

WHO
READS THE
MAINE
FREEWOMAN'S
HERALD?



ANSWER: Joanne Forman

Born - Chicago

Lived - Japan, Mississippi, Hong Kong, Thailand, California (Berkeley, L.A., Three Rivers), New Orleans, Washington, New Mexico, Florida, Hawaii and more...Moved to Biddeford, Maine 1974.

Occupation - Composer, playwright and puppeteer.

Description - (by daughter Rachel) Verbal, friendly, energetic and ambitious

Present project - Organized the New England Women's Book Fair with Beverly Karvonides, held July 2-3, 1976.

Last book read - Ravens Bruck by Germaine Tillion

Why does she read the MFH? - "To find out what's going on with Maine women."

STAFF

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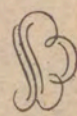


MAINE FREEWOMAN'S HERALD

vol. III issue 6 summer 1976

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the outhouse



Building any kind of shelter is a tactile, concrete act that helps you regain power within your environment and makes you less dependent on the technocratic society. It is as basic as growing your own food, and healing your own body. The importance, however, lies less in the end result than in the process of becoming able to build.

It is simply a matter of control. You learn to control the instruments that control the materials that control the space within which you move. This kind of assurance, that you can determine the form in your life, seeps into all the aspects of your consciousness, making the act of creation no less exciting than the knowledge that you have a roof over your head, or over your animals' heads or over your collective heads...whatever.

Of course, what you build depends on your needs and priorities, and perhaps your eccentricities. My land partner and I mulled over the choices we had in building and decided that an outhouse was a fine priority.

After all, we could sleep in a tent, and we as yet had no livestock that needed protection. We would build the privy large enough to store tools, and with that security be able to begin the house in mid-summer.

At the risk of scaring off future builders, I must warn that the simplest of ventures become complicated. My concept of an ideal outhouse, for instance, includes gargoyles, stained glass, a deck, skylight, bookcases, and a medium-sized art collection for the interior. I wintered over this year, sustained by visions of far eastern architecture, but when the crunch came in the spring we opted for a workable, if somewhat common, shed.

I did plan to use two frames, reminiscent of small gothic windows, and fill them with stained glass. I still plan to use the frames, donated by a bemused friend, but clear glass will have to suffice, and all ideas but the skylight and deck have vanished for the time being. It's clear that one usually has to simplify, but you rarely do until the physical act of building begins.

If you do choose to build an outhouse, the first consideration is site selection. This is clearly of prime importance, since improper placement can pollute not only your water, but in some cases public waters.

In general, the outhouse should be at least 250 feet from any public water supply, such as a lake, and at least 100 feet and downstream from your own water source. This isn't absolute. A lot depends on your land, its slope, soil type, and water tables.

You should also check on local regulations and building codes with the town clerk in your area. There may be restrictions on the minimum amount of land needed to build a privy. A good basic publication to read before you build anything on the land is "Building in the Wildlands of Maine" by Bruce Hendler. Available from the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission in Augusta, it provides clear illustrations and information on topography, soils, water systems, and site selection.

Hendler doesn't deal extensively with sewage disposal, but you can get a publication from the Maine Department of Health and Welfare called, "Private Sewage Disposal." Check with the Division of Sanitary Engineering in Augusta and have it sent to you. This will give you more complete material on outhouse building. And don't forget the resources that you have around you, the people who have lived in the country for sixty, seventy years or more. They'll tell you about building privys, and there's a good chance that you'll have made a new friend while you're gathering some information and local lore.

Once you've located the site -- and don't forget the importance of a view -- the next consideration is the hole. You can build a composting privy, usually a two-holer with one resting and one active side, or you can build a light, moveable structure that you can drag about as the hole fills up. Also, you can build any number of variations, and that's what I decided on.

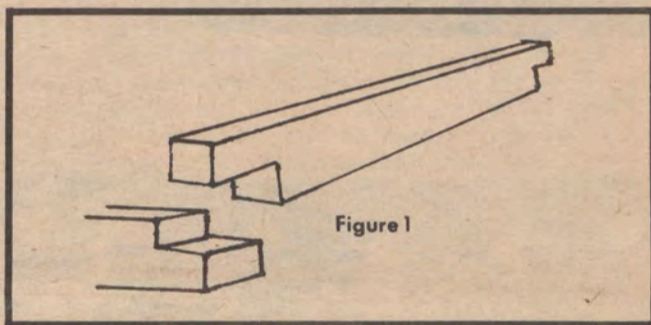
But back to the hole. You can be a purist and dig it. That's the ultimate split with technocracy. I wanted a big hole, however, and I found, after trying to dig two post holes for the house foundation, that rocks in coastal Maine were less than sympathetic to the cause. When I found out that my neighbor would backhoe a huge hole for fifteen dollars, I gleefully said, "do it."

Try to avoid clay soil. The first hole filled to the brim with water in two weeks. Fortunately nothing had been built over it, nor had it been christened, so I happily named it "Well," and proceeded to the next hole, which has turned out to be dry and quite nice. I decided on a large hole that could be cleaned out if necessary, but that could be pretty much permanent with proper care and frugal use.

With that out of the way, it was time to lay the foundation of the outhouse. It was decided that 8x8 feet was a fair size,

"A fine priority..."

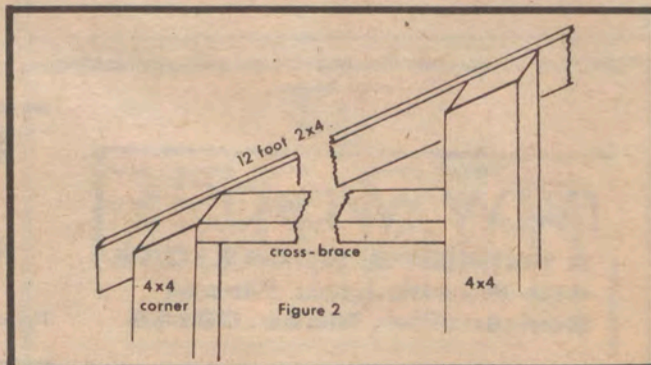
and I elected to make a heavy, solid base out of six-by-sixes. Railroad ties would be great if they're accessible. I know that "experienced" carpenters would say that the kind of base I built was unnecessary and clearly stupid. BUT...by notching it out on the ends, (see Figure 1) and joining each corner with lag screws, I created a foundation that was rigid, easily leveled with the flat rocks abundant on the site, and great to pound nails into. With this base, the beginning builder need not worry about making mistakes, or about splitting the wood when remedying a mistake.



From this point, it is easy to build anything you want on the foundation. Think about what you'd like, and then make a sketch. If you've never worked with wood before, visit a sawmill or lumber yard and see the shapes and sizes of lumber available, then try to figure out the structure yourself. Professionals can be helpful, but be careful they don't dictate to you.

Trust your own judgment (within reason) since with wood you can always tear it down and start over again if it doesn't work the first time. It's frustrating, but a good learning experience, especially if you're not working within a rigid time sequence.

Helen Garvy wrote a book called, "I Built Myself a House." Even though it deals with post and beam construction, the illustrations and tool explanations are good for the beginning builder and most of what she says applies to the "stick built" shed or outhouse, too. Plus it's cheap compared to most owner-built-house books -- only \$2.50.



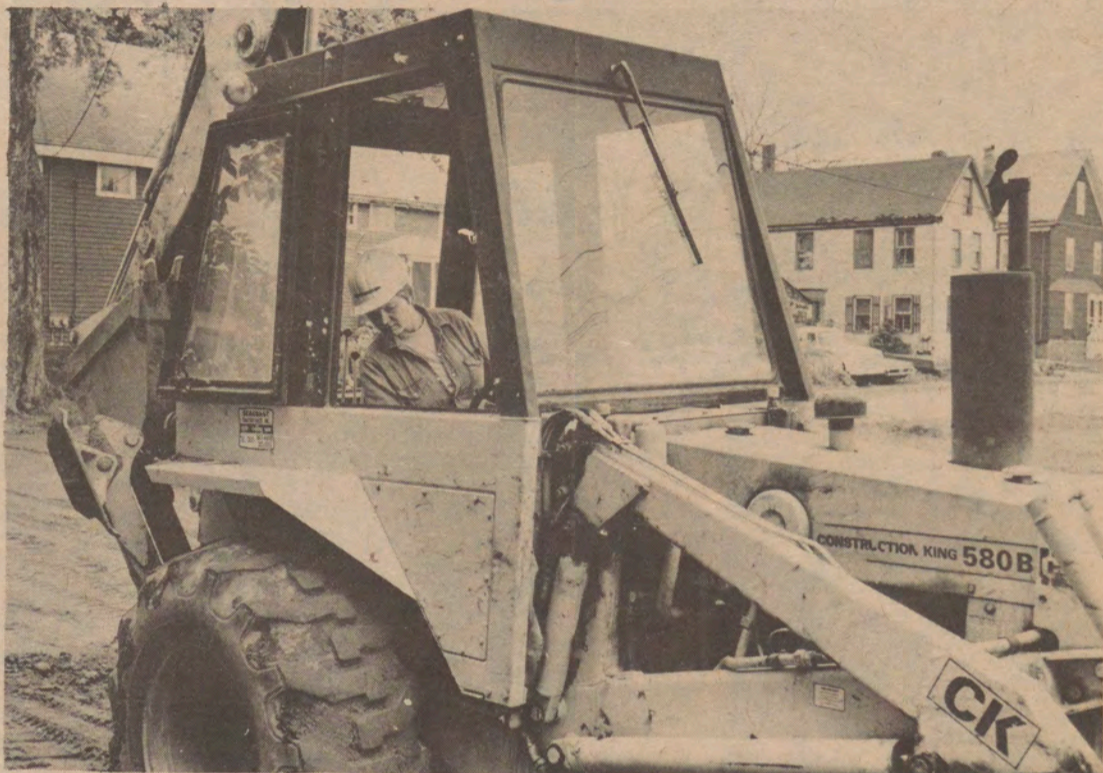
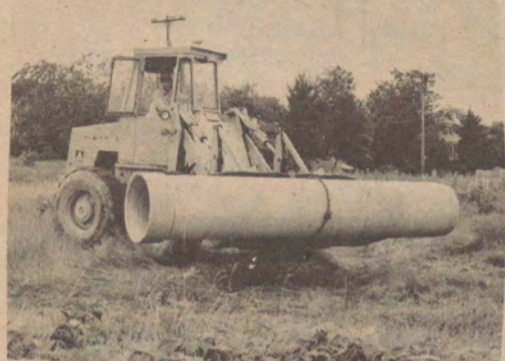
The most exciting time is when space is finally enclosed above the base of the building. I used 4x4's at each corner, and built one side at a time, cutting the tops of the 4x4's to match the angle of the shed roof, and nailed a 12-foot 2x4 to them. Then I braced it with a cross-piece (see Fig. 2) and raised it, using temporary braces at either end. It helps here to have another person working with you.

Continued on page 10



go ask allis

(WHEN SHE'S TEN FEET TALL)



It started a couple of years ago, it seems. You'd be driving past a road construction project and you'd notice -- with some mix of surprise and pleasure -- that the person with the flag was a woman. Well, you'd think, at least it's a step.

Now you can think again. Next time you drive by one of those projects, take a closer look. That front-end loader rumbling by may be being controlled by Lin Bluebird (upper left and small photo). Lin, one of eleven women trained this spring at a heavy equipment program in Virginia through CETA recruiting, affectionately refers to her Allis-Chalmers machine as "Allis."

You also might see Judy Hopfer (above), brushing a few tons of gravel out of the way, or Linda Cellamare (left), flattening roadbeds with aplomb, or any of the other women now working in one of the last bastions of the macho male.

And how do the women feel about their jobs? They pretty much agree they couldn't have gotten in without the special training -- they're aware, in varying degrees of personal politics, of the statements they are making with their work -- and Allis, with her sister machines, is breaking ground for a whole lot more than roads.

new words

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BENEFITS

BY BARBARA TOOTHPICK

Poems and Songs

Box 28 Pembroke, Maine 04666



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"A Very Difficult Lifestyle"

Whitehead Decision National News by Gerri Merola

On June 14, after three custody hearings in two states, Carol Whitehead was awarded custody of her children, Kelly, 10, and Anthony, 7, by Portland Superior Court.

Whitehead proved in court that she is a fit and good mother; psychiatric examinations of her children showed that they fit well within professionally acceptable standards of normal. Yet Danny Black, who Whitehead divorced in Georgia in 1971 - who allegedly made little attempt to visit his children since the divorce, owes over \$2,000 in child support payments, threatened Whitehead's life, abducted the children in violation of a court order, and traumatized them with lurid tales about their mother - came dangerously close to being granted custody of the children.

Several legal technicalities complicated the case, but the bottom line was this: Carol Whitehead is a Lesbian, and she admitted as much in court.

Whitehead and Jody Griffin, with whom she has lived since 1973, came to Maine last July from their home in Jacksonville, Florida, because they feared for their lives. With them were Carol's two children by Black and the 16-year-old child of her first marriage, Tammy Hatfield, as well as Jody's child, Corky, aged 3.

Black had allegedly made several threats and attempts on Whitehead and Griffin. Carol describes one such incident in August 1974, when she was recuperating from major surgery. Black began circling her house in his car, shouting threats and obscenities out the window. When the police declined to intervene, Carol felt forced to hire a private guard for protection.

On August 24, 1974, according to Whitehead, Black abducted Kelly and Tony as they played in their front yard. Once again the police could offer little assistance, merely filing missing persons reports on the children. Carol immediately headed for Black's home in Georgia, where she located him and the two children. Armed with a warrant, she was met by Black, his sister and brother-in-law with screams of "You filthy, creepy queer" while her horrified children watched.

Eventually Kelly and Tony were placed in temporary custody of Black's aunt and uncle, where the children claim they were subjected to nightmarish stories about their mother and Jody Griffin. In September 1974 Carol was granted temporary custody of her children pending an investigation into their home life by a Florida welfare agency.

By July 1975, assuming the investigation was completed and determined to escape Black's frightening shadow, Carol and Jody packed a van with their four children, animals, and as many belongings as would fit, and headed to Maine where Carol had long dreamed of living. Before long Carol was elected president of the Portland NOW chapter, was teaching a course in assertiveness training at the Portland YWCA, and had begun earning a fair living through a used furniture-antique business.

Life seemed to be going rather well until last April 28, when the Reiche School phoned to notify Carol that Danny Black, having located them through the Florida school system, had arrived with a Georgia court order demanding that Tony and Kelly be surrendered to him. Principal Richard McGarvey had consulted the school counsel, who advised the Georgia ruling might not be valid in Maine, and McGarvey had refused to release the children.

Whitehead immediately picked up her panic-stricken children. Six days later they were living in a farmhouse in North Berwick, having moved in the dead of night to thwart Black and the band of hired detectives who were apparently watching her Portland residence.

(Whitehead later learned that Black had secured the Georgia court order by serving notification papers on her former attorney in Florida. Although Carol had no contact with this attorney for almost a year, according to Georgia law the service was valid. Custody was awarded to Black on the basis of Whitehead's absence from court.)

By this time Whitehead and Black had both retained attorneys and were preparing for another court confrontation. Buoyed by the May 1 repeal of Maine's sodomy laws, Carol decided to acknowledge her Lesbianism in court. Her confidence was reinforced by retention of a fine Portland lawyer, Kim Matthews, of Maine's only all-women law firm, and by learning that her case would be heard by Maine Superior Court Justice Harry P. Glassman, respected for his relatively keen sense of justice.

Among those testifying at the hearing on Carol's behalf were Dr. Adair Heath, director of the Division of Child Psychiatry at the Maine Medical Center. Heath, appointed by the court to complete a psychiatric evaluation of Tony and Kelly, reported that the "home life appears stable and activities are as in any heterosexual home."

In response to pointed questions from Black's attorney, David C. Pomeroy, Heath stressed there is no evidence that the kinds of sexual relationships a child is exposed to will have an affect on the child's eventual sexual preference or identification. Heath cited the obvious fact that the majority of homosexual adults were raised by heterosexual parents.

Elaborating, Dr. Heath stated: "There is actually probably some validity to having had exposure [to a homosexual lifestyle]...you as a reasonable person can make a choice that suits you. That may be helpful to kids."

However, he later testified that if he could isolate the ingredients that would cause a child to lean toward homosexuality, "because of the added burden of someone growing up with a homosexual preference, I would try...to change, to retrain the child."

The second witness, Dr. Sophie Lowenstein, is a psychiatric social worker and associate professor of social work, associated with Harvard Extension Institute and Radcliff Institute Evening Adult Education Division. Dr. Lowenstein teaches a course in gender development, conducts a lecture series on Lesbianism, makes placements of children in Massachusetts foster homes, has worked in child guidance clinics and mental institutions.

Lowenstein offered a description of the necessary factors for good parenting: "loving care, a secure home, attention to physical needs, discipline, intellectual stimulation, guidance in morality."

"In my opinion," stated Lowenstein, "the ability to parent and the choice of a sexual partner are not related."

According to Lowenstein, "In the ideal nuclear family the parents should consist of a man and a woman. However, about one in five American children grow up in one-parent families and don't have two sexes as role models."

In her testimony, Carol Whitehead described her family's home life as "happy, caring, stable, long term...we spend a great deal of time with the children...and we try to make it quality time."

Although her oldest daughter, Tammy, understands the relationship between Carol and Jody, Kelly and Tony are not yet aware of it. Explained Whitehead: "I don't feel that at ages ten and seven they would be emotionally equipped...to understand the relationship."

Asked if she plans to encourage her children to choose a homosexual lifestyle, she replied, "I want my children to be themselves."

However, homosexuality is a very difficult lifestyle, filled with this kind of thing - having to defend who you are. I would not want them to go through that sort of thing."

Perhaps the most impressive witness was Tammy Hatfield, daughter of Whitehead's first marriage. Tammy, who first learned of her mother's relationship with Jody Griffin two years ago, exhibited a surprising wisdom and maturity for her 16 years. Articulate and perceptive, she dealt skillfully with attorney Pomeroy's obvious attempts to trap her into revealing what he felt might be tawdry details of life with a Lesbian mother.

Throughout the hearing, Pomeroy showed an interesting concern about the effect Carol's homosexuality might be having on her son, but displayed somewhat less interest in possible negative influences on the three female children in the home.

In view of the children's ages, Justice Glassman agreed it would not be in their best interests to testify in court, offering instead to see them informally in his chambers alone and off the record. He was concerned also that no counsel had been appointed to look after the interests of Tony and Kelly. "I don't care very much one way or the other about the father and mother," he declared. "I only care about the children."

Although the hearing obviously proved Carol a more than adequate mother, it ended on a serious note of uncertainty: Glassman was concerned about his authority to "go behind" the Georgia court order because it was technically valid and hence legally binding in Maine, in spite of the seemingly unfair and unethical means of serving notice on Whitehead.

After more than two weeks of anxious waiting, Carol first learned of her victory upon looking out her window to see her lawyer, Kim Matthews, running toward the front door carrying a bottle of champagne.

She hopes this episode will end her years of fear and near-escapes. But now her family is faced with \$1,550 in court costs and legal and witness fees. To date pleas for help have brought in very little money to defray these bills. Donations can be sent to the Carol Whitehead Legal Defense Fund, Box 4542, Portland, Maine 04112.

CELEBRATE!

To celebrate the 56th anniversary of Women's Suffrage, come to a day-long bash in Dresden on Saturday, August 28. The party, which begins at 2 pm, will feature a pot-luck supper (bring a goodie or two, and your own fork or chopsticks). For the address, phone 772-5875 (Portland) or 737-4949 (Dresden).

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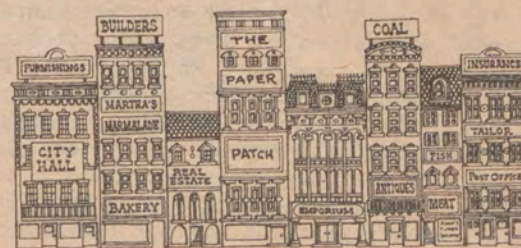
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GIRLS IN THE BANNED

"A loving satire of various stereotypes of Lesbians...the wallflower, child molester... seductress..." This advertisement in a Provincetown newspaper was apparently enough to stir the police to prevent a showing of Jan Oxenberg's film, "A Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts", in a local women's bar. The film has been widely shown to feminist audiences and has gained attention outside the Women's Movement, most notably by the American Film Institute, which awarded a grant to Oxenberg because of it. Oxenberg called the situation "ironic and insulting that this...women-loving film could be [called] obscene or pornographic - as [are] films that routinely degrade women."

Oxenberg expressed disappointment over the film's cancellation "because I've been wanting to show my film in bars [to] reach women who don't...relate to the Women's Movement...who have felt excluded because they're working class, third world, so-called 'old gay' and so on...Women in the bar culture...have been directly affected by the stereotyping of Lesbians."

When finally the Provincetown police viewed the film, they found no grounds for banning it.

RIGHT ON, SISTER

"I had all of this I could take," said Sister St. Ursula, explaining why she took over where the police left off in tracking down the man who was beating her charges, 12 to 18 year old residents of a Philadelphia "home for unwed mothers". The nun's investigation turned up the assailant, against whom she immediately filed a formal complaint.

SEX DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL

A law suit filed by the Maine Human Rights Commission charges Bangor school officials with sex discrimination in hiring practices, after attempts to negotiate a settlement failed. The case is one of more than a dozen now in the courts against school boards in Maine. Maternity leave and disparity in salaries are also typical of the disputes.

The suit filed in Bangor deals with a 1975 complaint by Sylvia Smith, a teacher who was allegedly denied employment as a junior high school assistant principle in favor of a male applicant.

INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY

After eight months of imprisonment for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury allegedly investigating the deaths of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Joanna Le Deaux was released on May 21 by order of the Justice Department. Referring to a petition drive, letter-writing campaign and action by the ACLU, her attorney ventured that public pressure may have had a direct influence on her release. On May 16, Le Deaux gave birth and won the right to keep her child with her in her cell. In February, Joanna, one of many Native Americans to be dealt with similarly by the government, stated: "I will never allow myself to be used as a tool of United States repression against Indian people...I will continue to fight for Indian sovereignty and self-determination."

KLOT-KLOT, FIZZ-FIZZ

A "once-a-year" birth control "pill" has been tested on 6,000 West German women. Manufactured by Germany's pharmaceutical firm Chemic Gruenanthal, the pill is supposedly as effective as those ingested daily. The "pill", actually a thin tube approximately one and one-half inches long, contains the hormone progesterone and is implanted in the womb. The cost in Germany is \$25. Most previous research shows that birth control pills containing progesterone are not as effective as those which also contain estrogen. To date, the side effects of the "once-a-year" pill are even more unknown than of the "once-a-day" pill.

BOURGEOISIE BREAK

Middle-class and wealthy women who keep house may soon see a monetary value put on their work by Congress. Senator William V. Roth, Jr. (R-Del.) has introduced a bill to extend the new Individual Retirement Account (IRA) concept to women who keep house for husbands. Under the proposed legislation, a spouse can pay into a retirement account for the other spouse, investing tax-free up to 15% of earned income, to a maximum of \$1500 per year. Roth will attempt to include this proposed legislation in major tax reform legislation currently being worked on by the Senate Finance Committee. Persons interested in supporting this legislation can write their senators and representatives in Washington.

ABORTION RIGHTS- THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The all-male Supreme Court was again called on to rule on the right of women to abortions. This time the affected women were unmarried minors and married women, who the Supreme Court fortunately ruled do not need the consent of their parents or husbands to end a pregnancy.

A PLEA FOR HELP

A father has allegedly kidnapped his two preschool children as a gesture of retribution toward a wife who said she no longer loved him. The three have been roaming the country since March 6. Their mother has issued a plea to feminists for information on the whereabouts of her children. Elias Howell, aged 4, is described as short, slim and very fair, with a "haystack shock of pinky-blond hair". Aaron Howell, aged 5, is slim and very fair, with straight brown hair. His right arm was amputated below the elbow. Their father, A. E. (Erv or Ervin) Howell, is 6'11", with thinning, greying, sandy hair and rimless glasses. Formerly an orthopedic surgeon licensed in Massachusetts, Maine and Minnesota, he may try to practice medicine again. According to reports, the three have been traveling by automobile (Vermont license GU 929) and staying in motels. Please do not confront the father, for he is reportedly sometimes irrational and suspicious. If you have information please phone collect immediately to 207-363-2807.

BLACK SISTERS UNITE

Hoping to disprove the criticism that the Women's Movement is comprised of white, middle-class women, the recently formed National Alliance of Black Feminists, "the only organization of its kind," held a press conference to announce their philosophy and activities. They stated, "We are neither bra burners, man-haters, white-feminist mimickers, Black-race separatists...We are humanists and catalysts for change...autonomous, assertive, self-directing, and free-thinking. And we are Black-female identified."

CHILD CARE BILL VETOED

Congress has failed to override President Ford's veto of the latest child care bill, which would have provided \$125 million to finance improvements of federally aided day care centers necessitated by year-old program standards. The Department of Health and Welfare will now cut off the Federal funds from centers not meeting the new standards. Ford vetoed the legislation because he believes states should set their own standards for federally aided programs. Even a paper as conservative as The New York Times termed Ford's veto his "least comprehensible" since the cost in terms of welfare payments and lost taxes of mothers who must leave jobs will come to some three times the amount which would have been appropriated by the legislation.

BETTY, BETTER TALK TO YOUR BOY

Gerald Ford, "irritated" by an Office for Civil Rights decision that banned discriminating father-son, mother-daughter events in schools receiving federal aid, ordered the ruling suspended pending further research on whether the practice violates Title IX of the Civil Rights Act. Press Secretary Ron Nessen explained Ford's move by saying, "This is counter to the kind of traditional American values that he believes in...[Some] bureaucrat at H&W ought not to be handing down these rulings interfering with family-oriented, traditional American events."

RAPIST RETRIBUTION

A Seattle, Washington judge is doing his bit to "raise the consciousness" of rapists. Along with their jail sentences, Judge Donald Horowitz is attempting to make rapists aware that their offenses are "political acts against women and a product of institutionalized sexism," by sentencing rapists to contribute money to Rape Relief, an organization which aids rape victims.

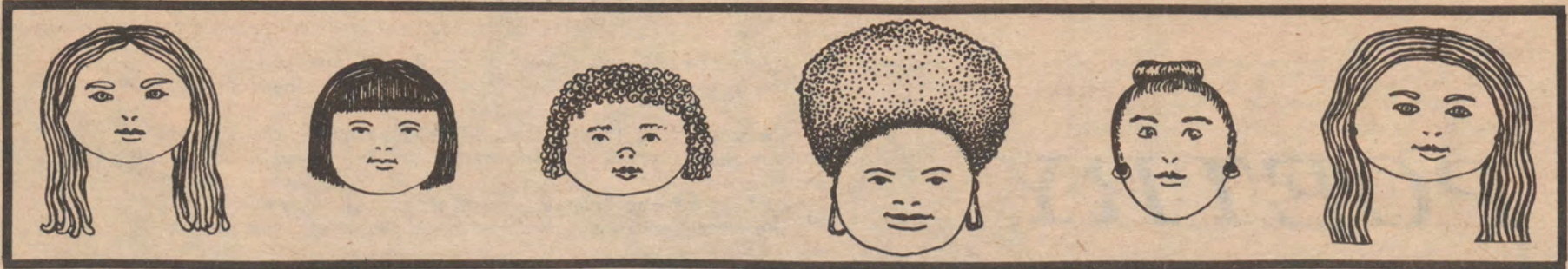
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HAIR...long, flowing, silky, short, curly, cottony

We have gloried in our hair. Hair feeling like feathers to be ruffled in the wind, a frame to provide boundaries for our faces, flung forward to veil our expressions, or pulled back to accentuate them.

Woman and her hair, a subject for stories and poems...black tresses, golden curls.

But of course there is more hair than that on our heads. The unaccepted hair all over the rest of our bodies. The hair on women which encounters opposition. The scars left on legs by razors attest to more than a few lost battles with societal expectations.

Women's body hair is not one of our treasured attributes. So we scrape it off with pieces of metal, pull it out with tweezers or hot wax, burn it with bleach.

The hair which surrounds the mouth, makes a trail downward from the navel, spreads down the thighs, haloes the breasts, cushions the underarms, sensitizes the legs to the arrival of an insect or the touch of a lover's hand.

Let the rest of the body be joined in paean to hair.

by Serine Steakley



photos by Sandy Johnson
graphics by Ellen Sitkin



One woman recalls walking along the streets of Amsterdam, Netherlands, with her legs bare and covered with their anatomically correct if not socially acceptable growth of hair. She was being followed in the sidewalk crush by two caricatures of American men who, evidently believing she could not speak English or was deaf, began making rude remarks of the general repulsiveness of legs covered with hair. With sudden glee if not notable wit, she swirled around and exclaimed, "Fuck you!" Her delight was increased when one of them stumbled in his astonishment.

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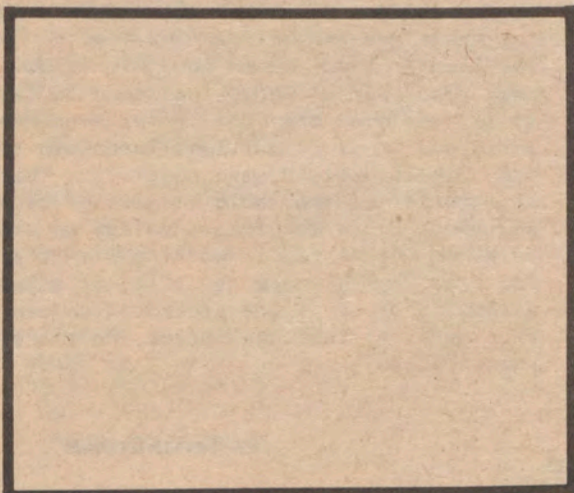
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HEALTH NOTES

by

The Maine Feminist Health Project

A HISTORY:

We began innocently enough; just five or six women who wanted to know more about our own bodies.

We'd all been energized by a self help slide show presentation put on by the Women's Community Health Center of Cambridge. We were all coming from very different places, and our politics varied greatly. But we were brought together by a common desire to know more about ourselves; to reclaim our bodies. Some of us wanted to start a clinic, some of us didn't; but we all agreed that whatever our final goals, the place to start was learning about our bodies.

And so we began what was to become the Maine Feminist Health Project. But first came many hours of talking and touching and looking at our own bodies and those of the other women in the group. This was the first time that many of us had seen another woman's genitals, and the first time that we'd ever *really* looked at our own! We were struck by the variety of sizes and shapes and color of labium and clitorises. We were none of us the same and yet, somehow, we were all the same.

After several months as a study group, several of us began attending conferences to see what other women were doing and to learn as much as we could. We brought back our knowledge to the group, and shared with them as much as we could, relating techniques as well as ideas that we hadn't explored before.

We soon felt the need to branch out, to find a way to reach other women and to share with them what we had learned. We also began to investigate what was really happening to women when they sought health care in the state of Maine. We soon discovered that we could only get answers from the women themselves. Doctors, hospitals, and clinics were fairly unwilling to lift even a corner of the shroud of mystery that cloaked their operations.

It was at this point that we decided to get a copy of the self help slides that had brought us together, and to prepare a presentation of our own. We wanted to share what little we knew with every woman who would listen.

We spent many hours preparing our slide show presentation, which we are continually updating. We were nervous at first about speaking in front of a group of strange women, but determined to go ahead. We are still a little nervous before a presentation, but gradually our nervousness has been tempered by memories of many past successes.

As we met more and more women and shared our experiences with the medical establishment in Maine, we became convinced that the only way to get the kind of health care we wanted was to open our own clinic - one that would be woman owned and woman controlled. We began to attract new members from all over the state and to develop relationships with other woman run health facilities. Our dreams grew bigger and more explicit. We were on our way.

Everywhere we went, women cheered us on. A woman's health center was part of every woman's dream, or so it seemed. There was a constant flow of energy from outside to sustain us in our struggle. We worked hard, all the time learning about ourselves and our bodies. New members seemed as enthusiastic as we were, and we were glad to have them.

But a lot of hard work was ahead of us. We needed to be sure where we stood politically, and to ascertain the amount of money necessary to begin and continue operating. We needed to raise that money. At the same time, we wanted to continue our information sharing and to maintain our doctor book, which is a listing of women's comments on doctors they have encountered. (The book was started by the Brunswick Women's Center.) Some of us were also eager to begin abortion counseling and referrals.

It became obvious that we needed more women. We also were suffering from a distance problem. Being spread out across the state was advantageous for making contacts and reaching women, but made it difficult for us to function as a group. Traveling an hour and a half to a meeting once a week was draining, especially during a Maine winter. It demanded a larger commitment to the group and its goals.

Time was also a factor. Many hundreds of woman hours were (and are) needed before we could open and sustain a clinic. The project was demanding a significant part of our lives, and many of us were overwhelmed. We had other priorities, too - houses to build/winterize/maintain; vehicles that were suffering from too many hours on the road and too few under the hood; personal lives that were already being encroached upon far too much by far too many people and things. Yet we all felt guilty for not doing more work than we were.

As time went by, less and less energy seemed to be going into the Project. When we talked about it later, people said that the enormity of the task paralyzed them. Yet it was never presented as anything easy. New women came and went, usually with no explanation. Some said we were too committed for them; some said they didn't have enough time and would feel bad giving less than was needed. If all those women had given what little time they could, the center would probably be open now.

It was frustrating to us that everyone thought what we were doing was great, and everyone was really eager to see us open our doors; but yet, it was so difficult to get people to commit themselves and to make that commitment a priority in their lives. We can only succeed when that happens.

There were other problems, too. We had political differences which were magnified by our ineptness in talking about them. We had money problems - who was to get what and how did paid people differ from non-paid people? Money being everyone's hang-up, we were never able to discuss it comfortably and to everyone's satisfaction.

There was also the question of where to get money: government grants, institutions, foundations, the feminist community, etc. That is part of an overall political perspective, yet, like so many other political issues, we never fully discussed it.

It wasn't that we didn't spend time trying to talk about difficult issues. We did, but never worked out a means for working through areas of disagreement and political conflict. Often meetings ended with no decisions having been made one way or the other. This slowed up our progress as we kept trying to move ahead without resolving current questions.

In addition to these problems, we were hampered by having set up goals which were just too massive. Rather than taking things a step at a time, we reviewed the whole picture and tried to do it all at once, then found ourselves faced with a task so large that it lay upon us like a threatening cloud. It served as a continual source of discouragement for us as well as intimidating new women in the group.

At present, we are in a state of flux. We made a decision to each work in our own areas instead of meeting centrally, at a pace that suits our time, energy, and desire to work. Our educational goals are best pursued in this manner. We are doing this in the form of slide show presentations, workshops, and panel discussions.

Unfortunately, the dream of a clinic is suffering. In order for it to become a reality, we need a solid base of women for whom the health center will be a priority. We are looking for those women now. It is not an easy road that we're asking women to take, but it is a crucial one. All of us need health care, and it is in our best interests to get the highest quality care possible. That kind of care is not available to most of us now, and won't be in the future unless we create it.

Women interested in working with the Health Project, knowing more about it, or arranging a showing of the slide presentation can contact us at 23 Sheridan Street, Portland, or phone 772-7673.

by Rockie Graham

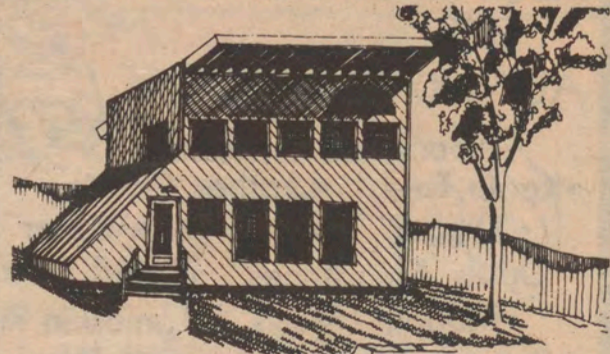
whatever happened to S-1?

MEN'S RESOURCE CENTER OF PORTLAND

The Men's Resource Center of Portland is in the process of organizing. This center will deal with issues such as: traditional masculine roles, self-concept, oppression, sexuality, friendship, as well as other pertinent issues. It will also serve as a resource center of related materials. All interested men are invited to attend the meetings held Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Building at 109 Middle St. in Portland.



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THE RISE OF ANDROGYNY

by Lynn Salisbury

COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS: MAINE WOMEN ON ANDROGYNY

The term androgyny has been considered by many and then discarded for its numerous negative connotations. Substitutions have been used in representing the concept androgyny expresses - humanness, personhood, integrity - but none have been used universally nor consistently. So, for lack of a more appropriate term we will stick with the word androgyny, meaning the unitization of those characteristics considered to be masculine and those considered to be feminine, within one individual. Masculine/feminine behavior manifestations are imposed upon the genders, and perhaps the adopting of androgynous lifestyles will cease the growth of such "pseudo-organic connotations". [See "The Illusion of Androgyny", *Quest*, Vol. 11, No. 1]

Androgyny is used in reference to meta-physical characteristics. An androgynous person may be both strong and weak, sensitive and self-assured, dependent and independent, gentle and firm, etc. However, it is possible that physical appearances may reveal the existence of androgynous lifestyles. Mary Daly suggests that the mention of the word androgyny conjures up visions of a combination of "John Wayne and Bridget Bardot". Perhaps the physical appearance of an androgynous person can be more closely associated with the image of Mick Jagger, Patti Smith, David Bowie, Johnny Winter and Suzi Quatro. The popularity of the unisex look may also be attributed to the rise of an androgynous culture.

Ellen Sparks: Androgyny promotes a lifestyle that is conducive to expressing natural tendencies. Certain aspects of one's character will not be oppressed. Androgynous personalities are a necessity for working class women.

Jane Goodridge: I see androgyny as capitalizing on the best of both masculine and feminine characteristics. Androgyny introduces new roles with no rules, because they are new. Women are more prone to adopt androgyny because they have been subjective for generations. As women we have been deceived into believing that characteristics such as strength are masculine, but they are actually androgynous. An androgynous person is an unlimited, whole person.

Pam Chalfant: Androgyny is just another word for human, so why use it? It's impossible to grow up androgynous. It will take a revolution to create an androgynous culture...now, there is too much male influence over our government and institutions. I dislike the word androgyny because of its male identification...I consider myself a woman-identified woman.

Annie Schneiderman: As an individual I feel I would be limiting myself by not acknowledging my "male" characteristics such as independence and assertiveness...desertion of the typical feminine image has an androgynous effect. Androgyny is conducive to bisexuality and can eliminate some of the anxieties and oppression of homosexuality. Androgyny is particularly important for children, for it may remove pressure to assume certain personality traits and repress others because of their gender.

Mary Lou Handley: Androgyny is essential in eliminating patriarchy.

Maida St. John: Androgyny is neither conforming to the stereotypical roles of the sexes with the exclusion of behavior associated with the opposite sex; nor is it assuming butch/femme roles, simulating the opposite sex without regard to one's own gender; nor is it a "third sex". Androgyny is a conceptual commitment to end patriarchy and male privilege. An androgynous society can be linked with a non-patriarchal society, a socialist society, a society supporting freedom to develop in many ways, none of which are based on the exploitation of one group of people by another.

The "Herald" is interested in hearing from you about topics you'd like to see discussed in this column, or with your responses to this topic. In the future, we'll be featuring letters from our readers in hopes that we can promote some lively exchange that it's currently popular to refer to as "meaningful dialog." We'd appreciate hearing from you. -- The Eds.

SEEKING SUBMISSIONS -- Chomo-Uri is planning a special fall/winter issue on Women and Mental Health as Seen Through the Arts. They are seeking submissions of poetry, drama, b/w graphics and photos, essays, and reviews of films and books. They are interested in all perspectives on the subject, and hope to see the arts used as an educational tool for mental health. Deadline Sept. 15. Please submit material with SASE to: Chomo-Uri, 506 Goodell Hall, UMass, Amherst, Mass. 01002.

"A CLASSIC REDISCOVERED" -- Jane Wilkins Pultz, of Press Pacifica in Kailua, Hawaii, has issued the press's first publication, "Loom and Spindle, or Life Among the Early Mill Girls" by Harriet H. Robinson, written during the 1835-1848. For a brochure about this long out of print book, or to order it (\$4.50 softbound, \$7.95 hardbound) write Press Pacifica, PO Box 47, Kailua, Hawaii 96734.

NEW IRIS CATALOG -- A new catalog of Iris Films is available for 50¢ from Iris Films, PO Box 26463, Los Angeles, Calif. 90026.

LOOKING FOR PLAYS -- A group of women who have performed together over the past two years in Amherst, Mass., are looking for original plays by women for potential performance. Please include a self-addressed stamped return envelope with your work and mail to: Annette Townley, 506 Goodell Hall, University of Mass., Amherst, MA. 01002.



THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN IN TRANSITION and co-sponsors announce a Second Annual Conference, "The Mature Woman in Transition," September 22-24, in Manchester, New Hampshire. Write to The Institute, 5 Market Street, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801 for a complete registration packet.

ARCHITECTS -- The Women's School of Planning and Architecture will hold its second two-week session in August. Cost, including room, board and tuition is \$415. For further information send a self-addressed stamped envelope (24 cents) to: Women's School of Planning and Architecture, Spring Lane, Farmington, Conn. 06032. Financial assistance is available.

MUSIC FESTIVAL -- A weekend of dynamic women's music will be held August 20, 21, 22 at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Scheduled performers include Margie Adams, Meg Christian, Ginni Clemens, New Harmony Sisterhood Band, BeBe K'Roche, Willie Tyson, Teresa Trull, Andrea Weltman and Holly Near. The festival will be held on a 120-acre site, and pitch-in vegetarian meals will be provided. Tickets/maps/schedule will be sent in return for money order and self-addressed stamped envelope. By mail, tickets for the weekend are \$15, children 6-13 half-price, children under 5 free. Write: We-Want-The-Music-Collective, 1501 Lyons Street, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, 48858.

FEMINIST BOOK OF LIGHTS AND SHADOWS by Z. Budapest (now in second printing) contains sections on: the politics of women's spirituality, herbs, tools of the craft, Tarot divination, sabbats, and spells. Order from the Feminist Wicca, 442 Lincoln Blvd., Venice, Calif. 90291. \$5 plus 50¢ handling.

WRITERS -- The Women's Writer's Center, Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY 13035, begins second full year Sept. 12, 1976. Visiting faculty: Sally Daniels, Denise Levertov, Audre Lorde, Kate Millett, Robin Morgan.

THE WOMEN'S CENTER OF PORTLAND needs your support and involvement. We need input, ideas, office supplies, feminist literature, etc. We need to EXPAND. Can you help us? Come to a coordinators' meeting any Monday evening at 7:30 (ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!) or give us a call at 774-6071.

Also, we are in the process of planning a weekend conference for women in the fall. We want to have workshops, seminars, a concert, and possibly a film or multi-media production. If you have any ideas on types of workshops you would like to see (health care, woodworking, car maintenance -- topics like that) we would appreciate your input. Also, please let us know if you would be interested in leading a workshop. Any questions or comments may be directed to the Women's Center, 193 Middle Street, Portland, 774-6071 (evenings Mon-Thurs).

PHOTOGRAPHY by *cheryl greany*
 photography exhibit
 also DRAWINGS & PRINTS by *diane desjardins*
 SEPT 5-17, 9am 4:30pm
 OPENING SEPT 4th, 7-9pm PUBLIC WELCOME
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I think I'm beginning to get a tighter grip on why I shall never be a gardener. There are four major categories - one for each finger and the thumb I'm leaving alone in hopes it will slowly turn green. The finalists are: Miss Sun, Miss Slow Death, Miss Stooping Over, and Miss Slug.

Miss Sun. Look at several tanning lotion ads. They show you bronzed blondes, and assorted coppery brunettes. They do not hire red-haired models for this work. Redheads are kept busy posing for the photos where shooting burn pains are depicted as little red bolts of lightning. These are women of the fair skinned persuasion, of which I am a member in good second-degree standing.

Working in the garden means working in the sun. Working in the sun represents, to me, the potential to someday have my forearm featured in a medical journal as the Burnie of the Month centerfold. I always think of Ann (who seems to have said or done something I can use for every topic) who first of all describes herself as looking like a nurse on the beach, and who secondly was sunbathing in Golden Gate Park one day, dozing, when she felt a presence. She opened one eye to find herself staring into the grapeworn visage of a wino, who, after several silent moments of weaving and focusing, said, "I have never seen any skin that white," and wove off.

Anyway, so much for the sun. Then there's Slow Death. Slow Death has to do with taking three hours of infra-red ray barrage putting in just the right amount of fertilizer, exactly the proportion of lime, breaking little worm-filled clods of dirt apart with my lily-white hands, carefully setting the adolescent tomato plants in their little homes - and coming back two days later to find that the little homes are fast becoming little graves. That's my friend Miss Slow Death, doing her thing.

Not to steal the thunder from Miss Stooping Over. There is a different variety of pain here. It too could be - and sometimes is - shown in the ads as little red bolts of lightning. It is frequently shown, however, as chains being tightened around various body members. I think this is a pretty good illustration of what happens to me the day after I've spent eight hours squatting and stooping around the little graves I build for my plants. Chains squeezing the living bejeezus out of all the muscles in the backside of my body. I do try to convince myself that if it hurts it must be good exercise, but there is something perversely Puritanical about that line of thought I have never been able to feel good about hurting, spleeny thing that I am.

And if all that don't saute your hind-quarters, come on out to our Slug Ranch and slide the range with me, buckaroo. Why slugs have never been used in those Grade D horror movies where they magnify other, perfectly nice things like Praying Mantises several thousand times and film them demolishing quarter-inch high scale models of Poughkeepsie is beyond me. A slug, in my esteemed opinion, would not have to be magnified several thousand times to make my flesh crawl. It is just perfect the way it is. And the way it is at my house is by the thousands. I have never lived in any other

portion of the state where the slugs were so thick and bold, and I would no more consider lying out on my lawn to look at the stars than I would napping on the center strip of I-95.

And these slugs love my garden with a passion I wish I could find depths for in myself. I am at the point where I have made an agreement, with myself if not with them, that if they're in my garden I am somewhere else. Like on a cake of salt. A hot cake of salt.

Put them all together, they spell - well, I don't know what they spell, but I know what they mean. And that is, the only way in hell I'm going to get my allotment of leafy greens, legumes, tubers and roots is to trip on down to the nearest roadside stand and buy them.

Should I pick you up on the way?

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS

A statewide Lesbian organization, emerging from a workshop at the Maine Gay Symposium in April, has continued to grow through the summer. Present estimates of the number of women active in the group stand at 75 to 100.

Based on a community structure, statewide meetings are planned for approximately every two months. Local meetings are held with whatever frequency suits each group. Each local group is also free to center activities around its own interests, which range from social meals and parties to political study groups, to hopes of establishing a coffee house. Among other goals, the organization hopes to provide a means by which Lesbians of all ages and shades of lavender can get to know each other.

On July 6, representatives from the five area chapters met in Augusta for a day of workshops, defining group purposes and socializing. The 30 women who attended selected the group's name - Maine Lesbian Feminists - and participated in discussions on Lesbians and children, Lesbian values and attitudes, analysis of support and setting up a communications network and speakers bureau.

The next state meeting - open to all Lesbians whether or not they have been attending local group meetings - will be held in Kennebunk on August 8. Any woman interested in attending may contact one of the local chapters for more information. In Portland, call Susan Breeding at 774-8479; in the Bangor area, Diane Elze at 581-2587 (days) or 827-7542 (evenings); in Augusta, phone 582-4756.

CLASSIFIED ANNEX

I have been living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for 20 months. I moved here from the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. I have been working as a laborer and a bus driver with the goal of saving money and returning to New England to buy land. I would like to make contacts with women in Vermont or Maine with the purpose of sharing ideas and information about land availability and prices, women's communities and collectives. Also, my daughter and I will be taking a trip to the New England area in the beginning of October and would like to visit with women on their homesteads. --- Ashley Conway, 1007 Berkshire, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTOR

Qualifications: Knowledge of skills that would be used in building maintenance -- plumbing, carpentry, electrical, etc. Experience necessary. Education beyond high school desirable but not necessary. Send resume by August 16 to:

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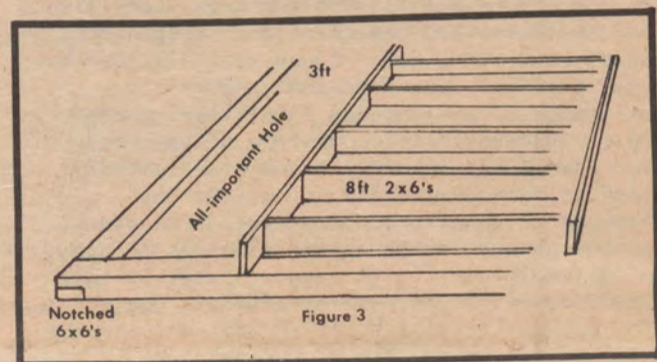
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more OUTHOUSE



For this type of structure, you just repeat on the other side, and then add the connecting pieces across the front and back in places where it needs the most support. Learn how to use a level and a square and keep checking the corner and cross pieces. You'll be surprised to see how you can level things with a simple hit here and there.

After the sides were up and joined across the front and back, I built the floor with 2x6's as supports (see Fig. 3). I left three feet from the back for the opening to the hole, and nailed a 2x6 across the base. I then used five 8-foot 2x6's, extending them past the front of the outhouse, and joined them to the 2x6 I had nailed across the base.



Thus, you have your complete frame. Using 2x4's, you can add frames for doors and windows wherever you please, and then cover the building with any material you like. I'm using 1x6 pine tongue-and-groove on a diagonal, but plywood or any of the new sidings can be out on a lot quicker.

For the floor, a fairly thick square-edge board is good, and there are any number of personal choices you can make about fancy doors and interior design. The interior bench (where the holes/toilet seats will go) should be a comfortable height, maybe 15 or 16 inches.

The interior should be tight in order to avoid insects and, god forbid, smells. Speaking of smells, they should be nearly non-existent with the use of lime regularly. Someone mentioned shavings, and though any type of wood shavings would be good, cedar seems to be an obvious choice for its aromatic character. Just leave some there in a box, to be scattered after each use.

In retrospect, it seems to be important to ruminate frequently, staring at the structure you have created, deciding where to go from there. I had never made a building of any type before, and the most important revelation that came from this experience was that I could not only build a larger, perfectly comfortable living space, but that time was set in a different perspective.

I haven't finished the outhouse yet, but I know that while I do finish it I'll be able to rid myself of unreasonable time constraints and look at wood textures, placing them carefully so they will please me, without forcing myself into a rushed, plastic-fantastic environment that I'm trying to escape by moving to the country. I know I'm going to like the outhouse, and I know I'm going to like myself.

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CLASSIFIEDS

WOMEN INTERESTED IN MUSIC, I play drums, guitar and other instruments. For practice or to form a women's band, call 729-4253.

UNDERDOG: The All-American mutt. Healthy, intelligent, lab-retriever pup (female). Very affectionate, needs a home desperately, with place to run. Call 725-4236 after 6pm, or write Box 202, Brunswick 04011.

A FRIEND AND I are planning to come up to Maine in August and we would like to camp on women's land if possible. Do you know of any places set up for that purpose? We camped at Women's Ways in the Berkshires -- 10 acres owned by three women and opened up to women needing a camping space and retreat. It was a wonderful experience and I thought perhaps there was something similar in Maine. If so, please write Anita Jones, 107 North St., Northampton, Mass. 01060.

INSPIRATIONAL POSTER: "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for I am the meanest Bitch in the valley." \$2 each from Fighting Woman News, 9 E. 48th St., NY, NY 10017.

THE MAINE ISSUE, a new statewide paper for working people, is looking for writers, artists, photographers, local reporters and distributors. All are volunteer, but a commission can be arranged for distributors. If you would like to help, write Maine Issue, Box 433, Portland, Me. 04112.

LARGE APARTMENT IN HARRISON -- 2 to 4 people wanted at \$75 a share, plus utilities. Fall occupancy. Bernadette McKnight, Box 212, Harrison, Me. 04040.

WORKJOBWORKJOBWORKJOBWORKJOBWORKJOBWORK

MAIN LINE FENCE has been attempting to locate minority workers all year. Thus far we have been completely unsuccessful. We have several large guard rail jobs to complete later this summer and fall, and without doubt we will need to hire more people. Installing guard rails is a relatively simple task, but a very strenuous one. The starting pay is \$2.65 per hour and time and a half after 40 hours. We average a 50 hour week. The jobs are located in Scarborough and South Berwick.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in this kind of work, we would be most anxious to talk with them. Maine Line Fence is an "Equal Opportunity Employer."

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WARNING TO WOMEN in the Portland area. A man with blond curly hair driving a gold '75 Chevy -- stops women on the pretense of asking directions and then exposes himself. If it happens to you, get the license number and report to police.

SMALL SPACE NEEDED for a feminist publications outlet (and albums). Need rent-free, maybe in exchange for renovations. Will consider other arrangements. Portland central location ideal. 722-0706.

MORE (FREE) SPACE NEEDED for showing films and holding fund-raising events. Write Eve's Co-op, 22 Pine St., Portland 04102.

CRISIS HELP FOR LESBIANS: Phone Maine Gay Task Force 773-5530, Susan and Deborah at 774-8479, or Wendy at 772-9029 -- or feminist counsellor Marjorie Meyer at 985-7598.

MEDICAL HIGHS AND LOWS WANTED: The Maine Feminist Health Project has a Doctor's Book with comments by women about doctors they have gone to. They'd like to add your experiences (good and bad) with doctors in Maine. Or, if you'd like to see what's been written about a doctor you're scheduled to see, write MFHP, 23 Sheridan Street, Portland, Maine 04101.

UMPG STUDENT, FEMINIST, 26, seeks other women interested in communal living situation in Portland. Beginning September. Contact Julie Gies, Surry, Me. 04684.

MATURE WOMAN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT in insurance industry -- as merchandiser or sales rep. Available immediately, desires Portland to Lewiston area. Bernadette McKnight, Box 212, Harrison, Me. 04040.

LAND TRUSTS FOR WOMEN: In an effort to give women control over their own destinies, two groups of women have researched the concept of land trusts, and formed groups to acquire land for all women and children at all times. Putting land in a land trust removes it from the speculative market, and would create a place for women and children to live, retreat, camp out, and relax. We can help women set up local land trusts, or they can join us. OWLT has bought 145 acres in southern Oregon, and Patricia and Trella welcome women to join them on 80 acres and help with the work. Write: Patricia & Trella, PO Box 521, Fayetteville, Ark.; Oregon Women's Land Trust, PO Box 1713, Eugene, Ore. 97401; California Women's Land Trust, c/o Carole & Yolanda, 1538 N. St. Andrews, Hollywood, Ca. 90028.

HORSE WANTED: Wanted to buy -- grade Morgan mare preferred, around 15 hands high. Call Nancy Wines-Dewan at 353-2507.

USED DARKROOM EQUIP. WANTED: I have an enlarger but need safe lights, trays, a timer, to go with. Leave a message for Sandy at 781-3193.

MOVING TO PORTLAND IN OCT.: I am a 28 year old woman, interested in hearing from people in the Portland area. I'll be looking for a place to live, preferably outside the city. Write Betsy Neale, 142 Chestnut Ave., Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130.

WOMAN WITH 8 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER looking for a woman to share seven room apartment in Portland. Contact Jane Goodridge, 28 State Street, Portland, 3rd floor.

Boston Women's Music Newsletter

Subscription \$2 a year or whatever you can afford. Make checks to: Boston Women's Music Collective, PO Box 91, W. Somerville, Mass. 02144.

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MAKIN' MUSIC!



WHO IS PIXIE LAUER? She's the woman in the photo, a feminist, and a singer to watch for. From Camden, she returned to Maine last year after college. Since then, she's been appearing at more and more southern Maine music spots. Her songs range from silky blues to lyrical folk to women's music, spiced with outstanding creations of her own. If you like hearing women sing, you'll love Pixie!

AND A BELATED THANKS to the women at UMPG who organized WomanSounds this spring. Bringing outstanding women in film, publishing and spirituality from all over the east to Maine, area women had the chance to see and hear what's up without a trip to Boston. As a wrap-up, and outdoor concert was held at UMP. Shown below, Suzanne sings, with a young audience at her feet. Again, a late, but deeply felt, thanks to the UMPG women.



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Lilith

A Women's Band

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