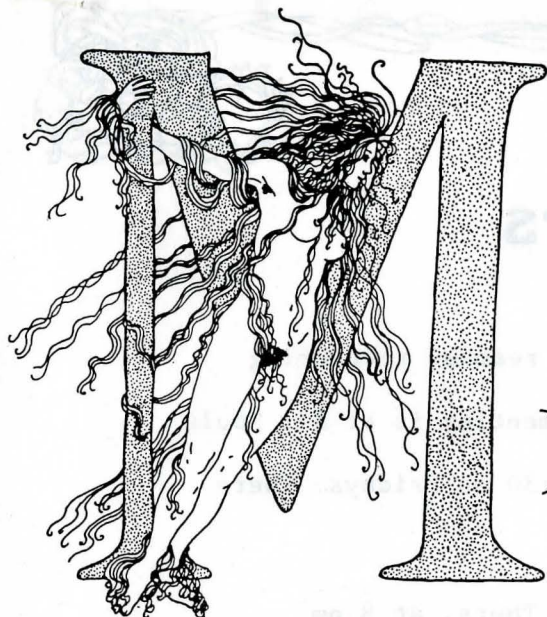


June '84?



# MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER

Well, here we are with another newsletter. Those of us who are working on it these days are really feeling the need to experiment with our imaginations in an attempt to inject some new life into this struggling paper. Please, send anything - ideas, poetry, art, any writings, time, whatever. We are trying a new idea this month - hope you all like it!

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One day, at my housecleaning job, when I was piling up magazines and such, I came across a People magazine - and being the nosey person I am, unable to resist a tempting headline, I began reading through it - and, much to my amazement, I found that dykes have made it to People magazine! There in black and white, on the front and back of one page was an article celebrating Olivia records' 11th year - and - there was a big picture of Judy Dlugacz (the founder of Olivia records), Barbara Higbie, Meg Christian and Teresa Trull. Far out!

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# Calendar Events

- \* The new "Free to Be" gay/lesbian AA meeting reaches recovering alcoholics throughout Central Maine. This meeting is at All Souls Unitarian Church on King St. in Augusta at 7:30 on Fridays. There are also lesbian/gay AA meetings in:  
  
Portland - First Parish Unitarian Tues. and Thurs. at 8 pm  
  
Bangor - Unitarian Church Thursday at 8 pm.
- \* Feminist Spiritual Community - every Mon., 7 pm, State St. Church, portland
- \* Gay Health Action Committee - iregular Mondays, Portland. 775-5540.
- \* Gay Parents Support Group meets Wed. evenings at 7:30 at the USM Student Union, 92 Bedford St., Portland. For more info call 780-4085 or 772-4741.
- \* Step-parents Support Group - A few lesbians in Northern/Central Maine have begun meeting twice a month to discuss step-parenting and offer support to each other around the issues of being a lesbian step-parent. We invite more women in similar situations to join us. Contact Nancy (469-7737) or Dottie (862-4697) for more information.
- \* Women-Quest, A Transformational Journey, Box 606, Newburyport, Ma., 01950  
Mt. Kathadin - July 30-Aug. 4. For women with eating disorders.
- \* Women's Motorcycle Festival '84, upstate New York, Aug. 24-27. For info. write W.M.F. '84, 7 Lent Ave., LeRoy, N.Y. 14482 or call (716)768-6054. Open to first 200 paid entrants.



- \* Saturday, June 30 at 8 pm sharp Alex Dobkin will be in concert in Augusta at the All Souls Unitarian Church which is at 11 King St. The tickets are \$5.00 and child care will be provided.
- \* Saturday, July 14 the Susan B. Anthony Club will be having a dance at our Belfast address above the Grasshopper shop on Maine St. The only other dance we know of for sure this summer will be on the second Sat. in August. We would also like to request help in cleaning up the club before the dance - you will need to bring cleaning materials - and remember, we are the only ones who can do this for ourselves. Call Jean Stickney for details.
- \* August 11 - 25, New Hampshire Take Back the Night. Events will include opening bonfire, two weeks of workshops and events around the state, afternoon fair on the 25th and evening march in Manchester. For info call Sharon (603) 625-5785.
- \* WISE WOMEN CENTER offers 4-day Intensives on Herbal Medicine and Spirit Healing; June 29-July 2, August 24-27, Write for info to Susan Weed, Box 64 FC, Woodstock, NY 12498.
- \* DOING IT! A Lesbian Sexuality Intensive August 3-5 on women's land. Write: Doing It!, Box 455 F, Mt. Marion, NY 12456
- \* The women in Cumberland County Jail could benefit from an improved library. We are hoping to facilitate that happening through donations from our own precious collection of feminist literature. You can help. Bring your books to Women's Legal Defense Fund, People's Building, 144 Brackett St., Portland or call 773-6398.
- \* Lesbian Support Group - every Sunday at 5:00 pm, 92 Bedford St., USM. Sponsored by Women's Forum and GPA.
- \* Greater Portland N.O.W. - 4th Tuesday of the month, Y.W.C.A., 87 Spring St., Portland, 7:30 pm.
- \* Hardscrabble Hill, Castine Rd., Box 130, Orland, Me. 04472  
(207)469-7112. Hardscrabble Hill is a woman's residential retreat center offering workshops from spring to fall in such things as carpentry, poetry, song, healing, writing, counseling and more.
- \* Rhode Island Feminist Theatre presents its Tenth Annual Tour Show called 2082 REVUE. It is a delightful comedy which embraces serious topics of concern for today's audiences. The show employs new talent from Rhode Island to England. "Come laugh, come cry, come along 100 years with us." For info write to RIFT, box 9083, Providence, R.I. 02940 or call (401)273-8654.

# In Case You're Interested---

The MLF newsletter committee has information about the following items.

Call Donna Light at 342-5069 if you'd like to know more about:

- \* Women's Wilderness Experience, Jeanie Mudd, p.o. box 4861, Santa Fe, NM 87502. They have many trips and experiences all over the country.
- \* 13th Annual International Women's Writing Guild Conference: Aspects of Transformation II, Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., July 27-Aug.3 We have a lot of information about cost and accomadations as well as what kinds of things will be happening or write: Hannelore Hahn, Ex. Dir., IWWG, PO Box 810, Gracie Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10028, tel. (212)737-7536
- \* PIONEER PRODUCTIONS, 112 W. 72nd St., #9-B, N.Y., N.Y. 10023 is making a film about gay men and lesbian women over 65. If you are or know of someone interested in participating in the film, contact them - it will be on t.v.
- \* TRAVEL-ONS, c/o Systero International, Ltd., 306 W. 38th St., Manhattan Island, N.Y. 10018 is a free monthly newsletter detailing an incredible variety of travel tours, tips, and pertinent info of special interest to lesbians/gays.
- \* The PRISON READING PROJECT is a part of a larger movement to keep women in prison connected with women outside of prison. It supplies reading material from women's presses everywhere. For info write to Juana Maria Paz, Paz Press, POB 3146, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72702-3146.
- \* Submissions wanted for an anthology of erotic writings by women: stories, poems, journal entries, letters & essays. We are looking for submissions reflecting body and spirit, nature, humor and joy. Our focus is a celebration of the sensual from childhood to old age honoring the diversity of one another's experience. SASE to Anthology, POB 971, Felton, Ca. 95018. Deadline Sept. 30, 1984.



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- \* Theatre Rhinoceros presents: The National Lesbian Playwriting Contest. The contest offers a first prize of \$1000.00 and production, a second prize of \$500.00, and the opportunity for playwrights to make connections with and have their work read by directors and theatre artists. Send script and SASE and/or inquiries to: Playwriting Contest, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. #9, San Francisco, CA. 94103, or phone (415)522-4100.
  - \* The first annual Lesbian Summer Camp(out) - a gathering of witches amazons and bag ladies July 6-8 on Wallflower Hill home of Noel Clark, RFD 2 Box 90, Pittston, Me. 04345. We have more info if you are interested.
  - \* Info about A LEGAL GUIDE FOR LESBIAN AND GAY COUPLES can be obtained from Nolo Press 950 Parker St., Berkeley, Ca. 94710 or by calling (415)549-1976, ask for Carol Plasden or Abby Goldman.
  - \* Housemate wanted: 1 mi. from downtown Belfast, \$50/wk. inc. utilities. 338-2361 after 5:00, 338-5151 8-5:00
  - \* 12 seat school bus - converted to a camper - for sale; 6 good tires, living space(behind driver's seat) is 12'x7', includes wall to wall carpeting, bed, closet, table, sink, chair, apt. size gas stove and oven and small gas tank. Clean and neat, all for only \$1500. Call 342-5069 eve. til 11:00.
  - \* Ritual Gatherings, c/o Laughing Tree, 208 Walden St., Concord, Mass., 01742, (617)369-1883

**“To gain that which is  
worth having, it may be  
necessary to lose  
everything else.”**

**Bernadette Devlin**  
(1947- )  
*The Price of My Soul*

Isn't this exciting? We have a new column this month and if it is recieved well, perhaps we'll be able to keep it going from month to month. We've had several requests for help for some perplexing problems and we were fortunate enough to find someone qualified to answer some of these questions. So if you have a problem, for a while anyway, you can send your problems to Emma Dyke and she will try to help you out! Here are some of our first requests!!

Dear Emma,

I'm 30 years old, a housewife and have 4 kids and a useless husband. I say useless because for the last six years I have not had an orgasm. I'm in desparate straights (no pun intended). I realize I have a part in this mishap, yet I can't seem to overcome it. (Again, no pun intended). You see, I have this neighbor, she's a 25 year old lawyer with the most gorgeous legs I've ever seen. I realize this is no way for a wife/mother to be looking at her neighbor, but I can't seem to help myself. Well, actually, she's informed me that I may help myself anytime I please.

Oh, Emma - what shall I do?

Sexually frustrated  
in Texas

Dear Sexually,

Help yourself - please!

Emma

Dear E. Dyke,

My lover has left me, I'm 3 months sober and my car won't start. But that's the best of it. Yesterday I went to work and no one would talk to me. I was confused and felt hurt. After a long hard day of cutting off fish heads, I went home to find a flooded bathroom. I decided that I needed to be good to myself so I took myself out to dinner. That's when I met her. She's a waitress at a local restaurant. I'm sure I'm in love, but I don't know if she's a dyke or not. I don't know how to approach her. If she's not a dyke, I might get harassed; if she is, I may have a lover. I'm in such a state. Emma, what should I do?

Out of Practice  
in Rockland

Dear Out,

We all must take risks - ask and you shall receive!

Dear Emma, I am in love, but I can't tell her because I am too shy. Also, she has a very big husband. She has talked about leaving him - what can I do to convince her when I am so shy?

Wimpy  
in Wisconsin

Dear Wimpy,

Take fear by the hand, swallow that knot in your throat - and go for it!



Dear Emma,

I'm scared and confused. Last week I made love with my gym teacher. We went to a party together and I got drunk. She said she didn't want to take me home because my Mom might be upset. I agreed. For a long time I have been fantasizing about making love with her, but I never thought it would happen. What now? She has a husband - I have a boyfriend. My Mom would be appauled - but I love her!!

Freaked-out  
in Jersey

Dear Freaked-out,

You're right, you have a problem, but this too shall pass - for starters, you could dump the boyfriend! If that doesn't work, change schools.

Emma

Well, I hope you all appreciate the wisdom and efforts of our own, Emma Dyke, and will support her in the coming months.

\* \* \* \* \*

Found in Lesbian Connection:

Flaky, a fearless tomcat, is lapping up extra cream and purring under all the praise he's getting for saving his mistress from a would-be rapist. The heroic cat's owner, a 46-year-old San Jose woman, said she heard someone outside her mobile home calling, "Honey, it's me." Thinking it was a friend, she opened the door. A strange man forced his way in, punched the screaming woman, tore her night clothes and threw her on the floor. Just as he was ready to sexually attack her, a furious ball of fur came flying out of nowhere, landed with full force on his back and started ripping away like a little tiger. The man leaped up in panic and fled into the night. Police told The NY Post that the woman and Flaky are doing fine.

"Dear Abby,: My husband demanded that I change from a male to a female Doctor. He said he didn't want another male ogling my naked body. I changed doctors to please my husband. Recently we were divorced. I am now living with my female doctor, and we couldn't be happier! IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Don't accept rides from strange men, and remember that all men are strange as hell."

Robin Morgan, Sisterhood is Powerful

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TAKE BACK THE NIGHT - 1984

Rally, 1 June 1984, Bangor

Pornography And Violence Against Women

Lucie Bauer

(New Hope for Women, Inc.)

We are here tonight to participate in an action by women to protect women's lives, to resist and respond publicly to acts of violence against women and children in the streets, at home, in the media, and throughout every institution in our entire society. Each of us, in coming here, has chosen not to collaborate in our own oppression by a sexually exploitative culture which asserts as an article of faith that males have the right to control the lives and bodies of women and children. This message — that men have the right and the need to dominate women and children, that our survival and happiness depend upon submission to men — is beamed at us constantly throughout the images, words, and acts which maintain this culture of male power. It distorts all of our lives and restricts our freedom of movement at home, in the classroom, at work, in the human services office, no less than it does our right of safe passage in the streets through which we are about to march.

I am here because I believe that "the very way patriarchy has of seeing is a crime against our lives" (Susan Griffin). The devastating idiom of pornography — which preaches the fear and hatred of women and proscribes for us any separate reality apart



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from that controlled by men — is so pervasive that we have all come to perceive it as normal in this deeply misogynist culture. Pornography's message is relentless, vicious, and coercive: women and children exist for the pleasure and profit of men; our bodies are objects on which men can inflict whatever form of sexual violence they choose; and, the biggest obscenity of all, our deepest pleasure lies in our enslavement and subordination to men. Images which denigrate women and children, which use us as sex objects and deny us control over our own bodies and feelings, assault us everywhere, everyday — whether we wish to see them or not — on T.V., in newspapers and magazines, on billboards, in bookstores, on movie theatre marquees, as well as in museums and on collectors' walls. Like it or not, these images create the myths by which we all live. There is no way to escape them nor to avoid internalizing their destructive message; and their power of suggestion is formidable. Many of you may not be aware that HUSTLER magazine ran a centerfold feature depicting the gang rape of a young woman on a pool table just two months before the rape in the Big Dan tavern in New Bedford. Pornography has become the "how to" manual of rape.

Every act of sexual violence is the result of a choice — on the part of an individual to commit it and on the part of all of us to allow it to happen. Our lives and those of our children are at stake. Let us empower ourselves and each other to affirm here and now that NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO ABUSE US, NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO ABUSE US, NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO ABUSE US!

Ruth Bauer

# ADVERTISING ~

Subscriptions to MLF are available for \$8.00 a year (more if you can, less if you can't).

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