators gathered in Mid-September at the State House to protest welfare cuts and to urge legislators to reject a new state welfare policy. The rally, sponsored by a coalition of poor people's organizations, climaxed a week of picketing and public speakouts. Several women's groups strongly supported and worked with the coalition which included We Who Care, United Low Income, Statewide Coalitional Alliance for Reform, the Bangor and Lewiston Tenants Unions, and the Sam Ely Community Land Trust.

The crowd, mostly women and children, shouted for Gov. Longley and David Smith, Health and Welfare Commissioner, to talk to them. Neither appeared. Many people were visibly angry, and one woman commented, "I hope Longley has a good lunch... I'm starving." Another said, "Longley claims he grew up poor, but what's he doing for poor people?"

The Department of Health and Welfare claims its new system of welfare grants, "rateable reduction", will help those who have the least, because people with no other source of income besides welfare will receive higher monthly payments. The system becomes effective October 1.

While recognizing that these people need increases, the coalition says the new system will reduce grants to over 11,000 families and terminate grants to 1,000 families. These are families with some non-welfare income, regardless of the income source such as veterans' pensions, social security payments, or job earnings. In addition to losing income, families whose grants are terminated will also lose much-needed medical coverage.

Alice Bean, We Who Care Chairperson, says the new system hurts the poor who take low-paying jobs to supplement their state checks, because it reduces their grant more than the old system, thus lowering the incentive to work outside the home. She believes more people will end up on welfare because the new system does not financially reward those who work outside the home, to the same extent as the old system.

But what Bean and the coalition stress is that no family on welfare, under the new system or the old one, has enough to live on. Maine recipients get only 80% of the 1969 *minimal survival standard*, set by the U.S. Dept. of Labor and Statistics. Because of inflation, this amounts to 36% of a *minimal survival standard* in 1974.

According to recipients and other people organizing against the welfare cuts, many recipients are extremely scared, both by a lack of money resulting from the new system and threats to prosecute anyone who lies about their income. The We Who Care office has received suicide calls from desperate people. A "reign of terror" has spread, among those who cheat and among those who feel paranoid about their status, even if they don't cheat. According to Bean, we must examine the meaning of cheating. "The system creates cheaters," she says, "because you have to cheat to get three meals a day."



The Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) feels a recipient's right to privacy may be violated if the Dept. of Health and Welfare is allowed to gather income verification information from any source. The Dept. informed recipients it would gather such information from banks, insurance companies, employers, etc. (The MCLU has contacted the Dept. to see if "etc." means by any method).

The coalition expects to present clear-cut documentation to legislators and to the courts, if necessary, to show Maine people cannot survive under the old or the new system. It will push for more jobs, more day care and 100% of the 1969 standard of need.

The coalition needs support and encourages people to work for humane changes in the welfare system by writing legislators, the Governor's office, and the Dept. of Health and Welfare to protest. For more information on what you can do contact We Who Care at 28 Preble St., Portland. (772-6395).

## announcements

### WOMEN'S COUNSELING SERVICE

The service offers counseling, referrals, and library loans from a pleasant office at 13 Main St., Topsham. The center is open Monday and Wednesday, 7-10 p.m.; Thursday, 4-7; and Saturday, 10a.m.-1 p.m. Call 729-4561. Fees are according to what you can pay.

### SPRUCE RUN

Spruce Run is an organization to help women and children in crisis situations, due to divorce or marital problems. Their office is 44 Central St., Bangor. Call 947-0496. Other chapters will be forming in Portland and Bath soon. Write PO Box 653, Bangor or PO Box 727, Brunswick.

### D.E.S. LEGISLATION

If you wish to write regarding D.E.S. legislation (see article in this issue) address Senators Muskie and Hathaway, c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. Also write to Senator Edward Kennedy, who introduced the legislation, and Rep. Rogers, of Florida, who is the Chairperson of the House Subcommittee on Health which will hear the bill. Ask them to ban D.E.S. for all uses, especially for ALL uses in humans.

### MAINE FEMINIST HEALTH PROJECT

The project will present a feminist slide show about birth control, sexuality, and vaginal and breast self-examination to any group of five or more interested women.

The group hopes to establish a health center where women will be free from the threat of involuntary experimentation, where they can get information needed to make important choices about their own medical care, and where services will not be denied to those unable to pay.

Information about abortion in Maine is currently available. The group, non-hierarchical in structure, is looking for new members. Interested? Call 772-7673 in Portland; 567-3100 in Bucksport; 443-5471 in Bath; or write Box 1, Bath 04530.

### ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Anyone in the Skowhegan area interested in an alternative elementary school contact Annette Demby at 643-2595. The school, to be called the Somerset Learning Center, is at an organizational stage.

### MAINE GAY TASK FORCE

The task force is holding a dance on October 4 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., at the Unitarian Church on Pleasant St. in Brunswick. The admission is \$1, but no one is turned away for lack of money. BYOB. Dances will be held every two weeks after that, but location may change. For information contact MGTf at Box 4542 in Portland,

04112. The task force publishes a monthly newsletter, available at the same address.

### GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

There will be a meeting of the council on November 10 at 1 p.m. in the State House complex, Augusta. The public is invited. For further information on the location call 289-3418.

The council's talent bank project to gather the names and interests of women wishing to be appointed to positions in state government is still under way. If anyone wanting to be included in the talent bank should call the above number or write c/o State House, Augusta 04330.

### UNIVERSITY OF MAINE/PORTLAND-GORHAM HURRAH!

The University Women's Forum is officially open for business--feminist lending library, women's lounge, resource center, and contact base; open University calendar school days only from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday thru Thursday and until 5 p.m. on Friday. For more information call the Forum at 772-2981 Ext. 512. The UWF is located at 94 Bedford St., 2nd floor on the Portland campus student union.

A housewarming is planned for October 2, and a general student meeting on October 6. Programs, workshops, and consciousness raising groups will be forthcoming.





MARY BALASSEE NICOLA, AGE 90

## MOLLY MOLASSES

"What my father did  
not understand was  
that she was a witch."

-Fannie Eckstrom

ARTICLE BY MEG MCMULLEN

She must have been a familiar, if formidable, sight, making her way through the streets of Bangor during the middle decades of the last century. The stern-faced Indian woman, known to all as Molly Molasses, or Old Molly, was rumored to be over a century old... a rumor she herself encouraged, although from the most reliable estimates available she was 92 when she died in 1867.

Molly, about whose life few facts have survived, has been written of in *Old John Neptune and Other Maine Indian Shamans* by Fannie Hardy Eckstrom (Southworth-Anthoensen Press, Portland, Maine, 1945)--and hardly anywhere else according to my research. The Eckstrom chapter on Molly attempts to trace Molly's origins and to explain her relationship to the renowned Penobscot governor, John Neptune.

Neptune and Molly, referred to by Eckstrom as "the two greatest shamans of their time", were strongly bonded though never married, and produced four children, none of whom seemed to inherit the spiritual powers of their parents.

Molly Molasses' magic, her m'te-oulin, is not detailed in the Eckstrom book, perhaps for the simple reason that specific instances of her powers were not recorded. Her personality seems to have been less than congenial, as she is described by Eckstrom, whose family was friendly with Molly, variously as "cross-grained and bitter" and "the bitterest, most sarcastic person in the whole Penobscot tribe."

She was also treated with fearful respect by members of her tribe and local white residents alike. The at-

titude may have been partially due to her disposition, but at least in the tribe it stemmed largely from the knowledge of her powers, and reluctance to be a target of her wrath.

Molly's true name, it is guessed, was Mary Balossa (also spelled Balloses or Bellowsis, maybe a corruption of Pelagia, a saint) Nicola. Her nickname, Molasses, is probably derived from her middle name. Her date of birth is estimated to have been about 1775. Eckstrom relates, "She claimed to remember when the whites first came as settlers on the Penobscot and said to my grandfather, 'Couldn't understand 'em; talk jus' like black-birds.'"

She lived mostly in the Old Town-Bangor-Brewer areas, but is also known to have spent some years near Fryeburg, in Brownfield. In addition, there are mentions of her in the files of the *Republican Journal* in Belfast, as being among Indians who camped for the summer at Lincolnville Beach. Undoubtedly other mentions of her exist in various old newspapers around the state.

Physically, Mary Balossa Nicola was short and stocky, with darker skin and heavier facial features than most Penobscots. Eckstrom extends the theory that she may have been Etchemin--Passamaquoddy. Two photos of her appear in the Eckstrom book, both taken in March of 1865. In one she wears the traditional pointed "squaw's hat" and in the other her personal favorite, a man's beaver top hat with a silver band.

In both photos she sits dressed in a checkered outer shirt, a polka dotted skirt underneath. Her left hand rests

palm down in her lap, her right atop a walking stick. The photos, of postcard size, were taken for her to sell for income. One owned by the Bangor Historical Society, has written on the back: "Painted like this 35 cents. Please print lighter. Mary Nicola alias Molly Molasses squaw of the Penobscot tribe supposed to be at this time March 16, 1865, abt. 100 years of age."

Molly, with what seems to have been a wry sense of humor, encouraged other tales about herself besides her supposed century-old status. When asked if she had ever been married, she would frequently reply she had, but that her husband had "drowned in Moosehead Lake just forty year 'go."

Eckstrom quotes from a turn-of-the-century book called *The Penobscot* by Charles Dillingham to relate another of Molly's fabrications:

"Hon. John A. Peters, ex-Chief Justice, writes: 'Molly was born, according to her own account, on Reeds's Pond, now called perhaps more often Green Lake, in a canoe. The Indian name of the pond was Merlassie and she was given the name of Molly Merlassie. She used to say that her name was Merlassie but that 'white folks called her Molasses 'cause she sweet.'"

Eckstrom says there is no evidence Green Lake was ever called Merlassie, and that Merlassie was not Molly's name, and, above all, given Molly's cantankerousness, there would be absolutely no basis for her claim that she was ever called Molasses because of her sweetness. Molly had taken the good judge for a ride.

Unfortunately, what may have been the most fascinating details of Molly Molasses' life--her magic--seems to be the least known. That she had powers there is little doubt. Her status in the tribe, her reputation across the state, the survival of her name, if not her legend, to this day attest to the strength of the woman.

In later chapters of Eckstrom's book various tales of other shamans are recounted. John Neptune communicating with spirits through spotted salamanders; of one of Neptune's daughters, Mahli Sessil, being able to walk into a pond and return after many hours saying she had been visiting an Indian man in a mountain on the other side of the pond (Mt. Waldo, in Frankfort); of a battle to death Neptune had with the awesome water monster wiwillamecq, and so on. But the book is frustratingly silent on any detail of Molly Molasses' m'te-oulin.

Perhaps there is, in our written or oral history, this information existing. Certainly more details of her life are available to us in such sources as the obscure item in the yellowed pages of the *Republican Journal*.

If indeed there are, we are interested in knowing of them. The MFH staff would appreciate receiving any of these submerged bits of information, should any readers have them, and would be delighted to publish further accounts of the legendary Molly Molasses.

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# Health Notes



## d.e.s. & you

article by Rockie Graham  
for The Maine Feminist Health Project

In recent months we have been learning a great deal about a not so new menace to our health and well-being. The culprit is DES-diethylstilbestrol. DES is a drug (a hormone really) containing synthetic estrogen that was given to pregnant women to prevent miscarriages. It was widely used between 1945 and 1970.<sup>1</sup> Female children resulting from those pregnancies are in danger of getting a unique type of vaginal cancer. To date 230 women have died as a direct result of their mothers having taken DES.

If you are between the ages of five and thirty you may be a DES daughter. Make sure you find out if you are. Your mother has every right to ask her doctor for this information. They are her medical records and she has every right to see them. Bear in mind that DES was not given only to women in real danger of miscarrying. Rather it was given to many women almost routinely.

If you are a DES daughter, be aware that a PAP test is not reliable for diagnosing either vaginal adenosis or vaginal cancer. You must get a culposcopy and a Schiller Iodine Test. Your doctor may not be aware of this. Insist on it. Your life may be at stake. If money is a problem perhaps we can figure out a way to get public health to defray the cost. In any case, don't let money be the deciding factor.

DES was by and large an untested drug when it was given to prevent miscarriages. It remains so today. Only today we begin to reap the spoils of its success. Ninety percent of the daughters of women who took DES while pregnant with them are showing signs of vaginal adenosis--usually beginning at puberty but sometimes later. Adenosis is a condition of benign lesions and may be precancerous.<sup>2</sup> DES daughters are also showing up with early (and not so early) signs of clear cell adenocarcinoma--a unique type of vaginal cancer which did not exist in world medical literature before 1970.<sup>3</sup> In other words, it began to occur as these DES women reached puberty. Some of these women have undergone radical vaginectomies.<sup>4</sup> Some two hundred and thirty of them have died. Yet no one responsible for DES being on the market will take on the responsibility

of notifying the three million or so DES daughters that they may be in danger: not the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the pharmaceutical companies that manufacture the drug, nor the physicians that prescribed this drug. No one.

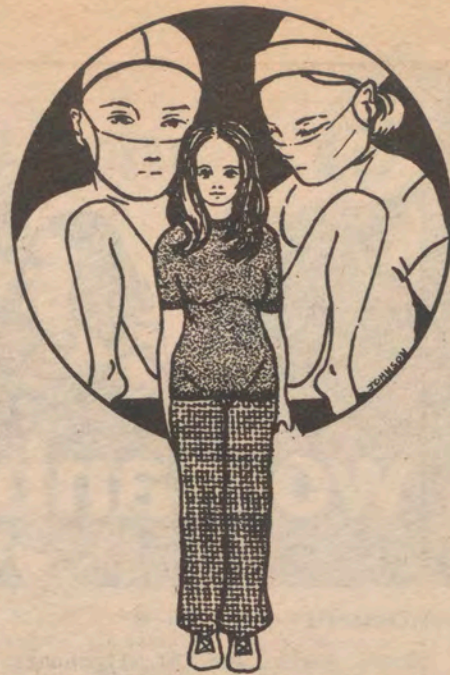
As if to compound their sins, these same people (FDA, drug companies, physicians etc.) are allowing this same drug to be on the market as the Morning After Pill. And, it is being fed to the very same women who took it unknowingly "en utero". And they still do not know what they are taking.

It seems only reasonable that if estrogen changes occurring at puberty can trigger cell abnormalities (present from taking DES en utero) to grow into cancer, then certainly the massive doses of estrogen found in the Morning After Pill might do the same. This has been shown to be true of both DES and oral contraceptives.<sup>5</sup> It has also been shown that DES will cause existing undetected breast, cervical, and vaginal cancers to grow more rapidly.<sup>6</sup> This is an unnecessary chance to take with someone's life, especially when only four percent of the women who take the Morning After Pill actually need it.<sup>7</sup> Even those women who are pregnant can seek early abortion as a less risky alternative to DES therapy.

To further demonstrate the dangers of DES, it should be noted that it is banned in cattle feed in many countries because massive doses of DES caused cancer in women. Some of these countries refuse to buy beef raised in the U.S. because of its DES content. As a result of these findings Senator Edward Kennedy (Massachusetts) has introduced a bill to reinstate the ban on DES in cattle feed in this country, and to place a one year moratorium on its use in humans. It seems absurd that we would ban DES in cattle feed because minute amounts of it were found in beef, yet stop its use in humans at 835,000 times that amount for only a year.<sup>8</sup> But this is a bill we support if only because it gives us another year to alert people to the danger of DES.

Note: The bill sponsored by Sen. Kennedy to ban DES-use on livestock and to restrict its use as a Morning After Pill has passed the U.S. Senate. The bill would require the Morning After Pill to be labeled as a drug that could cause cancer and one to be used only in cases of rape or other medical emergencies. The Food and Drug Administration tried to ban DES in livestock feed lots in 1972, but the drug industry blocked this action in court.

The House has not yet acted on the bill, but let a similar bill die in 1972. A spokesperson in Sen. William Hathaway's Portland office said the bill's future is uncertain because the House chairman of the Health Committee does not like to deal with drug regulations on an item per item basis. He added that Sen. Kennedy feels strongly that something should be done, and that the bill's fate might depend on whether the House chairman needs any political clout from Kennedy on other issues. Once again, decent health care is dependent on political football games.



What we really need is not only legislation to ban DES, but legislation that will also clearly define who is liable for notifying the women who took DES about the danger their daughters are in. Someone also has to be designated as liable for the cost of the biannual examinations necessary (about \$45.00) and treatment, not to mention loss of life.

DES does have several uses other than as an anti-miscarriage drug and the Morning After Pill. It is given to women to keep their hair from falling out (although that is a reported side effect of DES itself<sup>9</sup>). These women are probably not screened to be certain that they aren't pregnant at the time of treatment.

DES is also administered to women involuntarily after childbirth if they are not going to nurse. It makes their breast milk dry up. They are not told that it is a known carcinogen.<sup>10</sup> Indeed, most women do not even know that it is DES that they are taking.

DES is also used to treat prostate cancer in men. It has been ineffective and has produced as side effects breast cancer, cardiovascular disease and blood clotting.<sup>11</sup>

When DES is given as a Morning After Pill, it is frequently in rape crisis emergencies. Adequate medical histories are not always taken, and as a result DES is given even in cases where all forms of estrogen are contraindicated. The danger in this is apparent when we realize that the amount of DES taken in the Morning After Pill regimen is 250 milligrams which is the amount of estrogen contained in four years supply of oral contraceptives.<sup>12</sup> Additionally, these women may be pregnant from an earlier intercourse, and may stop taking the DES pills because of the side effects of nausea and vomiting (extra burdens at a time of great emotional stress). If these women remain pregnant, their daughters will have been subjected to DES en utero, and will be in danger of developing vaginal cancer.<sup>13</sup>

Perhaps the real irony of the DES controversy can be summed up in the quote from Kay Weiss' Fact Sheet on the Morning After Pill.

"Cyclamates were banned by the FDA because they caused cancer when fed to mice in massive doses, even though humans take cyclamates in tiny doses. DES caused cancer in mice (and humans) in tiny doses and it is fed to women in massive doses."

### Footnotes

1. National Cancer Institute Research Contracts branch RFP no. NIH-NCI-CN-74-23, December 1, 1973.
2. Stafil D, Mattingly RF, Foley DV, Fetherson WC: Clinical diagnosis of vaginal adenosis, *Obstetrics and Gynecology* 43:118-128, 1974.
3. Weiss, Kay, "Vaginal Cancer".
4. Doctors replaced the vaginas "with a mold made from intestinal tissues which needs daily dilating to keep it open, but which 'comfortably' admitted two examining fingers one year after operation" What for" Kay Weiss, Footnotes to "Fact Sheet on the Morning After Pill".

5. Hertz, Roy, MD in the United States Congress, House of Representatives, Government Operations Committee, Regulation of DES, 1st Session, 92nd Congress, Part 1, November 11, 1971. United States Government Printing Office, 1972, p 33-73.
6. *ibid*.
7. Weiss, Kay, "Fact Sheet on the Morning After Pill".
8. Weiss, Kay, "Vaginal Cancer".
9. Weiss, "Fact Sheet..."
10. *ibid*.
11. Kuchera, Lucille, "Post Coital Contraception With Diethylstilbestrol".

12. Weiss, Kay, "Vaginal Cancer: An Iatrogenic Disease?", in the *International Journal of Health Services*, Spring, 1975.
13. The morning after pill is fifty times what is necessary to produce vaginal cancer in offspring.

Graphic from Women's Community Journal



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# womanbriers

## WITCHHUNTS

Grand Juries and FBI witchhunts are being used more and more as a government tool to harass people working for change. Presently three women, Ellen Grusse, Terry Turgeon, and Jill Raymond, are in jail for refusing to testify before two federal grand juries investigating political activists, and thus, the women's and lesbian movements.

Grusse and Turgeon have been jailed for four months in a Connecticut state prison; Raymond has been imprisoned since March in Kentucky county jails. All three women were subpoenaed before grand juries and refused to cooperate with the government's fishing expeditions into the women's movement, the lives of their friends and sisters. Under the present grand jury system, the three women can be held for the life of the grand jury (18 months) and can be resubpoenaed and jailed again when a new grand jury reconvenes.

On September 26, lawyers for two of the imprisoned women, arguing that the two women are never going to talk and that to keep them in jail is merely punitive, filed motions for their release in New Haven federal court. (from The New York Women's Union Grand Jury Project press release).

## LESBIAN MOTHERS

In the state of Washington and in Boston, court cases have allowed lesbian women custody of their children. In Washington the court ruled that homosexuality *per se* is not basis for denying custody to a parent. The women were being sued by their husbands and the prosecution said the two women were unfit parents because of their lesbianism. In Boston, a lesbian woman, because she proved she was interested in her child's welfare, was granted custody of her youngest daughter. Gay people who have been involved in custody cases are asked by the Boston Gay Community News to contact Linda Graham (617) 426-4469. (from GCN).

## PREGNANT WORKERS WIN DISABILITY

Pregnant working women won the right to disability pay under company insurance programs in a federal appeals court ruling in Richmond, Virginia. The International Union of Electrical Workers, its Salem, Va. local, and seven women workers brought the action against General Electric Company. GE was found guilty of sex discrimination in violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act by denying such benefits to its female workers. GE had argued that denial of disability benefits if the disability is caused by childbirth or complications in pregnancy "is justified because pregnancy is voluntary." This "defense of volunteerism" was plainly used in a sexist way to discriminate against women. (from The Wall Street Journal).

## WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

Women involved in feminist women's health centers are developing a vision of a women's hospital. The hospital would provide out-patient abortion and gynecological care, a birth center, services for women requiring surgery, a women's medical school and community health education centers. The facility would be owned, run and controlled by women. Women interested in working on the project write Women's Health School, c/o Wolhandler, 7 Russell St. 3rd floor, Cambridge, MA 02104. (from The Feminist Women's Health Center Annual Report, 1975).

## KAREN SILKWOOD: NUCLEAR CASUALTY?

Early this fall, a year after Karen Silkwood's fatal "accident", N.O.W. called upon the FBI and the Justice Dept. to reopen the investigation into the death of the 28 year old nuclear technician. Silkwood had worked at the Kerr-McGee plant in Cimarron, Oklahoma where the most deadly substance known--plutonium--is manufactured for use in nuclear power plants. Silkwood became concerned with safety conditions, contaminating accidents and faulty nuclear waste storage facilities. On her way to meet with a New York Times reporter and Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union officials to present the results of her investigations, proofs of health and safety violations and falsification of quality control documents, Silkwood's car was struck from behind and she was killed. Silkwood's "hot" evidence was not found. The Justice Dept. feels that "new evidence" about the circumstances of her death would have to be produced before the case could be reinvestigated. (from Off Our Backs & UPI).

## WOMEN STILL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SPAIN

Eva Forest, Spanish physician and feminist remains behind bars under sentence of death in the women's prison in Yserias. Forest, charged with ETA (a Basque Nationalist group) activities, was arrested by the Franco regime in September, 1974 with other activists. In a letter smuggled out of the prison, and published by Le Monde, Forest described the tortures she suffered. She was beaten by repeated blows to the nape of the neck, her temples were crushed, her hair torn out, and her body sexually assaulted. An emergency campaign for Forest and other women political prisoners in Spain has been launched by Amnesty International. They urge people to call the Spanish embassy in Washington D.C. (202-347-6777) and politely tell Ambassador Jaime Alba that they know these women are imprisoned (despite denials by the Spanish government), and ask about the state of their physical and mental health. (from OOB, Le Monde, press releases).

I AM A WOMAN  
AND IF I LIVE I FIGHT  
AND IF I FIGHT  
I CONTRIBUTE  
TO THE LIBERATION  
OF ALL WOMEN  
AND SO VICTORY IS BORN  
EVEN IN THE DARKEST HOUR

## INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL

An International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women will be held in Europe the first two weeks of November. The aim of the tribunal, conceived at an international feminist camp in Denmark and at an International Feminist Conference in Germany, is to spread knowledge of oppression in all countries and to raise consciousness of women's oppression. The tribunal is seen as a basis for action in the struggle to eradicate crimes against women in all countries. For more information or comments write Coordinating Committee, ITCAW, c/o Maureen Giroux, Room 606, 33 Ave. des Champs Elysees, Paris 8, France. or write to the U.S. Representative on this committee: Dianne Russell, Mills College, Oakland, CA 94613. (from OOB).

## FEMINIST ECONOMIC NETWORK

"Money is harder for women to talk about than orgasm," Beverly Fisher, a feminist organizer, once wrote. "That's changing!" says representatives of nine existing feminist credit unions. These nine credit unions control over \$1,000,000 in assets, and have nearly 5,000 members. The nine feminist credit unions are located in San Diego, New Haven, Detroit, Dallas, Harrisburg (PA), Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., New York City (proposed), and Cambridge, Mass.

Sex discrimination, the common problem of feminists, is the common bond between credit union members. A feminist credit union gives its members an opportunity to borrow money and share skills, to learn to manage money for feminist interests (our own), and to add to our collective strength. A feminist economic network, an association of feminist credit unions was founded this fall. For more information on the network and on a FCU convention write The Feminist Economic Network, PO Box 8123, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

## FIRST WOMEN'S BANK

On October 8 the first Women's Bank opened its doors at 111 E. 57th St., New York City. Eileen Preiss, coordinator of the bank, said the purpose of the project was "to create an institution where women could be granted credit on a non-discriminatory basis, and to upgrade the image of women in the financial community.... thousands of women and men wanted to see a women's bank happen and were willing to put their money where their convictions are."

Of the bank's 6500 stockholders 81% are women. The bank opened after a year's delay in which \$4,000,000 in capital was raised. The bank is a "full-service bank" that will also offer women financial advice and run courses for women on investing, money management, and opening businesses. (from Artemis, The Newsletter for Enterprising Women).

## CREDIT ACCESS

Last year the Federal Home Loan Bank Board issued regulations prohibiting federally-chartered savings and loan associations from discriminating against women in making home loans. The Board disapproves of widespread practices requiring a husband and wife to provide information of the couple's birth control practices. The new regulations also prohibit lenders from demanding a single woman to obtain a co-signer for a loan if a co-signer is not required for single males in the same income and credit situations. Complaints of alleged violations should be directed to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board or the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

Note: The Federal Reserve Board (FRB) has loosened some of its proposed regulations against sex discrimination in granting credit. Although it still prohibits creditors to ask about child-bearing capability or birth control practices, the FRB now permits creditors to ask information about an applicant's future ability to repay bills, and will delay until November, 1976 a requirement to list all accounts in both the husband's and wife's names. (from The Wall Street Journal).

## SENSATIONALISM

A Right to Life exhibit at the Oregon State Fair this summer featured 3 human fetuses between 4½ & 5½ months into gestation which the anti-abortionists were ordered to remove. Fair Commissioner Strader commented, "I don't see why those people have to resort to sensationalism to tell their story."



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# PRISON FOLLOW-UP: pros and cons

article and photo by Charmaine Daniels

The last issue of *Maine Freewoman's Herald* carried an article on the Women's Correctional Center, Maine's prison for adult female offenders. After the article was published, I was contacted by two ex-inmates who had received copies of the article from prison administrators. The ex-inmates felt there were inaccuracies in the article, and what follows is a result of a meeting with them, and another former inmate.

All three women felt the prison administration had made many positive changes in the last 5-10 years, and the administration was responsive to the inmate's needs. One woman said Maine's prison system, compared to others in the Northeast, was the most humane and the cleanest. She added, "For the most part, it's a compassionate system."

All three women have maintained fairly close ties with the prison administration. Dianne Kelly, 25, worked for the Bureau of Corrections as a summer intern while getting her degree from the University of Maine, as did Sylvia Grant, 29, who is currently at the University of Maine in Augusta, majoring in criminal justice. Dot Burl, 51, remains on friendly terms with administrators, although she has not worked for the Bureau.

After talking with Kelly and Grant, in particular, it occurred to me that their more positive view of the prison experience might be based on the fact that after prison they had "made it" in society to some degree, had overcome the "liabilities" of their past, and were optimistic about the future. While admitting that most inmates did not choose to get really involved with inmate programs at the prison, did not go on to school, and were just "serving time", Kelly said she did not consider herself an exception to the rule. Why? "I worked very hard to get where I am ... I put myself through three years of school... and parole was like living in a pressure cooker," she says emotionally. She remembers the suspicion toward ex-offenders, and her fight against a state law which prohibited ex-offenders from being certified as teachers.

Kelly got that law changed, but rejected the approach of Pine Tree Legal Assistance which wanted to make a test case out of it. Kelly said Pine Tree would have alienated people, so she got the job done using compromise politics through the legislature. She also worked to get her crime erased from her record, and was one of the few people to get a Governor's pardon.

While Kelly and the other women say they did not receive special treatment, they say they did seize existing opportunities available to all women. "The opportunity is there, if you're willing to work for it," Kelly says. All three women believed motivation for the women with the attitude of "I'm just here to serve time" could be "Look at these people who have succeeded." All agreed working within the system for change is more effective than attacking it from the outside.

But even with success, Kelly, who is going to Boston College now for her master's degree, says of her years after prison, "A person has so many defeats... if I didn't have support from friends, I couldn't have made it."

All three women were strongly critical of comments made by Chris Emery, another former inmate whom I interviewed for the first prison article. They felt Emery was exceptionally bitter, talked only about the negative aspects of prison, and referred to situations which had since changed.

While Emery said the staff felt the inmates were there to be punished, in-



Dianne Kelly

stead of rehabilitated, these women felt the staff was, for the most part, reasonable. They admitted some of the staff people were in need of broader education, that some didn't understand what confinement could do to an inmate, and that some were resentful of inmate opportunities (such as going to school).

Emery said the staff exerted their power over the inmates in many ways, while these women said in an unnatural setting like prison you're bound to get some ego trips. "The inmates try to control each other, and the staff tries to control everyone," Kelly said.

While defending the staff's right to dignity and schooling she felt the staff was threatened if inmates received privileges the staff didn't get (like going to school) or got away with something they didn't think the inmates should get away with.

This touches on the issue of class background, namely conditions which cause people low on the totem pole to fight with each other, as pointed out by one observer in the first article. Clearly, from what these ex-inmates said, there was more tension between prisoners and staff than between prisoners and administration.

Other comments by Emery about silly prison rules such as no chewing of gum and lights out by 11 p.m. have been changed, these women say. Only those in maximum security have to be in bed by 11, and the original rule was made so people would get enough sleep to get up by 7 a.m., Kelly says.

The women went on to say Emery's statement about being kept in solitary confinement for nine weeks was distorted. Kelly said while she was there she never knew anyone to be kept more than five days in "the hole" without a hearing, that Emery was sent to maximum security for good reason, and could have come out sooner if her behavior had improved.

Kelly went on to say inmates who are sick aren't considered hypochondriacs, for the most part, as Emery has asserted, and said some inmates do pretend illness if they don't want to work. But she remembers being viewed suspiciously when she would tell a staff member she had a cold. Emery's derogatory statement about the work release program sending most women to shoe factories and to be nurses aides angered these women. They said the administration encouraged people to develop skills they were interested in. Emery's accusation about placing inmates in a middle class, feminine mold was accepted as true, but the policy was defended because "... those values are, in fact, accepted by society and the ones inmates need to get a job, etc. when they get out." Their theory is that "If a woman looks good, she'll take pride in herself." The Assistant Superintendent of Women's Correctional Center, Michael Malloy, agrees, be-

cause "The demand of the labor market is to look nice... some inmates don't know when they come in they're expected to look a certain way to get a job (on the outside)... and they end up wanting beautifying skills."

This is a crucial point--some middle class feminists who know how to look "nice", can afford to reject "beauty", while many other women because of economic necessity, remain under this pressure.

While dismissing Emery's comments as extreme, these women talked about some of their prison experiences. They said prison does take away your pride and identity, to some extent; that it represents a temporary emotional handicap. They talked about the intolerable "chain of command"--staff people were threatened if anyone went over their heads to have a request met. In addition, they said inmates who didn't participate in programs offered in the prison, resented those who did because they felt they were buttering up to the administration.

They talked about the lack of privacy, especially during institutional shakedowns for contraband when private journals etc. were no longer private. One woman was concerned about the quantity of prescribed drugs such as tranquilizers given to present inmates by the doctor. Kelly, surprised to hear this, brought it to the attention of Mrs. Hanauer (Superintendent of the prison) who said she was not aware of any situation like this.

Dr. Ulrich Jacobsohn, the consulting psychiatrist for the prison who prescribes drugs for inmates says, "They get very few prescribed drugs." Jacobsohn said drugs are never used for control and are not prescribed unless there is a "distinct psychological condition that would respond to treatment." He adds the treatment level is equal to that of someone in the outside community seeing a private psychiatrist and getting tranquilizers.

The three ex-inmates had many good things to say about the prison administration--they don't punish people on assumption, they are dedicated and open to change. Kelly talked about drug seminars offered when many inmates were in on drug charges, and the Alcoholics Anonymous programs offered. She praised the psychological services available to the women, and the halfway house which for 13 years did "untold good". Kelly reported that the administration changed "appalling" situations at a halfway house at her request, which she notes as an example of their responsiveness.

In addition, she points to the excellent school facilities where the student/teacher ratio is 8 to 1. The classrooms are bright and cheerful, and in addition there is a reading lab, a sewing lab, a leather stitching lab, and a cosmetology lab. There is also an extensive library and a gymnasium.

On my second tour of the place, Malloy pointed out a new policy stating inmates can see any staff report made about their behavior, can respond to it, and have the response inserted in their records.

In addition to arguing with Emery's comments, these women told me the number of recreational activities exceed the one scheduled each week. (In my article I said activities could be limited to one per week because of lack of staff). Grant said eligibility for the inmates' council was offered to anyone there for over 30 days, who had more than three months left on their sentence. (In my article I had made reference to limited eligibility). Kelly said the issue of lesbianism is overplayed, in general. She said she knew very few gay women when she was in  
*continued on page 10*



# untroducing n doo le y's b a r

With the casualness and polish of New Yorker reporters, we wandered into a local bar last week and made a discovery that would have turned them green with envy. Here in our own cultural backwash, we made the acquaintance of the greatest wit since the late Will Rogers. She is a barmaid whose name--it's true--is Ursula Undooley, a curious mongrel of a name achieved through feminine insouciance and heredity.

Her grandfather, Mr. Dooley, was a famous sage and barman in the mid 1800's, his wisdom well-recorded by one Peter Finney. What was not recorded were his numerous liaisons and his sexual prowess well into senior citizenship. Ursula's mother had been the child of such a December-September, or really early June, union, for her mother had been a young Parisian exotic dancer when she caught Mr. Dooley's eye. The result of that passing glance--Mr. Dooley's concentration span grew ever shorter during his 70's--grandmother had wistfully named Mimi in an attempt to recall her native land.

Grandmother initially accommodated parenthood by changing Mlle. Bernier to Mrs. Bernier, but the hardships of the next few years caused an understandable bitterness toward Mr. Dooley to wax, so that, by the time of his death at 82, Mrs. Bernier went into court to have her name officially changed to Mrs. Undooley. It gave her years of satisfaction to sign her name in the negative of his, never mind the subtle pleasure of being unduly anything.

Mimi had her own checkered career, the checkers producing many results but only one child.

Mimi Undooley had had her own checkered career, the checkers producing many results but only one child. The birth of that child had occurred at a time in Mimi's life when she had adopted prudence as the watchword of good living (one can only imagine what peculiar events had led her to such an extreme view), and nothing seemed more natural than to name her daughter Prue. Prue Undooley early in her school career became Pee You, an outcome so assured that even hair-brained Mimi should have been forewarned.

It was not only to get rid of this albatross, but to also get rid of the myopic Mimi that caused Prue Undooley to consider changing her name. Ursula had been a stroke of rare good luck, for it changed the eighteen year dominance of Me-Me to a lifetime of comfort with You-You. Gestaltists will pale at this cognomen, implying as it does other-directedness, but for Ursula Undooley it was the password to an eventful and joyful new self.

What first caught our attention about Ursula as we stood at the bar was the fact that she had drawn a draft

a commentary by Barbara Woodbury

beer, and added a generous dash of what appeared to be grenadine. Sliding it down the counter to a man in the uniform of an UPS driver, she shouted, "That one's on me to mourn the passing of Kissy."

"Kissinger's dead?" "I didn't know that." "When did it happen?" "Did someone shoot him?"

"No. No one shot him. I'm just tired of seeing him drift here and

I leaned over and whispered in U-U's ear that Fromme was a witch...

there, climbing in and out of airplanes, and then standing around in airports and saying those very pontifical things in a round monotone and they mean nothing. In this bar, he's dead and he won't be mentioned again. After a week or so, you'll see how much of a nothing he really was. Unimportant."

"You're right, U-U. Besides, it always bothered me that he still had that German accent after he'd been in this country since he was nine years old. What do you make of that?"

"I'm no psychiatrist, so don't ask me. I often wonder about his wife. There she is in the television, trailing along beside him, but she doesn't say anything. I don't think she's ever said more than four sentences on the tube. And she was a smart person--she's no dummy, you know. Since she married him, she's really hit Oblivionsville, Right?"

"Hey, U-U. Whatcha put in this beer? It's awful." It was the UPS man, wiping his mouth with a large handkerchief. "And what's wrong with a German accent? Everybody's got to be born somewhere."

"You born in Germany, Will? That's my secret ingredient in there, and you don't like it? You've got to be crazy, everybody else says it's great."

"I drank beer in Germany when I was a little kid, and what you've done to this beer is monstrous. Besides, Kissinger has really worked hard trying to get peace. How'd you like to fly around the world all the time and never get to sleep in your own bed two nights in a row?" He said the "g" in Kissinger with a hard gah.

"Forget it, Will. I don't want to bother with wasting anymore time with Kissy. How about that girl that tried to kill Ford? What do you think about that?"

"Whatsa name, Fromme? She's crazy. Just plain crazy. Besides, how'd she get by all that security?"

"You know, Will, I agree with you, she is crazy. She's nuts for two reasons in my book. First, who wants to go to the slammer for killing Ford? He's a nothing. Course, I got my own private views about killing as a solution to a problem, but I'd probably be killed by my customers if I expres-



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sed them. We won't go into all that. And in the second place, if you're going to kill somebody big like that, you don't go about it singlehanded, do you? Not in this country. You get in with somebody--some outfit, don't you?

"U-U, you're a conspiracy freak. What was that Squeaky wearing that hood for, anyway? What does that mean?"

We caught Ursula's eye and asked her to fill up our glasses. When she brought them back, I leaned over and whispered in U-U's ear that Fromme was really a witch, that I had known her on the West Coast and covered the Manson trial and that one of their goals was to bring things to a halt in this country which meant stopping delivery services on all kinds of things.

While Ursula was quietly imparting our story to Will and adding her own embellishments, a middle-aged matron entered by the rear door, and hoisted her several pounds up on a bar stool. Since the stools rotate and are high off the floor, it was touch and go for a moment whether she would settle on the upholstery or the floor. We began to check her out, for she was the only woman in the bar beside Ursula, and a very proper appearing person to be placing herself in this unusual position. Ursula apparently knew her and brought her a beer immediately.

"How's things in Boston? I've been trying to keep up with the news on WBZ, and it seems pretty calm from what they're saying. Is it different if you're on the spot?"

"Mary's oldest boy is in jail and none of her kids has been to school yet. Why would she want to send little Theresa all the way across the city to second grade. No way. She's never going to do it. What I can't figure out is what kids are going to get out of going to school every day with all those police around. The high school is two blocks from Mary's house, so I went down the first day just to see what was going on. Uniforms everywhere, that's all you could see. That's a hell of a way to go to school. And the sad part of it is that most kids don't care that much--it's the parents that cause this."

...it was touch and go whether she would settle on the upholstery or the floor.

"What's the kid in jail for?"

"I don't really know. Frank went down last night after he got called from the station, and there was about twenty arrested at the same time. Mary doesn't like it that Frankie Junior is out roaming around nights, but what are you going to do when a kid is twenty and got nothing to do?"

"How come you went down to Boston, Agnes? I didn't know you and your sister had much in common."

"Well, I'll tell you, Ursula. She wrote me how worried she was about school opening and I really wanted to see what was going to happen in Boston for myself--so, put two and two together and I decided to go. You don't get the real facts watching the news on TV and you've even got to watch your newspapers. Fred was mad as hell because I was going--said he wasn't going to bail me out of jail and he wouldn't visit at the hospital if I got hurt, but I told him I was going anyway. I just got back on the bus an hour ago, and I suppose I ought to go home and let him know that I'm safe and sound. Listen, Ursula, I'll see you later."

We paid up our tab and accompanied Agnes out the door, hoping to strike up a conversation about the sainthood of Mother Seton and the religious sponsorship of Vietnamese refugees. We were in agreement that we needed to drop in to Ursula's bar (Breatheasy) regularly to see who was the new nothing of the day and what could be done--if anything--besides dropping them from the conversation.

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## POETRY

### excerpts from SUITE for SPEAKER and WOODWIND QUINTET

I.  
O  
to be by the sea  
to be by the sea with thee  
at a quarter past three  
in the dawning  
under an awning  
yawning  
with tenderous langorous limbs awry

O my.

Sea laps sand  
as a vigorous hand  
explores my tanned  
and breeze-fanned  
limbs  
as closed eye dims  
the rising sun

What fun.

The strong advance  
of your fiery lance  
must enhance  
this dance of chance  
O heavens above

Is this love?

O my  
I die.

O hurry  
my darling, my dear  
the thunderous moment is near  
O hold me, lift me,  
O raise me up high  
The trembling moment is nigh  
O hurray alas  
alas and alack

There's a squirming starfish under my back.

II.  
Here's to our sisters  
The millions of sisters  
Who died of the fruits of love.

Jane Austen's sister  
Died of the cause above.  
Eleven children in fifteen years

Her husband  
Bereaved  
Wept copious tears  
"I'd have done anything!"  
Cried he, always and oft

Anything  
I guess but

Lay

Off.

Joanne Forman

1.  
her love smells like  
blossoming thunder  
softened only by her  
blondness fingers  
once given  
now sought

2.

motorcycle mama  
missing you  
masterful eyes  
thighs thankful  
dark dangerous  
to like you  
too late  
tender dreams  
too far  
from fruit  
--fasting

3.

maine. cross the tracks without looking  
ocean roaring slapping rocks. singsong  
demons daring me. hands hanging limp.  
heart crossed by too many seasons.  
seems the darkness cries. the green  
rug grows trees under which i sleep.  
your heat haven holds me home.  
blasted. i grow claws. grow invisible

lin mara bluebird

### PREROGATIVE

There is no way for me to tell how long  
I'll love you, or how well. You have no right  
To ask me for unending love. It's wrong  
That you expect to measure depth or height  
Of something you can neither see or feel,  
Nor measure out, predict, turn off or on.  
It's only here and now that love is real--  
What future brings, who knows? What's past is gone.  
Of our relationship you have by much  
The better deal. For what you want from me--  
Eternal and undying love--is such  
A farce. A real impossibility.  
Of you, I'm asking nothing of the kind.  
Just love me till the day I change my mind.

Meg McMullen

### IN THE BEGINNING

Spontaneity  
Frequent smiles  
Eyes that meet  
Minds in touch

Vibrations, unclear  
Magnetism, mystifying  
Feelings, unfamiliar

Knowing fondness, rapor  
Sensing more  
Still unclear

Perceiving, unknowingly  
Responding

Vague intuitions  
Invade darkness

Uneasy, reluctant  
Compelled  
Curious

Sharing, caring  
And then  
Touching!!  
There is light  
It is clear

Jamie Lynn

Delicate finger  
yesterday obsession  
pinching  
probing self.

No escape  
cancer moon  
no escape  
stomach pains  
back ache.

23 years old  
varicose veins already  
no need to be obsessed  
with face and fanny  
no need  
to carve up fingernails  
polish eyelids.

I'd rather retreat  
to yesterday  
pull over the covers  
suck my thumb  
until it wrinkles.

Linda Rowell

graphic by Sue Walker



# RAPE AND THE CRIMINAL CODE

...how much was really gained?

ARTICLE BY KIM MATTHEWS  
COLLAGE BY SUE WALKER

The crime of rape is a serious problem in our society. Available statistics indicate that rapes are heavily unreported. Contrary to popular belief, rapes are generally planned, committed by acquaintances of the victim, and involve physical force. Apprehended rapists are rarely charged with, or convicted of, rape. Attitudes concerning forcible rape often lead to great sympathy for the alleged offender and even hostility for the victim.

In Maine the law concerning rape is not as hostile to rape victims as it is in some other states. It does not require corroboration of the victim's testimony. It does not require the complaint of the victim to be made within a particular period of time. It does not allow the defense attorney to attack the victim by bringing up specific instances of past sexual conduct, as this is considered irrelevant.

On the other hand, Maine has not revised its rape laws to follow the trend of the few states attempting to shed themselves of other antiquated ideas and statutes concerning rape. A Commission was appointed by Governor Curtis to revise and codify Maine's criminal laws. This Commission produced the Maine Criminal Code which was recently enacted by the State legislature and will become effective in March, 1976. The sex offenses section of the code is basically a codification of rape law as it has developed through case law.

One new aspect of the Code reduces the crimes of rape and gross sexual misconduct to lesser crimes if the victim was a "voluntary social companion of the defendant at the time of the crime and had, on that occasion, permitted the defendant sexual contact". While this concept is offensive, it will probably aid in getting convictions of sexual offenders. In many sexual assault cases (due to the societal assumptions mentioned below), a jury will not convict if the parties have engaged in some sexual contact immediately prior to the assault. This provision clearly indicates that initial consensual sexual contact at the time of the offense does not constitute consent to an aggravated sexual assault.

There are several major ways Maine's new rape law could be revised in order to make it more progressive and to bring it into line with the reality of the crime.

The Code divides sexual offenses into four separate crimes: rape, gross sexual misconduct, sexual abuse of minors, and unlawful sexual conduct. Rape is defined in the traditional manner as forced vaginal intercourse committed by a man against a woman. Gross sexual misconduct includes forced sexual acts other than vaginal intercourse and can be committed by a man against a woman. Gross sexual misconduct includes forced sexual acts other than vaginal intercourse and can be committed by or against either sex. Both of these crimes are classified as Class A crimes which means they are in the class which carries the highest penalty. These two crimes should be combined into one crime labelled "aggravated sexual assault".

"Rape" is a term laden with emotional value judgments and historical connotations concerning the purpose of rape laws. Many of the concepts embodied in this term are outmoded stereotypes of the sexual roles and activities of men and women which have been prejudicial to the

rights of both the accused and the victim. The reality of the crime is that it is a brutal, violent event in which the actor aims at forcible sexual gratification, subjugation, and humiliation of the victim. The injury is not so much to the victim's chastity as it is a violation of the sexual and physical integrity of the victim. The essence of the crime, therefore, is a physical assault of a sexual nature upon a person. The physical injury, outrage, and humiliation to the victim is the same whether the perpetrator is a man or a woman and whether the assault involves vaginal intercourse, anal intercourse, or other sexual act. There is no reason to create different crimes based on technically different acts involving essentially the same degree of sexual assault.



The Code permits a husband to legally rape his wife, to submit her to gross sexual misconduct, and to submit her to offensive sexual contact against her will. This spousal immunity should be eliminated. Definitions of rape and sexual assaults as acts which do not occur in marriage should be changed to correspond to the reality of marital violence and to provide protection for married women from violent sexual attacks. The solution is not simply to state that the law of assault and battery is sufficient to protect the wife, and therefore that victims of sexual assaults who happen to be wives can be excluded from the protection of the sex offense laws. A violent sexual assault is a terrifying injury to the victim regardless of her marital status. Forced intercourse and other sexual acts are not part of a woman's matrimonial duties. A wife is no longer a chattel or possession of her husband as she was prior to the 19th Century. The laws should not perpetuate these ancient concepts. The law should affirmatively inform the husband that he has no more right in the 20th Century to sexually

assault his wife than he does to physically assault her.

The theory upon which the common law rule protecting the husband from rape prosecution was based was stated by Lord Hale "But the husband cannot be guilty of a rape committed by himself upon his lawful wife, for by their mutual matrimonial consent and contract the wife hath given up herself in this kind unto her husband, which she cannot retract." The fallacy with this proposition lies in its presumption that a wife's initial consent to marital intercourse at the time of the marriage is in addition a consent to any kind of violent or non-violent forcible intercourse or other sexual acts at any time during the marriage relationship. A woman's legitimate expectation upon entering the marriage contract is the enjoyment of a normal and happy sexual relationship. It is to this expectation only that she consents. To suggest that any person would consent in advance, by contract, to a future violent sexual assault, is ludicrous. Yet that is exactly what the law suggests that every married woman has done.

Another justification advanced for the spousal immunity is a public policy argument that to permit the husband to be prosecuted would destroy the peace and harmony of the marital unit. Violence is a symptom of a disintegrating marriage and it is hard to see how at this point in the relationship that there would be a marital union left for preservation. The fact that a spouse can already be prosecuted for assault would seem to indicate that the "peace and harmony" rationale is not persuasive as against the overriding public interest in the prevention of crimes of violence against members of our society.

The elimination of the interspousal immunity would not result in a flood of complaining wives seeking revenge against a husband. The decision to prosecute would be left to the prosecutor and it would be up to her or his discretion, as it always has been, to take on only those cases where there is a legitimate claim substantiated by the evidence. There is no reason to assume that the prosecutorial system would not be able to work effectively in this area; nor that, in the ultimate analysis, the jury system would not be able to distinguish the meritorious claims from the false.

The new statute does not consider what evidence should be admissible at a rape trial. In the past such evidentiary rules have developed through case law. Several societal assumptions have led to a network of rules that require more stringent proof for a conviction for forcible rape than for any other crime. Some commentators justify stringent proof requirements for rape on the assumption that there are hundreds of malicious women with emotional and sexual problems attempting to convict innocent men of rape. Most commentators alleging this fail to even attempt to substantiate their claim. Fabricated stories of rape undoubtedly do occur, but there is no reason to conclude that juries are less able to deal with fabrications in rape than in any other type of case. Juries exist to decide whose testimony is most credible. The "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard should be adequate to guard against unjust convictions.

Another justification for stringent proof requirements is the idea that the victim really wanted to be raped. Statistics indicating the type of rapes occurring make this assumption highly unlikely. The overall picture indicates that rape is a brutal, violent, subjugation and humiliation of the victim. The idea that any significant number of women want this experience is beyond credulity.

Another prevalent assumption is that in many rape cases, the woman asked for what she got. She may have taken a walk at night without a male escort, stayed late at the office alone, worn a short

continued on page 10

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## book review



### matriarchy reclaimed

*Mothers and Amazons*, by Helen Diner,  
Julian Press, 1965

Reviewed by Jean Friedrich

We are submerged in a female history famine, and only recently are we realizing the necessity of coming out from under the cloak of "forefathers".

For most of us, our exposure to history revolves around: Leif Erickson, Ponce de Leon, John Hancock, Ethan Allen, and many more "interesting forefathers", culminating in our appreciation of the presidents of the United States--Hooray! Most of our orientation to "important" history--cultural, political, religious, (i.e., Michelangelo, George Washington, Christianity, Buddhism) centers around man's role in discovery, intelligence, revolution.

Women, too, had their roles in history: they were beautiful, soothed egos, and broken bones, sewed, and waited around a lot.

Clearly we have been oriented with an appreciation of patriarchal history. So smothered with this patriarchal attitude, we did not realize our stupidity in our narrow-mindedness. Our historical price based on responsible male intelligence must have offered much conflict to young women capable of leadership and accomplishment, when noteworthy women heroes were few, and those that did exist were hardly noted.

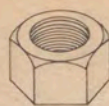
In lieu of this concept, several people have offered well-grounded publications of matriarchal recognition. One most noteworthy work by Helen Diner, *Mothers and Amazons*, exposes the "first feminine history of culture" in an exciting and intelligent manner.

Diner is supported by earlier, but not well accepted, matriarchal historians, along with ethnological and archeological discoveries of the 20th century.

Her interpretation remains onesided as the matriarchal lineage of cultures intertwined in various times and continents is exposed. Her book opens the root psychology of woman, with information from Greek, Middle East, Oriental, European, African, North and South American heritage. Worldwide cultural beliefs, religions and myths reveal goddesses and mothers occupying positions of creation, power, and understanding.

"Vac", the word for "beginning" to Indo-Europeans in their nature religion, was the seat of creativity. Great moon goddesses take on various names for different peoples: Aphrodite, Isis, Bona Dea, Unakuagsak, Isthara, Dea Syria, Ala-Uzza, Nerthus. Each goddess believed to be the life source, as individual cultures offer a story propagating their belief and strength in her.

Women held opposing forces in the understanding of life. Just as white



## nuts to bolts

### MAKING BOOKCASES

by Kitty Maher

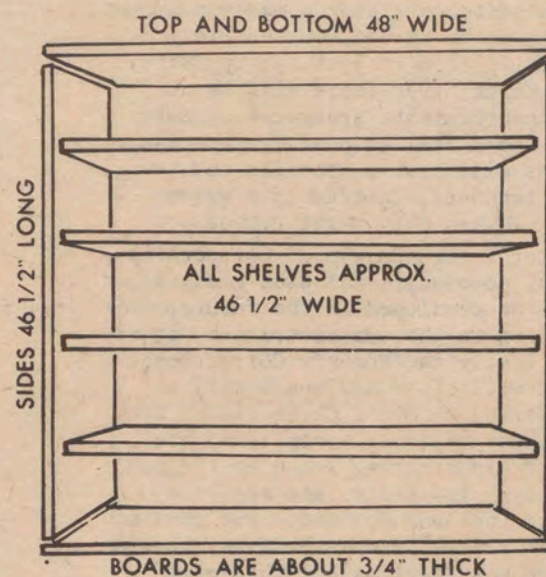
two 4'X4' Bookcases with four shelves each

#### TOOLS NEEDED

Hammer  
Saw--a cross-cut saw is used rather than a rip saw, which cuts with the grain.  
Finishing nails--1" nails for paneling; 1 1/2" for shelves.  
Ruler--tape measure or 6' folding ruler is best.  
Straight edge--L squares or a metal ruler can be used if you don't have a straight edge.  
Glue--Elmer's is best.

#### STOCK NEEDED

1 sheet cheap paneling, cut in half, to end up with two 4'x 4' pieces. (Price \$4-\$5).  
4 pine boards in 16' lengths, cut to four 48" pieces and twelve 46 1/2" pieces. 10" is a good standard width. (Price \$27, approximately).



The problem with most homemade bookcases is that they tend to lean and then collapse as soon as someone bumps into them. A simple and cheap solution is to use half a sheet of paneling as a backing for the rigidity needed. It will also keep your books from falling down that space behind.

A lumber yard will cut the wood for the bookcase, but at 50¢ per cut that can become expensive. So it's better to make sure your lines are straight, and cut your own boards to length. Just work slowly. You should have the paneling cut, though, because it's too big to work with.

When measuring and cutting the shelves don't forget to allow for the thickness of the side boards (see diagram; shelves will be 46 1/2 inches approximately, depending on the thickness of the side boards). When measuring and cutting the side boards don't forget to allow for the thickness of the top and bottom boards (see diagram; the side boards will be 46 1/2 inches approximately because the thickness of the top and bottom boards must be included in the 4' height).

A 1" board actually measures about 3/4" so measure and be sure about thicknesses. Clear pine is more expensive than knotted pine, but knotted pine is just as strong.

Cut all boards and mark side pieces with a pencil where the shelves will be placed. (The placement of the shelves depends on the height of the books you want to store). Mark the side pieces with a pencil by placing the side boards together lengthwise (flat on a surface) so the edges are side by side. Before nailing a shelf on, run a line of glue on shelf edges and along the side piece where marked for that shelf. (This will provide a stronger joint). Do the same for each shelf just before you nail it on.

Nail all shelves on one side piece first, using 4-5 nails for each shelf. It helps to have two people at this point--one to help steady the board being nailed in. Then nail the other side piece on, using 4-5 nails for that end of each shelf. Glue and nail on top and bottom boards (using 4-5 nails for each joint). Then glue and nail the paneling onto the back (good side facing in) using 1" finishing nails. (Nail it all the way around, using 10-12 nails on each side).

Then you can stain the whole thing to match whatever kind of paneling you have chosen.

mothers or moon goddesses existed, so too the black mother was held in awe. Mara, Lamin, Kali, Purga, Humas Hecate, Diana, Ampusa, all symbolize finality, or immortality through a dark second birth.

Woman is revered in the vein of primal history. In many cultures men were tied to their mother clan, and loyalty was offered here first, and then to a wife who dominated the home and children. Matriarchal societies were based on values quite different from those we are accustomed to. Domestic work, private property, beauty, youth, incest, sexual freedom, marriage, birth and puberty rites were often opposite, more colorful and liberal than patriarchal inclinations.

To continue offering names of interesting women from Diner's book would be an injustice to both you and the author. The depth of research and knowledge she offers from the concept of mother origins woven through 15 individual matriarchal areas of cultural history is perceived with much more insight and understanding when taken as a whole. She encourages this concept of history by extending her review to our present grasp of culture, and continuing through with thoughts for future awareness.

Translated in 1965 from the original German, *Mothers and Amazons* is without question a book which offers a clear perception of the female in historic retrospect.

Our apologies to Jean Friedrich for the delay in publishing the book review.

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## PRISON FOLLOW-UP

continued from page 5

prison, but that many inmates "dabble with being gay" to irritate the staff.

In addition, Kelly corrected the definition of indeterminate sentencing given in the first article. An indeterminate sentence states a maximum amount of time to be served, but no minimum. (I had reported it just the opposite). After March, 1976 there will be no more indeterminate sentences, a move these women feel is positive because inmates will have a specific end to their sentence, instead of a vague sense of when they might get out.

According to Bureau of Corrections policy, co-educational area centers are to be developed in the future. According to the administration, it now seems likely the Women's Correctional Center will close and women will be transferred to Men's Correctional Center. None of these women liked the idea of transferring women to the men's facility. And Kelly, who sees the need for prisons for those who commit violent crimes, favors half-way houses for the most part rather than area centers which still confine people.

**Author's comment:** In concluding, I'd like to describe what happened to me in dealing with the prison administration. When I first thought of contacting an inmate for an interview, I talked to someone in the Statewide Correctional Alliance for Reform (SCAR) who gave me one woman's name. I wrote to her and told her where I got her name. From what people told me later, inmates and administrators alike assumed I was a member of SCAR, on the basis of that letter. Rumor even had it that I showed up with a man from SCAR, whose name I had never heard of.

According to the three women in this interview, inmates do not like SCAR because they feel used by organizations like SCAR and Pine Tree Legal Assistance. According to Kelly, the inmates feel they are the "monkeys in the showcase" of these organizations' causes. However, a spokesperson for SCAR says the administration has total control over what inmates think and say, in part because the number of inmates is so small, and because to get out the inmates must always think of "acting good". According to SCAR, the administration has effectively blocked the group's participation at the Halliwell prison, although SCAR activities succeed at the male institutions.

At any rate, the inmates, according to Kelly, didn't want to talk to me and the administration, namely Mrs. Hanauer, was acting cool. I feel, because of my initial naivete on the



whole subject of prison dynamics and how to contact inmates, I became caught in the middle of SCAR/administration antagonisms. As a result, I believe the administration prejudiced my ability to get information, and did not give me reasonable assistance in my attempt to reach inmates.

Perhaps if Mrs. Hanauer had not thought I was with SCAR, she would have been more responsive and I wouldn't have labeled her uncooperative in my first article. However, few of her underlying sentiments were ever expressed to me which I feel is her responsibility if she was using them to prejudge a member of the press. And suppose I was a member of SCAR, does this constitute cause for a bad reception?

Perhaps inmates didn't want to talk with me because they thought I was with SCAR. That's their business. Yet, a SCAR member of the Governor's Task Force on Corrections told me inmates were very eager to talk to task force members when they visited the prison.

After my first article was published Mrs. Hanauer told me she thought I was biased. I told her I wasn't out to slam anyone, and that I tried to be objective. I offered to have her write a "letter to the editor" about any remarks I made. She declined. She offered me the opportunity to tour the prison a second time which I did, and Malloy, the Asst. Superintendent, said I should come and spend three days and get a broader picture of the institution. Certainly, people need to know more about our institutions, and a closer, broader look at women in prison is needed.

When I completed my interview with the three ex-inmates, I remembered their references to most ex-inmates who "you never hear from again", who fade off into the horizon. Hopefully, they will come forth to speak.

## RAPE & THE CRIMINAL CODE

continued from page 8

skirt (similar to the ones fashion designers parade in front of her daily in magazines), hitchhiked, accepted a ride home from a casual tavern acquaintance, or accepted a babysitting job in a strange home. The result of such a theory is to mitigate the guilt of the accused, by making the victim partly responsible for the crime. A woman could not remain blameless under such an analysis unless she lived in a constant state of fear that every man she encountered was a potential rapist. This obviously would not be a healthy attitude. Such a critical examination of the victim is often made by jurors and may result in the offender being acquitted.

Evidence of the victim's sexual experience with persons other than the defendant or her reputation for unchastity should be inadmissible. This should be written into the Code in order to clarify and/or change past case law. This conclusion results from a consideration of the probative value of such evidence and the dangers of prejudice and distraction that could result from its admission. The probative value of this type of evidence is low since the fact that a person has consented to sexual relations with another person in the past does not show consent to sexual relations at a later time with a particular person on a particular occasion. Therefore, the complaining witness' sexual experience is not relevant to consent. Neither is it relevant to the issue of credibility. Such evidence is usually not admissible when crimes other than sex offenses are charged. There is no reason for assuming that unchastity makes a person untruthful when sex offenses are involved, but not untruthful when other crimes are involved.

In rape cases many judges give a cautionary jury instruction stating that rape is an accusation easily brought and difficult to defend. As already stated, statistics indicate that rape is not a charge easily brought as is evidenced by the low percentage of reported cases. Neither is it difficult to defend as is evidenced by the low percentage of convictions. A cautionary instruction, not given in trials for other crimes, leads the jury to be overly suspicious of the evidence. This is prejudicial to the State's case and such an instruction should be eliminated by statute.

Attitudes based on stereotyped preconceptions unrelated to the reality of the crime make the apprehension and conviction of rapists especially difficult. The failure of victims to report rape is itself a strong indication of the malfunctioning of rape laws. Because of this many women are beginning to urge their legislators to separate myth from reality and to reevaluate rape laws in line with the suggestions outlined above.

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Kim Matthews is a recent graduate of the University of Maine School of Law and a partner with Susan Bowie of South Portland in the recently established law firm of Bowie and Matthews. As part of their general practice, they are anxious to provide legal services for women.



## Freewoman Classifieds

### FOR SALE

Reproduction of a 1948 U.S. postage stamp commemorating 100 years of progress for women is available in poster form. The poster is printed in the original dark purple stamp color on white art paper and measures 19"x26". Offer includes a descriptive sheet with information about each of the three women: Lucretia Mott, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Available from The Open Book, 1025 Second Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah 84103. \$6.00 each or \$4.75 each if ordering five or more. Send payment with order.

For sale. One collection of antique vocabulary. Includes outmoded phrases such as girl, broad, chick, "nice legs, baby", mankind and many generic uses of "man". Special highlight, hand-lettered by chauvinists, is "Look at them jugs". Write c/o MFH.

### WANTED

Feminist doctor wanted to work part-time at a women's health center. Gynecologist preferred. Write Maine Feminist Health Project, Box 1, Bath 04530; or call 772-7673 in Portland or 567-3100 in Bucksport.

A small women's business wanted for storefront on Main St., Topsham. If interested call 729-4561 between 7-10 p.m. on Monday or Wednesday; 4-7 p.m. on Thursday; and 10-1 p.m. on Saturday.

### PUBLICATIONS

New discography of woman-made music. The 2nd edition of *My Sister's Song*, the most complete listing of recorded women's music in print (over 2,000 entries) is now available. It can be ordered for 75¢ plus 15¢ postage from Woman's Soul Publishing, Inc., PO Box 11646, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

The Southern Feminist Connection is a publication produced by southern women about southern women. Issues focus on rape, women in the textile industry, feminist activities in the South, etc. A subscription is \$2.00 for 6 issues or 40¢ per issue. Southern Feminist Connection, P.O. Box 5081, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103.

The Office of Women's Programs and Services at UMO publishes newsletters and notices by/for/about/of interest to women. To receive these mailings send \$1.00 to Linda Monko, Office of Women's Programs and Services, 201E Fernald Hall, UMO, Orono, 04473.

Femintern Press offers informative papers in English at reasonable prices (most about \$2.00) on women in Japan and China. Send \$1.00 for a descriptive pamphlet and price list to: Femintern Press, Box 5426, Tokyo International, Tokyo, Japan.

Group of bisexual feminists compiling anthology of articles, poetry, and graphics to increase understanding of bisexuality and feminism. Send your work to Anthology Collective, c/o Berkeley Women's Center, 2112 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

The Pregnant Patient's Bill of Rights. For a complimentary copy of this 16-point bill of rights send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Committee on Patient's Rights, Box 1900, New York, N.Y. 10001.

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## nettles

a column by Meg McMullen

Back go the buttons that dropped in December, repaired are the knees of my one pair of jeans, and re-stitched (if bunched) are the sweaters moths munched on all year. I am in the midst of a fall sewing binge. Early this week I dug out the coffee canister that serves as my sewing box and began bringing a large portion of my limited wardrobe back to a wearable state, making full use of the half-dozen basic thread colors, three favorite needles, and one of the finest collections of bent pins east of the Brownfield Bog.

About twice a year this compulsion hits me, and about twice a year I am reminded of the two sewing classes I was subjected to in school. The teachers were twins with a twenty-year age difference, I think. Both had noses pointed enough to open cans, both sported hairdos they had fallen for in 1945, both were small and quick. And both felt I should be entrusted with nothing sharper than perhaps a baseball bat.

In the junior high class, as I recall, we got to make aprons with pointsettia pockets, which no one with a shred of taste or sensibility would be caught with her pants down wearing. In the senior course we were to work ourselves up "an outfit". I got as far as a gravy-colored shirt (fetchingly flecked with white threads that looked like grains of rice), which fit just a little less well than a barrel-back chair cover.

My outstanding memory of the first sewing course was sitting around a heavy oak table in zits and peasant blouses and learning that Kathie's mother was pregnant. We exchanged expressions of shock (all our mothers, we were sure, were much too old for that sort of

thing) and sympathy (poor Kathie would surely spend many heavy-breathing high school dating nights stuck at home, baby-sitting). The highlight of the senior high class was sitting at another heavy oak table with my friend Rachael and softly singing "dirty" French-Canadian songs as we stitched away. I flunked that course. The failure had a good deal more to do with the seat-cover of a skirt I turned in for evaluation than with my singing talents.

Following that experience, I have limited my seamstressing to the button and three-cornered tear. I did go through a phase a few years ago of spending long evenings sewing up the "handles" on my underpants and securing little bra hooks with great, knotty clumps of thread which would painfully press against my princess-and-the-pea skin all the time I'd wear them. I soon found better ways to pass my evenings.

Nevertheless, twice a year I find myself poking the business end of a needle through fabric that feels as though it's lined with leather, and jabbing whatever fingers happen not to be actually holding the needle, and whooping little expressions of pain and surprise my mother never taught me.

The work gets done, and it looks pretty good--from the outside, anyway. The shirts and coats fasten up once more, the sweaters don't look so much like Goodwill rejects, I can now pull on my jeans and my foot goes all the way down the leg instead of popping out at the knee, and my hands will heal within a matter of weeks.

The procedure would send my old teachers spinning in their bobbins, but I stitch away regardless, buoyed by the knowledge that I'm not providing an anatomical display every time I scratch my head, that I'm making it as difficult as possible for coming cool drafts to caress assorted sensitive areas, and above all, that I won't have to do it all again till it's time to put away my snuggles.

## announcements

continued from page one

### N.O.W.

N.O.W. will hold its 8th National Conference in Philadelphia (City of Sisterly Love), October 24-27. The program will include workshops, a film festival, action on the ERA, elections, formulation of N.O.W. policy. Registration costs \$30 on arrival. Do not mail registration after October 10. Registration scholarships are available. Price of accommodations range from \$5 to \$60 per night. Write N.O.W. National Conference, PO Box 185, Philadelphia 19105.

\*\*\*\*\*  
"Alice Doesn't" on October 29 is a National Women's Strike Day sponsored by N.O.W. Alice (every-woman) will protest "the system" that ignores, oppresses, imprisons, and restricts her. How? By not spending any money, by not working, not volunteering, not parenting or babysitting, not supporting male egos. Alice instead, does for herself what pleases Alice. Join Alice on October 29. For more information contact Alice Doesn't, PO Box 6792, San Jose, CA 95150. (408) 733-8918.

### POSITIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Governor Longley's positive action committee will sponsor four workshops designed to acquaint women and minorities with community services such as job entry assistance, career planning, confidence building, Small Business Administration assistance, vocational and adult education programs, etc.

The workshops will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on October 4, at the gym in Biddeford High School; October 11 at the gym in Bangor High School; October 18 at the auditorium at Presque Isle High School; and October 25 in the Multi-Purpose Center in Lewiston. Day care facilities will be available.

### FEDERATION OF COOPERATIVES, INC.

For information about food-coops in your area contact the Federation at 623-1722 in Hallowell; Leon Bresloff in Temple at 778-3041; Sue Bradford in Burlington at 998-4580; or Carolyn Britt and Michael Schaff in Freeport at 865-3629. Join a food coop and save money! And put your money into a community operation instead of a big food chain store!

### GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

The Gay Community Center at 23 Franklin St., Bangor is closed. Write PO Box 110, Bangor, 04401 if you are a Northern Maine gay person interested in helping to reopen the Center or reviving the Gay Support and Action Group.



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### UNIVERSITY OF MAINE/ORONO

The Office of Women's Programs and Services at UMO will be sponsoring many activities including: teach-in on sexism, a women's health class, a birth control information lecture, consciousness raising groups, spirituality seminars, etc. For more information on these as well as other events contact Linda Monko, 201E Fernald Hall, UMO, 581-2586. Activities are not always limited to the academic community.

The office is sponsoring a forum called "Contemporary Perspectives on Rape". The program will include a film, speakers, discussion, and self-defense for women. Date is sometime in November. For information contact Linda Monko at number above.

The UMO Wilde-Stein Club, a gay organization for men and women, students, and community people, holds weekly meetings and maintains a drop-in center on the 2nd floor of Memorial Union, UMO campus. For more information call 581-2571.

### WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

The center's objectives are to inform Bangor area women about post-secondary educational opportunities and to lessen barriers and offer support services for those who wish to enroll. There is a file of information on women's issues and a library lending system.

The center will sponsor many activities this fall including a course on understanding the law, reading and discussion of short stories, lectures on International Women's Year, a course on consumer education. MOMMA, a group for single mothers, meets monthly at WRC, and child care is provided. WRC also sponsors the Women's Re-entry Education Program. WRC is located in Lewiston Hall, Texas Ave., Bangor Community College. Call Belinda Huston, co-ordinator, at 942-2092, for more information.

### WOMEN'S CONGRESS OF MAINE

The Maine Women's Political Caucus and Maine N.O.W. will meet together in Augusta on November 22 to discuss how to develop communication between the organizations. It was agreed at a summer meeting that the two organizations should try to avoid duplicating efforts and should try to work together. For more information contact Anne Pomroy at 289-3418.

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