

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER

August '83

Dear Dykes,

Thanks, thanks, thanks for any and all contributions and offers for help on the newsletter - please keep them coming because we really need them all - and any of you that can help on the mailing (in the Belfast area). It's such a lift to have more input & support from you.

Dances at the Susan B. Anthony Club are every 2nd and 4th Saturday... next August 27th, Sept. 10th, Sept 24th. The S.B.A. is located on the 3rd floor above the Grasshopper Shop in Belfast. Bring your own refreshments, or buy soda, tea, coffee & chips there. The club could still use a new rug or any used furniture you can spare: call Jean at 342-5946 or talk to Peggy at the dance.

Portland is coming out with a great gay/lesbian newspaper "Our Paper" which will include reporting, articles, creative expression, editorials, service directory, advertisements, humor. They are looking for people to spread the word, submit, participate, advertise - Please call and find out more: Diane Elze & Liz Moberg at 799-6905.

A late announcement: Gallery Opening / Poetry Reading on September 2 * 7-10p.m. at Chosen Works, 35 Central St., Bangor. "Life on the Side Grain" by lesbian printmaker Gillian Gatto of Machias. Don't miss it!

Lastly, there is a new director of Portland's YWCA who is interested in the lesbian community's input & ideas. Contact Laura Donenfeld at 722-1906, ext. 8.

Thanks ♥

Catherine

The WORRY Column

Hi. My name is Sunshine, my pen name that is, and I live on a farm here in Maine. I share this little piece of Heaven with my lover, two other adults, three children, six kittens, two cats, a rabbit and an occasional stray of some kind (be it human or animal).

My life on our farm is a fairly peaceful existence. I am a recovering alcoholic and in the past, about the closest I ever got to feeling what I thought was peaceful was when I was three sheets to the wind on the verge of passing out or when I wasn't drinking, peaceful was when the world around me finally conformed to my way of thinking. Needless to say, most of my life, short of nine months ago, was not spent in a setting of peaceful existence. This brings me to the point of this column which is actually a confession of sorts, there are some days that I'm just not comfortable being in a peaceful existence. I have found a cure for this and it is really very simple: I just forget everything I've been learning all these months about living a happy, contented and serene life and go out and find something to worry about so that I can regain the old uncomfortable feelings I used to think were comfortable.

That brings me to the subject of my most recent worry and I will share it with you. It has become increasingly apparent to me that no one in our house wants to take the responsibility of throwing away the empty tube of toothpaste. Go ahead and laugh that this is not a real worry but honestly, I've been tormented with this problem for over a month now. You have no idea the longevity of an empty tube of toothpaste around my house. I have personally taken on the responsibility of throwing it away the last two times and have been tormented by feelings of guilt on both occasions. I have heard voices in my head saying things like, "are you sure there wasn't one or two more globs left in there?"; "you lazy so and so, squeezing that new tube without even checking to see if the old one had any more to give"; I could even hear my mother's voice saying "what a waster, think of those poor Chinese children who don't have any toothpaste".

I'd really like to blame the manufacturer for this worry. I mean, years ago when the tubes were made of some kind of metal you could fold it up as you went and you always had a pretty good idea as to how much was really left in there. Now they make them out of a kind of rubber so that after you've spent five minutes folding it up, by the time you unscrew the cap it has already unfolded and you're reaching for the new tube telling yourself all the while that you'll try it again when you've got more time but right now you'll use the new one because you're already late. The problem seems to be just that, no one ever has more time and the seemingly empty tube just sits there waiting for someone with enough courage to attack it to find that last glob, or throw it away, or worry forever, wondering if it did or didn't.

Thanks for listening

 Sunshine

WHAT'S GOING ON

August 17 * "Singing The Body Electric": the last night of voice class with Anna Dembska at Hardscrabble Hill, Castine Rd., Box 130, Orono, Maine 04472 - (207) 469-7112

August 12-15 * "Women Unfolding Passion & Power" with Rosa Lane and Margaret Pavel. 15 participants. Fri. 4pm to Mon. 4pm. Tuition \$100.⁰⁰ Hardscrabble Hill.

* Also at Hardscrabble: Private Retreats are scheduled between workshops - \$24⁰⁰ a day includes private rm & board. Write or call for reservations. 207-469-7112

August 27 * There will be a major march on Washington D.C. to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1963 civil rights march (remember those good old days?) NOW is planning on having buses leave from Bangor, Augusta, and Portland - departing on Friday evening & coming back Sat. after the march. For info. call Marily Kirby, P.O. Box 5195, Sta A, Portland, 04101, 773-3333. \$20⁰⁰ will reserve your seat.

August 23 * Jerry Farwell comes to Maine! He will give his "I Love America" speech, a talk that is Christ-centered & deals with issues that threaten the spirit: abortion, homosexuality, and drugs. At the Univ. of Maine in Farmington. Counter-demonstrate with NOW at 7pm, Tuesday. Call 773-3333

* The Women's Graphic Center, 1727 No. Spring St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90012 has received \$25,000 Artist Organizations Grant from the Nat'l Endowment for the Arts. \$10,000 will go directly to artists commissioned to produce work. \$6000⁰⁰ is allocated to artists to produce artists' books, \$4000⁰⁰ awarded to artists to make postcards. Entries not accepted before Sept. 15 - but for details send S.A.S.E. to Susan King 90 WGC

* Gay Health Action Committee of Maine is a newly formed Action group comprised of people concerned with the AIDS epidemic and its impact on Maine when it arrives. They are associated with A Medical Task Force and The Maine Health Foundation, Inc. Send a SASE for a pamphlet on AIDS Risk Reduction, to contribute, or participate: Gay Health Action Committee, P.O. Box 10723, Portland, 04104

Sept. 30-Oct. 2 * National 1983 NOW conference in Washington D.C.

September: Nancy Brockway is forming a mutual aid group of professionals & other privileged people in the Central Maine Area to support each other in dealing responsibly with our inherited or acquired power in this stratified society. Contact Nancy Brockway Box 57, E. Vassalboro 04935. 289-3831(w) OR 923-3462 (n)



• Tara, the Goddess in her Bodhisattva guise, rules wisdom, passion and compassion. She's in the '94 Lunar calendar, available by mail from Luna Press, Box 511, Kenmore Station, Boston, Ma. 02215

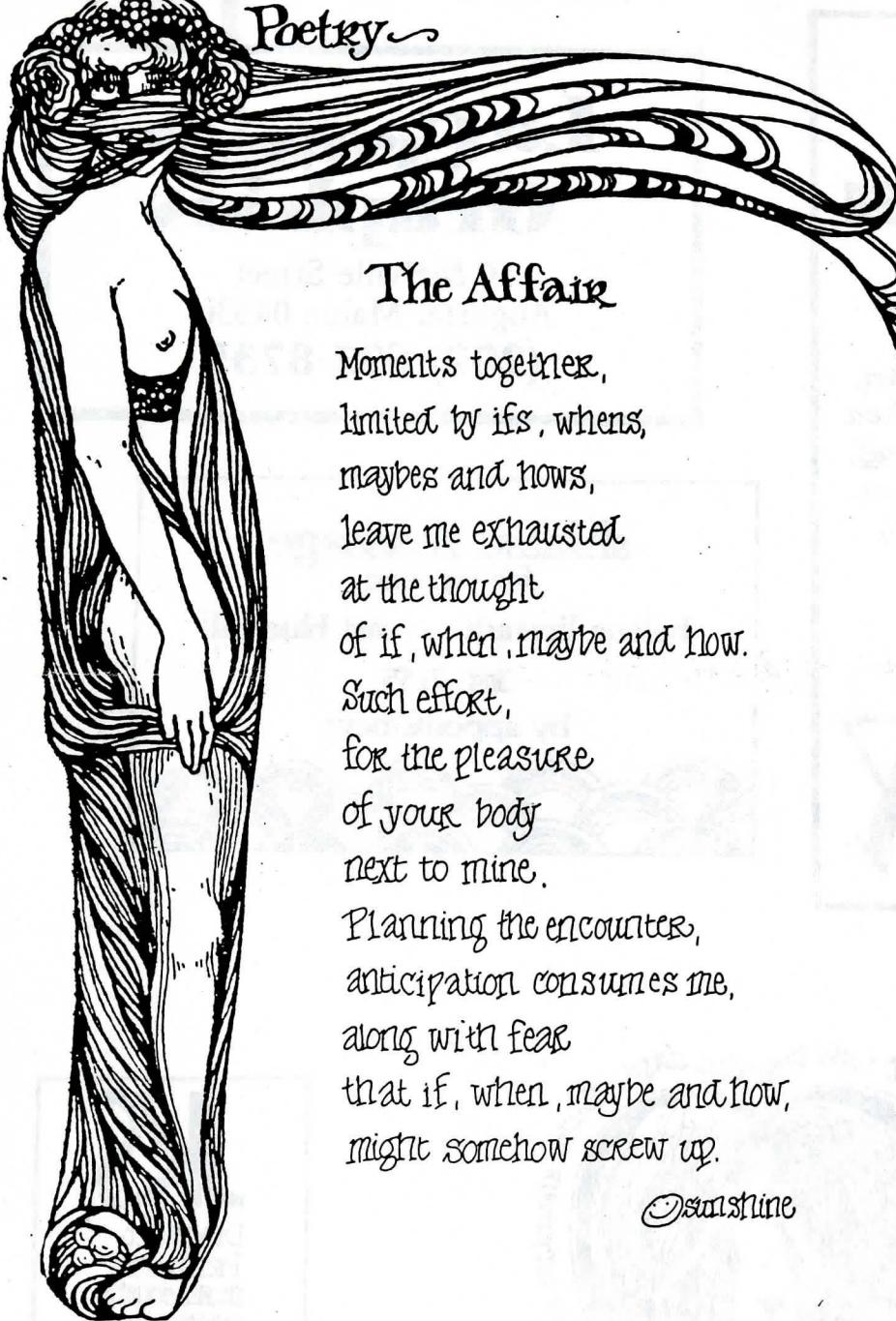
* Do you know any over-60 Jewish women with lesbian relatives or descendants to be included in an oral history project? Judy Sloan, character actress, comedienne and writer has received a grant for an oral history theatre project to preserve & present Jewish lore. She wants to conduct interviews for a full-length script. Please contact her c/o Penslow Brown, 147A Tinker St., Woodstock, N.Y. 12498.

* A complete resource for the gay community lists headquarters of organizations, publications, prisoner projects, mail order companies, hotlines etc. Newly published 13th edition can be ordered for \$10⁰⁰ from Renaissance House, Box 292 Village Sta., New York, N.Y. 10014 • (212) 929-7720

* **Aug. 24**, 8 p.m. Poet/publisher Constance Hunting & Maine Public Radio producer Virgil Bisset will read from a recently released anthology of poems entitled "In a Dark Time" which decries the world wide Nuclear Arms Race; this event is free at New Leaf Books • 23 Main St., Rockport. 236-2030

(★ write in your event or news item to be included here)





The Affair

Moments together,
limited by ifs, whens,
maybes and nows,
leave me exhausted
at the thought
of if, when, maybe and now.
Such effort,
for the pleasure
of your body
next to mine.
Planning the encounter,
anticipation consumes me,
along with fear
that if, when, maybe and now,
might somehow screw up.

sunshine

The bond
that links your true family
is not one of blood, but
of respect and joy in
each others life.

Rarely do members
of one family grow up
under the same
roof.

- Illusions

11/17/72

The main thing is
to decide if I'll say
I'm fine when I see you because I
could be

Or admit hurriedly that I'm staring despair in the eyes
whenever I open mine although I realize my lazy
cowardice is an embarrassment to me and we
both know that verbal exaggeration is surely just
a romantic's indulgence

Liar's can't discern the truth:
voluptuous self-deception becomes our everyday
reality.

I could manufacture a
sanguine smile since
after all my life is sober I'm okay
I haven't done anything wrong,
or even extraordinary.

I'd better greet you with panic -
I'll say my heart despises its senseless drifting I'm
fed up with feeling like a clumsy and hesitant
child, being vague, vocationless, at the end of my
bravado. I've been spending time sulking in corners
with gratuitously cruel moods coveting
epiphany. I long for a friend.
It's disgusting to wind up a foul and ancient
mariner clutching at your arm with bitter
drowning fingers.

I'd rather smile and say
I'm fine because
I could be

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An international organization of lesbians and gaymen in northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick. NLN publishes a monthly newsletter, Communiqué, has a lending library, 'Bibliothèque Lambda', which contains lesbian, gay, and feminist books and periodicals, and operates the Gay Phoneline - 207/498-6556. A variety of gatherings are held throughout the region: pot-luck suppers, dances, business meetings, parties, discussion groups, & more.



LaCrow 
Graphics

16 Melville Street
Augusta, Maine 04330
(207) 623-8735

shiatsu massage
for women

helena lipstadt east blue hill
374 2155
by appointment



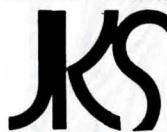
WEBWORK

A contact and friendship network for women-identified women in New England.

For membership info, send SASE to WEBWORK★
BOX 131-P
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