

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER
November, 1979

"Maine Lesbian Feminist was organized at a workshop at Gay Symposium III. The purpose of the organization was, and still is, to provide a base for support, consciousness raising, and political action. Also, a celebration for Lesbians throughout the State of Maine".

Deb Stahler, Scribe

Minutes from Oct. 20 meeting

I. Treasury Report

- A. General funds \$84.63--general fund is used for child care at meetings, conferences, and other miscellaneous purposes.
- B. Newsletter fund \$212.44--for newsletter costs only (newsletter costs about \$30/issue)
- C. Savings Acct. \$27.00+interest--donations for a mimeograph machine

II. Old Business

- A. We are buying a mimeograph machine at the cost of \$76.00. Lois suggested & it was generally agreed that we should use the Newsletter fund & Savings Acct. to buy the machine. Jean (treasurer) is giving Kathy the money to make the purchase.
- B. We decided to spend some money to buy suttons & other items so we could sell them when we set up tables at events (such as the Gay Symposium). Jean is collecting info on where we can buy such items. Lois will send her the NOW catalogues. Other ideas may be sent to Jean c/o the Newsletter.

III. New Business

- A. Janice and Lois reported on the NOW National Convention in Los Angeles.
- B. There is a police harrassment problem in Portland--police arresting Lesbians for little or no cause. Police are watching drunk sisters the hardest so we need to help keep these out of their view. Encourage drunk or fighting lesbians to stay off the streets. Portland NOW is working with the Maine Civil Liberties Union to aid arrested. For help contact MCLU Jean Sampson, 97 Exchange St, Portland--phone 774-5444.
- C. Muskie booboo: During discussion on the Energy Bill in congress Senator Muskie (145 Russell, Senate Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510--district office phone 873-3361, Waterville) opened his mouth to utter this allegory: (It's like...) "When rape is inevitable you should lay back & enjoy it." Muskie evidently surprised himself & had the statement stricken from congressional record. Your responses to his statement will let the legislators know we are listening to them & we vote.
- D. ERA: Representative John H. Rollins (E. Disfield, Me. 04227, 645-2844) is Maine's plaintiff in an attack against the ERA. A suit to be tried in Idaho will also call Maine's ERA into question. Mail to Rep. Rollins may be influential. Lois passed out ERA permission cards at the meeting. For more info on ERA action contact your local NOW chapter or Lois Reckitt, 38 Myrtle St., Portland, Me. 04106.
- E. Susan B. Anthony Club report: Nov. 9 there will be a workforce at the Center to clean-up and winterize. This month it was hard to scrape rent money together but the dedicated of Belfast are working harder on new ideas. A film festival is planned for the 2nd Sunday of each month. There will also be a celebration dance the Saturday after Thanksgiving. People at the meeting suggested bringing Thanksgiving goodies to share.
- F. Coalition for choice--Marjorie encouraged MLF members to be present at the pro-choice candlelight marches held the week of Oct. 21. The first march, in Lewiston, ends at Right-to-Life headquarters.

IV. Announcements

- A. Sexuality Symposium at UMO will be held Nov 1-2.
- B. Gay Symposium: If you want to be on the planning committee, contact the GPA office in Portland (780-4085) or the Wilde/Stein Club at Orono.
- C. Space is available for q's activities at Every Q Center. Call Mary 968-2117 for details.
- D. Maine Coalition for Human Rights Box 462, Portland is collecting donations to pay for the Gay March ad put in the Maine Sunday Times. All donations are appreciated and needed.
- E. Kate McQueen was elected to the Gay Rights National Lobby. For info on the lobby, write GRNL 1606 17th St. N.W. Wash, DC 20009.

F. Mary is planning to photograph unmarried rural Q. She wants to use the photos in shows across country emphasizing Q working and surviving in this society. Interested? Call Mary 988-2117.

G. WBLM played a National Lampoon record cut of "Mr. Rodgers" spoof displaying Mr. Rogers as the effeminate child molester. The appropriate cure for Mr. Rogers according to the cut--beat Mr. Rogers to a pulp. Marjory called the station in protest of obvious bigotry. The station response was that she had no sense of humor. If you heard that broadcast, it would help for you to let the station know your feelings on the matter.

V. Next meeting is set for Saturday, Nov. 17 at Connie's in Skowhegan. Agenda for the meeting:

- 11-12 Hellos
- 12-1 Sexuality workshop
- 1-2 Power workshop
- 2-3 Mothers support group
- 3 General meeting
- 5 Pot Luck Supper

DIRECTIONS TO CONNIE'S

From North: Rt. 95 to Newport; Rt. 2 to Skowhegan; as you enter town, pass Colburn Park, to Municipal Bldg. Park there. House is next to Municipal Bldg.

From South: Rt. 95 to Waterville/Main St. Exit; Rt. 104 to Skowhegan going thru light, across 2 bridges (water st.) to Municipal bldg.
Address: 189 Water St. #474-5510

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

--"Mother Jones" has done a wonderful job in their Nov. Issue on "Dumping, The Corporate Crime of the Century" (one of). It tells of many of the "Dumps" of U.S. banned products, (Dalkon Shield, pesticides, drugs, PJ's, IUD's, pacifiers, etc.) onto Third World Countries. They are offering a 24-pg re-print of "Dumping" Write to Mother Jones Reprint Service, 625 Third St. San Francisco, CA 94107.

--The National Organization for Q have recognized the double oppression for Q who are Lesbians. They affirm that every Q has the "right to define & explore her own sexuality, & to choose her own life-style" That Lesbians have been oppressed by the homophobic society, that the political climate has become more hostile in recent years, because of deliberate public campaigns inciting homophobia. So NOW has designated that equal rights for Lesbians as a national priority. They are going to have a full-time staff person working with the Lesbian Rights Committee & the national officers to develop & implement legal, legislative & educational strategies. Here is a list of some of the things they want to accomplish. Federal, state & municipal Lesbian & Gay rights legislation. To prohibit discrimination at the federal, state municipal level on the basis of sexual preference. Also to try & erase discriminatory living practices in private industry. Also in Federal & state government agencies: Such as Dept of Immigration & Naturalization, The Dept. of Justice, Dept of Mental Health, HUD & HEW.

--We Are A People: The second Lesbian and Gay Seminars Conference with the theme "we are a people" will be hosted by the Harvard Divinity School on Nov. 8-11, 1979. The interdenominational gathering will feature a wide range of panels, workshops, and symposia designed by & for lesbian & gay seminarians, as well as providing a forum for theological discussion and a milieu for personal sharing. For more info write to Js. Joy Christ: Przeworski c/o the Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Ma. 02138

--FEMINIST RESOURCE: Since 1976, the Q's Action Alliance, Inc. has published a bimonthly magazine, Women's Agenda, that has become a 1st rate resource for the Q's movement. It carries news of activities of Q's organizations, both local & national; a calendar of Q's events; reports & reviews of new books, films, studies, & pamphlets of interest or value to Q & feminists; analysis of new legislation affecting Q & identification of new trends in the Q's movement; and info about funding and running an effective Q's organization. Both the WAA as a group & Women's Agenda have been exceptionally supportive on lesbian & gay issues, & we are happy to recommend the magazine to NGTF

--Christopher Street is a Chemical Dependency Treatment program for Lesbians, located in Minneapolis, Minn. The program offers chemical dependency counseling, work with concerned persons, evaluations and referrals, training and consultation, and workshops. The following is an excerpt from their brochure, "Chemical Abuse: Death Wish for Lesbians?":

"Christopher Street advocates an open, healthy lifestyle for all lesbians. By open and healthy, we mean accepting ourselves as Lesbians... It means we learn to cope with an oppressive society in ways that for us are constructive. Openly Lesbian, chemically free. Health, Growing, Succeeding. That's Christopher Street's way of helping you. For more info, contact: Christopher Street, 2344 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn. 55404.

--The Lesbian Resource Center of Minneapolis publishes a dynamite monthly newsletter "Les'beinformed," in addition to sponsoring ongoing Coming Out and Lesbian Support Groups, a Lesbian Mother's Group, and a Career Exploration Group--all at a sliding fee scale. For further info, contact the LRC at 2104 Stevens Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55404.

--Lesbian Workers Unite-Amherst, MA--The National Lesbian Workforce Exchange Project is a working/volunteer collective. We are trying to create a nationwide network connecting & building a Lesbian workforce. It is our purpose to secure futures for ourselves, create supportive and productive work environments & opportunities for Lesbians, and gain strength & unity throughout the nation.

Our project is gathering info concerning the existing & projected Lesbian Tradeswomyn, Craftswomyn, Artist, Apprenticeship programs, Businesses, Land Shares, Collectives, & Cooperatives. We plan to put together a publication of resources for Lesbians to tap into for future needs and wants.

A questionnaire is being distributed in all regions of the country. We urge all Lesbians to assist in securing this info. For more info, questionnaires, volunteer assignments & donations, write:

WORKFORCE P.O. Box 447 Amherst, MA 01102

--Wilde-Stein's Symposium Committee to meet for Symposium VII. Fri. Nov 9 at 7p.m. in the North Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, UMO.

--There will be a planning meeting for the Gay Symposium on Nov. 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Eastside (Flo's) in Augusta. All interested in making it happen, please attend or call or write to:

Gay Peoples Alliance 92 Bedford St. Portland, Me 04103 #780-4085

--Nov 17--Next MLF meeting at Connies 10am to 5pm

POETRY CORNER

A DEFINITION - by chocolate waters

(Dedicated to every lesbian who has ever cringed at being called dyke)

Dykes stomp on men's balls & thrust their hands in
their pockets & in
other women's pants.

Dykes are fat & have short greasy hair they

hang out in bars &

lurk in corners &

drive semi's &

if you're not careful

one of them will getcha.

Lesbians are women who prefer their own sex they

are social directors college professors

archaeologists psychologists

democrats & bureaucrats.

They only come while sleeping &

often run for office.

Dykes fart.

Lesbians expel gas.

Hey Dyke Hey you Dyke You're not a woman you're a

Dyke You're a Dyke You're a Big Dyke

Bad Dyke

Butch Dyke

Bull Dyke

Bull Dagger

Baby Bull Dyke

Bull Dyke

Bullllllll

Shitttttt.

I Stand Alone

I Stand alone,
an island unto my self.
Surrounded by waves of warmth
and understanding, from friends
and loved ones.
yet, I stand alone.
There is no mooring.
They can not reach me.
Firmly,
I stand alone.

Sonja

THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY CLUB

This is a club for Q identified Q. It was created with the intention of getting cultural, social & educational events happening in Maine for Q. So, if you want something to happen & keep happening, help by supporting the place or by using the space for Q's events. Write to Susan B. Anthony Club, c/o MLF, P.O. Box 125, Belfast, Me. 04915. DIRECTIONS: Located in downtown Belfast, above the Grasshopper Shop on Main Street. Enter the door to the right of the Grasshopper, go up to the third floor, go left and you are there!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Sat. Nov 3 - Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Nov 3 - DANCE 8:30 p.m. \$2 donation BYOB

Fri. Nov 9 - Painting & Fixing party -afternoon - 5p.m.

Sun. Nov. 11 - Film/Discussion (1st of winter series to be held on 2nd Sun. of each month,) 2:00 p/m

Sat. Nov. 24 - DANCE 8:30 p.m. \$2 donation BYOB

DECEMBER

Sun. Dec. 2 - Poetry Reading 3:00 p.m.

There will be a winter film/discussion series at the Susan B. Anthony Club in Belfast on the 2nd Sun afternoon of each month beginning Nov. 11. The show will start at 2pm Bring your own popcorn.

The 1st film of the series will be Iphigenia starring Irene Pappas as Clytemnestra. Iphigenia is the daughter Agammenon sacrifices to the gods in supplication for a victory over Troy at the beginning of the Trojan wars. Clytemnestra, the mother, gets him for it. It is a terrific movie-powerful-exposing patriarchial values as they emerged in Greece at the overthrow of matriarchy.

MLF NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

MLF needs your \$5.00 (our yearly subscription rate) in order for us to continue the Newsletter. It costs money to send it out so please contribute as much as you can, if not \$5. All contributions are more than welcome and needed Thank you!

Enclosing \$5/yr

Contributing \$

I will send \$ when I can

Don't want the newsletter

Send to: MLF P.O. Box 125 Belfast, Maine 04915

NAME

ADDRESS

Checks made payable to MLF Newsletter.