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Sending out a call for Maine Dykes to go to Washington, DC, for the ERA March on July 9 (Sunday). N.O.W. is expecting more than 50,000 people to gather in support of the ERA and the extension campaign. Should be high-energy time, reminiscent of anti-war days. Buses from Maine promise to be fulfilled, too!

VITAL INFO:

- 1) Buses leave Portland Greyhound Terminal 8PM Saturday, July 8. One bus returning after march and rally (lv. D.C. approx. 6PM, arrive Portland, Monday approx. 5AM) Second bus will remain in DC until Monday at 1PM to allow women to lobby congresspersons re: ERA extension - PLEASE SPECIFY WHICH BUS YOU WANT TO RETURN ON (ie, coming home Sunday or Monday)
- 2) COST- \$39 round trip (7.50 additional for accomdations for those staying over til Monday). Hit up your rich friends for donations if you can't afford \$39. Plans are being made to pay for bus space for those who can't come up with \$39. THEREFORE, anyone who wants to go should register and we will all find a way to pay for those slots. Those who aren't going are encouraged to contribute \$\$ so others can.
- 3) Those interested need to send \$10 deposit and specify which bus, to Joanne Dauphinee, 23 March St., Bangor, Me., 04401 (942-2830), ASAP - balance due by July 1. Make checks payable to Maine NOW. For those in MLF who can't afford the total cost, please contact Kate and we'll find the extra \$\$\$.
- 4) Maine will have two (2) banners - Maine NOW and Maine Lesbian Feminists
- 5) March organizers are requesting that participants wear white, because:
 - a) supposed to be a reenactment of suffrage marches
 - b) gives us a sense of our herstory
 - c) will get media attention (ie, Media HYPE)
 - d) summer in DC is HOT and wearing white is sensible

NOTE: Wear whatever you feel comfortable in.....

LET'S GO, MAINE LESBIANS ! KEEP OURSELVES VISIBLE...!!!

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NOTICE:

FLO'S HOLD WOMEN'S NIGHT TWICE A MONTH FOR THE SUMMER. Keep the following dates open. Dom is willing to stay open as long as we continue to patronize the establishment. He has also agreed to get in a supply of juices for Women's Night, such as, apple, tomato and grapefruit. THE DATES TO REMEMBER:

JUNE 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, August 9 and 30. (second and last Wed.)

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MEETING NOTICE

GPA (Gay People's Alliance) office on UMPG campus has been closed (supposedly for inability to submit a proposal on time). Therefore MLF goals and purposes meeting set for July 8 (Sat), 9-5, will be held at 38 Myrtle Street, South Portland. For directions, call Kate at 268-4467, or Lois at 799-8744.

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If there is an X on your envelope, it may be time to renew your subscription to the MLF Newsletter. Mail to : Nadine Lopes,

Chadbourne's Ridge Road
West Buxton, Me 04073

☐ I wish to recieve (continue) Newsletter, here's \$5.00

☐ I wish to receive (continue) newletter, but don't have \$\$ now,
will send when I can.

☐ I do not wish to continue the Newsletter

NAME _____
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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MINUTES OF LAST MLF MEETING

I. Introductions

II. Childcare discussion

For the third meeting in a row, the childcare situation was reviewed. As at the last meeting, the "plan ahead" volunteers' plans had fallen thru and it seemed there was no one at the meeting prepared or willing to take on the responsibility of childcare. Obviously, this plan was not working.

After DISCUSSION and SUGGESTIONS (deal with it at the end, or the beginning of general meeting) and airing of feelings - such as no one, mothers and non-mothers alike, wanting to miss workshops - and perhaps not enough realization that no childcare means no children and, perhaps, no lesbians with children at meetings, we decided to pay someone \$15 to be responsible for childcare for the day - 11AM to 5PM. If no MLF members express an interest before the end of the meeting, the woman whose house the meeting is at will find someone. MLF members would still be asked to volunteer (if need be) to help the paid worker for an hour at a time.

III. Next meeting at Skowhegan, Saturday, June 24

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOW State - Workshops - Orondo - June 3 - Saturday - Kate doing workshop on Lesbianism

FLO'S - Connie to check on possibility of resuming twice a month for the summer. Also to suggest that owner stock natural fruit juices for non drinking lesbians (see info on Fun page)

Women's Functional Clothing Co. - benefit, June 4 in Northampton at the Common Woan Club

Women's Counseling Service - Bath, June 18, Slide show and Discussion (see Fun page)

V. GOD, COUNTRY AND DECENCY RALLY, WORD OF LIFE, INC - several MLF members attended the rally in Portland as protesters and incognito as audience members. There were 50+ protesters with good signs. Discussion followed about how to combat increasing right wing repressive movement. Are protests successful, or do they just draw attention to an event that would otherwise have passed unnoticed? If so, how do we combat these forces effectively? Further discussion was held in a workshop, later in the afternoon.

(Thanks Hildi)

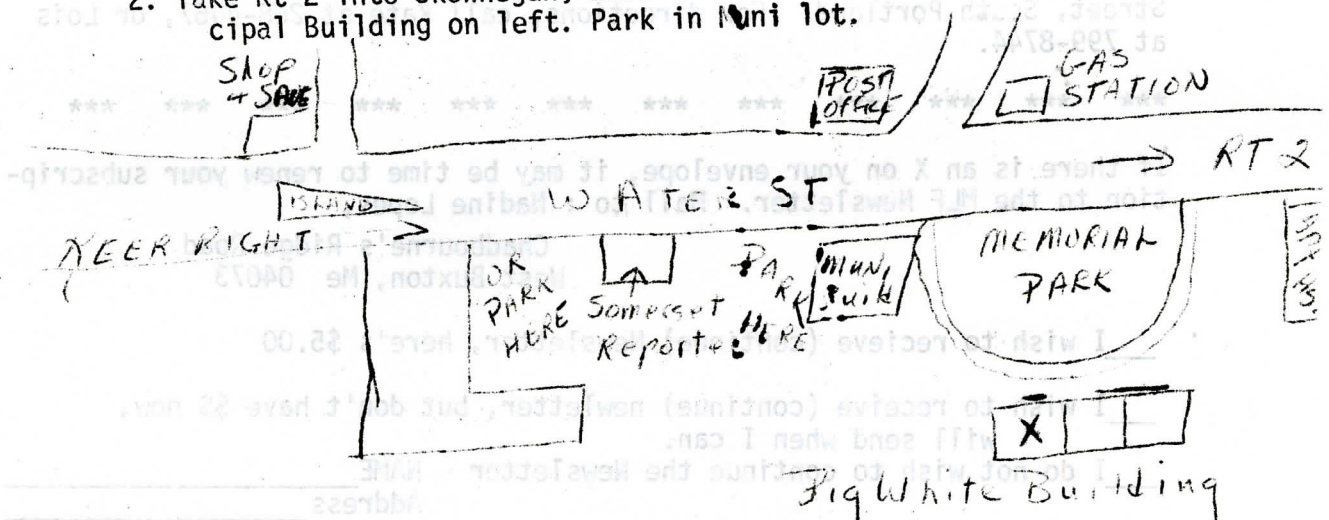
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DIRECTIONS TO THE NEXT MEETING (Hang on to your map, there isn't a phone at the meeting place.)

From SOUTH

1. Take I95 to Skowhegan/Fairfield exit (rt 201)
2. Turn right at exit, 201 North, gayly forward to Skowhegan
3. In Skowhegan, first four corners with a traffic light, turn right and cross two bridges. You are now on Water Street
4. Past Somerset Reporter (on the right), park in Municipal Building lot. House is next to Municipal building, in back of small park.

From NORTH

1. Take I95 to Newport/ Rt 2 exit
2. Take Rt 2 into Skowhegan, Look for Post Office (on right) and Municipal Building on left. Park in Muni lot.



3

FUN THINGS TO DO

DYKES & TYKES - Come to a pot-luck country picnic on Saturday, July 22, in central Maine (halfway between Wiscasset and Augusta) - starting at 11AM - bring food and frisbees.

WELCOME - Lesbian mothers, kids (all ages) who are lucky enough to have lesbian mothers, lesbians who like kids, and any woman who is concerned about how women are kept in line by fear of losing our children if we come out. **COME AND HAVE FUN**

Phone 737-4949 for directions - or ask at next MLF meeting
Picnic will be held Sunday July 23 if Saturday is pouring rain.

SLIDE SHOW - "A View of Various Vulvas" will be shown followed by a discussion session, on Sunday, June 18, at 7PM, at the Patten Free Library, 33 Summer Street, Bath. This is sponsored by the Woman's Counseling Service. Donation of \$1 is requested, if you can. This will be the first day of LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK. Come join your sisters.

BLUEGRASS-COUNTRY WESTERN HOEDOWN - to benefit Spruce Run Association (an organization providing direct services to battered women), will be held Thursday, June 22, 6PM, at the Student Union, Bangor Community College. Requested donation - \$3 - program will feature: Dick Curless, Kennebec Valley Boys, Fred Pike, food and drink available.

LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK IN NYC - Lesbian Feminist Liberation has a full schedule for the week, childcare and housing can be provided

SUNDAY - Coming Out, Then and Now Herstory Archives Slide Show, Speakers

MONDAY - Dykes & Tykes Presents: YOU, ME & THE KIDS - music, poetry, and entertainment by children

TUESDAY - The Poetry of Lesbian Sexuality - Lesbian artists, film show, speakers

WEDNESDAY - Political Activism - Speakers, workshops

THURSDAY - Salsa Soul Sisters Open House

FRIDAY - LESBIAN PRIDE CONCERT - Alix Dobkin, Sirani Avedis and others

SATURDAY - LFL Open House

SATURDAY - LESBIAN PRIDE DANCE - music provided by DJ

For more information write: LFL, 243 West 20th Street, NYC 10011
or call: (212) 691-5460

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NEXT MEETING

The next MLF meeting will be held at 189 Water Street, Skowhegan, on June 24, Saturday. Since I've not heard from many of you, the agenda is tentative. Feel free to hold your workshops or be prepared with ideas for the day.

10AM- 11AM Welcome, greetings, coffee, tea, warmth, hugs, whatever
11AM Childcare should begin - please remind your children that this is their time, space, and persons involved will be trying to provide them with meaningful activities

11AM Brief agenda meeting to announce house rules and activities for the day

11:30-12:30 LUNCH - Bring your own, there is a store near (also McD)

12:30 - 2:00 WORKSHOP PERIOD

Matriarchy workshop - POWER

New Members (?)

2:15 -3:30 GENERAL MEETING

3:45 -5:00 WORKSHOP PERIOD / PLAY TIME ACTION WORKSHOP (SEE P.5)

Softball (?), a walk in the park, music, whatever

5PM POT-LUCK SUPPER

Please bring a dish to share, there is an oven and a BBQ grill available (if everyone will bring something to contribute, there will be plenty to eat. The more YOU contribute, the more fun we have.)

The evening is open for partying, music, conversation, fun.

PLEASE!!! NO DOGS!!! NO ALCOHOL OR POT!!!(This is a drug free home)

There is no telephone, so hang on to your directions. If you have any questions, call Connie at 474-8349 (a work phone, be discreet)

THIS IS OUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY MEETING!!! COME JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION!!!

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS IS GROWING STRONG!!!

24
How they came into the world

the women loving women came in three by three

and four by four

the women loving women came in ten by ten

and ten by ten again

until there were more than you could count...

- Judy Grahn

On March 17-19, Lesbians from all reaches of the country met in Los Angeles to form a national lesbian organization to improve the status and secure the civil rights of lesbians, and to promote the ideology and goals of lesbian feminism. The result of the meeting was the founding of the National Lesbian Feminist Organization.

It is important for Maine women to be aware of what our sisters are doing on a national level; therefore, we will attempt to print excerpts from It's About Time! This month, to start with the basics, we have chosen to print the resolutions on purpose from the Founding Convention of March.

"Purpose

Be it resolved that we declare that the purpose of this organization is to act on a feminist platform which deals with the oppression of lesbians in all of its manifestations.

Be it further resolved that we see these manifestations as including, but not limited to, discrimination based on sexual preference, sex, race, class, age, and physical disability.

Recognizing that lesbians are oppressed and invisible in this society where women hating is the norm,

Recognizing that there is a need to educate lesbians and the general public as to the social, political, and economic and racial oppression of lesbians,

Recognizing the need for developing lesbian culture,

Recognizing that all women have many aspects of their lives, situations, and struggles, and that women have multiple facets to their identities,

We therefore unite as the NATIONAL LESBIAN FEMINIST ORGANIZATION."

"Racism and Classism

Be it resolved that this national lesbian organization be committed to fighting racism and classism both inside and outside this organization, therefore we will have a minimum of 50% of all women involved in the level of planning and decision making be women of color of various class backgrounds.

Be it resolved that locals are exempt from the 50% requirement of women of color and that all STATE and NATIONAL planning and decision making boards be composed of 50% women of color."

"WOMEN OF COLOR" has been officially defined by the WOC delegation as:

"Women of obvious color, women of the Third World, and women of racial minority groups here in the United States."

Kate has been elected to the NLFO Steering committee for Finance/Budget. Her duties, as presented in the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, will include responsibility for developing a budget, opening a bank account, and keeping the books. She has asked for feedback and assistance from those members of MLF who are interested. Contact Kate if you are interested.

NATIONAL LESBIAN FEMINIST ORGANIZATION

Yes, I want to join the National Lesbian Feminist Organization. I understand that my dues entitle me to receive the bimonthly newsletter of the NLFO and to participate on the local level and in my state convention)

NAME _____ Address _____

DUES ENCLOSED: _____
(\$1 per every \$1,000 per year gross income) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL TO: National Lesbian Feminist Organization
P. O. Box 14643
Houston, Texas 77021

At the last meeting, some of us got together to talk about what happened at the "God, Country and Decency" Rally in Portland the weekend before, and the protest actions against the anti-gay message. Those of us who were in Portland during the rally described how deeply it affected us to be the target of some very slick and very intense bible-thumping. While there were few outright attacks on us, the moderator and preacher referred to gay values as "filth" and made it clear that they wanted gay values put down.

We talked about how the booing and hissing from some protesters disrupted the rally but did not win any friends among the crowd. We discussed the need for more lesbians' participation in the planning of actions around these types of events.

This led to a discussion of the whole anti-gay movement, and the defeats of gay-rights ordinances in, at the time, three cities. (Eugene, Oregon became the fourth recently) Some of us felt that we lesbians should not let ourselves get drawn into one local battle after another, letting our energies get sapped off by the fights to save particular ordinances, but that instead we should go to the root of the problem, and get a constitutional change in this country, through the courts. Others said the courts were going backwards, and would not uphold our view of the constitution. We talked about the fate of the ERA a bit.

Others said we should find out who funds the anti-gay movements, and educate ourselves and the public to the now-hidden connections between various reactionary groups. We talked of how anti-gay hysteria is being foisted off on working class people to cover up for the failure of our economy, and the deepening economic crisis in the society.

We all felt the need to know about this growing movement to push us back in the closets. We all felt the need to DO SOMETHING about it. We decided to start by doing six things:

1. Get on the mailing lists of right wing organizations, so we would know what they are saying and doing. Sue Farrell will do this.
2. Have reports at each MLF meeting on developments in the anti-gay movement.
3. All interested, bring a list of ideas for particular political actions MLF as a group can take, and decide at the next meeting which ones to concentrate our efforts on.
4. Revive the Speaker's list and publicize it in Maine
5. Have strategy workshops at the MLF meetings to coordinate our work and keep each other up to date.
6. Develop an analysis of what is going on: why the anti-gay movement, how it is happening, who is involved, what positive trends are there to work on; and educate ourselves and the public (people of Maine) to lesbian issues.

This is a first step towards concrete actions to take more control over our destinies as lesbians in Maine. We hope everyone will come to the next meeting with specific suggestions and lots of energy.

Nancy Brockway

Coming Out Letters - Contributions are needed for a proposed anthology of coming-out letters from gay men and lesbians to their parents, in order to serve as a kind of "how they did it" guide for others facing the same hurdle. If interested, write to Jim Struve, 297 Eureka Drive, NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30305 for further information.

GOD AND GAYS: John Heilman of the Northwestern University Gay Union and Lesbian Alliance writes to suggest that a theological theme is a good basis for a gay campus lecture/discussion event. NU had a large turnout last fall for such an event, which featured talks by a professor from a nearby theological seminary and the MCC/Chicago minister. The subject is intrinsically interesting to many people, it can be discussed on a respectably scholarly level, and on campus there are likely to be some influential religious people willing to take a sympathetic position. Try it.

-NGTF Action Report
May 1978