

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER

December 1980 and January 1981

"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." C.H.

*** Novembers' MLF meeting was held Sat. Nov. 22nd at the S.B.A. Club. It was decided to have our annual New Years Party/Dance at 9:00 P.M. on Sat. Jan. 3rd, instead of the 31st of Dec., so driving would be a little safer. The dance will be at Slate's in Hallowell. The next meeting will be at Connie's new home in Bangor on Jan. 17th. Please try to come as an important issue needs to be discussed. This may be the last issue of the Newsletter. We are tired of doing it in the Mid-Coast area and are hoping a group of women from another area has the energy to continue this valuable work. No kidding - we are burnt out and losing energy fast. If this newsletter means something to you than please show up!

AGENDA

Noon: - get together, greetings etc.

1:00 - Theme of this meeting will be "isolation" as a Maine Lesbian issue

or - board games and cards - bring your toys!

or - instruments to play music and sing along to

3:00 - business meeting - to discuss symposium - keynote speakers, workshops, etc. What do you want to have happen? Also discussion of newsletter issue - Where do we go from here?

4:00 - eve - games or whatever - dinner - etc.

Direction's to Connie's - Find Bangor. Get to the Dunkin Donuts on Route 1A. Call Connie's from there as we do not have better directions at time of printing. Connie's phone is 942-0021. Her address is 105 3rd Street, #3, Bangor.

***The Susan B. Anthony Club is closed, temporarily we hope, until warmer weather is upon us. Fear not - there will be an MLF New Years Dance, Sat. Jan 3rd at Slate's Restaurant on the main drag in Hallowell. We'll keep you posted on future events.

*** Wimmin in the mid-coast area who feel strongly about this earth are invited to attend the next meeting of "Women and Life on Earth", A.K.A. "Earth Mothers". This newly formed group is open to all wimmin who want to study about and work on environmental issues from a feminist perspective. The next meeting will be Jan. 9, 1981 at 7:30 P.M. at New Leaf Books in Rockport. At this meeting we will share our feelings as wimmin and feminists in relation to our responsibility to the earth. Those who come are urged to read at least the last two chapters of "A Handbook for Women on the Nuclear Mentality" by Susan Koen and Nina Swain. The book is available at New Leaf Books or by sending \$2.00 plus 50¢ postage to WAND, Box 421, Norwich, Vt. 05055. Wimmin wanting more info or wishing to borrow the handbook can call Marlane in Sheepscoot at 882-3480 or Mitzi in Union at 785-3881 or Nan at Swanville at 548-2970.

*** I'd like to begin a once monthly Feminist Spirituality/Womocraft/Psychic Work for Wimmin group at my home in Sheepscoot. We could work on different issues in our lives at each meeting; i.e. the-world-out-there-and-what-to-do-individually-and-collectively-to-make-changes-inside-and-out; or - how to be richer monetarily; or - how to relate in ways we'd like ourselves better; or...solutions/suggestions would come from the individual women, and group support, feedback, and psychic help would push her onward to realizing her goals in this physical reality.

Or - we could take a course I've already facilitated which uses guided imagery/meditation; work on our basic, core beliefs; psychic readings; healings; Goddess work; meditating on her-our higher selves, chanting, looking inward for solutions, listening for our inner guides/guidances. A suggested reading list and handouts would be available.

I'd need to be recompensed for facilitating these all day workshops. \$15, more or less, or trade, sounds good to me. How about you? First workshop will be held on Solstice Sunday, Dec. 21, from 11:00 - 4:00 P.M. at RFD 1, S665, Wiscasset 04578. I'm Marlane Spillinger and can be reached at 882-5480 early mornings or most evenings. Please pre-register.

REMEMBER: WE CREATE OUR REALITIES. LET'S BE CONSCIOUS AND POSITIVE IN THEM.

NATIONAL***

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The Nat'l Gay Task Force is working closely with the staff of the White House Conference on Children of Youth to be held Dec. 13-18, 1981. They want to use this conference to provide better service to all children & youth thru active participation by the lesbian & gay community. Any individuals or groups that wish to participate should send info to both NGTF & the conference staff. (NGTF # 80 5th Ave., NYC, NY 10011) & (Marie Oser, Exec. Dir., White House Conference for Children & Youth 730 Jackson P., NW, Q Washington, CD 20006

)Q+ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀

Alix Dobkin has just released a new record on the Q's Wax Works label, called XX Alix. For more info on her record &/or write the record production co: Project No. 1, Star Rt. 212, Bearsville, NY 12409

***The Educational Exploration Center, a "group of teachers, parents & students working to make the educational system more responsive...by producing & distributing alternative, social materials, to elementary & secondary schools," is asking for articles & lesson plans for an anthology tentatively titled "Teaching & learning About Lesbians & Gays. If your're interested in writing an article or lesson plan or have info, write: Polly Kellogg, Education Exploration Center, PO Box 7339, Minneapolis, Minn 55407.

CULTURAL: ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀

A 2-Q dance troupe, "Q on the Move" is available for performances. Also, a Q's mime group called "Mischief" is available for performances & workshops. For more into contact Roadwork, Inc., 1445 RI Ave., NW, Washington, CD 20005

LOCAL

Dear MLF--I have a new 3 bedroom home with 2 acres, 8 miles from Augusta on Brunswick Ave. Do you know of anyone who would like to share it-on a strictly room mate basis only? \$40.00 a week includes everything--own bedroom, lights, heat, phone, washer & dryer etc. If you can help me find someone, be glad to contribute the 1st weeks rent of \$40.00 to MLF. If anyone is interested, please call 582-1744 after 9:30 p.m weekdays, anytime weekends. Ask for Jay. Thank you in advance for anything you can do! Jay

Sponsors Still Needed For Lesbian & Gay Cuban Refugees

"Sponsors for approximately 600 lesbian & gay Cuban refugees are still needed, the Nat'l Gay Task Force & the Universal Fellowship of Metro. Community Churches said today. For info on sponsoring a refugee contact: Joseph Fragg, Human Relations Coordinator, US Dept of State, Barracks 1598, Ft. Chaffee, AK 72901.

***"We need lesbian & Gay lawyers!" "The fear of exposure disbarment & job discrimination has kept many lesbian/gay law students and attorneys locked in a professional closet. But fear not, friends, you are not alone. A number of law schools now provide the support of a lesbian/gay caucus. If you are thinking about applying to law school, the Lesbian and Gay Caucus at Rutgers Law School - Newark encourages you to consider Rutgers Law school in Newark, New Jersey. Q comprised 51% of last year's incoming class. Rutgers also offers a variety of clinical programs (constitutional litigation, Urban Legal, Q's Rights, Prison Litigation, & Labor law). For more info, write: Lesbian/Gay Caucus, Rutgers Law School, 15 Washington St., Newark, NJ 07102

poems poems poems poems poems poems

THE OTHER Q

i held another Q last night.
She didn't fit like you do.
i felt awkward with her beside me.
You are like a favorite teddy bear
or a best pair of faded blue jeans,
soft & worn in all of the right places.
She was stiff & cold with sharp corners &
brilliant colours.
she'll break easy.
maybe that's something else about you.
i've hugged you so much that i know
how hard i can squeeze without you breaking.
it's nice to have someone who will last.

FOR ANITA

Without your propinquity I am left
Longing for the soft scents of your
warmth
And the tenderness with which you
envelope me.
Coloured lights & loud music
Or the inebriating fruits of the vine
Cannot dispel your image from my memory.
It is so cold here without you.
So lonely at times that I dare not move.
And, yet, I know you are lonely, too.
You just don't write poems.

Laura E. Stadler

Report on Q's Pentagon Action-- Q from Maine travelled down to Washington to join 1500 other Q from throughout the Northeast to voice our rage & concern about the nuclear mentality and marvelous war machines which are an extension of patriarchal oppression & exploitation. It was a very powerful experience for all who participated & is a warm-up for a nationwide Mother's Day Action coming up at the Pentagon sponsored by the Q's party for survival. We want the next one to be bigger, better & more effective in terms of reaching largenumbers of people. There will be a planning session for this future event sometime in January, contact Mitzi Lichtman, RFD 2 Union, Me 04862-785-3881. or Debbie Jenney, 81A vesper st., portland, 772-6953.

Q's Pentagon Action - Nov 16-17, 1980

"At least 37 Maine Q made their way down to Wash, DC last weekend for this all Q's action. It's general purpose was to call attention to the murderous route that this country is taking, the imminent threat of nuclear war, and the need for a more humane policy toward this nations people. There were around 2,000 Q there from all over the east coast, with a scattering of Q from all over the country. The 1st day of the action was a day of education & dialogue. I think it was recognized by the Q who organized the event that there would be a wealth of political energy & expertise at the event, & that it would be an excellent time to share & combine that energy. There were workshops in 9 different general areas; some were: Q & violence, Q & Health, Q in the arts, Q & militarism, sexual orientation. Q were encouraged to go to a workshop they knew little about & wanted to learn more in the am & to a workshop in an area that they wanted to put a lot of thought & action into in the pm. After the pm workshops ended, there was a general gathering, and a representative from each topic area did a chort skg of the points that had come out of the afternoon session.

Throughout the action I was impressed by the distinctly Q's sense of things. A sincere &, I think, successful attempt was made to have the whole action be as decentralized as possible. There were twice as many Q there as the organizers expected, which I think accounted for some of the confusion & inefficiency.

The 2nd day was the Pentagon Action itself. We all assembled ourselves in front of Arlington Cemetery in the am & did a quiet march thru the cemetery (demonstrating is illegal there). There were 4 parts to the action once we reached the Pentagon. The 1st was a period of mourning. A cemetery of persecuted Q was set up in the lawn in front of the Pentagon & we all expressed our grief. Next a giant red Q puppet marched & onto the lawn with a sign "We are Angry". The mood of the crowd changed as we raised our voices & fists in an expression of our rage. The next part of the action was empowerment; which involved us circling the pentagon completely, hand in hand. The last was defiance, in which groups of Q gathered at each entrance to the Pent & those willing to commit civil disobedience blocked the entrances.

There was to be an open mike at the front entrance after the action but it began to hail & rain & the action came to a rather scattered close. There were 5 Q arrested from Maine, 4 of whom are in a detention center awaiting trial." N.B.

Another action is planned for Mother's day--let's do whatever we can to make it successful.

Court Rules Immigration Law Unenforceable

San Francisco--Immigration Judge Bernard Hornback ruled Fri Nov 7 that an unsolicited, unambiguous, self-acknowledgement of homosexuality is insufficient evidence for exclusion of a gay alien. Ruling on the admission of Carl Hill, a British subject visiting the US for a 2 mo vacation, Judge Hornback held that a Class A Medical Certificate is required for exclusion of homosexuals under the 1952 Immigration & Nationality Act. This ruling, if upheld on appeal, eliminated the remaining areas of contention in the long fight waged by the Nat'l Gay task Force & Gay Rights Advocates to change anti-gay federal immigration policy. In Aug, 1979, US Surgeon Richmond held that there was no medical or scientific basis for a diagnosis of homosexuality, & ordered Public Health Service physicians to decline referrals made by the Immigration & Naturalization Service for such determination.

"We are pleased & gratified by this decision which we fully expected", commented GRA Legal Director Donald C. Knutson. "Especially encouraging was the sensitive & compassionate language used by the court in its description of this dehumanizing law." In his opinion read from the bench, the judge severely criticized the Congress for attempting to hide violations of human rights behind the cloak of medical science.

PUBLICATIONS

***Q International Network News" is a world-wide open communication system by, for & about Q of all backgrounds, beliefs, nationalities & age groups. Subscriptions send \$20 to WINNEWS, Fran P. Fosken, 187 Grant St., Lexington, Mass 02173

***Maine Q's Lobby - Newsletter Send \$2 or more to PO Box 15, Hallowell Me, 04347

***Cycles: A Moon Calendar for 1981- is a wall poster designed to expand your awareness of the cycles of nature & of your personal cycles. Send \$6.00 each to Marilyn Langfield Publications Design, Cycles 1981, PO Box 2957 - O Petaluma, CA 94953

***MAE NAD: a Q's literary Journal. The New Feminist Quarterly of Prose & Visual Arts - send \$12/yr (4 issues) to MAENAD, PO Box 738, Gloucester, Ma 01930

***Paid My Dues - A quarterly journal of Q in music. Sub \$10/yr send to PMD, PO Box 6517, Chicago, IL 60680 also poster available. "To give voice to our struggle" \$5.50

***Ladyslipper, Inc. has a catalog of records & Tapes, songbooks, etc. by Q to get on the mailing list, write to Ladyslipper, Inc. PO Box 3124 Durham, NC 27905

***Portland Q's Community Newsletter - 12 issues \$5/yr send to Diane Elze, 15 Deering, Ave. Portland, Me 04101

***She* is the only Lesbian Magazine in S. Fla-write to PO Box 8306 Pembroke Pines Branch Hollywood, Fla 33024

***The Empty Closet - New York's oldest Gay newspaper send \$6/yr to The Empty Closet Press, 713 Monroe Ave. Rochester, NY 14607

***FOCUS - a Journal for lesbians - fiction, poetry, reviews cartoons, graphics, send \$8/yr 6 issues to FOCUS 1151 Mass Ave., Cambridge, Ma

***Pan-Internation - Nation Union for gay men & lesbian Q in Denmark write to PO Box 1023, DK-1007 Copenhagen K Denmark

***Lesbian Herstory Archives - Newsletter Send donation to PO Box 1253 New York, NY 10116

***Sage Writings - a group of older lesbian & gay writers' writings paper back book \$2.50 write: Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 85 5th Ave, NY NY 10011

***Ancient Mirrors of Qhood - Volumes I and II our goddess and heroine heritage - order from New Sibylline Books, Inc., Box 266 Village Sta, NY, NY 10014 Vol. I \$6.95 Vol II \$7.95 Set of I&II \$13.00 \$12.50 a set on 5 or more sets.

SYMPOSIUM NEWS * * * * *

Maine Lesbian & Gay Men's Symposium VII will be held May 8,9 & 10 in Portland. If you want to have a say in what's happening please come to the next planning sessions to be held Jan 24th at 1:00 in student Union, at Univ. of Maine in Augusta. We'll be picking keynote speakers so come with your voice.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FACILITATE A WORKSHOP?

Proposed workshop

Title of workshop:

Name of facilitator/s:

address/es

telephone/s:

Description: (as you would like it to appear in the Sym booklet.

Limit to # 5 sentences)

This workshop is for: everyone Q only men only
 children other (describe)

If you choose not to facilitate a workshop, do you know of someone who might?..please pass this on.

Return form to: Pam B. or Michael Leonard
57 Hill St. 9 Spruce St
Orono, Me 04473 Augusta, Me 04330

Thank you

NGTF Co-Directors Charles Brydon & Lucia Valeska, who were present for this precedent-setting hearing, expressed their appreciation for the judge's position as well. "This victory is crucial, particularly at this time when many lesbians & gay men are concerned about the future of our movement during the next few years," commented Brydon & Valeska. "With GRA, we will pursue the immigration issue thru the appeals process & continue to press forward on other fronts as well. The fundamental questions of civil rights & the right to privacy for gay people are unchanged & we expect to build on this & other victories in the months & years ahead". NGTF news

SPEECH PREPARED FOR THE TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MARCH 11/1/80

"I want to send a message tonight to a few people & institutions (and this list is by no means exclusive) - and that message is-

We say no more!

To judges (especially Archie Simonson) who think we provoke rape by behaving as free & independent human beings-

We say no more!

To Meldrin Thompson, former Governor of NH, whose Commission for Q claimed that domestic violence shelters are just homes for runaway wives-and to all politicians like him-

We say no more!

To Larry Flynt, publisher of Hustler Magazine, & other purveyors of this insidious form of violence against Q

We say no more!

To the thousands of purveyors of kiddie porn & other atrocities who see no relation between this & incest & other violence towards children -

We say no more!

To a heterosexual world that condones violence against lesbians in the streets of this country & this very city -

We say no more!

To a world that condones in thousands of subtle & not so subtle ways:

-the beating of one Q every 18 seconds in this country in her home;

-and one Q every hour, /24 hours a day/ 365 days a year in Maine -

We say no more!

To a world where violence breeds violence in our homes, on TV, in our streets -

We say no more!

To a human service system where those of us working to stop this violence & provide service to its victims have to scrounge every day to keep our meager existence a reality -

We say no more!

To those men whose 1st questions to Q working in domestic violence is always "what about battered men?" I say let men organize services - we have nurtured our oppressors too long -

We say no more!

To the Congress & Supreme Court of this Nation who have succeeded in sending poor Q once again to the back alleys for abortions-

We say no more!

To a political system that gives us:

Ronald Reagan - who is to Q what Colonel Sanders is to chicken:

Jimmy Carter who might have been OK - he's just born again- the problem is he was born again as Jimmy Carter;

John Anderson who is wonderful on Q's issues as long as you don't need food, clothing, or shelter -

and then calls that a choice-

We say no more!

From this day forward - let us pledge to one another -

mother to daughter

sister to sister

victim to victim

We will not stand by while violence is perpetrated on any one of us - for violence to one Q is violence to all Q.

In all our work we must understand that the most fundamental territory of the patriarchy is the female body. We must reclaim what is our own.

We must stand together or we will all fall.

Let tonight be - not the end - but the beginning - the beginning of the end of violence against Q.

Let us go forth together and take back the night!!!

Lois Galgay Reckitt
Northeast Regional Director
Nat'l Organization for Q