

[Jul 1981]

# PORTLAND WOMEN'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

50¢

ISSUE #9

## TRAVEL CHRONICLES FROM A-BROAD

"Once upon a time, an Amazonian Venutian traveled to Earth on a mission of inter-planetary sisterhood. Unknown to her, unfortunately, the Amazons of Earth had emigrated to a location which will be kept secret. Our sister from Venus searched in vain for some sign of womynlife - in the museums, in the libraries, in the monuments. Finding none, she returned to Venus and reported that Earth was inhabited solely by men."

Having recently returned from three weeks of travel in England and Scotland, I feel a deeper appreciation for the strong feminist presence wimmin are daily creating all over the world. Without a knowledge of and access to the English feminist community, I would have found the trip an exercise in "male worship/female invisibility," aside from loving the gorgeous English and Scottish countryside, the opportunity to zoom around under much higher speed limits, and the fantasies of appropriating all those castles for our Amazon old-age homes. I feel privileged to belong to such a network, for the wimmin with whom we made contact shared with us, not only themselves and their feminist community, but places of herstorical significance that celebrate wimmin.

London was delightful (once we got beyond the monuments honoring patriarchy and male violence), with "Amazon punk" flourishing. Our first stop, the Spare Rib collective to connect with a friend, was an energizing site, with wimmin busy doing layout. (Spare Rib is Britain's feminist magazine - as professional and polished as Ms., but more radically feminist and without the sexist advertizing.) Members of the collective, anxiously awaiting an expansion of their office facilities, didn't understand why we were "ooing and ahing" so much until we told them we had no such womynspace in Maine. From there, we went to Sisterwrite Bookshop, as fine as New Words, with the addition of a wimmin's cafe upstairs.

In-between seeing "the sites," admiring wimmin with multicolored hair and attending a jam session of wimmin's bands, our next few days in London were spent in search of Virginia Woolf, whom we, alas, never found. Hanging in Tavistock Square (Bloomsbury) are several plaques honoring male British writers and intellectuals who lived there. Typically, no such plaque appears in memory of Virginia Woolf, also a resident of Tavistock Square. (In fact, one could easily get the impression that the only wimmin worthy of recognition in English society were queens, and many of them had their heads chopped off.) Thus, the feeling I had upon seeing the Suffragist exhibit at the Museum of London, on the tip of a friend, was similar to the feeling experienced by a friend from Chicago when she stumbled across Amelia Earhart's flight jacket at the Smithsonian Institute - absolute euphoria mixed with rage at the sparcity of recognition given to us by patriarchy. That one, small display case was thrilling, however, containing original banners, posters and buttons of the Women's Social and Political Union, photographs of the Pankhursts and other Suffragists, and personal implements used by wimmin incarcerated in Holloway Prison to remind us of the repression they faced.

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A few words on punk for all you punk enthusiasts (and loathers): When punk emerged in 1976-77, anyone with guts could step on stage and play, regardless of musical expertise. Punk contributed towards the demystification of playing in a band, thus encouraging wimmin to break in and experiment. Though sexist punk was certainly churned out by some male bands, more and more punk bands wrote anti-racist/anti-sexist songs and played hundreds of "Rock Against Racism" gigs which had a positive effect on the 1979 elections. With the entrance of more feminists into the punk scene, songs were written with strong pro-womyn lyrics challenging stereotypical roles, asserting wimmin's power and expressing our personal and political struggles.

Most impressive was the new young wimmin's feminist publication that we found in London, "Shocking Pink," written by and for teenage wimmin. The magazine contained articles on health and sexuality, relationships, Lesbianism, combatting stereotypes, playing electric instruments, adolescent pregnancy, personal tastes in fashion, and humor. For me, this magazine raised the question of how we, in the Portland Women's Community, can begin to reach out to adolescent wimmin. As a youth worker myself, I was also excited by the feminist-oriented youth work being organized with girls and young wimmin throughout England by a staffwomyn in the National Association of Youth Clubs. When the National Association of Girls' Clubs became the National Association of Mixed Clubs and Girls' Clubs and, finally, the National Association of Youth Clubs, over a span of 50 years, girls' work became secondary to work with boys. Feminist youth workers have been organizing to ensure that the British youth service system provides "a range of experiences which will better equip girls to make informed choices about their lives and the sort of women they want to be." Local projects with girls have explored self- and societal images, self-defense, minority youth issues, health, carpentry, crafts, pool playing, video, playing electric instruments and setting-up sound equipment, face painting, motorbike riding, drama, dance and sexuality. In one local project, girls designed and printed posters of their personal insights, feelings and experiences in growing-up female in their society. These posters were to be distributed throughout British youth clubs. I found all of this most inspiring and I began to think of ways I could integrate more of my feminist values into my own workplace.

From London, our feminist friends turned us on to Sissinghurst Castle in Kent, home of Vita Sackville-West - poet, novelist, biographer, gardener and lover of Virginia Woolf. Married to Harold Nicholson (who had an affinity for males), Vita was best known for her articles on gardening and created, at Sissinghurst, one of the loveliest gardens in England. On the grounds looms Vita's Elizabethan tower, housing her sitting-room that she occupied from 1931 until her death in 1962. I imagined, for a moment, how Virginia Woolf must have walked up those same stairs, touched (as I did) the inlaid marble "VITA" on the windowsill, and examined the portraits of herself and the Bronte sisters that still sit on Vita's writing table. During Lunatree's reading of "Through the Waves: A Portrait of Virginia Woolf," her writing came alive for me as never before. This connection between her and the place at which I stood took my breath away.

After fully exploring Nottingham and Sherwood Forest (I just had to feel the presence of my childhood hero. Interestingly, during our McCarthy Era, there were efforts to ban Robin Hood in Amerika due to its "communist flavor." ), another inspiring site was the small village of Haworth in the moor country, home of the Bronte sisters. More shudders up my spine as we walked out on the moors and saw the ruins of Top Withens, the home that inspired Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights. In the Bronte Parsonage, where they lived from 1820 until 1861, we saw the Apostles' Closet and the red altar cloth that Charlotte Bronte described in Jane Eyre. As I examined their death certificates, I noticed that Charlotte's occupation was listed as "wife of Rev. Arthur Bell," Emily's as "daughter of Rev. Patrick Bronte," and



# COMMUNITY PROFILE: *Diane Dupuis* *maine movement*

by D. Elze

My interest in interviewing Diane Dupuis, the founder and director of Maine Movement, stemmed from visiting her dance studio on International Women's Day in March. There, I spoke with her on the women's dance program she had created for that day. I found her to be extremely committed to her work and to her vision of a non-exclusive, community-oriented dance studio. Her determination, excitement and enthusiasm are catching. As a Physical Education major "drop-out" who, years ago, became quickly disillusioned with the stress I saw placed on performance, rather than on physical activity as a vehicle for social and emotional growth and development, I identified strongly with and appreciated Diane Dupuis' philosophy. So, I present to you a bit of Diane Dupuis.

Diane, what was your goal or vision in establishing Maine Movement?

I grew up in a lower-income French-Canadian family in Biddeford and have always had a strong interest in and love for dance. Dance is usually not an option for low-income people in making a living and not something that is usually found in a low-income neighborhood. So, my objective was to establish a community-oriented dance center situated in a low-income neighborhood. Usually, the term "dance studio" has exclusive, selective or elitist connotations to it. At Maine Movement, we have a strong bent against exclusivity, especially in terms of age. The children's and elders' classes are non-profit. Many people don't grow-up with the luxury or option of taking dance. At Maine Movement, we want to be available for all those people who wish to investigate dance.

I see dance as a powerful instrument of expression that can add to a person's self-image. The Dancercise class integrates skills to enhance body image. For women, particularly, this can carry over into the development of a more assertive personality and more confidence about themselves.

Tell me something about yourself and how you started Maine Movement.

After graduating from high school, I pursued many things. After taking a belly-dancing course, I taught bellydancing. This was about six years ago. At that time, I realized I wanted to return to school and study dance. This I did, five years after my high school graduation. In the fall of 1979, I finished my B.A. and knew I wanted to return to Maine and start a community-oriented dance program. After my college graduation, I was in a car accident and was told I may never dance again. I was determined, let me tell you. In January 1980, I returned to Maine and began contemplating my next move. That May, I had a rush of energy and felt strong about starting Maine Movement.

One of my first goals was to select instructors sensitive to students' needs and who would welcome a beginning adult. There's too much ego wrapped-up in many dance instructors. They want to see their teaching translated into talent. Teachers must give a lot of themselves and I made my philosophy clear to prospective teachers. I want my teachers to impart a sense of meaning to the students and to see students as important, no matter what their level of dance. I want students to feel confident, whether they choose to go on or not. I believe I have selected a core of teachers with whom I feel confident.

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## profile ...

Then, I researched the Portland area to determine what was available and found nothing that was community-centered or child-centered. When I say child-centered, I mean that you meet the needs of the child rather than the parents' need to have a talented child. Children should have fun as they develop skills.

Yes, that reminds me of George Dennison's book, *The Lives of Children*, and a part in which he juxtaposes an informal sandlot baseball game where the children take "time-out" to play with a passing dog and to chase butterflies, to a Little League game where the children are scared stiff about striking out. You mentioned bellydancing a minute ago, and I remember you talking a bit about bellydancing on International Women's Day. Could you tell me more about that dance form?

Originally, bellydancing was a women's dance, performed by women and for women. In arabic and Middle Eastern cultures, bellydancing was a statement by women, among themselves, of their sexuality, a statement of being comfortable with women. Bellydancing has been bastardized in the United States - the cabaret style with the scanty costumes. Several years ago, at Hampshire College, I attended a workshop called "Bellydancing - A Feminist Perspective." The woman performing the dance - very rhythmic, almost frenzied, with an elaborate series of hand gestures. You need physical strength to perform it. Its meaning has become muddled and lost in the States. Women need to reclaim it. It is rightfully a women's dance done for women, not for men.

I feel that dance should be from something internal, rather than for something external. It is your own instincts and feelings - something inside you - that motivates you. You dance from an inner concentration and there's harmony, just like in a musical piece.

What kind of mood do you try to create in your dance center?

The studio is a sanctuary, without theatrical devices. We don't set-up, "I'm the performer. Here I am." I see teaching as a reciprocal experience or process. With children, if they don't dig it, they don't stay. The objective is not to have a recital, but to have the child be expressive. Jayne helps the children be creative. We steer away from performance. The goal is to have fun. Whether the class is for adults or children, it's student-oriented.

When I spoke with you in International Women's Day, you had created a woman-oriented dance program that, among other things, dealt with how dance forms reflect societal roles for women. Can you say more about that?

Yes, I believe dances do reflect and perpetuate male/female roles. Dance can be used to judge the roles women have in a society. You can ask, "What kind of cultural message does a dance give?" In Greek dances, women are demure, with downcast eyes and no bravado or loud movements. A good female dancer means to be a "proper woman." The male kicks, leaps, jumps, shouts and screams. And, look at the role of the female dancer in ballet. Plus, the idea of dance as a "performing art" to be held as "special," "classical," and "to be appreciated," rather than as something accessible in which anyone can participate, bombards us even more in ballet. Many West African dances reflect an agrarian and hunting theme. This exemplifies the needs of that culture. The dances go on forever; the women must be physi-



# breaking silence



Healing comes slow.  
Yesterday's pain and distorted visions  
will not bleed beyond the hills  
like Chinese ink clouds in the harbour.  
Reminding myself to unclench my teeth,  
to trade tight hands to open fingers  
in the wind,

I breathe into where the memories sting  
and reach for the gulls cry.  
To trade my salt tears to the briny dew  
upon my cheek,

To trade my loneliness to solitude,  
To see my hated transience,  
like this sand bar I'm standing on  
sometimes here, sometimes gone,  
No less good earth,  
No less a path with heart,  
Forever here, though not the same,  
Forever a part of you as you of me,  
and that rock,  
and that tree.

The healing is slow.

My heart hunts words for a hammering mind's anvil  
a patch for wounds, I share my poemsmith's tune:

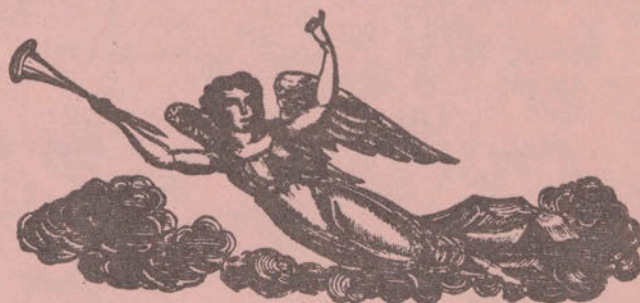
leaves rustle "om"  
the dog's soft kiss  
the cat touches my bare knee  
the window is open  
rainwater beads on a varnished sill  
or better still,  
my mother's Russian lullaby  
a woman's lips I can't forget  
both long gone, and yet,  
I breathe in to where the memories sting  
replenishing my cup,  
my voice raised to sing.



## RIDING ON THE BACK OF THE MID-WEST

I felt the hollowness  
an empty cup must feel.  
Driving through the mid-western night  
past farms  
and houses, desolate houses,  
each one a sister to the one beside it  
for miles and miles  
and miles on the plains.  
The flat horizon was thin paint  
that spread and covered enough  
and ran down the globe into the sea.  
I wanted  
I felt a need.  
I stopped the car and let myself out  
into the October  
and leaned on the warm hood  
and looked at the cold corn stubble  
that punctuated the earth  
in even rows  
in even rows  
in even rows  
I cried out to the stars by name  
I cried out to them  
constant lights in the October  
I cried  
at this dreadful uniformity.

Tsitsu



## New Leaf Books

23 MAIN STREET, ROCKPORT 236-2030

"Oh, life is a glorious cycle of song,  
A medley of extemporanea;  
And love is a thing that can never go wrong;  
And I am Marie of Roumania."

Dorothy Parker

We specialize in books by and about women,  
alternative energy, health care and nutrition.

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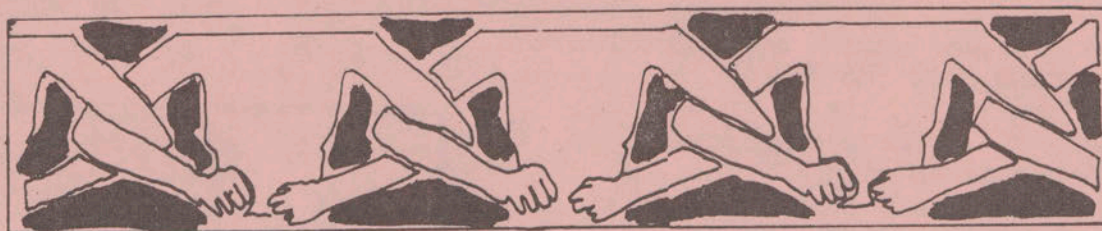
Anne's as "Spinster"!! Such an interesting way of identifying Anne may have been due to her moving from Haworth and establishing herself independently from her family.

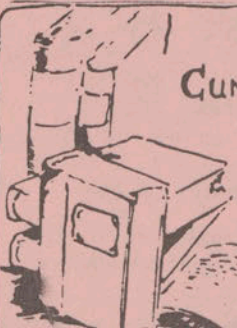
Near Findhorn in Scotland, a stop in the town of Forres (that is, after taking several pictures of the town of Dyke - Yes, Dyke - Ha! Ha!) brought us to the "Witches Stone," the site on which witches were burned after being rolled down a steep hill in barrels lined with spikes. I wanted, in some way, to acknowledge those wimmin - their wisdom, their suffering and their spirits. So, I did the only thing I could think of - I sat on it...and I sat.

We often discussed politics with our British friends. Britain, under Margaret Thatcher's Tory government, is experiencing a reactionary movement similar to Amerika under Reagan. Spiraling unemployment and inflation, threats to abortion rights, the threat posed to Britain by NATO and by Amerikan weaponry in the British Isles, cuts in social services that particularly affect wimmin's lives, violence against women, and threats to Lesbians are major issues with which British feminists are struggling. While we were there, Thatcher declared her refusal to meet with the participants in the People's March Against Unemployment, upon their arrival in London from Liverpool, a move which caused a major outcry. In early May, British feminists held a "National Festival for Women's Rights Against the Tory Attacks," with major themes being: work, jobs and unions; racism and imperialism; the welfare state; the nuclear threat; violence against women; childcare; and fertility control. Additionally, Black groups, civil liberties groups and women's groups are organizing against a racist Nationality Bill due to become law in 1982. Thus, I found British feminists to be involved in similar issues as American feminists...and to be facing a similar opposition.

I returned to Portland with visions of a Wimmin's Building to house, among other things, our newsletter, visions of the Community reaching out to wimmin of all ages, visions of appropriating the White House for our Amazon old-age home ( we can paint it lavender), and a feeling of connectedness with the feminist work wimmin are doing everywhere, within our own communities. In the face of much resistance and oppression, all over the globe, I feel strongly that we will continue doing what we are doing, for we have no other choice, really. As we create a wimmin's presence, as we demand acknowledgement, as we unfold our dreams of a better future, as we fight for our very survival in a nuclear world, it is our very cores that are unfolding.

by DE





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## profiles Con't.

cally strong and have lots of stamina to do the rhythmic tribal dances. I grew up doing a French-Canadian dance, "La Brastigue." The dance is done with fervor, excitement and "gusto." I danced it one time at a mixer and the male leader who was Japanese said to me, "Women are not supposed to do that. It's not their role." But I danced it very strongly. Growing up, I never saw French-Canadian women take a back seat. In the Flamenco dance, the women really foot stomp and belt it out. It's powerful, but with a reserved posture.

How does that relate, though to the "machismo" that women are subjected to in Spanish cultures? Women have very little power.

It's a duality. Women are the power in the family and that is embodied in the classical dance form. They have their "moment of glory" in that dance. Their demeanor is one of strength and self-assurance.

How have your classes been received by males?

Most of the men sign-up for the jazz and the Dancercise class. We had an even number of men and women in the Dancercise Class last semester. These, I believe, are "gender-neutral" as our culture defines them; they aren't thought of as real "effeminate" dances.

What has been difficult in trying to run a community-oriented dance center?

I find lots of reservation about dance among Maine people. There's a need for an awareness that dance exists and that dance is something in which everyone can take part. I would love to see more of what Arthur Hall from Philadelphia did in Camden. He got 60 people together - children and adults of all ages and varying experiences-and choreographed a dance which was then performed at Portland City Hall and in Camden. Also, one of my major goals is to get more elders involved. They carry a wealth of information and we should pay tribute to them.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Just that I feel Maine Movement is unique, and its philosophy very important.

Thank you, Diane.

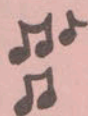
Maine Movement, now in its fourth semester, offers courses for people of all ages, with or without previous dance experience. Call 775-6392 for information on courses. Maine Movement is located in the People's Building, 155 Brackett St., across from Reiche School.



### Recordland

A fine selection of women's music, jazz, blues, & more.

574 congress street • PORTLAND



On Saturday, July 25, THROUGH THE WAVES will be performed by members of Lunatree in Putney, Vermont at Madame Cheri's outdoor amphitheater for women's productions. If you are interested in seeing the production, contact Nicole d'Entremont, 772-3093.



There were stars in the sky and in the eyes of the (estimated) 100 dazzling women who shone forth at Hollowell's (I hope first annual) Womans Prom on the evening of June 12.

The evening event began promptly at eight following a gown and tux dinner at Slaters Restaurant; I must note that the lovely femmes and their dashing escorts graced that dining room with sheer elegance! Well, with the evening underway at the cotillion one couldn't help becoming awe struck at the attractive procession of women in ball gowns, dress suits and tuxedos which covered a cronology of fashion, which one took pure delight in gazing upon.

The room was decorated in fine ballroom fashion (sorry, there were no chandeliers!) with colorful spiraling streamers and hanging spring butterflies. A blue Lamda arch with colorful paper flowers was constructed for the couples to be photographed under. A kissing booth was active all evening long, refreshments were sold, and we danced the night away to the exuberant sound of "taped music". (do not mistake me as sarcastic the tunes were fine).

The festivities were capped with the crowning of the queen and queen and their court. The prize being license to frequent the kissing booth as frequently as they liked!

This "Gayla" event was benefit for the Augusta Womens' Shelter. We extend our thank-yous to all those who helped to meke this event a success through their work effort and attendance.

Vivat la Prom!

enade!

Balenda

If nonviolence is the  
law of our being



the future is with  
woman.

~ Gandhi

Nelly Bly (Elizabeth Seaman), a nineteenth-century journalist, bested Jules Verne's fictional hero, Phileas Fogg, when she made it around the world in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes and 14 seconds.

At the age of 65 and again at 68, Emma Gatewood was the first woman to walk the 2,000-mile Appalachian Trail alone, and the oldest person to do so more than once.

In 1876, Maria Speltarini crossed Niagra Falls on a tightrope with a 30-pound weight attached to each ankle!!!

Isabella Bird Bishop, upon the suggestion of her doctor, began travelling to cure her mysterious illnesses. In the 1870's, at the age of 40, she traversed the Rocky Mountains, Japan, Kashmir, Tibet, Malaya, India and Korea, writing about the sites she saw. To pay her way, she worked as a cowgirl, cook and missionary.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### YOUR BODY AND YOUR FEELINGS:

A workshop for women using physical movement (including bio-energetics) and guided fantasy to explore the relationship between emotions, body tension and body image. We will meet weekly for 9 sessions beginning Wednesday, July 1, 7:00-9pm on the USM campus. Late joiners are welcome as space permits. Led by Liz Cinamon, M.S.W., women's counselor. Sliding fee, \$8-\$12 per session. For information or registration call 773-1394.

### WANTED: WOMEN TO TEACH SKILLS

The YWCA Women's Services is looking for women to conduct survival skills workshops in the Fall. Suggested topics are: Assertiveness training, Sexual Harrassment, Carpentry, Gardening, Home Maintenance, Bicycle and Auto Repair, and Housing and Employment Workshops. We are looking for competent and vibrant women to teach other women.

Please call Carolyn Altieri at the YWCA at 772-1906.

### YWCA FALL WEEKEND FOR WOMEN

Join us for a fall weekend in the White Mountains designed especially for women who want to leave their daily roles behind, to relax, and have fun. Activities will include discussions, informative workshops, hiking, music, dancing, and more. Fee is \$32 for members, \$37 for non-members for three days, two nights, and five meals.

Advanced registration required-Limit, 30 women. Call 772-1906, Carolyn Altieri-Bernal or Jennifer Tarling. Weekend to take place on Sept. 11-13.

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### YWCA WOMEN'S READING GROUP

The Women's Reading Group meets every Monday at 5:30pm on the Women's Room at the YWCA. We are a collective group wishing to read & discuss literature by & about women. We will be concentrating on selections by Virginia Woolf, Doris Lessing, George Sand, and Radclyffe Hall in the next few months. For information call Nancy at 774-1819.

### GYN/ECOLOGY DISCUSSION

A group of Womyn have been joining together each Wednesday evening to read and discuss GYN/ECOLOGY by Mary Daly. If you would like to join us, call Bunny or Nancy at 779-1819 for more information.

### ROOMATE WANTED:

Lesbian feminist wanted to share spacious, comfortable apt. on Munjoy Hill with 3 others. Rent is \$60 plus utilities. On busline. Please call 772-6953.



## announcements con't

DARE SAY, a free publication for the gay community, P.O. Box 253 North Hampton, N.H. 03862  
hello! communication of events in the gay community of N.H. and Maine is, unfortunately, very minimal.  
DARE SAY, a free monthly newsletter for gay men and lesbians, has been in the planning for two months and hopes to fill the gay community's need for information.  
DARE SAY will be chock full of events, columns on various subjects, editorial, and a complete classified section.  
DARE SAY invites you to share in our first issue by submitting any events your organization may be having to our publication. we will be distributing DARE SAY at bars and any other business or public organization that requests our publication. our first run will be 1,000 copies.  
help yourself, help others, help DARE SAY. we're bringing into this publication a combination of 17 years business experience, and 6 years of newspaper publication background.  
we know what we're doing and have the talent and energy to make it work! we look forward to working with you!

HOUSEMATES WANTED for non-sexist cooperative household in Portland. (household just forming) Responsible non-smoking individuals (singles or couples) are preferred, those who are self-activating yet wish to have some interaction with others. Bases for sharing may include political activist, dietary, artistic, philosophical, or other interests. (As well as economic benefits.) Please telephone. Nancy 773-8716.

### SOFTBALL FOR ALL!!

The Portland Women's Community has reserved Jack Softball Field for every other Sunday 9-11AM through the summer. The dates are July 12, 26, Aug 9, 23, Sept. 6, 20. Bring bats, balls, mits and a light heart. The field is located next to Jack Elementary School on North St, Munjoy Hill. Any questions, call Bunny, 774-1819 or Ann, 772-3093.

### \*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\*

#### WOMEN IN PRINT CONFERENCE

Date Changed: Original July dates conflict with important library conference. WIP will be rescheduled for later in September. Stay tuned for more info.

Who: Women connected with feminist publishing. Due to limited resources, this will include only women presently working on newspapers, periodicals, publishers, printers, distributors, and bookstores.

What: A weekend conference with both practical and political workshops.

Where: Washington, DC

Interested? To get on the mailing list for more info., send you name and address plus \$1.00 to WIP c/o oob, 1724 20th St. NW, D.C. 20009.

For Sublet, small camp on Highland Lake. Available Aug. 1 -- October 15th. Can be sublet monthly or for entire time period. \$300.00 a month, call 797-4186.

Hear ye! Hear ye!

Double Anniversary  
Celebrate the Portland Women's Community and Chickie and Gerri's First Year Together  
Party (No Meetings)  
From 12 on --- Saturday July 11th  
Highland Lake -- Bring Food/  
Beverages/ Bathing Suits  
Carpooling From 71 Walnut Street  
Call 797-4186 or 772-3093

#### BE THE FIRST TO SEE THE SUNRISE IN NORTH AMERICA

Womyn are warmly welcome to come and share a weekend of hiking, sunning, birdwatching and assorted other re-laxing country diversions -- July 24th, 25th, 26th. We also plan to experience a sunrise from the top of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park (45 minutes away). Cadillac Mountain, the highest mountain on the eastern seaboard, affords a truly spectacular view on a clear morning. (And we'd be the first to see in in North America). Write for a map and carpool info. Debbie and Rose, Star Route 79, Box 39, Orland, Maine 04472

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## more announcements

*RAFFLE\*RAFFLE\*RAFFLE\* We are raffling off a trip to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. This covers transportation costs-bus, van, whichever we take. So, if you want to buy a ticket or two they are 50¢ each. Contact Bunny at 774-1819. Also if you want to sell some. Drawing July 21 at the Potluck at Two Lights State Park.*

*Anyone interested in going to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival should contact Bunny at 774-1819, or come to the July 11, meeting at Chickie and Gerri's, we will have a short meeting on transportation and expenses. The dates are August 13th to 16th.*

*Please....I have loaned books and don't remember to whom. Please let me know if it may be you. Specifically Nightwood and A Woman Appears to me. Balenda 772-1515.*



fun - fun - fun -

bond - bond - bond

The fun and bonding task force is at it again -- planning summer fun. There will be a potluck supper at Two Lights State Park on Tuesday July 21st, anytime from 5:00 P.M. on... We'll have charcoal fires going for anyone who wants to cook out.

Next will be a lazy canoe trip down the Saco River leaving Sat. A.M. August 1st, camping overnight and returning Sunday P.M. August 2nd. If you are interested, call Ann Houser 772-3093. If you have a canoe -- great, if not, they can be rented. Ann will have the details.

On Sat., September 12th, the second annual cook-out, party, bon-fires, and overnight camping at Recompence Shore Campsite in Freeport on the ocean. There will be more details in the next newsletter. Stay tuned for a fall climb up Mt. Washington...

IRIS A Private Women's Club  
40 Pleasant St.

Portsmouth, N.H. 03801

Open Tuesday - Sunday

Quiet Room Upstairs 5pm-1:30am

(note-men allowed as guest of members only)

Up-Beat dance room - downstairs 8pm-1:30am

(note- men allowed on Sunday nights only)

Membership \$10.00 for 365 days (we now have over 300)

Cover charge: \$1.00 Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, \$3.00 Weekends, for guests and visitors.

Quiet room: has salad bar and sandwiches soft music and a complete bar.

Dance room: up beat music - a complete bar.

Find large church on Market Sq. in center of town. IRIS is located directly behind it on Pleasant. Use front door. Ring bell. Have ID's available.

We have nightly specials: Sunday and Wednesday, 50 cents off beer. Tuesday 25 cents off wines; Thursday and Friday -- Happy Hour all night.

### GODDESS OF DAWN

AURORA (which means Goddess of Dawn) is the name of a new quarterly newsletter published by Maine Women For A Nuclear Free Future. "Aurora" is an effort to network women all over the state, to organize and have an effect on what is happening in Maine and the world.

The first issue had articles on T.M.I., atomic veterans, women in solar energy, a solar calendar, publication referral and more. "Aurora" welcomes suggestions, articles, poems, book reviews, graphics and letters. They would like to keep informed on issue related events and activities and will try to put you in touch with women in your area, if you need help organizing an event.

For a copy of the first issue, or more information: Maine Women For A Nuclear Free Future, PO Box 4118, Sta.A, Portland, Maine 04101.





# MAXI minutes for mini meeting

Next on the agenda was discussion on a model for decision-making within the community. The model posed by the facilitators (Nicole d'Entremont, Laura Pawle, and Donna Jones) was likened unto a wheel with spokes. (The spokes being the various task forces and the center of the wheel, a steering committee. It was decided that there were not enough wimmin present to make a final decision on the structure desired for and by the community. The discussion will continue in September, with suggested points being:

What would "the hub" be responsible for? How would decisions be arrived at? How would decisions be implemented? Who will be accountable to whom and for what? How will we define membership? Will "the hub" be opened or closed? Is consensus the best way to operate? Several members of the group volunteered to investigate methods and models used by other wimmin's communities.

After introductions, task forces gave their reports. Softball games sponsored by the Fun & Bonding Task Force were held twice. (See this issue's calendar for future games and location.) The Newsletter Task Force needs new wimmin. The newsletter has \$204.34 as of 6/7/81. This is enough for a little more than one issue. The fundraising projects helped tremendously. The Fundraising Task Force became a permanent task force.

The next meeting will be July 11 at Highland Lake, beginning at 12 noon. Bring food, bathing suits, beverages. It's our FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY!!!!!!

Postcards will be sent to inform people of the July 11 meeting.

Minutes recorded by Jennifer Tarling. Any wierd editing is the responsibility of the Newsletter Task Force.

WORKING WOMEN ARE NEVER DONE!

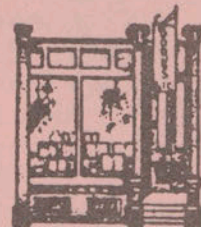
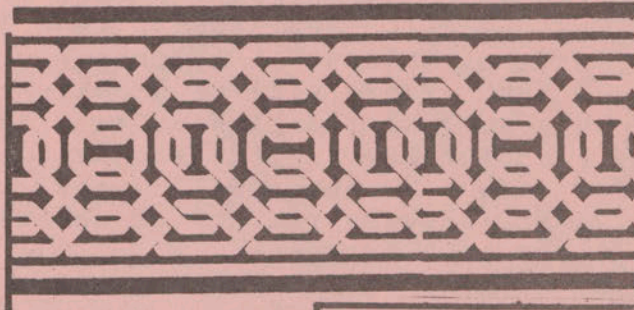
12

"A Handbook For and About Working Women in Maine," revised from the 1977 edition, is available free from the Maine Commission for Women, State House Sta.93, Augusta 04333 (289-3418). Tables and text tell who is working, where they work, wage comparisons, and job opportunities. There's also chapters on part-time work, unemployment, and a short history of women workers in Maine. It includes "everything I could think of," says author Marilyn Josephson of Temple.

A section on training covers vocational education, a list of courses and locations, apprenticeships, contract mediation, CETA and more.

Working women will also be interested in workshops sponsored by the "Working Women's Rights Project". These free workshops, one to two hours long, are designed to increase awareness of rights of women as employees. Topics include sexual harassment, pregnancy, job safety and affirmative action.

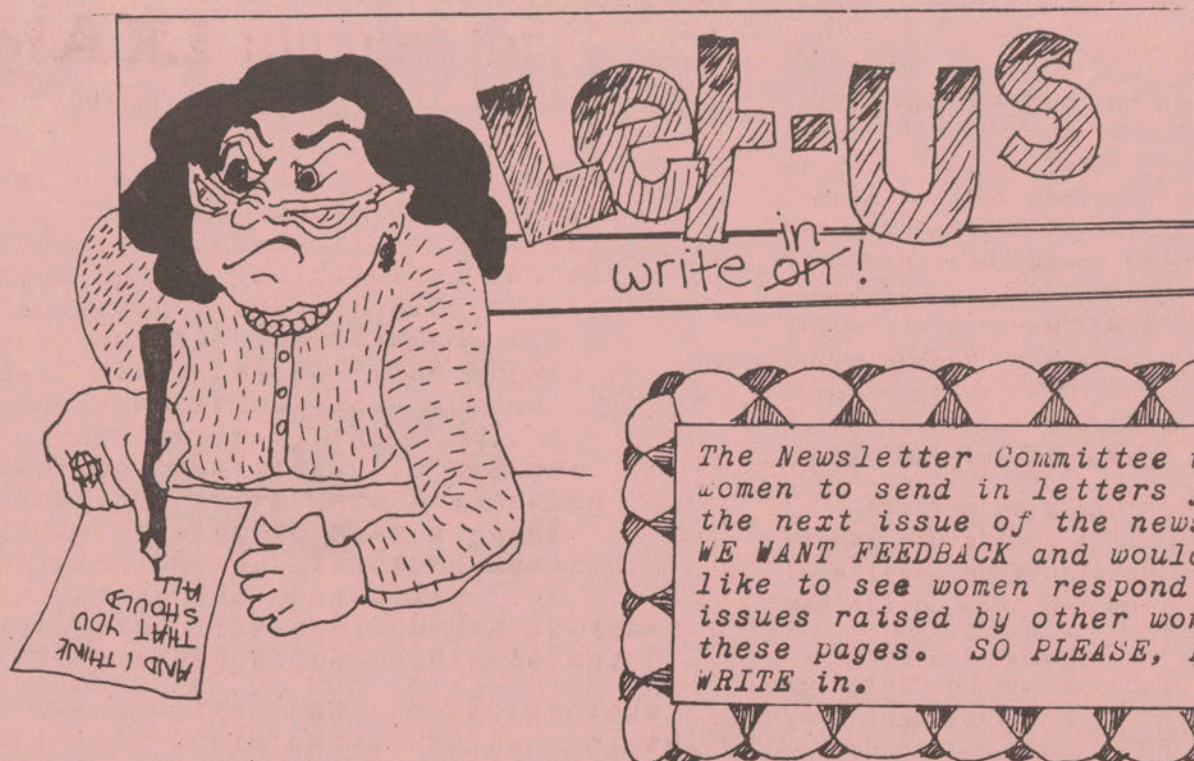
These workshops will give women the chance to share common concerns and offer suggestions to end sexual discrimination in the workplace. Contact Cynthia Strout, WWRP, 97A Exchange St., Portland 04101, (774-5444) to arrange for a workshop.



**shillito  
BOOKS, ETC.**

38 EXCHANGE ST.  
PORTLAND, MAINE  
Telephone 774-0626





Dear Community Newsletter,

About inserting birthday notices in the calendar, I think your subscriptions number around 150, I'm not sure. Anyway, a large number of those women do not know Linda P., Tortuga, Erna or Pauli. I happen to, and I don't feel bothered by the announcements. What of all the women who don't know these women or don't know anyone on the staff to put their name on the calendar? Perhaps each month you could list birthdays of all women for that month who subscribe. This certainly would be more inclusive and less elitist. So many women are not visible in the confines of the organized "community." And so, they are not in the position to be able to put their names in when their birthday arrives. The newsletter should share its resources equally.

Keep up the good work. For sure, I know all the work involved. It's such a pleasure to receive the newsletter up here in the "boonies" and to know you city chickadees are busy sending out news to women. Good job!

My love,  
Debbie Jenney

Note: We don't mean to be elitist in printing up a few names of women in the community who sent their birthdays in or whom we happened to know offhand. Please if any women wish to make their birthdays public (or their friends) feel free to send them in and we'll include them in!



AMARYLLIS

Unique & Beautiful Clothing

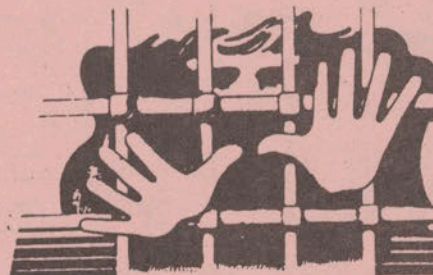
43 EXCHANGE ST. PORTLAND, ME.



# NEWS FROM BEHIND THE GLASS

You watch the sun set.  
 You move past another day,  
 never travel into it.  
 All good things  
 function outside.  
 You have your own little world.  
 You see,  
 the wind moving,  
 you don't feel it in here.

Carol Ann Wilds #0624  
 Indiana Women's Prison



Carol Ann Wilds forfeits her civil rights and privileges when incarcerated - but doesn't she still have certain human rights? "One of those rights is freedom from cruel and unusual punishment administered by corrupt department of correction employees." She became pregnant by a correction officer and gave birth during the summer of 1980. And then in Sept. she contracted a venereal infection that went untreated for weeks due to the indifference of the prison administration. Can you imagine sexual harassment in such a cruel setting as a prison?

Through the Looking Glass (TTLG), a monthly newsletter in its seventh year, focuses on incarcerated wommin and youth throughout the world. By providing a place for communication, TTLG breaks the isolation of such wommin as Carol Ann. The recent June issue of 41 pages contains a TTLG collective statement on the politics of anti-prison work. It also provides a brief analysis of the history of prison (as capitalism grows, so do prisons); the roles of both inside activities and outside anti-prison workers. The connection between prison abolitionist work and other struggles against oppression. Also included are poems, letters and articles written by prisoners.

While in Seattle I taught an exercise class once a week in the wommin's jail, which was filled mostly with poor wommin and wommin of color. It is not simply coincidence that these wommin committed "crimes" to literally feed and take care of their families. I saw firsthand how awful it is to be locked up. A dozen wommin sharing a 14 by 17 ft. space with only a television for diversion. "Not a natural space suspended in a metal cage six floors above the earth."

I highly recommend a subscription to TTLG for it offers an opportunity to share your space with other wommin in prison, jail and other forms of incarcerations. Receiving a colorful card, news clippings or pictures from magazines sure can make a difference to wommin inside the "joints." Indeed, if we try, we can cross the patriarchal barriers that have been put up to keep women in, or out.

Through the Looking Glass  
 PO Box 22061  
 Seattle, Wa. 98122  
 \$7.00 per yr. - \$1.00 a copy.  
 Free to prisoners

Debbie Jenney







SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>CALL IN AUGUST CALENDAR EVENTS BY JULY 17 TO RITA - 773-773-1896</p>		<p>30</p> <p>NEWSLETTER MEETING call 774-1819</p>	<p>1</p> <p>YOUR BODY &amp; FEELINGS 8-9pm w/ us</p>	<p>2</p> <p>YUCA WOMEN'S ROOM &amp; POT LUCK 6pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>YUCA READING GROUP 7pm FEMINIST SPIRITUAL 6pm - pot luck</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>YOUR BODY &amp; FEELINGS (call 773-1819) 7-9pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>YUCA WOMEN'S ROOM &amp; POT LUCK 6pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>YUCA WEEKEND call 774-5068</p> <p>WOMEN'S ANNIV. MEETING call 772-5068 at night and 772-5068</p>
<p>12</p> <p>WOMEN'S SOFTBALL at Jack field 9-11am</p>	<p>13</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FEMINIST SPIRITUAL 7pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>YOUR BODY &amp; FEELINGS 7-9pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>FOLK DANCE call 773-8750 YUCA WOMEN'S ROOM &amp; POT LUCK 6pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>happy birthday Dear Balenda!!!</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>YUCA READING GROUP 7pm FEMINIST SPIRITUAL 7pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>POT LUCK 3+ call 774-1819 two lectures</p>	<p>22</p> <p>YOUR BODY &amp; FEELINGS 7-9pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>YUCA WOMEN'S ROOM &amp; POT LUCK 6pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>WOMEN'S SOFTBALL 9-11am</p>	<p>27</p> <p>YUCA READING GROUP 7pm FEMINIST SPIRITUAL 7pm State St church</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>YOUR BODY &amp; FEELINGS 7-9pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>YUCA WOMEN'S ROOM &amp; POT LUCK 6pm</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>YUCA WEEKEND ON THE call 773-3493</p>



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 "Humor and Satire," and the one after  
that is "Dreams." Please, if you can, type your article  
with a maximum of a 7" width and a dark typewriter ribbon.  
Deadline for the next issue is July 13. Submit your writings  
to: Nicole d'Entremont, 71 Walnut St., Portland, Me. 04101.  
Subscriptions are \$5 for 12 issues (more if you can, less if  
you can't). Subscribers, why not help us out by showing your  
copy to your friends and encourage them to subscribe! Thanks!

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

-----PLEASE NOTIFY US OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS IMMEDIATELY-----

