

Feb 1979

HOT TIP AND GOOD NEWS!! MLF TO STAY ALIVE!!

It was wildly apparent from the Year's End Dance in Portland that we want more dances, get-togethers, social events; and it was overwhelmingly apparent that there are some women who are willing to help plan and put on those activities. All this information came from some of the MLF questionnaires distributed at the Dec. 30th dance--hopefully the questionnaires will be enclosed in this newsletter, it's suggested that we use the forms as a guide to think about what we each might have the ability or desire to do in working with other women in the state.

There's never been a clear way for individual women in MLF to openly volunteer to take some responsibility for keeping MLF functioning, or to be elected to do it. Therefore, we were never sure who was allowed to speak for MLF, or who'd write checks and under what circumstances, or who'll plan meetings and inform others(newsletter). So what has happened is that a few women have taken the hidden responsibilities of running the organization, and we're tired or burned-out or taking a break. By thinking over how to keep a good idea going (keeping a large state full of lesbians in communication with one another), we put down on paper all the previous things that MLF has done; and got positive responses to all the activities on returned questionnaires. Now we need Maine women to figure out what each is capable of doing or wishes to learn in terms of the following tasks or work groups:

- NEWSLETTER: planning, writing, and mailing newsletter regularly. Takes time interest to contact other women around state to gather information.
- MEMBERSHIP: keeps track of current membership, updates list for Newsletter; perhaps answers mail?
- TREASURER: Could be same women or group as Membership. Deposits dues, money raised; pays bills; keeps financial records.
- SOCIAL: Plans dances (with aid of various groups in local areas), get-togethers, athletic events; hopefully at different places thru out the state.
- THE ARTS: Plan or organize concerts, cultural events, reading groups, writing groups, etc.
- INTERNAL SUPPORT: Plan workshops, small discussion groups(for example: CR, Lesbianmothers group, skill-sharing, leadership training). Goal to create sense of community with lesbians in ME.
- POLITICAL ACTION: lobby for gay rights legislation; plan projects or actions; maintain lesbian visibility in media; perhaps political theory group.
- COORDINATOR: schedules and plans state-wide MLF meetings/gatherings. Facilitates any general meeting necessary.
- SPEAKERS BUREAU: prepares information, speeches, presentations for media, community or educational groups. Represents MLF to outside world. Might be same women as Political Action.
- SCRIBE/RECORDER: takes minutes at state meetings(business stuff) for publication in newsletter. Might handle mail.
- REGIONAL CONTACTS: takes responsibility for planning regular gatherings in specific areas (e.g., Portland area, Augusta-Waterville, Belfast, Bangor, wherever.). Keep in touch with women in your area.

We already have some women who have volunteered to "head up" several groups: Sparky-The Arts; Nadine--Treasury (and maybe Membership); Kate: Political Action (and maybe Speakers Bureau)

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED!! Come to the March MLF meeting willing to volunteer your skills or time to whatever you can do to keep us together. Lookout, March meeting, here we come!

*ERA*ERA*ERA*ERA*ERA*ERA*ERA*ERA*ER

GAYS TO MARCH ON WASHINGTON?

March 23, 1979 is the first day of the extension of the period needed to ratify the ERA! Join other women in an ERA Extension Celebration that Friday night (3/23) in Portland:

Wine and Cheese Party 8-10PM
at New Age Community Center
97 Danforth St., Portland
Donation: \$2 or more To benefit the NOW Nat'l ERA Fund

Sponsored by Greater Ptld. NOW
An editorial comment: donate as much as you can so we can get the damn thing ratified and carry on!!

! @ # \$ % & * () _ + ! @ # \$ %

HOLLY NEAR IN BOSTON

Rumor has it that spectacular lesbian/feminist singer Holly Near will be in Cambridge March 16-17, at Jordan Hall (I think). Those interested should contact New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge, MA 617-876-5310

RUMOR ALERT

Meg Christian in concert on Wed., March 7, Morse Auditorium, Boston University. Call New Words (above) for info.

LAVENDER JANE COMES TO MAINE

Alix Dobkin, dyke singer-songwriter of Lavender Jane Loves Women and Lesbian Women fame, to be in Augusta!!! All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St., Aug. (1 block from Lum's off State St) Admission: \$3.50. DATE: Feb. 24 8PM (blizzard date: 2/25 @ 7PM) For more info, call 338-4476 (Apologies if newsletter isn't out by then!!)

MAESTRAMUSICK*MAESTRAMUSICK*MAESTRA

Dr. Antonia Brico will be guest conductor for the April 29 concert of the New England Women's Symphony(NEWS). Brico has been an accomplished conductor for years, having overcome great difficulties to be recognized and accepted in her field. The New England Women's Symphony was established this year in Boston, mainly through the efforts of Kay Gardner, who serves as Music Director for the Symphony. Brico's concert will be at Jordan hall, April 29, at 8PM. Tickets: \$5 (Students and senior citizens- \$3). For more info, contact NEWS, POBox 508, Allston, MA 02134. (617) 782-8225.

8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

CONFRONT THEM!!!

A National Conference for a Gay March on Washington will be held in Philadelphia on Feb. 23-25. The intent of the conference is to attract gay activists from around the country to decide upon a date for thousands of lesbians and gay men to march on Washington, demanding (of the Prez, Congress, and the Supreme Court) legislation, executive orders, and court rulings which prohibit discrimination against gay people. The decision that a march is feasible and adviseable has already been made by an anonymous few; Kate McQueen plans to attend the conference in order to bring up discussion of having a march in the first place.

There is also serious question of the march organizers' commitment to feminism and women in leadership positions. The outcome of the conference will be reported in the MLF newsletter at a later date.

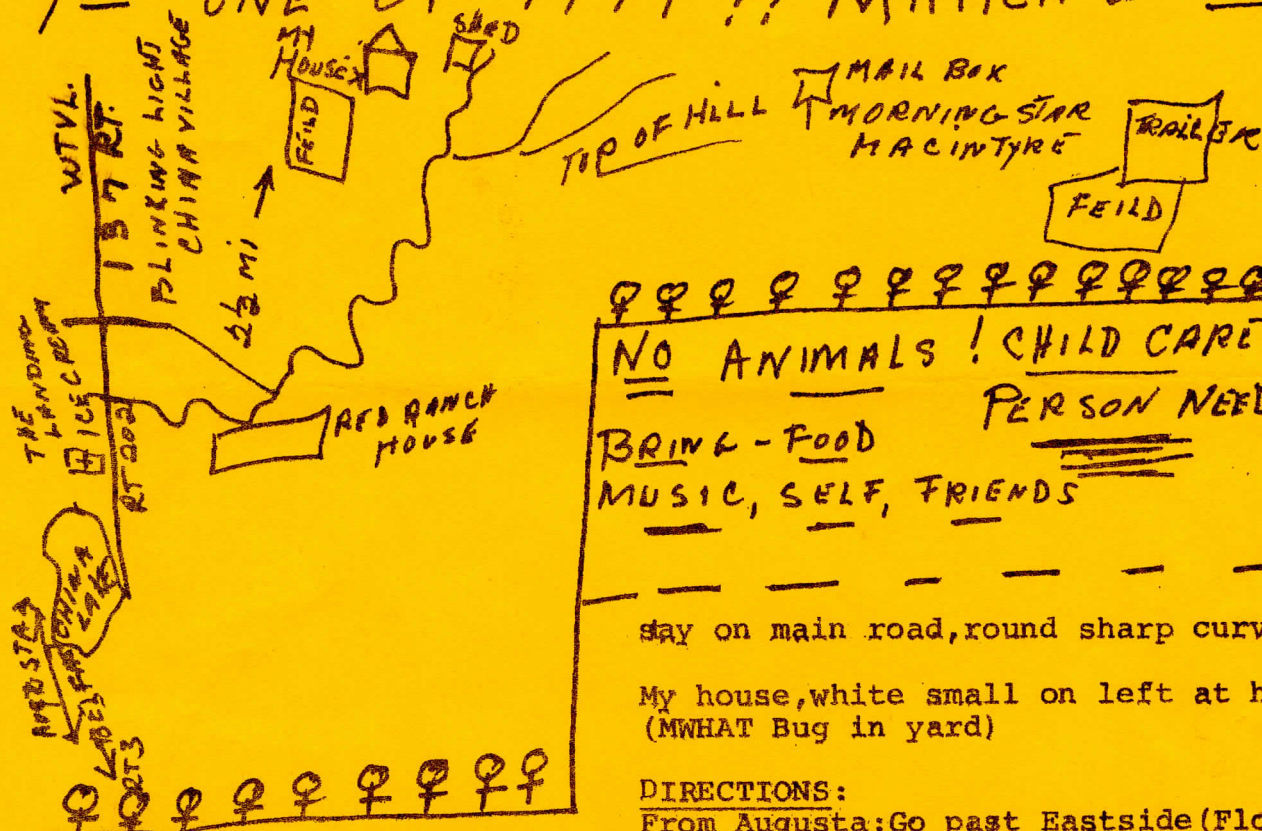
GAY RIGHTS BILL*GAY RIGHTS BILL

The Me. Coalition for Human Rights is going ahead with introducing gay rights legislation in the Maine Legislature this Spring. MLF is one of the organizations active in the Coalition, but more MLF members are needed to donate their time. Of course, we'd like to see a number of women who are capable of lobbying and speaking at the public hearing, but we've got lots of tasks that need doing behind the scenes--writing letters, stuffing envelopes, developing educational material for legislators and media people. If you have some time to commit to the gay rights bill, contact Kate McQueen, POBox 2499, So. Portland 04106. Also, it has become evident that our state legislators need to know how much discrimination against gay people is actually occurring; if you have had any discrimination problems resulting from your lesbianism, please talk to Kate about it--confidentiality is guaranteed! FLASH--next meeting of above-mention Coalition is Monday, March 5, 7PM at 149 1/2 Winthrop St., Hallowell.

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY--next meeting= March 8, 4:30PM at Me. Teachers Assoc. bldg, Augusta (next to Civic Center). The Lobby supports the gay rights bill; let them hear from us!!!! POBox 15, Hallowell, ME.

M.L.F. MEETING AT MARY'S HOUSE

1ST ONE OF 1979 !! MARCH 24th 10AM



NO ANIMALS ! CHILD CARE
PERSON NEEDED
BRING - FOOD
MUSIC, SELF, FRIENDS

stay on main road, round sharp curves.

My house, white small on left at hilltop
(MWHAT Bug in yard)

DIRECTIONS:

From Augusta: Go past Eastside (Flo's)

toward Belfast. Take LEFT onto 202 at CHINA sign. Follow for 5-10 mi. to China. Take RIGHT at intersection by The Landing... 2.5 miles... main rd., white house, on left, on hilltop. From Bangor: Either go to Waterville and take 137 east to China, follow above directions or take 9-202 Hampden exit; take 202 to 137 to China. Go to The Landing; take left. From Belfast: head towards Eastside Disco; Rt. 3-202; take 202 to China, turn and follow above directions. (If you go to So. China sign, it's too far). From Waterville: Follow signs to Winslow... 137 east... take 137 east to China. If lost, call 968-2117.

AGENDA FOR MLF

(Workshop leaders wanted!!)

MORNING HELLOS--Welcome & Hugs. Short meeting: workshop discussion, next meeting date--location, appropriate business, gripes, appreciations. TIME: 11-Noon: Movement Workshop or Free Time.

NOON LUNCH

12-2 WORKSHOPS OR FREE TIME

Politics for Feminists (for those who want to catch up on the political scene, & news.

Poetry and Writing and Reading--bring some and share

Mothers on Mothering

2-4 Massage and Healing by Mary and Betty

others as defined in the morning

Music, fun/jam (come play with musical instruments & sing!)

4-5 or 6 Free Time

6 Pot Luck Supper

Evening: Let's go dancing (WHERE???) or partying at my house. Everyone is welcome here! Please come!

We have space at the Hungry Hunza (natural foods restaurant in Portland), Monday and Thursday evenings, for workshops, political meetings, poetry groups, music nights, etc. That's in Portland. For more info, call 773-9553. We'll have more news at the MLF meeting.