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MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER

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June 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.

Minutes from May 24 MLF Meeting

Scribe: Diane

General Business Meeting at Marlenes in Sheepscot

1. Introductions: about 20 Q were in attendance with almost half being new-comers. We appointed Diane as scribe in Deb's absence and Lois as facilitator, set up the agenda for the business meeting and for the rest of the day.

2. The possibility of an Alix Dobkin Concert at the Susan B. Anthony Club in Belfast on June 28th was announced. A committee of Belfast Q will be working out the details including publicity, sound & seating, & ticket price. (See attached flyer) There were some conflicting emotions expressed about Alix Dobkin's policy of no male children at her concerts. MLF will provide childcare for all children. We agreed to loan \$50 (from the total of \$60 in our general fund) to the Belfast Committee for pre-concert expenses. We're hoping the concert and the dance afterwards will be a big fundraiser for MLF & the SBA Club.

3. The next meeting will be at Marjorie's in Cundy's Harbor on June 31--the Summer Solstice and Gay Pride Day

Agenda for Next MLF Meeting: "On June 21, Lesbians across the country are focusing their collective energy on saving the earth from men's slaughter. This MLF meeting is directed towards this end. We'll meet at 10 am to welcome each other and PROMPTLY at 11am we will begin with a ritual circle. Each Q will speak of her feelings for the earth and of her concern for its survival. After lunch there will be 2 workshops 1 pm--an informational presentation on environmental issues and 2pm--a ritual of earth-healing. After the workshop, we will enjoy our connection with earth & the sea at the beach. Please bring bathing suits, towels, etc." Collectively authored.

(There will also be a business meeting for planning sometime that day).

DIRECTIONS TO MARJORIE'S in Cundy's Harbor: #725-6928

From wherever you are--get to Cook's Corner exit from Rt.1 (near Brunswick) Follow Rt. 24 towards Orr's Island through some lights. In 4.3 miles turn left towards Cundy's Harbor. After 4 miles you'll pass a pond. Marjorie's is the 2nd house on the right--white with green trim

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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 place or by using the space for Q's events. Write to Susan B. Anthony Club, c/o MLF PO Box 125, Belfast Me. 04915.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June Sat. 7th - 4pm clean up party & supper pot-luck. bring things to clean with (towels, soap, window cleaner, vacuums, etc)
- 7:30 pm Business Meeting
- 9:00 pm QQ DANCE QQ \$2 donation requested
- Sun. 15th - Film/Discussion series = "Modern Times" & "Banners & Babies" 3 pm
- Sun. 22nd - 3 pm poetry reading, open to all readers of your own or other's work
- Sat. 28th - ALIX DOBKIN in Concert with dancing afterwards.
See poster about concert.
- JULY Sat. 19th - MLF in the Belfast area to be announced PLUS*
7:30 pm business meeting for SBA Club
9:00 pm QQ DANCE QQ

*Announcing a workshop with Diane Whitaker at the Susan B. Anthony Club on August 2-- Kinesiology & Massage Workshop. Diane has recently moved to Maine and her debut workshop at this year's Gay Symposium was very well received. This 6 hour workshop will focus mostly on massage, will be open to Q ONLY AND will be held in the nude. If we can get 20 Q

to pre-register by July 19th, the cost will be \$15/Q. (if only 15 Q are interested, Diane will need to charge \$20). A prepaid, refundable (until the 19th) deposit of \$15 is necessary. Please send your questions and deposits to Marlane Spillinger, RFD #1 \$665 Wiscasset 04578. An introductory workshop may be offered in July.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

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***Mid-Coast Gay Men have organized a blood donation drive & would like MLF members to participate. This is part of a publicity effort for Gay Pride Day. MGM would like Lesbians & Gay men throughout the state to donate a pint of blood through their local Red Cross chapter. A MGM member is responsible for releasing a statement to the press which will state the # of pints donated by the lesbian & gay community in the state of Maine as a public service. Any MLF member interested should notify Debbie at PO Box 14, Belfast Me 04915 so the donations can be counted.

***Sive has opened her bookstore NEW LEAF BOOKS in Rockport on May 23. This bookstore specializes in books by & about Q, alternative energy, nutrition & health care. She also carries Q's newspapers, journals & music. May Sarton, author of 16 novels & 14 volumes of poetry, will be at New Leaf on June 14 to autograph her works, either new or ones you bring yourself. All of her work will be on sale at New Leaf Books on that day. Come and meet May - 10 am to noon. Also, on Thursday, June 12, the Q's Media Network of Hope will present their new video tape on May Sarton - She Knew A Phoenix. This will be shown at New Leaf Books at 8:00 pm.

New Leaf plans other events so look out for announcements. Info about May Sarton's autograph party or about the new bookstore can be obtained by calling 236-2030 or write to New Leaf Books, 23 Main St., Rockport, Me 04856

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***A Rural Gay Symposium is being organized by the Northern Lambda Nord and the Down-East Gay Alliance, tentatively scheduled for Labor Day, 1980 in Aroostook County. Contact Northern Lambda Nord at PO Box 990, Caribou 04736, or DownEast Gay Alliance, PO Box 594, Bar Harbor 04609, or Dick Harrison PO Box 82, Van Buren Me 04785.

***The Center for Being in Brunswick is running a special workshop for pre-orgasmic Q - straight and gay. It will last 12 to 18 weeks & there will be a sliding fee scale. Contact Marjorie Meyer at 725-6928.

***La Donna Harris, is a feminist Native American candidate for Vice-President with the Citizen's Party. She'll be in Augusta June 7. Check the "Maine Times" for more info.

***Independent US Presidential candidate JOHN ANDERSON has become the 55th co-sponsor of the federal lesbian & gay rights bill, HR-2074. Olympia Snowe (northern Maine's representative in Congress) has yet to add her name to the growing list of co-sponsors. They both could use some encouragement-Anderson needs financial help for his campaign; Snowe needs some education. You may write to them both in the US House of Representatives." Northern Node

***A major piece of ANTI-GAY LEGISLATION has been introduced in the House of Reps. Viewed as the beginning of a national campaign to oppose HR-2074, the nat'l gay rights bill, House Concurrent Resolution 166 calls for the US Congress to resolve that "...homosexual acts & the class of individuals who advocate such conduct shall never receive special consideration or a protected status under law." The Gay Rights Natl Lobby (GRNL) is actively fighting this legislation & the anti-gay sentiment it encourages. If you want to do something, write: GRNL, 1606-17th St, NW Washington, DC 20009. Northern Node

***The FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION at a meeting in Washington, DC March 12 ordered broadcasters to listen to all groups that are significant elements within their service areas, including lesbians & gays & the handicapped. The Commission ruled that stations are not obligated to seek out these groups; these & other community groups must make themselves known to a broadcaster. The FCC requires broadcast license holders to ascertain the problems, needs & interests of significant elements within their broadcast service areas. FCC Chairperson Ferris said in a written statement, "Our action today does acknowledge that groups con-

stituting significant elements of the community...are part of our diverse American people...they deserve to be heard." Copies of "Media Guide to Gay Issues" can be obtained by writing Natl Gay Task Force, 80 5th Ave, NYC, NY 10011 (send 10¢) Northern Node

***Harrassment of Lesbians and Gays at the Canadian border is not uncommon due to an archaic & discriminatory law-under US Immigration statutes, HOMOSEXUALS ARE BARRED FROM ENTRY INTO THE US. A 1952 law (Section 212(A)(4) of the Immigration Act) provides for the exclusion of "persons afflicted with psychopathic personality, sexual deviation or mental defect". This statute has been used repeatedly to exclude gay people. There is legislation pending in the US Senate to change this law. Sponsored by Senator Alan Cranston (Dem-Calif) the bill, S-2210 would delete the words "sexual deviation" from Section 212(A)(4). Similar legislation has been introduced in the Hs of Reps. This bill (HR-6303) is sponsored by 3 Calif. Dem: Reps Beilenson, Dixon, & Waxman. Americans are urged to write your Representatives in Congress. Tell them you feel that the current Immigration Statutes run counter to the principles of freedom & human rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the US. Urge your Reps & Senators to support S-2210 & HR6303. For more info, contact Northern Node Northern Node

***NOTICE - The Lavender Left-Powder Ridge Conference has changed it's location to APPEL Farm, Shirley, New Jersey Friday May 23-Mon May 26. This is a Northeast Conference of multinational Lesbian & Gay Male Feminist Socialists that was announced in last month's newsletter.

***The Natl Gay Task Force is asking for financial help to survive. If you want to join, send Name, address, tele # plus \$20 basic membership, or \$10 limited income membership-to: Natl Gay Task Force, Suite 1601-02, 80 5th Ave, NYC NY 10011 or call (212)741-3500.

***The Natl Gay Task Force, with the cooperation of the leadership of the San Francisco gay community, Supervisor Harry Britt & Mayor Diane Feinstein, is preparing a Natl News Council complaint regarding the recent CBS News Special "Gay Power, Gay Politics."

NGTF Co Directors Charles Flynn and Lucia Valeska said: "We believe the CBS News in its program "Gay Power, Gay Politics," failed to meet reasonable standards of accuracy or fairness for broadcast journalism. CBS went beyond the bounds of legitimate robust journalism into the realm of misrepresentation, distortion & sensationalism. The program reflects inadequate & shoddy research & was edited in such a fashion as to negatively manipulate the viewing public's attitude toward the gay rights movement. This manipulation occurred through the omission of vital facts fundamental to an understanding of the events portrayed.

"We condemn this style of journalism & its consequences--damage to the cause of civil rights & human dignity for the nations' lesbian & gay citizens & a further erosion of public confidence in the media's ability to accurately & fairly report the truth.

"We are confident that an independent investigation & evaluation of the facts by the Natl News Council will sustain our position". NGTF

***In August of 1979, the Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara County & the San Jose City Council each passed ordinances prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, & public services based on an individuals sexual orientation. A small but well-financed & well-organized group of anti-human rights zealots & religious fundamentalists circulated petitions forcing both ordinances onto the June 3 ballot." \$ is needed. Please send donations to Santa Clara Valley, Coalition for Human Rights, PO Box 2066, San Jose, CA 95109.

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***Q wishing to explore the vast accomplishments of our Q writers are invited to a meeting to organize a Q's reading group. The group which evolves will decide together works to be read & discussed. Come, let us read together works unfolding the politics, the ethics, the poems, the fiction, the biographies, the crises, the options...of our Q selves.' Come to the YWCA, The Women's Room, June 5th, 5:30-6:30. For further Info contact Mary Hondo - 772-1906 ALL Q ARE WELCOME

*** Michigan QQ Music Festival, Aug 14-17. Ticket price includes camping music & food. Write to: WE WANT THE MUSIC COLLECTIVE, 1501 Lyons St, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

***"Feminist Therapy does not describe a particular style of therapy because it cuts across many schools of psychotherapeutic thought. Feminist therapy reflects a particular philosophy. This philosophy involves the principle of consciousness raising, a technique helpful in differentiating between what is purely personal from that which is external & therefore social or political rather than psychological. It is an outgrowth of eclectic humanistic thought & represents a logical extension of humanist thinking into an awareness of sex role issues." (Lehrman, 1976, in Psychology of Women.)

"The Association for Q in Psychology distributes & maintains a national roster of feminist therapists. Each state has a coordinator who maintains a state listing. Chris Browning is the coordinator for Maine & would like to receive info from therapists who identify themselves as feminist therapists. Please send your name, address, degree, professional affiliation, & a personal statement regarding how & why you define yourself as a feminist therapist. Also note any special services you may provide. These statements will be made available to Q seeking feminist therapists and your name will be forwarded to the national roster." Send to Chris Browning, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Maine, 301 Little Hall, Orono, Maine 04473.

***RISE" will be holding a workshop on "Women's Health Care & Violence" with Freida Klein & Judy Norsigian, contributing mothers to Our Bodies Ourselves, Thursday, June 12 at St. Paul's Oblate House, 136 State St, Augusta, Me. Registration 8:30-9:00 Program: 9-4, cost \$30 members, \$40 non-members. Must Pre-register by June 10 for more info write to: RISE/KURHA PO Box 728, Waterville, Me 04901 or call 873-1127 RISE also has upcoming workshops: Conflict Management June 19; Secretaries Skills Workshop, June 26.

***Roommate needed in China. Call Mary at 774-3329 or (968-2117 wkend)

*** Housesitter needed to care for 2 spoiled cats and a friendly dog-June 29 till about July 12. Location: Oxford County, about 30 miles from Lewiston, Rumford, Norway, & Augusta. House is a one-story home with 4 bedrooms on 3 acres-Western Maine Mountain Area.-within 3 miles there are lakes with swimming, boating, miniature golf, other recreational facilities. Free for the sit. Please call (207)597-3811 or write immediately to Anne Kinney, Box 42 RFD 1 Canton, Maine 04221. We'd like to meet you or correspond as soon as possible. Thanks.

***Available--in Bowdoinham-2 wooden Yurts, small but cozy and cheap-\$55.00. No electricity or plumbing but a well and pump. Access to a large kitchen yurt and a nice out house. The kitchen yurt has a gas stove and light-there is a garden. Contact Suzann Kole if interested. Box 83, Bowdoinham, Me or call 666-3311.

***Dear Sisters: I have recently returned from Colorado where I was visiting a friend, Rosie Miller. She is a lesbian Mother of a 4 yr old child who has been sexually abused by his father. Rosie is involved in lengthy court proceedings to gain complete custody of Zorah. Although she has secured the services of an excellent Q lawyer, this is proving to be unbelievably draining and expensive. Any donations to Rosie's legal fund would be greatly appreciated. The sisterly support behind your dollars would give Rosie invaluable encouragement and strength. Please send contributions to Anne Garland RFD #1 S-665 Wiscasset Me 04578. Checks make payable to Rosie Miller. Thanks Anne"

PUBLICATIONS

***Z Budapest's Newsletter of the new Q's Religion, THEMIS, \$5/yr Send to PO Box 42121, Los Angeles, CA 90042. Ask for a complimentary copy.

***OUR RIGHT TO LOVE: A Lesbian Resource Book, edited by Ginny Vida, produced by the Q of NGTF. Send \$6.95 and your address to NGTF, Suite 1601-02, 80 5th Ave., NYC, NY 10011. Check payable to NGTF

*** Q's NETWORK: NATIONAL NEWSLETTER FOR Q-Q only. Published 3 times a year \$2/yr Send to Dorothy Feola, 2137 Quimby Ave, Bronx NY 10473

***INTEGRITY Inc., Gay Episcopalians and Their Friends-for free sample publication send to: Ms Lelia Baldwin 1073S. 800 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84105.

**** THE LESBIAN PATH: 37 autobiographical sketches celebrating our diversity & strength. Edited by Margaret Cruikshank with Angel Press. Send \$6.95 to Caroline House, 2 Ellis Place, Ossining NY 10562. Checks made payable to Margaret Cruikshank

MESSAGE & HEALING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE: Diane Whitaker & Louise Piper

1. June 7 "Survival Without Pain" - 6 hr workshop explaining & practicing the techniques which were demonstrated at the Symposium. Contact Halcy, RFD #1 Box 289, Machias, Me 04654 \$20
2. July sometime between the 12th & 22nd
"Survival Without Pain will be sponsored by the DGA in Bar Harbor. Contact Loie Hayes Box 594 Bar Harbor 04609 \$20
3. August 2 Massage Workshop (Details in Newsletter) Belfast Contact MLF PO Box 125, Belfast Me 04915 \$20.

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To the Members of Maine Lesbian Feminists:

I justed (to mention) the unprecedented attention that sex education & homosexuality have been receiving in the media over the past couple of months. Ever since the Apple/Corps Committee's workshops on sexuality & relationships for teenagers were announced in April, there has been impassioned controversy, a flurry of newspaper articles & reports, & even some good dialogue on the subject of sex education for teenagers. Through the combined efforts of anti-Christian fundamentalists and sex education watchdogs, our rights to free speech & the dissemination of information were effectively compromised, and the workshops were never presented. I feel that the community, & especially the kids, were the losers. Too, the homophobia of a number of vocal objectors was such that they funnelled the whole issue of the 9 diverse workshops into the one sorry bag of homosexuality. (For instance, by circulating an "Alert Bulletin" inciting people to register their indignation at the workshops because we were going to be "teaching homosexuality & sodomy" to their "impressionable children.") There was gross distortion of who we were & what we wanted to do, & astonishing over-reaction from the adult community.

Nonethelless, the subjects of lesbiansim & homosexuality are out in the open. I just wish that the dialogue could be broadened from a discussion of me as a gay man and my role in the workshops to the larger fact of the existence of many lesbians & gay men in rural Maine. Our very existence, as a considerable population is being called into question. Students at Belfast High School circulated a petition objecting to my '10%' statistic on homosexuality, which I extrapolated in general to the High School. Rev. Jim Evans of the Swanville Community Church branded homosexuals "a foreign element." He is wrong. We are everywhere, as you well know. It is just that we have remained invisible for so long.

Therefore, I am asking lesbians to share something of their experience & their knowledge with the readers of their local newspapers, especially in the Bangor-to-Arocland areas. One need not come out as lesbian or gay in order to put forth a fact about us or an ethical statement against the poor sin-mongers. (Forgive them, for they know no different.) Due to our low profile, Maine people have been deprived of knowing us, deprived of knowing any happy, healthy, visible lesbians or gay men. Indeed, this is a form of cultural deprivation, and we can help relieve their deprivation & also make life more free and authentic for ourselves by speaking out and/or coming out. Of course the most effective method, probably, is in coming out indiscriminately to anyone & everyone in the course of one's daily life. But supporting a pro-gay position or fact in the media can be very effective, too. And if one is realistically fearful of bad repercussions, one can explain that in the letter & withhold one's name. But I would like to encourage people to strike while the iron is hot. The intensity of the controversy is dying down, & sensible dialogue can take its place.

Sincerely, Bo Bergstrom (MGM)

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MLF NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

***IS THERE A LAVENDAR MOON ON YOUR ENVELOPE? YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE 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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Checks payable to MLF NEWSLETTER

POETRY AND PERFORMING ARTS

To The Goddess

You balance me
and make me whole.
You cement my selves in your soft, strong arms
And complete my womanhood.
I thank you for this.
Your eyes burn with candor
and I touch your soul.
It pulses in my hand to tell me who you are
But I already know.
You are the one who caught my heart
You spoke with gentle words
And I listened
I heard a wisdom of firmness
and felt secure at your side
I heard a sadness, a loneliness like mine
And cried for us both.

I know we would love each other well
And so we have.

Signed,

(a woman ^{we} who has let go of the
closet door and is now standing
in the light)

the
SUSAN B. ANTHONY
CLUB

presents

ALIX DOBKIN

singing music for women and their women
friends

JUNE 28, 1980

8:00 p.m. (SHARP!)

24 MAIN ST. (3RD FLOOR), BELFAST
\$4

Some of Alix's music include her two albums on
Women's Wax Works Records: "Lavender Jane
Loves Women" & "Living With Lesbians"

CHILD CARE FOR ALL CHILDREN
PROVIDED AT THE CONCERT

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME

A DANCE (~~AT THE S.B.A. CLUB~~) AT THE S.B.A. CLUB
WILL FOLLOW THE CONCERT