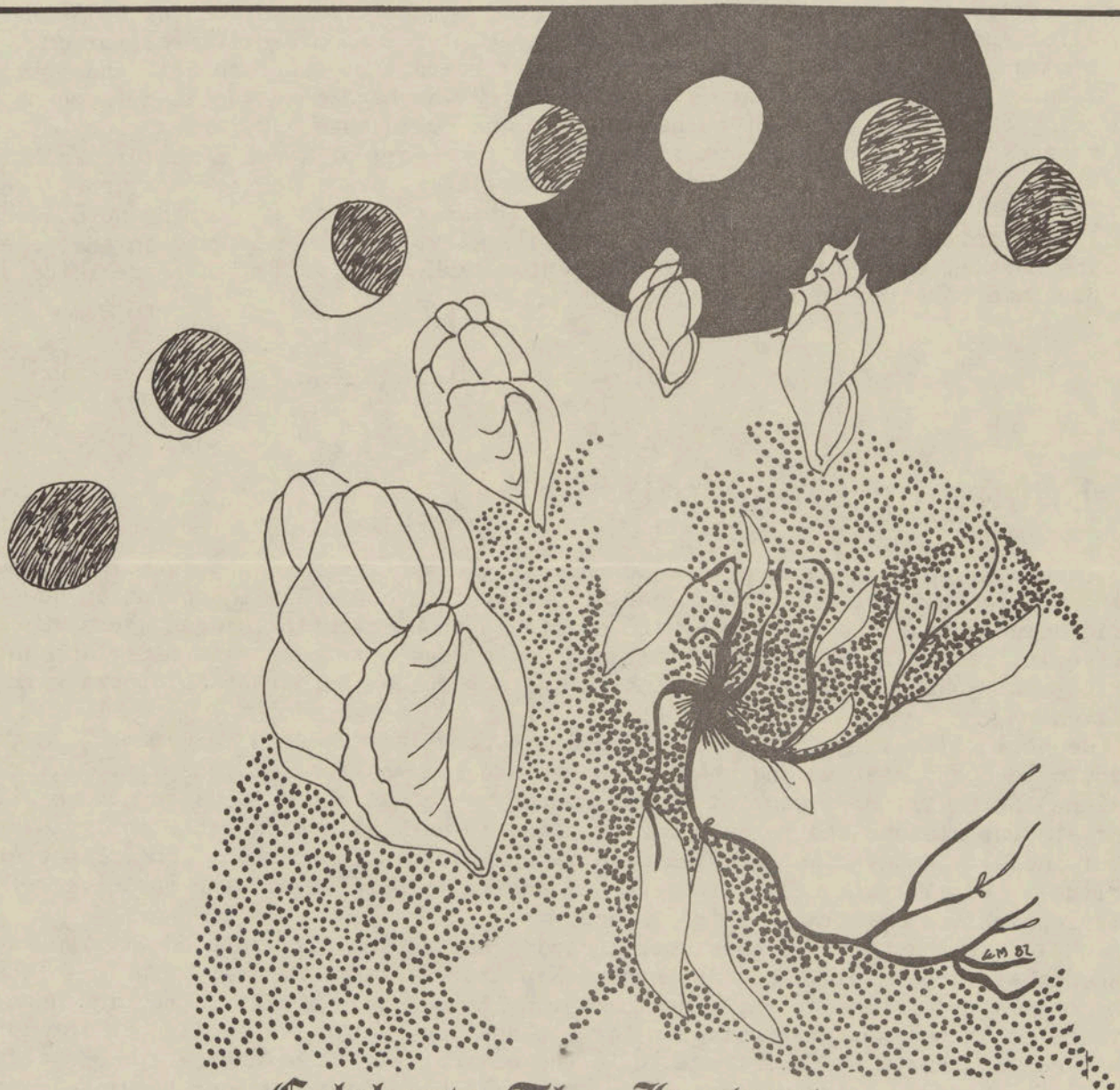


November 1982
#24

PORTLAND WOMEN'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

75¢



Celebrate The Harvest

The idea of Thanksgiving as a national holiday originated in the mind of the influential Godey's Lady Book editor, Sarah Josepha Hale. Of course, the event had been celebrated since the time of the Pilgrim mothers, but only on occasion. It was Hale who prevailed upon President Lincoln to declare the last Thursday in November an official day of rejoicing in the bounty of the harvest.

COLLECTIVE FORMED

On September 29th, a collective was formed from the Board of Directors of the Portland Women's Community. Collective meetings will remain open for anyone interested in checking them out. Anyone wishing more information may also call 799-6905.

For the past several months, Board meetings of the Portland Women's Community concentrated on on-going discussions regarding the pros and cons of collectives. After much discussion, consensus was reached and the collective was formed. It was a strong feeling among women on the former board that "we" are not "the Portland Women's Community". We are a group of women who have come together (some of us going on three years) for mutual support and nurturance. We are a group of women who feel an ethical commitment to do some form of women's cultural/political work, i.e. newsletter, speakers, poetry readings, dramatic presentations. We feel that this caring and this work could best be served by forming ourselves into a collective. The growth of the collective will be reported in the pages of the newsletter. The collective newsletter task force will also be deciding on a new name sometime in the future.

Enlarging Our Web

DYKES, WITCHES, AMAZONS of the NorthEast: Some of us have been wanting to build and enlarge our web with other wombin. We want to counsel with you/us on how to rid ourselves of the patriarchy and how to go about creating spaces where we can live in freedom. We want to gather with other dykes to meet each other and determine what goals and processes we share and how we can support each others work and lives.

We would like to gather in Plainfield, Vt. the last weekend in October. Saturday could be spent meeting and sharing who we are and what our visions are. Saturday night there will be a wombins dance. Sunday we could share ideas on how we will create our visions and perhaps making plans to work with each other in implementing our ideas. Sunday night we will celebrate Hallowmas in theater, song, dance and ritual. We will ask Hecate to lend her energy to ours in ridding ourselves of oppression and creating wombin's space.

Child care has not yet been coordinated. Let us know if you need it. We are not wheelchair accessible, but can perhaps construct a ramp and carry wombin to the second floor of the community center which is the space available for the dance. There is as yet no interpretation for non-hearing wombin. We will look for someone who can do that. Different wombin in the community will be making space available in their homes. Bring sleeping bags, warm clothes, food and your beautiful, strong, creative, questioning, wombin loving selves. We can counsel, circle, celebrate, create, dance and strengthen our web of resistance and love.

Please inform your wombins community of this ~~farther~~ and let us know if you can come. It will be wonderful if a wombin from each community comes. For more information, call or write either:

Anna R. Kissed
469 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, Maine 04101
207-773-6398

Amethyst
Box 12
Plainfield, VT 05667
802-454-8629

OPEN LETTER TO PORTLAND WOMEN:

Many, many thank yous to all the women in Portland who helped make the show on October 1 such a joy and a success. It was perfect for us to perform that particular show (Fazooli Sisters, Muriel, Sophie, etc.) for such a diverse and warm audience. It feels very gratifying to have so many different people, in one space, laughing, being silly, clapping, crying (and whatever) together.

We would like to thank and acknowledge Diane Elze for all the energy and time it took in bringing us there (we began planning in April). Also to all the women who helped: Nicole d'Entremont, Jennifer Tarling, Bunny Mills, Avis Loring, Deborah Cole, Sally Group, Ann Houser, Cheryl Greaney, Cheryl Ring, Dale McCormack, The Feminist Spiritual Community, and all the women who came to be in the ever-so-important audience. Our stay was very pleasant and we thank Erna Koch, Celine Godin, Torey and Debbie and Jan for their hospitality and kindness in putting us up and taking us around.

We are planning to come up to the area again in February with a different show -

Alison Farrell will be doing more of her own work, and we hope to be able to perform that show (including Alison Farrell and THE FARRELLETTES) in Portland. Judy is also interested in teaching a one day acting and comedy workshop for women and encouraging women to find the humor in our lives. We hope all of that works out.

If any women in the community know of other places to perform (schools, colleges, institutions, clubs - places that might be interested in some of the work we did on October 1) please contact JUDY SLOAN as soon as possible. We perform in a wide variety of situations. In general, we welcome comments, ideas, bookings. You can write to JUDY SLOAN or ALISON FARRELL, P.O. Box 1867, New Haven, Ct. 06508, or call 203-397-2187.

One last thing - if any one knows who was taking pictures at the performance, please let us know as we don't have any photos of the Fazoolis (especially Jooli's dress). Again, we thank you, the FAZOOOLIS thank you, Muriel, Jean and Jane, the Grief Relief Rescue Squad, and, of course, Sophie. All warm wishes to your community.

Sincerely,

Judy Sloan and Alison Farrell

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MENAD p.o. box 738, gloucester, ma. 01930

we know who you really are

You-you who rape. you who force wombin. you who would try to control us. you with the pricks and the guns. (to me there is no difference. tools of terrorism, both weapons.) you listen to me now and you listen well, cause I'm going to tell you how I have known you and how I've seen and felt you. I know who you are and what you do to wombin.

I know you from my cunt, my eyes, my ears, my fingers, my womb, my heart, my nose, my mouth. I know you from my mother, from the earth our mother, from my livers, my sisters, my daughters. I know you from our broken lives and bodies. I know you from her words, my words, our stories of you. I know you from thirty five years of offering you my live and support, before I figured out you don't know love. And what I have learned from you is pain.

I know rape from your pricks. I know abuse and broken body from your hands. I know broken spirit and fear from your power over me. I know prison and control from your marriages and nuclear families. I know hunger and want from your class structures and welfare systems that enslave me. I have learned what you taught.

You taught me how grandfathers stick their tongues into our little girl mouths and their big fingers into our baby yonies. You wouldn't teach us the words though-we couldn't name our pain cause it was taboo. You tried to make sure we didn't learn, you kept the words away.

You taught us to obey. You taught me respect for authority. You taught me everyone older than me was an authority to be obeyed and not to question. You told me it was my job to make sure the ones with the pricks were happy. You told me I would live happily ever after if I didn't do anything wrong. You told me you were made in god's image and you could do whatever you wanted to especially if you have money and privilege. After all, you can pee standing up.

You took my earth my home. You created a prison for all wombin even though you gilded a few of the cages. You took my home and made it a safe place for rapists. You sacrifice your daughters to your insatiable lust for power. You tell us to shut up, you deny us access to the words to define our experience. You warn us not to tell anyone. You speak of the pain our mothers will experience if she or anyone else finds out what you are doing to us. You speak of your pain. you speak of the family's pain. Is the pain we feel in our hearts, our minds, our spirits, our bodies when you rape us, is that overwhelming pain supposed to be of no concern to us?

You pricks and all your institutions that you have created to enforce your power. Your capitalism, your nuclear families, your religions, your schools and social systems, your armies, your weapons-you are responsible for the pain of all wombin.

You are responsible yet you deny accountability, you say it's god's will. You and god can shove your will up your ass now cause I do what I will. And I will survive and I will not be coerced. I learned well. I learned the truth. I learned to believe my own perceptions and not the lies you told me. I saw you and what I see has nothing to do with the image you show of yourselves.

Anna Kissed
10/2/82

4 Will the woman who submitted the poem to the newsletter please get in touch with the Newsletter Task Force.

WHY DID RITA MAE BROWN SAY "...lively, provocative and beautiful to look at..." about MAENAD, a women's literary journal? FIND OUT! #7 Freeing The Aliens Within; #8 Bonding (Fall '82); #9 Where Are You As A Woman? (Winter '83); #10 These Are The Facts (Spring '83). \$16/year, each copy \$4.50, \$24/institutions. Bookstore Rates. MAENAD, P.O. Box 738, Gloucester, MA 01930.

FOOD ABUSE WORKSHOP: Maddy Spadola and Lorraine Brown are having a Food Abuse Workshop weekend December 10-12 in Augusta. The fee is \$80. For further information, contact Maddy at 236-9022. early morning and evenings.

Mother and four year-old son looking for female renter to join us in our quiet and cozy house. Includes beautiful backyard, parking space. Off of 302 by Exit 8. Nice neighborhood. \$250 monthly includes utilities. Call Sue, 797-0894.

INEXPENSIVE HAIRCUTS! Evening and weekend appointments. Call Jolene at 774-3397. (Specializing in short haircuts.)

NEWSLETTER STATEMENT OF POLICY

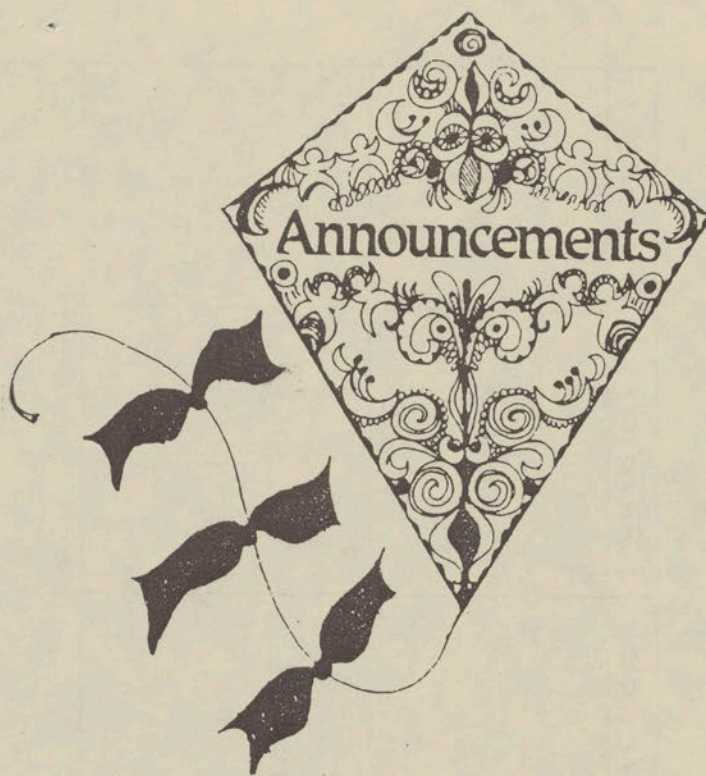
The purpose of the Portland Women's Community Newsletter is to provide women with a forum for our feminist voices. Thus, the Newsletter Task Force will only print articles, poetry, and essays by women, and will consider for publication any material not deemed racist, sexist, classist, heterosexist, ablebodied, or ageist. We reserve the right to edit material on matters of literary merit, length and content. No revisions or rejections will occur without dialogue with the author. Thus, material submitted must include name and phone number or address. However, within the pages of the Newsletter, names will be omitted upon request.

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Ads

The current rate for advertising is \$15 per ad for appearance in 3 issues.

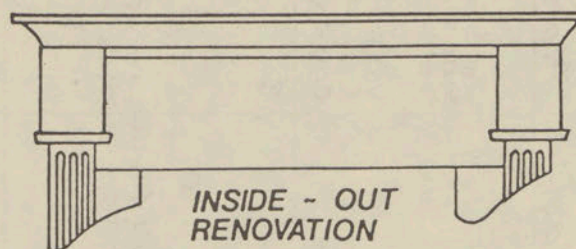


ART: A Time for Acknowledgement, Dec. 1st, Luther Bonney Auditorium, 7:30pm, sponsored by University Women's Forum - women artists share their work - a woman's perspective.

YWCA Fitness Studio is opening on November 1st, with a Universal Gym, weight lifting, exercise, sauna. The prices are reasonable. Come in and check us out.

Collective Meeting - Nov. 21st - 4:00pm. Directions to Chris & Chris's on the Falmouth Road in East Windham. Follow 302 out of Ptld. to Rotary in Windham (Fosters Corner). At rotary take 202 towards Gray. At first blinking light (yellow), take a right onto Falmouth Road. House is 0.6 miles down road on right side and is a brown ranch with reddish shutters. Call if you get confused 892-2382.

GREATER PORTLAND NOW meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Public Safety Bldg. All of you are welcome to attend.




painting - refinishing - carpentry

Liz Moberg

799-6905

November 1982

9

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Fem. Spiritual Comm. State St. Church 7pm. YWCA Fitness Studio opens Come & see	2 Election Day	3 Volleyball YWCA 7:30	4	5	6
7 YWCA Craft Market	8 Fem. Spiritual Comm. State St. Church 7pm. Volleyball YWCA 7:30	9	10 Volleyball YWCA 7:30	11 Veterans Day	12	13
14	15 Newsletter Deadline Editorial mtg 7pm. 772-3457 Fem. Spiritual Comm. State St. Church 7pm. Volleyball YWCA 7:30	16	17 Volleyball YWCA 7:30	18	19	20
21 4pm. Collective Meeting see announcements for place and directions	22 Fem. Spiritual Comm. State St. Church 7pm. Volleyball YWCA 7:30	23 Gtr. PHd. Public Safety Bldg. 7:00pm	24 Volleyball YWCA 7:30	25  Thanksgiving Day Celebrate the Harvest	26	27
28	29 Fem. Spiritual Com. State St. Church 7pm. Volleyball YWCA 7:30	30	December 1st ♀'s Cultural Event Art: A Time for Acknowledgement			

U.S. SEEKS TO SEIZE INDIANS' COLLEGE

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 10 — The Federal Government is attempting to take possession of a college for Indians near Sacramento, Calif., charging that an audit shows the school padded enrollment figures and illegally leased some of its land.

The college, D.Q. University, originally known as Deganawedah-Quetzalcoatl University, which is 11 years old, faces closing at the end of the month and possible sale of its campus.

In June the Government sued for return of the deeds to the 643 acres of public land used by the college. In September the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit denied the Indians' request to halt the proceedings and the deeds were turned over to the Government.

An assistant United States Attorney, Louis Demas, has told the school's administrators that they must vacate the property by Oct. 25. Mr. Demas said that if the Indians refused to leave the "normal procedure" would be to obtain a court writ empowering Federal marshals to "recover the property."

It Began With Indian Occupation

The stormy history of the college began in November 1970, when a group of Indian students occupied an abandoned Army communications site in Winters, near Sacramento. The land was about to be turned over to the University of California at Davis for rice-growing experiments under the Federal Surplus Land Act.

The next year the 643 acres was conveyed to the Indians, joined by a group of Mexican-Americans, who agreed to use it to establish a college for indigenous North Americans. It was named after Deganawedah, an Iroquois leader, and Quetzalcoatl, an Aztec deity.

Under the original agreement, the college was to achieve accreditation and an enrollment of 500 full- and part-time students by 1975. This was later amended to give the school until 1979 to bring enrollment up to 200 students. If the college fulfilled its contract, it would receive permanent title to the land in 30 years.

Over the years, the Government has held up money and threatened to reclaim the land, charging that audits of the school show it has consistently failed to live up to regulations and agreements.

The latest audit charges that the school padded enrollment figures by listing staff members and teachers as students and allowing students to receive Federal financial aid without progressing toward a degree. The Government also charges that the school leased some of the land to farmers for money, a practice barred by regulations.

Despite the use of the word university, the school is a two-year community college empowered to award associate degrees.

David Risling, a sociologist at the University of California at Davis, the chairman of the board of trustees of D.Q.U. since it opened, says he does not know how many degrees the school has granted. "Our purpose is not to graduate people," he said. "It's a different way of looking at things. The school is succeeding in terms of its own goals." Noting that the school preserved Indian ritual, language and religion, Mr. Risling said, "D.Q. has become a spiritual place."

John Shields, one of the lawyers representing the college, said: "Native American students have historically had trouble in dominant-society schools because they had no cultural reference point. D.Q. is unique in incorporating native philosophy and concepts into the curriculum."

Mr. Risling does not dispute contentions that at least \$7 million in Federal money had been funneled through the school, but he says most of it went to finance programs administered by the school for various Government agencies and was not money that directly aided the college itself. As examples, he cited projects in literacy training for migrant workers, in a native American studies for teachers and in preservation of the Indian language.

He acknowledged that the school had received at least \$1 million in student grants and \$500,000 for start-up financing, library development and student services.

Mr. Shields said that organizers of the school were "all very serious, dedicated people" who "have been cast as a crazy fringe group." But he agrees at least part of the reason is the school's association with militant Indian leaders.

An American Indian Movement activist, Dennis Banks, serves as chancellor of the school. Mr. Banks, who played a key role in the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee, was convicted of rioting and assault charges in Custer County, S.D. He jumped bail and fled to California in 1975. Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. refused to extradite Mr. Banks, who faces a 15-year sentence in South Dakota. The Governor, who is the Democratic candidate for the Senate, will leave office Jan. 1, leaving the issue of Mr. Banks's extradition to a new Governor.

Meanwhile, the Indians have appealed the Government's action to the Ninth Circuit court, which will have to agree to hear the case on an expedited basis if it is to meet the Oct. 25 deadline.

Mr. Risling says he is certain that the charges against the school can be proved false if the school can get a day in court. But he argues that the school has already suffered "irreparable damage" because of the uncertainty of its future. He reports that students and staff are reluctant to stay, public and private money is being withheld and he fears the college will lose accreditation because of unstable finances.

Send letters protesting the closing to: U.S. District Judge Philip Wilkins, Federal Courthouse Building, 650 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814. For more info, call Anna, 773-6398.



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The deadline for the next issue will be November 15th. Please get your articles in on time so that we can stay on schedule.

We can always use more womanenergy to layout the newsletter. See the calendar for the place and time of meetings.

KEEP US UP TO DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS. NEWSLETTERS WILL NOT BE FORWARDED.

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Need a good book to read? Here's some suggested reading for your enjoyment.

Science Fiction: Tomoe Gozen

Women's Fiction: Blood Sisters

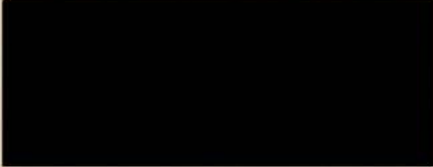
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