

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER
July, 1980

"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.

Notes from June 21 Meeting - "The Solstice"

Two workshops were held in honor of the solstice. The first one was a circle in which we shared our love & connection to Mother Earth. The 2nd workshop was held at the sea and was a guided meditation in which we were welcomed into Mother Earth & became one with her. As each Q put her energy into healing the Earth, an unexpected cleansing came in the formation of a rain shower.

Summary of events from May 24 & 25 MLF meeting-

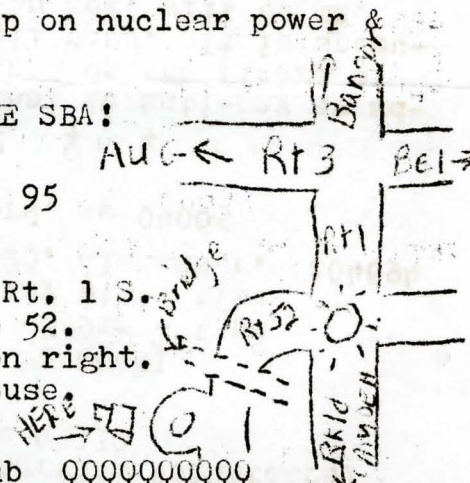
Thirty or so Q gathered. We made a psychic journey to the occupation site of Seabrook nuclear Plant, to offer support & to determine how things were going for our sisters there. The afternoon psychic workshop dealt with changing limiting beliefs using guided meditations & small groups energy circles. About 25 Q participated & it was wonderful

AGENDA FOR July 19 MLF MEETING in Belfast at Joyce & Joann's.

- 12-1 - Hellos
- 1-2 - "Money: How it affects our past & present"
- "Creating Q's Rituals" (an ongoing workshop)
- 2-3 - "Coalitions for Action"
- "Exploring childcare" - policy
- 3-4 - Business meeting
- 4-5 - Diane Whitaker will conduct a short introductory workshop on Massage, self healing, etc.
- 5-6 - "The Environment" ongoing workshop on nuclear power taking care of the earth.
- 6-7 - Softball & Pot Luck Dinner
- 9:00 - DON'T FORGET THE QQQQ DANCE AT THE SBA!

DIRECTIONS

Coming from Portland or Waterville, take Rt. 95
From Waterville last exit before toll.
From Portland First exit after toll
Follow signs to Belfast Rt. 3. Take Rt 3 to Rt. 1 S.
Follow Rt 1 to Blinking light. Go Right onto 52.
After you go over little bridge, 1st house on right.
From intersection of Rt. 1 & 3, 1 mile to house.
Call: 338-2366 if you need to!



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THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY Club

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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 club or by using the space for Q's events. Write to Susan B. Anthony Club c/o MFLF P.O. Box 125, Belfast, Maine 04915.

Directions: Located in downtown Belfast, above the Grasshopper shop on Main St. Enter the door to the right of the Grasshopper, go up to the 3rd floor, go left & you are there!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 19th - 7:30 Committee Meeting
- 9:00 DANCING QQQQQ
- Aug. 9th - DANCE with Committee Meeting before

INFORMATION

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***LESBIAN DEFENSE FUND

I'm writing to ask MFLF's membership to assist with yet another lesbian mother custody fight. The Q involved is a long-time outspoken lesbian feminist activist- & a very old friend.

This is a strong case, involving a closeknit lesbian family consisting all together of 4 children & 2 loving Q, both of whom are well respected & well loved by the feminist community with New Jersey & across the country. If Rosemary wins this case, we will have set a legal precedent in NJ and strengthened national legal precedent. There are very few cases where a lesbian mother who has formed a family with her lover & other children has maintained custody when faced with a court challenge.

Custody case Con't

This custody action requires \$10,000-\$15,000 to cover legal fees, expert evaluation & expert testimony. The Lesbian Family Legal Defense Fund (LFLDF) was established in March to identify sources of support. This case is a threat to all lesbian mothers who remain vulnerable targets in a homophobic society & legal system. The challenge being faced by these lesbian Q is a challenge to all Q today who wish to defend their freedom to choose...a lifestyle & an identity of our own.

If you can - please help by sending a contribution to LFLDF c/o Lois Reckitt, 38 Myrtle Ave., S. Portland, Me 04106.

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***Domestic Violence is a problem which is well known to cut across race, class, religious & age lines. Those of us working in the field realize that this "crime of equality" also cuts across the barriers of sexual preference.

The members of the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services listed below are anxious to assist all people to deal with domestic violence in their lives. If you are a Q or a man needing shelter or assistance please call the program nearest you.

- Family Crisis Shelter - PO Box 4255 Sta. A Portland, Me 04101
Hotline 773-5516 (Ingraham Volunteers)
- Family Violence Project - Box 304, Augusta, Me 04330
Hotline - 623-3569

- Spruce Run Association - PO Box 653, Bangor, Me 04401
Hotline - 947-0496 M-F 9am - 5 pm
947-6143 any other time

Womankind - c/o Valerie Barneby RR 1 Box 1395, Alexander, Me 04694

- Caring Unlimited - PO Box 955, Biddeford, Me 04005
Hotline - 282-4435

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***The Gay Rights National Lobby is predicting that an anti-gay amendment to an otherwise unrelated bill will be offered on the floors of the House & Senate. They also predict that it will pass. It is speculated that HR 6386, the Legal Services Corporation Act, will be the vehicle for the Amendment. Endean also says "The only way we feel there is a chance to defeat such an amendment is by a tremendous outpouring of constituent pressure."

The Gay Rights Nat'l Lobby is calling for immediate action to combat this threat by:

1. a mailogram to Congressmen & Senators urging opposition to expected anti-gay amendments OR
2. call the local office of Congressperson/Senators (call Gay Rights Nat'l Lobby if you don't know how to reach them or want more info (202) 462-4255.

"This sample mailogram can be sent for just \$3.55 by calling Western Union & charging it to your phone:

"As a voter, I urge opposition to expected amendments to bills such as H.R. 6386, Legal Services Corporation Act, that would write into law discrimination against homosexual/lesbian Americans".
"For once, let's act together to prevent an infringement on our rights rather than having to again protest after the fact." ACT IMMEDIATELY
News from Gay Rights Nat'l Lobby 930 F St, N.W. #611 Washington DC20004

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***The Nat'l Gay Task Force is collecting all printed material & documentation about the program "CBS Reports: Gay Power, Gay Politics" which was broadcast on Sat, April 26. This material will be accumulated for use with a possible Fairness Doctrine & Nat'l News Council complaint. The material that is needed includes:

- *copies of all TV reviews in local media
- *reports of any incidents that are a direct result of this program, including changes in relationship with police, political repercussions, & increased harassment.

All reports must be firmly documented with statements, news articles, photographs, and so forth. All material related to this program should be sent to: Nat'l Gay Task Force

80 Fifth Ave, Suite 1601
NY, NY 10011 Attn: Tom Burrows

-It's Time-

MORE INFO:

***ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROPOSAL PASSED AT BALTIMORE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES

A proposal which called for elimination of all discrimination based on sexual preference was passed by the 1st of 3 regional conferences of the White House Conference on Families. The final vote was close, but was a particularly significant victory in that pre-conference publicity has suggested a very conservative outcome. The conference held June 5-7 in Baltimore, MD, was composed of over 600 delegates from 18 Eastern & Southern states & territories.

The Nat'l Gay Task Force was represented at the conference by Board-member Barbara Weinstock (Nat'l Organization Representative for NGTF) & Tom Burrows (Organizational Observer for NGTF & liaison between NGTF & the Coalition for the White House Conference on Families). After the vote, Weinstock & Burrows said, "The inclusion of sexual preference in the anti-discrimination part of the proposal & its final approval by the full conference was partly a result of the willingness of many lesbians & gay men to be open about their sexuality. Many directly discussed their sexual orientation with other participants at the conference, both in the formal meetings & the informal gatherings."

Weinstock & Burrows also commended the support the anti-discrimination proposal received from non-gay member organizations of the Coalition. The delegates from the Nat'l Organization for Q, the Black Caucus & the Hispanic Caucus cooperated with the gay & lesbian delegates to work for approval of a recommendation which called for the ratification of the ERA, the anti-discrimination clause (which called for elimination of all discrimination including sexual preference), & the right to choose to have an abortion. For more info, contact (212)741-5800 NGTF

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***Rural (Lesbian?)-Gay Conference The 1st planning committee meeting was held Memorial day wkend in Bar Harbor to begin organizing a wkend gathering of rural lesbians & gay men. What resulted was a planning session for a conference of rural gay & bi-sexual men. What happened? You ask. The meeting was attended by 7 men, representing 3 of the gay groups in Maine - Midcoast Gay Men (Belfast,) DownEast Gay Alliance (Bar Harbor), and Northern Lambda Nord. Members of Maine Lesbian Feminists (Belfast) were invited but no representative attended. Much of the early discussion centered around the question of whether this conference should include both Q and men or should be men-only.

Some of the issues raised were whether gay men would be comfortable at a lesbian-gay male conference rather than men-only; several members felt that the Q were actually hostile towards the men (why?). The example of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Symposium VII this past March was brought up--there were several "women only" workshops, but no "men only" ones, even the final wrap-up session was "women only". There seemed to be some problems here. One person suggested that it seemed the Q (who appeared to be the primary organizers) had "their shit together", and maybe it was time for the men to do the same thing.

When the results of the Bar Harbor meeting were reported to the membership at the May business meeting of NLN, they voted that NLN would NOT support (as an organization) the rural conference this fall--with either financial help nor using NLN's name as a co-sponsor--because of the decision to exclude Q from this rural conference. NLN's membership is both Q & men, and if the group is to support a conference of rural gays, those invited should be both Q & men.

Now, we'll have to wait for the next planning meeting of the rural conference to see what happens. (The next meeting is scheduled for Sat. June 28, 1980 in Amherst, Me.)

The theme, by the way, for the rural conference (scheduled for Labor Day) is "Getting in Touch". A location has yet to be determined. Rural gays from throughout Maine, the Maritimes, and Northern New England are those persons targetted for participation.

Another report will be forthcoming. =Benj - From Northern Lambda Nord

***Northern Lambda Nord: Thanks for your good feminist politics & support. K.D.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

♀♀♀ Hardscrabble Hill in Orland Maine has begun their 1980 season for other ♀. Sessions include: ♀-Building: Interiors-June 27-July 3; Transformations I: Kindling Your Dream -June 11 -July 16; Place & Process: An Introduction, Open House - July 12 1-5; ♀-Wildwater Rafting July 6; Transformations II: Potential to Action July 23-Sept17 (8 sessions); Moving from Scarcity to Abundance-July 18-21; ♀ Quest: 5day Wilderness Expedition at Mt. Katahdin-July 31-Aug 4; Meditative Renewal & Healing-Aug 22-25; Rage & Creativity: Living into the 80's Aug 8-12; Poetry as Inner Landscape: In her own voice - Sept 19-22. Also private/retreats are available upon request And More-for further info write Hardscrabble Hill Casting Rd, Box 62A Orland 04472 469-7112

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Sunday July 20- All day Massage Workshop with Diane Whitaker. Bring a light lunch. The fee will be \$15-20 depending upon attendance. (more people=less \$ per person). Pre-registration is necessary to assure Diane of enough interest & must be sent to "Whitaker Workshop" c/o DEGA Box 594, Bar Harbor, Me 04609 by July 4 (Downeast Gay Alliance)

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Maine NOW announces its Fourth Annual Rally & WALK-A-THON for the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT Sat. Aug. 23-10am - 2pm Flyers & Pledge sheets are available from all local NOW chapters. for more info please call 942-2830 or write NOW, 23 March St., Bangor, Me 04401

♀♀♀ Kay Gardiner will be giving a benefit performance for the Community Health & counseling Services at the Unitarian Church in Bangor Sun. August 10 at 3pm.

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NEW LEAF BOOKS

At last there's an alternative bookstore in Maine. New Leaf Books, Rockport, specializes in books by & about ♀, alternative energy & Health Care. Here you can find the arguments against nuclear power, publications from small presses, non-establishment poetry & writing, non-sexist children's literature, ♀'s music, and books that are simply fun. We will also be happy to special order books not in stock. Browsing is encouraged! Beginning mid-July there will frequently be poetry readings on Sun afternoon. These events will be posted here & in Maine Times ad. Visit-we're sure you'll enjoy. Hours 10-9 Mon thru Fri, 10-6 Sat & Sun. S.N.

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REQUEST FROM THE NEWSLETTER STAFF*****

Please send your thoughts or any info that you wish to share. We put the Newsletter together the last week of every month so send it in before that time. Got any poems, stories, summaries of events, etc? Send to ELF Newsletter PO Box 125, Belfast, Me 04915 Thanks!!

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PUBLICATIONS:

***AUSTIN DYKE is a monthly newsletter of lesbian analysis, opinion, hystory, and reviews \$6.00/yr. write to Austindyke, PO Box 3374, Austin, TX 78764

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**Women's Network a national Newsletter for ♀ - ♀ ONLY , published 3 times a year \$2/yr more if you can. write to: Dorothy Feola, 2137 Quimby Ave., Bronx, NY 10473

**Broad Sheet: New Zealand's Feminist Magazine. News, views, provocative reading, health issues a specialty. 10 issues a year \$12/yr Send to PO Box 5799, Auckland, New Zealand

**Fighting Woman news: Martial Arts, Self Defense & Combative Sport. \$6/yr Box 1459, Grand Central Sta, NY, NY 10017

**Longest Revolution: a newspaper presenting news & views of progressive feminism \$6/yr PO Box 350, San Diego, CA 92101

**Against magazine on ending violence Against ♀ Published bi-monthly by the Feminist Alliance Against Rape & the National Communication Network FOR THE Elimination of Violence Against ♀. \$8.75/yr. Checks payable to: Feminist Alliance Against Rape, PO Box 21033, Washington DC 20009.

PUBLICATIONS CON't

**"A Handbook for Women on the Nuclear Mentality"- designed & published by members of Q Against Nuclear Development of the Upper Valley (VT & NH). Members of WAND are available to hold workshops with Q on the issue of nuclear development. Handbooks are \$2.60 single copy; \$1.95/10 copies or more, postage included, send to: WAND, Box 421, Norwich, VT. 05055

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** FOR SALE: 1965 Chevy Nova - this car has been lesbian-owned since birth & is in consequent great shape-I'd like to keep it in Q's hands. Call Jean - 469-7976.

***For Q Only!: are you taking good care of your car? after studying "The Q's Basic Automotive Handbook" you will know how to: avoid common RIP-OFFS; Save money with tips on buying gas, driving habits, & selecting a mechanic; change a tire, oil and filter. AND MORE. Price \$7 postpaid, satisfaction guaranteed, allow 4 wks delivery Send name, address & check to ANKHCO, PO BOX 15235, Plantation, Fla 33318

***10 year old son-of-dyke needs to return to Maine from Iowa in late July or early-to-mid August. Will split costs. Contact Nan Stone RFD1, Searsport, Me 04974

**Q looking for another Q (or more) to tend mason for occasional jobs in the Belfast & Brunswick areas. No experience necessary though carpentry knowledge is helpful. Could work one job or several. If interested write Nan Stone, RFD 1, Searsport, Me 04974

***Q wanted to help us build our house, Noel Clark & Winnie, RFD 2, Gardiner, Me 04345 or call 582-4580

***Lesbian Contact: We Are Everywhere!! Write to lesbians in other parts of the US & Canada. Send general info about yourself, likes, dislikes, hobbies & the state or province you wish to write to. Include \$1.00 (cash only) for postage & handling to: Writesisters, PO Box 8824 Minneapolis, MN 55408

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P O E T R Y

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TO SOCIETY WITH LOVE

There is a magic age when
little girls must stop being real-
a time when they can still feel
loving-kindness but get mind-
scolded and body-slapped for
being real.
So little girls are wakened from
their dreams & taught coy fake-
ness- a distance "necessary" to
continue living.
Since my dream came true
and I became real again,
happiness has intertwined with
vulnerableness.
Breaking the barrier between my
girlfriend & I has isolated me
from you.

Are you afraid of us?
Why?
Are you afraid we will bring
population growth to subzero?
Have no fear
test tube babies are here.
Are you afraid I have a
contagious sickness?
If I am sick
then find a doctor for your
little girls.
Are you afraid of closeness,
touching to show your love?
I'm searching for a cure to
tactophobia - some way to
teach you to reach out & touch.
But how can I reach you at all
if you don't meet me halfway?
Signed eb

*****IS THERE A LAVENDER MOON ON YOUR ENVELOPE? YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR \$5. Thank you!

MLF NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

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

Send to: MLF
PO Box 125
Belfast, Me 04915

- Checks payable to MLF Newsletter
- ___ enclosing \$5/yr
- ___ I will send \$ when I can
- ___ Contributing ___
- ___ I don't want the Newsletter
- take me off the mailing list.

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ADDRESS _____