

# PORTLAND WOMEN'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #7

## Mother's Day Parade For Peace

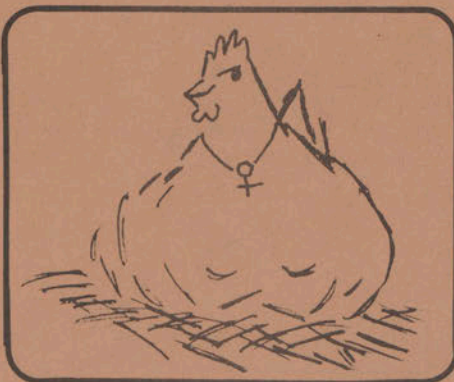
I've been in Maine about 15 months now. I live in Bath on the Kennebec River. Ever since the winter I came here the giant shadow of the crane at Bath Iron Works has hung over my head. Visions of its transformation began soon after my arrival. I'd never heard the word conversion until that summer in Boston at a Survival Summer training session (in association with the Mobilization for Survival). The idea of taking the skills, talents and resources already existing in an industry that produces war machinery and seeking peaceful, humane purposes, presented itself to me as a viable challenge to defense spending in this beautiful state. Positive alternatives must be made available NOW.

Then in Spring equinox last year there was a call for womoon to come to a conference - Women and Life on Earth/Ecofeminism, a survival gathering of the 80's. Thus began my appreciation of organization as art.

There were 500 of us there in Amherst, Mass. representing the New England/northeast region of our cuntree. After 3 days of panel discussions, workshops, literature tables, dance presentations, music, artwork, films, tears and anger, a vision had emerged - women going to the Pentagon - our feelings would be expressed on the Pentagon lawn.

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## FEMINIST COLLEGE HATCHES



Feminist College opens its first season with workshops in the Portland area. Feminist college offers an education that encourages co-operative study and problem solving, reflects the resources of all learners, relates survival issues and global concerns, and envisions a more just and human future.

The college is based on the following premises:

--Feminism begins with the experiences, needs and contributions of women.

--College is a process of learning that lasts throughout life.

--Learning begins with a conversation among people.

To Pre Register for Workshops send the title of the workshop, your name and address and fees to:

FEMINIST COLLEGE  
P.O. Box 4705 DTS  
Portland, Maine 04112



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36 women from Maine went down in cars and buses from Amherst appeared to join us. We stayed at a Friends meeting house near D.C.; all the particulars had been planned out. Our extended time with each other, traveling 14 hours each way and moving through the events as an affinity group helped us grow closer. The day before our departure from Maine we had all participated in a training workshop to prepare ourselves for what lay ahead. We covered topics like logistics and civil disobedience as well as well as consensus. Consensus is an effective group decision making technique which teaches us to hear each other in the group and respect others' positions. We practised with role playing which helped us to use that tool. I came away from the Pentagon action with consensus as a key tool for organizing. Each time we came together, whether it was in our own affinity group or integrated with the other 2000 women, it was very clear that there had been a tremendous amount of energy behind the scenes to create such events. Coordination and cooperation were vital ingredients.

And now it is our turn to use our creative energy to organize. On May 10, "a festival devoted to the advocacy of peace doctrines" (Julia Ward Howe) will take place in Bath. In 1872, Julia envisioned mothers gathering to voice their opposition to military conflict. She desired to institute this after the "senseless slaughter during the Franco Prussian War. Why do not mothers of mankind interfere in these matters to prevent the waste of that human life of which they alone bear and know the best."

Helen Caldicott is echoing this call as are many of us around the world. She has asked women to come to Washington on Mothers Day to deliver a message to the patriarchal powers. Some of us in Maine who had been to the previous action in D.C. decided to organize something closer to home as well as support those who choose to travel. The distance and expense is prohibitive to many a Maine woman with job and children and not enough money.

What I am learning first hand is what is involved in drawing together diverse elements to manifest an inspiring and productive event. Organizing is no accident. Many of us have a desire to put our ideas into practice. In order to do this effectively there must be a method in coordinating all the little details. For us as feminists creating structures that are non hierarchal, cooperative and nurturing is a challenge. With practice we will get better and better.

Tortuga Vine

## schedule of events

12:30 -- Meet for Parade at Dairy Queen on Rt 1, Woolich (Shuttle service available from Bath -- meet at Yankee Clipper

1:00 -- Parade leaves Woolich, proceeds across bridge, meets women and children not wishing to walk across bridge at Courthouse, and continues to Bath City Park

After Parade -- Rally in Park, Speakers, Entertainment, Information and letter writing tables. Slide show "The Atom: Acceptable Risk" showing continuously from 1-5:00 at Patten Free Library. Workshops: Introduction to Peace Issues, Radiation and Health, Conversion, Sharing our Visions (A Native American woman, Sipsis, is encouraging women to fast anywhere from 6 hours to 6 days and break it together on Fiddlehead ferns she will provide.)

Other Suggestions: Wear white or white arm bands as the suffragists did at the turn of the century, bring signs, banners and musical instruments.

COME AND SHARE THE DAY WITH US!!!



# Seeing With New Eyes

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A year ago I was trying to dream up images of ultimate pain and suffering. What came to mind over and over was the crucifixion. I was enraged and appalled that I was so surrounded by patriarchal religious images, despite my rejection of both, so that still the ultimate image of pain remained a male figure. My journey to rebirth began that day. I began drawing goddesses -- lots of them -- screaming, motherly, in their many states of womanhood. I felt if I drew them enough, large enough, they would eventually become real to me counterbalancing the culture. All my walls were soon covered and my studio became a place where I felt joyous and powerful. I was still alone making them in the art tradition.

A natural extension of these drawings seemed to be using them as objects for rituals. Eventually, I made a huge gate to be used in a collaborative ritual. This process became a transforming experience. Betsy, Balenda and I began working each independently but with a common goal. Balenda wrote a fable told to the women's spiritual community as they sat in a circle in front of the gate. Everyone then walked slowly through the gate and formed another circle where we were all ceremoniously renamed by Betsy. It was magical. Through this event I began to see the power of collaborative rituals. I also saw the possibilities of art objects becoming functional. When the gate helped make the "sacred space", all the object/viewer separation disappeared and the gate was experienced in a way that could never happen in a museum or gallery. It became part of the energy sharing and was experienced spiritually and sensually, adding to the richness of the evening.

Most of us have had a transcendent experience, often it is described as the connectedness we feel with nature.

I had become a sculptor because most of my transcendent experiences came from great sculpture and I wanted to make things that would convey that kind of experience to others. The tradition in which I was trained stressed that if the artist went deep enough inside herself she could eventually touch that part which is universal and the resultant images that emerged would then touch others. My work had started to evoke powerful feelings in women but the combination of sculpture and ritual went much further. I started working in this new direction, learning and still learning. I found if several worked together, all bringing many gifts and talents, what we envisioned was much more than we, as individuals, could create. Even more importantly, rituals call forth the many dimensions and gifts of all who experience them. Energy, power and creativity then becomes a shared experience. Now, Virginia, we need a lot more than a room of one's own. What we make together brings visions to all of us, as we work towards transcendent experiences. The importance of this is that we learn to leap into the unknown. The artist has to learn this to create as does the scientist, poet, etc. It is the source of discovery. In ritual we all become artists together -- continually pushing deeper, past what we can see or imagine. It becomes a model for our individual lives so that we can leap intellectually, spiritually and creatively. The habit of fearlessly entering the unknown is possibly the greatest gift we can give each other and ourselves.

gina kelly



Help the Portland Women's Rugby Club go to Chicago for the National Tournament May 23-25! We are looking for donations and sponsors for the trip and will be holding a fund-raising supper in the coming month. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. For more info please call Mary Beth Matthews 797-5880.



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# VIRGINIA WOOLF VISITS COMMUNITY

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On March 28, 1941, Virginia Woolf, novelist, critic, and feminist philosopher, moved to despair as she felt herself slipping into another period of incapacitating mental illness, drowned herself in the river near her home.

On March 28, 1981, Lunatree, a developing feminist theatre, honored the anniversary of this foremother's death with the premier reading of Through the Waves: a Portrait of Virginia Woolf in her words, excerpted from her novels, essays, letters, diaries. The excerpts were gathered and arranged by Nicole d'Entrement; directional assistance was provided by Betsy Whitman (the brain-mother of Lunatree). Seven Lunatree women, in simple dresses and hats of the era and with no prop save a podium, did the reading.

The author of Through the Waves, the director and five of the women who read are people I count among my friends and heroines. I also regularly moon over pictures of Virginia Woolf, and read her adoringly. (She will be hereafter referred to as VW.) Therefore I cannot claim to be an objective critic. But still, I think I would know boredom if I felt it, sloppiness if I saw it.

And I thought that Through the Waves was wonderful. It was simple, direct, and warm--it was a gift from Nicole and the other women who clearly had grown to love her. As a portrait, it worked very well -- for Nicole pulled together writings from many different sources to illustrate VW's brilliance in description, her sharp wit, her astounding feminist insights, and her struggles with madness. Sitting in one's own living room with piles of her works, one could not possibly create what Through the Waves created -- an image of the whole woman, a Virginia Woolf hovering above us, a visitation.

I cannot possibly say anything more useful about Through the Waves. Lunatree will of course do it again, and we all will go see it again, and all of you who weren't there should definitely go see it and bring your friends. You will be moved and you will laugh -- VW was a very funny woman.

But I do want to say more about Virginia Woolf. It is impossible to discuss even superficially the importance of her works in a small amount of space. What I want to do in the next few paragraphs is to tempt the readers of this newsletter to take  
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## "We Live in the Shadow..."

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bath iron works, a division of conglomerate corporation, is maine's largest private employer, employing 6,000 mainers. at present the iron works' primary project is the construction of FFG-7 guided missile frigates for the united states navy. the iron works helped design these boats in 1977 and 1978, and was awarded a contract to build 18 of them. so far, 6 of the 18 have been delivered, and 12 are in various degrees of completion. 7 are in the water in the Kennebec River at the shipworks.

the iron works sits on the river at bath. driving south on route 1, you cross over the carleton bridge and to the right coming over the river is the town of bath, home of the shelter institute, the maine maritime museum, and front street, which has the deli, and a mexican restaurant. beneath the bridge to the left is the iron works. it takes up about 3 city blocks, with 2 enormous enclosed working areas, an-

other under construction, and large open areas going down to the water. towering above it all, is what sandra grill calls "bath's phallic symbol"-- the huge crane which is used in assembling the different parts of the ships once they are ready to be put together.

a few weeks back, electra and i skipped, respectively, school and work, and went to bath to talk to some of the women who live there, about the iron works, and living in its shadow.

sandra grill lives in woolwich, works in bath, and grew up in bath. "i lived here during world war II. they turned out a destroyer a week. they were like the biggest destroyer factory in the country. 12,000 people were working there. that's twice the number of people that are working there now. and the shipyard was half the size it is now. but they worked around the clock."

sandra and claire macgregor talked about the feeling of living near the iron works now and the changes they've  
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## SHADOW CON'T

seen lately. "it's getting bigger. bigger and bigger, and more destroyers in the harbor." "It's looking more like a defense plant than it has in a long time." "it certainly seems to have stepped up in the last 3 years."

as the largest private employer in the state, the impact of the iron works on the economy is obvious. its not really a different situation than what exists anywhere else. the u.s. government is currently spending over 65% of tax revenues on military related spending.

though it seems of secondary concern, seeing as it is life on earth that is being assaulted, military spending is bad for the economy. it employs workers without creating a consumable product, thus inflation. it uses "talent" of a technological society to create weapons, leaving unsolved or unfunded such problems as environmentally sound transportation and energy.

many anti-war groups are proposing conversion as an antidote to the mess that decades of military spending has gotten us into. the work of economic conversion is 1) to become aware of

the presence of military industry in our area, and 2) by knowing the skills and resources being used currently in the production of weaponry, work with unions and workers and simple public awareness to convert the skills and resources to productive use. for example, use the talent and resources of biw to make alternatively fueled buses and cars. it's a simple idea and it's obvious that this conversion does have to occur.

but the difficulty of conversion is obvious too. electra says, "it's so frustrating because how in the world can you ever think of getting bath iron works to convert. it seems sort of unrealistic. how about just dropping one of their big warheads on them?"

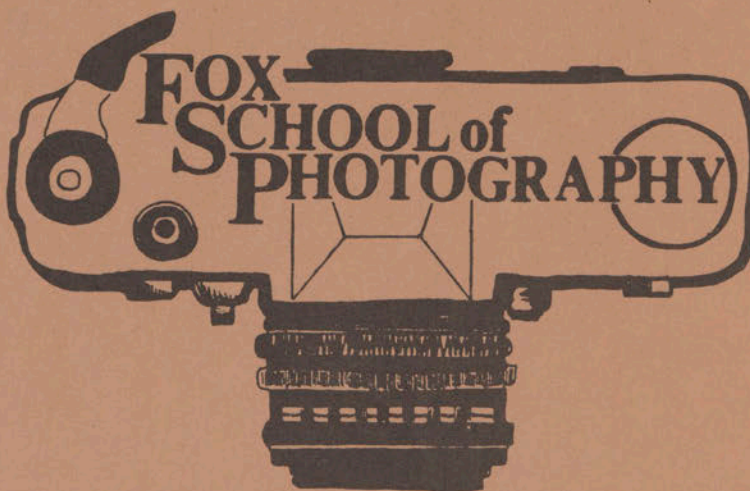
i agree with the frustration. though i value, support and participate in political work, i think our task as a women's community goes beyond just dealing with the economic realities. the questions we've asked, and the understanding we've

gained in the past years go much deeper. but the theme of conversion still applies. it involves everything from growing our own food, to celebrating the cycles of the moon and stars, to paying attention to and taking risks in our relationships with each other (not to mention riding bicycles).

living in north america it is easy to feel powerless in the face of this country's overwhelming participation in war. it's important for us to have times to come together to recognize that as women we stand apart from and are opposed to this involvement.

i'm looking forward to the celebration in bath on mother's day as a gathering of women from all over the state, to share our sorrow, our anger, and our powerful opposition to the force behind such constructs as biw. spring and summer in maine is a time of powerful transformation, and i'm looking forward to this coming together at the beginning of spring to recognize and affirm the power we see in each other, and the future we have in working together.

natalia rose lesbianska



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her up and read her. For I feel that what she has to say is very important, and she should not be pigeonholed-- not as brilliant-but-hysterical, by male literary critics, nor as a lesbian-feminist-heroine by our side. Both classifications divert us from careful attention to what she is saying.

So, everyone out there, do read Virginia Woolf. She was a remarkable novelist. Her most astonishing ability was to capture and impale a moment or an hour of human life, holding it still enough to describe it with absolute accuracy, yet allowing it to lose none of its vigor. It is there; she has it, on paper, and now so do we. And what we get a hold on is the moment in its richness -- not merely the people and what they did and said, the things and how they looked and sounded, but the space between all these and how it felt--space filled with feeling, innuendo, electricity, desire. What VW manages to make out of all this with her prose is like a three-dimensional rainbow.

If you haven't read her novels, here is how to do it: pick up or borrow The Waves or Mrs. Dalloway or To the Lighthouse, and start reading. Do not concern yourself with understanding, or, heaven forbid, find-

ing symbolism. If your mind wanders, flip ahead a bit. Search around until you find a passage, a scene, that moves you. Then read that a few times--it is not necessary to read a whole book. Reading that passage, letting it encircle you, will be a wonderful experience.

Her non-fiction works- particularly A Room of One's Own and Three Guineas-- are also wonderful experiences. Feminists are surprised to find that she, half a century ago, explicitly spelled out the principles by which women now must guide themselves-- among them, economic independence, and identification with our own sex, and an adherence to our integrity as women in all that we do. And it is delightful to find that she spells out these principles in the most sparkling, spicy, and witty way. The following passage is intended to appeal to you so much that you simply have to run out and get a copy of A Room Of One's Own (which is about women and fiction):

"...I settled down with a notebook and a pencil to make what I could of Mary Carmichael's first novel, Life's Adventure...

I am sorry to break off so abruptly. Are there no men present? Do you promise

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## maine gay and lesbian symposium

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MAINE LESBIAN AND GAY SYMPOSIUM VIII is being held May 8, 9 and 10 at the University of Southern Maine, Portland Campus. The schedule will be as follows:

### Friday, May 8, Payson-Smith Hall

Registration - 7 P.M. - 10 P.M.  
Coffeeshouse with open stage

"Gay, Proud and Sober," Film, 7:30 P.M.  
"Making of the Dinner Party," Video-tape, 8:30 P.M.

### Saturday, May 9, Payson- Smith Hall

Registration & Coffee - 9:30 A.M. to 10 A.M.

Keynote Speakers - 10 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.  
Lunch - 11:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
Workshops - 2 P.M. - 7 P.M.  
Dinner - 7 P.M. - 8 P.M.  
Play, "STAR GAYS," Luther Bonney

Auditorium - 8 P.M. SHOWTIME.

Also, rerun of film and video in Payson- Smith Hall at same time.  
DANCE!!!DANCE!!! - 9 P.M., Payson-Smith Hall.

### Sunday, May 10

Boston Area Lesbian & Gay History Project, "Our Boston Heritage" and "Woman-Loving Women," slide-shows, Payson-Smith Hall, 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.

Metropolitan Community Church Service, Luther Bonney Auditorium, 11 A.M. to 12 Noon.

THE PORTLAND WOMEN'S COMMUNITY IS HAVING A FOOD SALE AT THE SYMPOSIUM TO RAISE \$\$\$\$\$\$ FOR THE NEWSLETTER. (We need it bad, folks.) Anyone interested in baking something, please call Marie Locke at 772-1515.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM, CALL THE GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY, 780-4085.



## FEMINIST RESOURCES FOR PEACE & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

This nurturing get-together will celebrate feminism and one another, affirm women and the strengths of feminine principles; and the elimination of sexism, a cause of interpersonal and global violence. We will share our recognition of both the temptations to and the impotence of violence; how we can grow through conflict identification and resolution; how we define power; how we organize for peace and further the values transformations that feminism portends.

May 30, 1981 at the Shaler School from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., North Street, Portland.

### limit 20

Pre-registration necessary, dead line: May 10. (There will be preliminary reading materials mailed to participants to prepare for the workshop.)

There will be a lunch and dinner break. There are sandwich shops nearby however we encourage you to bring food to share.

**Leader:** Wilma Scott Heidi, Associate Professor of Innovative Education, Sangamon University, Ill.; former president of NOW.

**Fee:** \$15

## CONCEPTS OF SPEAKING

We will demonstrate how the wampum belt is used in the council to show that the speaker is telling the truth and how the talking stick is used to reach final decisions by equal voice and unanimous vote.

June 14, 1981 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Shaler School on North Street, Portland, there will be a break for lunch. Sandwich shops are nearby however we encourage you to bring food to share.

**Leaders:** Isobel Shay and Carol Dana: poets and leaders among Penobscot and MicMac Indian people.

**Fee:** \$7

## THE FEMINIST STRAIN IN AMERICAN POETRY

Discussion of selected poems from the works of poets May Sarton and Adrienne Rich.

May 17, 1981 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Portland Public Library.

**Facilitators:** Myrna Bouche, poet, English professor at the University of Maine, Machias. Ann Hazlewood-Brady, poet, Poetry Editor of *Maine Life*.

**Fee:** \$3

## IDENTIFYING YOUR EMPLOYABLE SKILLS

A conversation for identifying competencies, ways of finding employment, and career opportunities through evaluating one's own skills, presentation and support.

**Leaders:** Jessie Bidol, former social worker and current carpenter.

JoAnn Fritsche, Director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Associate Professor of English, UMO.

**Facilitators:** Paulette French, professor and administrator, University of Maine.

Julie Motherwell, printing salesperson, Seavey Co., Portland.

May 23, 1981: 9:30 - 12:30 p.m. at the Women's Room  
YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland

**Fee:** \$5.00 (bring a resume if you have one)  
(Co-Sponsored by the Women's Room)

## FOOD FIRST!

How to stretch your food dollar and eat well. Come and help prepare and share a meal.

June 27, 1981 from 1-5 at the Harry E. Cummings Neighborhood Center, 134 Congress St., Portland

Food donated by Good Day Market and Paul's Food Center.

**No Fee**





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

PORTLAND FOLK DANCERS need a free space to dance in during June, July, August. Call Solange Kellermann, 775-0950. All are invited to come dance with us Thursday evenings, 8-10 at Reiche School Cafetorium (use gym-pool entrance). We'll teach you some great dances!!!!

Sunrise House, a new age learning center in Elliot is sponsoring a workshop on May 9 for women - "Stages of Our Lives: Women's Growth and Development". 9 A.M. - 5 P.M., \$10. Call 439-3306.

On May 16, Sunrise House is holding a "Marriage Enrichment Workshop." Cost \$20 a couple.

### WE ARE THE STEWARDS OF THE EARTH

Anyone interested in attending Mother's Day Nuclear Disarmament March, Washington, D.C., May 10 -- call Pat Jones, 967-2375. A bus is leaving Kennebunkport May 9th -- \$42.00 round trip.

To Sell -- 5 acres, secluded, woods and hills, Bryant Pond, Me. Part of 50 acres woman owned. Road access, borders on creek. \$600/acre.

Wanted -- Woman to occasionally check cabin in Bryant Pond while its being rented. Owner lives in Rhode Island. Part time income.

Jean MacKenzie  
Simmons Lake Dr.  
Johnston, RI 02919  
(401) 942-2094

Anyone interested in playing Softball on Sat. or Sun., please call Bunny, 774-1819.

**ATTENTION ROCK OR ICE CLIMBERS!!!!!!**  
Anyone interested in rock or ice climbing, please...please call Phyllis Austin, 443-4608, or write her at Star Route #2, Arrowsic, Maine 04530.

The Women's Reading group at the YWCA, Portland, meets every Monday at 5:30 P.M. in the Women's Room. We are a collective group wishing to read and discuss literature by and about women. After a fairly successful stint with women's science fiction, we will be concentrating on selections by Virginia Woolf, Doris Lessing, George Sand, and Radclyffe Hall in the next few months. For info, call Nancy at 774-1819.

Beginning May 4, 4PM-6PM, every other week, Liz Cinnamon will be conducting a feminist therapy training group for women therapists and counselors, call 773-1394.

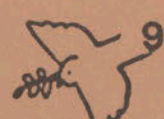
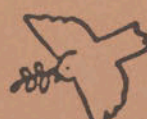
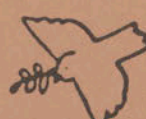
THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST LESBIAN AND GAY CAUCUS, 561-D Brighton Ave., Portland, 04103, besides having circulated the human rights petition, is providing counseling, educational materials, space for meetings, and support for gays and Lesbians and their parents. They invite gays to become active in the liberal religious community by contacting the Portland office or their local Unitarian or Universalist Church.

**WANTED - Lesbian-Feminist to share apt. with 3 others-\$81.25 rent plus utilities. 3 miles from downtown-pets negotiable. Call 774-1819.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS con't.



ATTENTION WOMEN & CHILDREN --- President Reagan does not have your interests at heart, despite what he might say. He wants to take food from the mouths of mothers and children (proposed cuts in AFDC, Food Stamps, school lunch subsidies) and use it to fatten the haunches of corporations specializing in the manufacture of war machinery (proposed increases in defense spending).

Do some of us sometimes feel we have made a mistake by bringing children into a society with such perverted priorities? Reagan claims to have a "mandate" from the American people to cut federal spending, reduce taxes, and strengthen our military defense capacities. It's easy to see that someone must sacrifice to accomplish this, and Reagan's program clearly places an unequal burden on low-income people, women and children.

Unless our representatives in Congress hear from us and very soon, they too may be inclined to follow this "mythical mandate." Legal services, day care

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Are you tired of spiraling rents? Want to buy a house but just don't have the money? Then read on-- A committee is now forming under the auspices of the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization to initiate a Cooperative Housing project. This project would enable low-income tenants to combine their energies with others and as a group purchase housing that might otherwise be unavailable on an individual basis. If interested, there will be a membership meeting April 29th at 8p.m. at 28 Cumberland Ave. There is also an outreach person available for small groups to discuss details about the project. For more information call 775-3050, ask for Rita.

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*WANTED- Another Lesbian Feminist to share apt. with 2 others. \$120 rent plus utilities. In a beautiful saltbox house next to Me. Audubon. Call 781- 2300. Ask for Mickey. Keep trying!*

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centers, medicare, student aid are all in serious trouble. Please inform yourself, write letters to your Congresspeople, talk with your friends. If we do nothing now, we may be very sorry later.

Congressman David Emery  
425 Cannon House Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Portland# - 780-3567

Senator George Mitchell  
145 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20516  
Portland # - 780-3561

Senator William Cohen  
1251 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Portland # - 780-3575

Congresswoman Olympia Snowe  
1729 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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REGIONAL LESBIAN AND GAY MALE CONFERENCE.....During Boston's Lesbian and Gay Pride Week, on June 19-21, there will be a New England Regional Gay and Lesbian Conference. Tentative plans are to have registration and a brief opening session on the evening of Friday, June 19th. On June 20, Boston will have its Lesbian and Gay Pride March and Rally. Sunday, the 21st, will be filled with workshops, caucuses, networking, panel discussions, and presentations (noon - 7 P.M.), followed by a wrap-up session. For further information, contact: New England Conference, P.O. Box 365, Central Square Station, Cambridge, MA 02139.

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*For those of you who missed "Through the Waves" the last time around, the reading of Virginia Woolf's works will be presented by members of Lunatree May 27 at 7 p.m. at State St. Church. A Women's Community Benefit.*

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A GODDLY HERITAGE -- AND THERE  
FOR THE SHARING

an exploration into the world  
of Maine's Women Literary Weavers.

Up the spiral staircase of stately Proctor Hall on the Westbrook Junior College Campus, enter directly through the first door on the left once you've stepped into the hall and there thrives an archive of extraordinary enchantment. It is the Maine Woman Writer's room curated, since 1967, by Mrs. Dorothy M. Healy. The room has been alive with the voice of literature since 1959 when it was co-founded by both Mrs. D. Healey and Miss Grace Dow.

Contained within the small room are some 2000+ volumes of written works by more than 340 authors. The collection includes first editions, signed copies, priceless antique editions, journals, letters, photographs, and other pieces of personal memorabilia. All this put before our eyes gives a taste of the day by day life as experienced by prolific Maine women whose gifts to us span 2 centuries of women's endless creativity in the world of words.

You must see this collection for yourself in order to truly understand the indescribable wealth of writing our Maine women writers have created for our enjoyment. You may find yourself caught up in an engulfing physical sense of women living and dead who speak to you personally through the multitudinous volumes encircling you. You may also find yourself surprised at the familiarity of names who you had not equated with Maine, or names you have seen about your community on memorial plaques and in historical documents, names such as Kate Douglas Wiggin (Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm), Josephine Perry, writer, explorer, and wife of Ad-



*On May 9th at the University of Southern Maine (Luther-Bonney Auditorium), a one day seminar will be held from 9:00-3:30 for Maine Artists and Crafts-People, dealing with potential hazards of materials. Featured speaker will be top New York Consultant Monona Rossal. Free.*

miral Robert E. Perry (discoverer of the North Pole), Edna St. Vincent Millay -- poet and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Sarah Orne Jewett, one of this country's finest short story writer, and the famed Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Also among this extraordinary collection are works by women concerned with and for women: Elizabeth Oaks Pierce

Smith, who crusaded against slum conditions in New York City, and for women's rights, Laura J. Curtis Bullard, who wrote in 1855 expounding women's rights (and the first Maine woman novelist to do so) in her book Christine: A Woman's Trials and Triumphs, and the great Margaret Jane Mussey Sweat (Portland) who wrote openly about lesbianism in her novel Ethel's Love Life (1859); this being the first American novel to deal with lesbian life.

This wonderful archive of Maine Women writers awaits you, come see!

balenda

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## WHAT IS CONVERSION?!

The theme of the Mother's Day Celebration for Peace in Bath is CONVERSION. Many people are asking what this stands for. It means that we must begin the work to reorient the economy away from military-defense spending towards civilian based production -- converting from a mentality of destruction to one of peace and mutual support. From 1960-1976 over 65% of the average American family's federal income taxes went for military related expenditures. 30% of our federal tax revenues were left to meet all our economic and social needs. We cannot eat F-16 planes, we cannot cure cancer with Trident Submarines, and we cannot educate our children with F-111 fighter bombs. Skyrocketing federal debts and deficits which feed inflation are not the result of social needs programs. They are the result of three decades of military spending. Through conversion we can create a standard of living we all deserve.

For an interesting approach to conversion write and send \$2.00 for The Case For Economic Conversion: A Look At Massachusetts, prepared by the Bay State Conversion Group, 120 Bellevue Road, Watertown, Mass. 02171

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Dear Women,

Let's put Holly Near on the charts! Redwood records has cut and released to country radio stations the song "Once or Twice" from Holly's newest album "Fire in the Rain". "Once or Twice" is the song viewed as most likely to go right to the top of the country charts. Let us be active in opening all people to the marvelous messages Holly communicates through her songs and her being.

What you can do to make your statement:

1. Buy the album or tape "Fire in the Rain". (To save my album from wearing out I'm going to buy "Once or Twice" on 45 when it's made available).
2. Write to your local radio stations, especially the ones that play country music, and ask them to play "Once or Twice". Calls are not as universally honored, but call in your requests anyway. If the D.J. gets a backlog of ten requests for the same song on the same day, she might just play it.
3. Keep this as "personal" information. Radio stations have been known to refuse to play a record they think some group is promoting.
4. If at all possible, buy the album or tape through a chain store. This is the only way it will be reported as a sale. Concerts and womens' bookstores are not yet set up to do this. (Please don't tape this time!)

5. Focus our powerful woman-energy on this concept to make it happen!

Let's make use of our marvelous network of communication and get the word out to women all over the world. I have copies of this letter available and am willing to send you as many copies as you are willing to send out. Also, I encourage you to have copies made as money is quite limited. If you know of women involved in womens' newspapers and newsletter in other states please contact me. I am really excited about this; if you are too, write or give me a call.

Barbara Damon  
The Woods  
RFD # 1 Box 422  
Newcastle, Maine 04553  
586-6883

Dear Women,

I am writing as a representative of eleven women of Bowdoinham, Me. We are extremely alarmed at the gathering national momentum of the Right to Life Movement and are drafting a letter to congressional representatives enumerating our concerns and declaring our opposition to HLA. I am writing to you to commend you on your response to the Maine State Newsletter's weak position in regard to the HLA and to ask your recommendations regarding responsible, direct lines of action in opposition to the Pro-Life Movement. Who is working on it in Maine and what is the climate like.

Sincerely,

Susan Davies  
Box 187  
Bowdoinham, Maine 04008

ANYONE HAVING ANY INFORMATION, PLEASE FORWARD IT TO SUSAN.



# films on el salvadore and nicaragua

12

In April some good movies and slide shows on what is happening in Central America were shown in Portland.

American Friends Service Committee showed El Salvadore: A Country in Crisis. One of the first revelations this slide show offers is that most of the good farm land in El Salvadore is owned by foreign coffee companies who have set up plantations where El Salvadorians work for an average of \$88.00 per year.

An El Salvadorian woman speaks of the revolution. "Es de hambre, es de hambre." "It is of hunger, it is of hunger."

Insecticide sprayed on and near the coffee plantations affects the people's health and what growing land is left for their use.

Photographs and interviews relate the March 24, 1980 assassination of Archbishop Romero in San Salvadore. Romero was a popular leader who spoke out against the repression and was murdered. When people came together a week after his assassination to mourn his death, on Palm Sunday, a year ago, in San Salvadore, sharp shooters opened fire, killing and injuring many.

U.S. involvement is traced as far back as 1912, when a state department position paper read that for a government in Central America to stay in power the backing of the

to this kind of stuff in school-- complete with Ronald Reagan appealing to our belief in justice and freedom at the end.

The slide show on El Salvadore is available for showings from AFSC, Monday and Wednesday afternoons between 1 and 4, 772-0680, or from Denny Ewell, 767-4193.

U. S. government is essential. When one repressive government falls another is in the works, with the backing and military support of the U.S.

3 films on Nicaragua were shown by the history department at U.S.M. later in the month.

The most frightening was one which presented the Reagan administration's position on Nicaragua. The film depicts Nicaragua and other Central American countries as a land peopled by terrorists heavily armed with advanced soviet weapons. The communist stepping stone theory is replayed over a map of North and South America, instead of Southeast Asia, and beeping targets go off one by one as the communist menace advances north -- beware Dayton, Ohio.

This movie was financed by the American Security Council, and the American Heritage Foundation. Its the kind of film we had to sit through in current events class a few years back, and the frightening thing is that kids now are having to listen.

## VIRGINIA WOOLF VISITS COMMUNITY

con't.

Our struggles as women are complex. It is tempting to cling to slogans. This is why VW must be read now--she sees and is able to describe the whole picture. When I read her, I realize that there are no easy answers to anything. I see exactly why sitting down at this typewriter at this moment is every bit as vital and political an act as marching in Washington in May. VW's clarity is essential to our community. I hope that Through the Waves will be an incitement to a rash of reading and reading aloud and discussing the works of this great woman. This reading and discussing will, too, be a vital and political act

me that behind that red curtain over there the figure of Sir Chartres Biron is not concealed? We are all women you assure me? Then I may tell you that the very next words I read were these--'Chloe liked Olivia...' Do not start. Do not blush. Let us admit in the privacy of our own society that these things sometimes happen. Sometimes women do like women.

"Chloe liked Olivia," I read. And then it struck me how immense a change was there. Chloe liked Olivia perhaps for the first time in literature. Cleopatra did not like Octavia. And how completely Antony and Cleopatra would have been altered had she done so!..."

Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg





SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
call rita at 773-1896 with June calendar events by may 18th (leave message with whoever's there)	• FEMINIST SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY meets at state st. church every mon. at 7pm	• LUNATREE 7pm		• YWCA Q's room pot luck "legal rights of Q" 6pm • FOLK DANCING reiche school 8-10pm	MAY DAY! 	1 NEWSLETTER BAKE SALE AT SHAW'S SUPER- MARKET WESTGATE SHOPPING CENTER 1:00 A.M. • Q and MORTGAGE CREDIT WORKSHOP at ywca 9-3pm
3	4 • Q's ROOM READ- ING GROUP 7pm • FEMINIST SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY • FEM. THERAPY TRAINING GROUP see p. 8	5	6 • LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP at gpa-92 bedford call 780-4085	7 • YWCA Q's Room Pot Luck "women in labor unions" 6pm • FOLK DANCING 8-10pm	8 • MAINE LESBIAN & GAY MEN SYMPOSIUM usm - payson smith hall. may 8,9,10 • OCCUP HAZARDS OF ARTISTS & CRAFTS PEOPLE at usm	9 MAINE ARTIST'S HAZARDS SYMPOSIUM see p. 10 • MASSAGE WORKSHOP 10-4pm call ywca center 799-2481 • Q's GROWTH WORKSHOP eliot, me. see p. 8 • SYMPOSIUM continues
• Q's CELEBRATION FOR PEACE in bath - parade begins 1pm • Q's MARCH ON WASH. • SYMPOSIUM last day	11 • Q's ROOM READ- ING GROUP 7pm • FEMINIST SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY 7pm	12 • LUNATREE FEMINIST THEATER WORKSHOP 7pm	13 • NEWSLETTER send stuff to - nicole d'entremont 71 walnut st portland	14 eelins birthday • YWCA Q's Room Pot Luck "parental rights of children in family daycare" 6pm • FOLK DANCING 8-10pm	15	16 • MARRIAGE WORKSHOP see p. 8 EDUCATIONAL MEETING: LOAMI - BURNIS • BABE BIRTHING CONFERENCE: "birthing power - who has it?" 8:30-5pm call 892-9513 • NEWSLETTER BAKE SALE - SHAW'S MARKET
17 • FEMINIST STRAIN IN AMERICAN POETRY at portland public library 1-4 pm \$3.00	18 • Q's ROOM READ- ING GROUP 7pm • FEMINIST SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY 7pm	19 rita's birthday	20 • LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP at gpa - call 780-4085	21 • YWCA Q's Room Pot Luck "Q & the medical field" 6pm • FOLK DANCING 8-10pm	22	23 • IDENTIFYING YOUR EMPLOYABLE SKILLS at ywca Q's room 9:30-12:30 \$5.00
24	25 • Q's ROOM READ- ING GROUP 7pm • FEMINIST SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY 7pm • NATIONAL Q's RUDDY TOURNAMENT - CHICAGO - PG- SEE 3.	26 • LUNATREE 7pm call 774-1682	27 diane's birthday • THROUGH THE WAVES: VIRGINIA WOOLF READING at state st. church 7pm	28 • FOLK DANCING at reiche school ev. thurs. evening 8-10pm call 775- 0950	29	30 • FEMINIST RESOURCES FOR PEACE & CONFLICT RESOLUTION 10am-9pm \$15.00

• Sun, may 31 - USM LAW SCHOOL GRADUATION - featuring erna koch - 11 am at payson smith green



We love doing this newsletter, but WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!!  
The newsletter task force needs more womynenergy in the form of  
articles (news, features, interviews, reviews, etc.), graphics,  
letters, calendar events, even your favorite recipe! The theme  
for the next issue is "Relationships". Please, if you can, type  
your article with a maximum of a 7" width and a dark typewriter  
ribbon. This would save us much time. Deadline for the next  
issue is May 13th. Submit your writings to: Nicole d'Entremont,  
71 Walnut St., Portland, Me. 04111. Subscriptions are \$5 for  
12 issues. Subscribers, why not help us out by showing your copy  
to your friends and encourage them to subscribe! Thanks!

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Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Checks can be made out to "The Community")

