

directions;

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.

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 months issue.

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 simply list 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 used 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  
Politicos imposing their ideals on other people  
Working one-to-one  
Support for women on all levels  
Factionalism  
Humanism  
A sense of justice  
Women's counseling  
Third World women  
Accountability to each other  
Anger!!

GOALS

Promoting communication among women  
Concrete ACTION!!  
Self-sufficiency  
Farming, country living  
Developing a revolutionary theory  
Organizing all women as a revolutionary force  
To be part of this country's decision-making process  
Women working together better  
Using matriarchal vehicles for change, such as theater, dreams, poetry, discussions of our childhoods, etc.  
The union of spirituality and politics  
Classlessness  
Finding the female principle  
Developing a politic with feeling  
MLF members taking a stand on feminist issues of state-wide concern  
Learning to use the system  
Ending patriarchal patterns in relationships  
Integrating being a woman, a feminist and a lesbian  
Different political theories thriving together  
Personal sharing as women  
Eliminating labels  
Dyke Patrol!  
Reaching other women

There - how's that for quite a list!!

## POLITICAL TASK FORCE WEEKEND, cont.

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 acclaiming 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. ... 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 task 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 mlf meeting at Waterville or write to: 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 woman's herald

once again, we at free woman's herald are getting ready to lay-out no, not in the sun, but it's just as much fun! want to help? subscribe even? contact: free woman'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, for details~~ 725-2519 *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 coaley would like to correspond with a butch 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 parshley, 89 1/2 washington st., bath, maine 04530. we hope all of you will contribute to our newspaper each month.

the november mlf 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 mlf 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 setting 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 ever 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 mlf meeting - december 11

sunday, december 11 at connie huntley's home at 159 water street, skowhegan. 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. or group-warj. political use of the media - ellic. 5:00 pot luck. oven 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 dogs, limited floor space is available for overnight, call weekdays  
this is a work number be discreet. thank you.

474--8311

Directions:  
from south - take I-95 to Waterville, then rt. 104 to Stowhegan. thru the set of lights, across two bridges and you're on Water St. just past Somerset reporter building, park at municipal building. 100 Water Street is a white tri-plex next to the muni building in back of a small park. Look for a red vw rabbit.

from north -- take I-95 to rt 2 newport exit. take rt 2 to  
showheran. past the catholic church to corner with gas station,  
post office and municipal building. park either at the church or  
at the muni building. 179 water street is a white tri-plex; next  
to the muni building in back of a small park. look for a red  
vw rabbit.

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1 w y conference - Kate McQueen and Nan Stone came back from the  
i w y 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 life styles who were keenly 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 Karen Sau and Jan Haroc  
also went to Boston, and videotaped much of the conference and  
the Maine 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 7232, portland 04112  
or call donna 785-2519 or prudence at 774-7574.

dolores cote is compiling a directory of mlf 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 cote  
chadbourne's ridge road, west burton, me. 04095

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 cote, marcia reisman, or see us at the next alf meeting. chadbourne's ridge road, west buxton, me. 04093. 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 alf newsletter  
994 washington street, bath, me. 04530

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

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

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

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

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

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lesbians on trial need your support. detroit. two black 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 p. 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 \$5,000. send \$ to:  
gay rights defense committee, box 503 detroit, michigan 48221.

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this is our first newsletter from the bath-brunswick area. we strongly, help, need your support, especially minutes from meetings held monthly (alf meetings). the new mailing address is: mary parshley, 994 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 stowhegan.