this month's maine lesbian feminist meeting will be held january 14 at betty townsend's home in waterville.
directions:
coming from the south on 95, take the second waterville exit and turn right, go past shopping center and the golden arches. go almost to bottom of hill past jewish synagogue and brick city annex, edwards street is on the left and betty's house is number 9, a green house on the left.
coming from the north on 95 take the first waterville exit, turn right past shopping center and golden arches. go almost to bottom of hill past jewish synagogue and brick city annex. edwards street is on left, betty's house is number 9 and the house is on the left side.

agenda

purpose - planning for spring gay symposium

10-11 get acquainted
11-1 business meeting, work time, brain storming
1-2 lunch, please bring your own
2-6 continued work sessions
5-7 pizza in waterville
8-1 gay dance at colby college sponsored by the gay-straight alliance.

we have some great poems from loie hayes who has been visiting us over the holidays. we'll print them in next month's issue.
REMEMBER THE POLITICAL TASK FORCE WEEKEND?

Here, finally, are the minutes from the political weekend held November 12 and 13 in Bar Harbor. We received notes from the morning session, and decided that communicating what went on was important enough that we would try, from our (Bath-Brunswick’s) collective memories, to reconstruct what happened. We would love to have the reactions/responses of several of you. It would be great to see this paper become a forum for on-going political discussion, as well as a conveyor of news!

INTERNALIZING SESSION:

About 30 women attended Saturday’s session. The agenda as established at the October meeting was to discuss internalizing, then theory, class, tactics, and finally visions. Several women felt that “internalizing” was not explicitly political enough, so the first hour or so was spent discussing the agenda. It was finally decided to spend the morning session internalizing as planned, with each woman sharing her political philosophy and goals, and speaking briefly about what in her life had led her to feel as she does. To maintain anonymity while recording these concerns, it was decided to simplify them all. So – herewith follows

The Many Various Issues of a Political Nature Expressed by the Many Various Lesbians at the November MLF Gathering:
(the categories uses are quite arbitrary, and in fact often interchangeable!)

ISSUES:

Separatism as a tactic
Physical abuse of women
Helping women who have a hard time dealing with other women
Prejudices towards all women, not just lesbians
Feminism as a vehicle for social change
Finding a medium for expressing developing political ideals
Class
Sexism as a primary source of divisions & oppression
Feminism not “going anywhere”
Feminism as an internal happening
The patriarchal forms used by most groups
Franco-Americans
Older women
Avoiding “isms”
Rape
Child abuse
Fighting what exists
Political imposing their ideals on other people
Working one-to-one
Support for women on all levels
Facialism
Humanism
A sense of justice
Women’s counseling
Third World women
Accountability to each other
Anger!!

There - how's that for quite a list!!
I personally felt that this session was one of the most valuable ever within MLF, with a level of sharing and caring rarely seen. I came away from it feeling that I knew much more about the concerns and issues important to MLF members, and that this knowledge would be very useful in planning political actions. In the course of the session there was lots of talk about what is political and what is not. While in many ways this discussion was frustrating and time-consuming, I believe it was important for all of us to listen to widely varying points of view. If MLF is to continue as an organization reaching out to a broad spectrum of lesbians in Maine, we need to understand and respect the ways in which we are different as well as acknowledging our similarities.

--Nan

**WORKSHOP ON UNDERSTANDING CLASS**

We met in the afternoon, and after the whole group discussed what was to happen for the rest of the day, the women who wanted to talk about political happenings went to another room and we were left! I can't remember if we had decided at that point to talk about class; no notes were taken, unfortunately, so this is written from memory.

We went around the circle and said what our class background was. Some women could easily identify themselves, but others were really confused about how to categorize themselves. Some women considered themselves hybrid.

Then we defined working, middle and upper class. The definitions were written on the blackboard - I can't remember any of them. We found that definitions aren't hard and fast.

Our group was about evenly divided between middle and working class women. We had 20 -30 women in the group. The energy was good, with most women feeling relaxed.

Wish this could be more thorough, but hopefully this helps!

-- Donna

**WORKSHOP ON POLITICAL DIRECTION**

..very sketchy memories...talked of gaining power... of anger... of taking action... talked of need to reach other women quickly, for emotional support, a crash pad, to write letters to congresspeople, to confront a sexist store owner, etc., etc., etc., etc.

... was decided that women willing to be called for such needs should have their names and phone numbers published in the newsletter... what happened to that list?

**REACTIONS TO THE POLITICAL WEEKEND**

There was such a push to take the time to plan the recent Bar Harbor political tasks weekend because there was never enough time at the monthly meetings to cover all the organization that is needed for political reform.

Now I sit in front of the fire wondering... what is it all about anyway?

There was talk of regional task forces using the telephone # system as its relay - but no one has responded! And such a phone list could be our own self-help program.

Such a feeling of a truly beautiful power was being felt there i feel that power,

as i walk...

my pipes are frozen

i rely on myself;

alone,

i dare not

reach out.

-- D.J. Towle
announcements and ads:

**new subscription person wanted for mlf newsletter**

we need a new person to take Diane's place as subscription person. If you are interested, please be at the January Meeting at Waterville or write to C. Parshley c/o MLF newsletter 894 Washington street, Bath, Maine 04530. Thank you.

**public hearings to support gay rights beginning January**

starting in January, public hearings are being held around the state sponsored by the Democratic party. These hearings are being held so as to give the Democratic party stuff for their platform. Therefore, members of the MLF should be at every hearing to give testimony in support of gay rights and its inclusion in the party platform.

**abused women's shelter needs equipment, clothing**

Women's shelter ready to open in January needs support. There will be accommodations for 10 women and their children, offering them temporary shelter for a maximum of three weeks. Needs include blankets, towels, children's clothing, linens, send or write donations to Betty Husted, Family Crisis Shelter Project, P.O. Box 4255, Station A, Portland, Maine 04101.

**free womyn's herald**

Once again, we at Free Womyn's Herald are getting ready to lay-out no. 1 in the sun, but it's just as much fun! Want to help? Subscribe even? Contact: Free Womyn's Herald P.O. Box 7232, Portland, Maine 04112 or call Donna 725-2519 or Prudence at 774-7574.

**Andy Bear has a new address**

Andy Lipcio (I thought your last name was Bear?) C/O Rep. George Brown Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

**Maine Land Community**

Those of us interested in a women's land community here in Maine are meeting January 28 and 29 at Nan Stone's home. *Please call ahead, 725-2519.*

**Wanted:**

Someone to share my home this winter. $40. A month plus helping with food within traveling distance to Bangor. Call 876-3085 after 4 or write Sharon Melia RFD #1, Box 57 Guilford, Me.

**Wanted:**

1 to 2 women wanted to share old farm house with 1 or 2 women in Augusta area. Call Kate before 10 p.m. 268-4467.

**Wanted:**

A Nancy Cooley would like to correspond with a bunch between the ages of 37 and over. Lives in Hudson, New York. Sings and plays electric guitar. Write Nancy L. Cooley, 208 State Street, Hudson, New York 12543.
Welcome to the Maine Lesbian Feminist newsletter.

This month we are coming to you from Bath, Maine. Our new mailing address is: c/o Parsley, 024 Washington St., Bath, Maine 04530. We hope all of you will contribute to our newspaper each month.

The November ALF Meeting

Saturday morning was spent talking about our internalizing and watching a film on stinson canning company in Belfast which was put together by some members in our ALF group. Sorry folks but no minutes were given to me before this typing...

Saturday afternoon was spent talking about class and a political discussion around the topic of power. No minutes relayed.......!!

Sunday, it seemed as if no one would show up for the "regular" meeting. There were a few of us there at 1:30, 1/2 split to take a walk leaving a few of us sitting around with our knitting, joking and laughing about the fact that we were being "subversive" with our knitting and generally starting to feel comfortable with each other. Someone brought up the idea of discussing monogamy and non-monogamy which we began to do on a casual basis. More and more beautiful women drifted in and we developed a pretty good discussion, no solutions to the present problem of how to arrange one's life on a personal basis however, but hopefully, some clarity for some people.

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Next ALF Meeting - December 11

Sunday, December 11 at Connie Huntley's house at 139 Water Street, Stowhegan. This is a play meeting.

Tentative agenda: 10-11 space for political task force and coffee for those not feeling political. 11:30-12:30 general meeting.

12:30-1:00 lunch (bring your own). 1:00-4:30 workshop space.

Tentative topics: Lesbians and children - Nadine. Children's workshop - Diane. New members group. Group harp. Political use of the media - Ellic. 5:00 not luck. Even available for delicious dyke dishes. For the entire day there will be space provided for conversation, music (listening and playing), and getting to know each other. Please remember no drugs, limited floor space is available for overnight, call weekdays. This is a work number be discreet. Thank you.

474-3311
directions:
from south - take 7-95 to waterville, then rt. 196 to stoneham. a thru the set of lights, across two bridges and you're on water st. just past southeast reporter building, park at municipal building. 179 water street is a white tri--plex next to the mini building in back of a small park. look for a red vw rabbit.
from north - take 7-95 to rt 2 newport exit. take rt 2 to stoneham. past the catholic church to corner with gas station, past office and municipal building. park either at the church or at the mini building. 179 water street is a white tri--plex next to the mini building in back of a small park. look for a red vw rabbit.

ivy conference - kate mcmahon and han stone came back from the ivy national women's conference energized!! the struggle and hostility which had been forecast did not materialize. there was an incredible sense of sisterhood (remember sisterhood??) among women from widely varying lifestyles who were 'only concerned that all the issues be heard and all the resolutions be passed. they will be glad to share clippings, literature, feelings and thoughts at the next meeting. sunday area sau and an urac also went to custon, and, videotaped much of the conference and the nine delegation. hopefully they will be able to share their tape soon.

free women's herald is looking for concerned women willing to be responsible for regular distribution of 10 plus copies of the free women's herald in her area. we'll mail them to you.
contact: free women's herald, p.o. box 7230, portland, oreg or call donna 735-3519; or prudence at 774-7577.

dolores coto is compiling a directory of all women's skills.
please send a card with your skills and/or knowledge which you would be interested in sharing from time to time to: dolores coto chadbourno's ridge road, west buxton, me. 04033

we are looking for a woman to live on our farm in hollis, which is convenient to the portland/gorham area and also the biddeford/saco/sanford area. for more information write or call dolores coto, marcia reisman, or see us at the next elf meeting. chadbourno's ridge road, west buxton, me. 04033. phone 727-3904 or 727-5391.
those interested in being part of a regional contact telephone support system in relation to political task force, personal support—send name and phone number to all newsletter
20 washington street, bath, me. 04530

women interested in land trust ??? lets get together at january meeting, women's space.

free women's herald represents you. we need your help.
free women's herald p.o. box 7232, portland, me.

anna l. polvinen - maine's first woman state trooper!!!!

"explicit book removed" — ludlow, mass. parents and school officials have removed "our bodies, ourselves" from a high school girl's home economics course.

cards from gayline, representing the work of five gay artists.
order from gayline greetings p.o. box 1717 boston, mass. 02105

lesbians on trial need your support. detroit. two lesbian lesbians will go on trial january 3 because they stood up for their right to be gay, to live with each other, and to raise their children in peace. cynthia r. and deborah j. had been subjected to weeks of harassment by their anti-gay landlady and her two daughters. the harassment included verbal and physical attacks. when they defended themselves they were arrested and charged with felonious assault. the gay rights defense committee is organizing support for these two women. they need to raise $3,000. send it to:
gay rights defense committee, box 503 detroit, michigan 48221.

this is our first newsletter from the bath-brunswick area.
we strongly need your support, especially minutes from meetings held monthly (11 meetings). the new mailing address is: bary parishly 19 washington street, bath, me. 04530.
this is my home address so please be discreet. thank you.
any suggestions for the new staff is appreciated. see you all in stowehill.