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+++++MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER
May, 1980000000
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"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 April 12 MLF Meeting

Scribe: Deb

The April 12 meeting in China consisted of a general meeting and 2 workshops: 1) mothering (the mothering we need), and 2) Mary's business venture.

Notes from general meeting:

A. Treasury Report

- 1) General fund \$61.86
- 2) Newsletter \$197.67

B. Discussion topics:

- 1) Olympia Snowe's stand on Gay Rights legislation, as reported by Mainely Gay is a letter from Rep. Snowe to Peter Prizer: Ms. Snowe feels no further Gay Rights legislation is needed. We decided at the meeting to draft a letter questioning that stand and send it to Ms. Snowe. Marjorie and Loie volunteered to write it--individuals in Rep. Snowe's district are urged to write or call requesting her support of Gay Rights legislation. Her toll free #-1-800-432-1599.
- 2) Bangor Daily News article "Homosexual Hoedown": We discussed how to follow up on this demeaning editorial printed in BDN about the recent Maine Lesbian/Gay Symposium. It was suggested that anyone reading a response should bring them to the next meeting or send to the Newsletter for (possible) printing by MLF NL.
- 3) Next meeting: To be held May 24-25 beginning at 11 a.m. Sat. Marlane volunteered to host a 2-day workshop series at her home in Sheepscot. General meeting will be Sat. Suggested workshops are:
 - 1) Needs 2) You can get anything you want 3) Nature walk-edible plants 4) Guided meditation 5) Outside activities-bring bats/balls/frisbee 6) Crash course in seduction 7) dance 8) music-bring instruments. Meals are pot luck-bring food. Those staying overnight should bring sleeping bags. Sunday: Feminist Spirituality workshop.

DIRECTIONS TO MARLANES May 24-25 in Sheepscot: (NO DOGS PLEASE)

FROM THE NORTH - take Rt. 1 South. Pass Damariscotta, pass grocery store & auto sales place on right. Turn Right at Red Sign (County Farm Furn). Follow road 3 miles, turn left as arrow suggests just beyond Village Store. Cross Sheepscot River, pass Forest Service on left. Next mailbox (Garland) on right is driveway. C'mon down!

FROM THE SOUTH: Take Rt. 1 North to Wiscasset Post Office. Left onto 218 for 4 miles. (Pass large school bus on right). Take right (at black house and red barn). Follow curve to 2nd mailbox on left (Garland) Left down driveway. C'mon up! Marlane, Delia, Anne 882-5480

C. Announcements

1. April 30 is May Day Eve--full moon--reported good time for spiritual celebration.
2. Lucia Valeska was added to MLF mailing list (accepted by meeting)
3. Carpooling to MLF events: To carpool from Brunswick area call Marjorie at 725-6928; from down east contact Loie, P.O. Box 73, Bar Harbor 04609.
4. 0 1/2 north of Bangor are trying to organize. If interested contact Loie.
5. Gay Rights National Lobby needs help in lobbying efforts. If you would be willing to write letters of support for national gay rights legislation, let them know! They can give you updated info on bills before congress. GRNL Suite 210, 110 Maryland Ave., NE Washington, DC 20002

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

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000 The Boston Q's Art Alliance is planning to bring THE DINNER PARTY by Judy Chicago to the Cyclorama Gallery in Boston for a July 4 opening. The multi-media work presents a large triangular dinner table with 13 place settings on a side, each designed to portray a Q and her era. THE DINNER PARTY began as the idea & activity of one person, & by completion, had engaged the cooperative effort of over 400 Q & men. For more info on how you can contribute to the cost of bringing this wonderful tribute to Q to Boston, write to The Alliance 539 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02116, 617-267-0941. (Full Circle)

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From IT'S TIME, Newsletter of the National Gay Task Force:

"Crusing" and "Windows": On Feb. 4, Lucia Valeska, present at the NY press conference & preview of the film 'Gusing', noted that "While the finished movie amounts to a pallid rendition of Director Friedkin's original ambitions...the overall message is that it is both physically dangerous & psychologically devastating to be gay or in the proximity of gay people". Because the film industry's quiet practice of informal censorship long kept lesbians & gay men invisible on both sides of the camera, Valeska pointed out that the movie's "immediate effect will be destructive, unless the gay community intervenes & takes concrete steps to turn the situation around."

NGTF took action to coordinate the numerous protect attempts by various groups & individuals across the country by outlining several ways in which local gay groups might effectively protest the film's release in their neighborhood. NGTF relayed this info to newly-formed coalitions from Boston to San Francisco. These groups planned & engaged in actions such as demonstrations, picketing, petitioning, holding educational forums, & distributing leaflets to theater audiences.

A similar situation developed around the film "Windows", a "romantic thriller" whose plot features a psychotic lesbian killer who hires a man to rape her best friend with whom she is secretly in love. The equation of lesbianism with psychotic violence is an old & very tired stereotype. And the film's treatment of rape is equally unreal."

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From Mother Jones, "Growing Old Absurd" by Hugh Drummond, M.D.

"...It's characteristic of capitalist society not only to grind down the aged as useless nonproducers, but also to refuse to educate the young about how to spend that remaining quarter of their lives when the work force are past. The reason for this is obvious. If there were serious attention paid to how one could meaningfully use non-working time, there just might not be a work force--and all the nuclear plants & computers & missiles & coke machines would crumble to dust."

000 If you support the UFW, boycott Red Coach lettuce, sold in Finast and Shop 'n Save stores.

*** GAME (Guaranteeing a Moose's Escape) is a protest against the slaughter of up to 700moose scheduled for Sept of this year. Persons opposed to this hunting season are urged to 1) buy a hunting license & apply for the license lottery (\$14.50); 2) buy a mpose permit if chosen in the lottery (\$10); and 3) burn the hunting permit at the state capitol on the opening day of hunting season. Contact Bruce Carter, Franklin 04634, - 565-3524.

000 MS Magazine: MS is providing a service to keep Q informed of current issues. They have formed a HOT LINE - Q USA. Dial 800-221-4945 to hear Gloria Steinem discuss up to date issues. Full Circle

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***"The Citizens' Party" - a new American political party started Aug.1, 1979. They are concerned with "polluted air & water! Unemployment! Welfare payments to big business! Bloated government! Gas lines! Sky rocketing prices! Suicidal arms race!" if you would like more info, write to New England's Field Organizer, Jeff Brummer, 83 Hanover St, Manchester NH 03101, (603) 627-4439. Barry Commoner & LaDonna Harris will be candidates for president & vice pres. of the US

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000 Sea Gnomes Home is a partially restored Victorian house in a coastal fishing village. Five cheery and comfortable rooms are rented at \$20/ea per night; 2-room suites are also available. All residents share a large common bathroom & The Rose Room, a parlor overlooking the harbor and Is.

***"The Lesbian Community Theater of Lansing, MI (formerly the Labyris Players) announces an original One-Act play Contest. The 1st place prize is \$75 & the 2nd place prize is \$35. There will be honorable mentions. It is our intention to select plays from the winning entries which our non-profit company can produce; we reserve the right to do so. This competition, however, is chiefly a creative outlet for lesbian playwrights. Awards will not be based solely on a plays 'producibility'. We encourage entrants experienced & inexperienced, to stretch to the limit of their imagination and fancy. There is a \$5 a play entryfee and a playwright can enter more than once. All plays must be accompanied by a return self-addressed stamped envelope. Deadline for the competition is Aug. 15, '80. Winners will be announced Sept 15, 1980. Entries & questions can be sent to LCT, PO Box 89, East Lansing, MI 48823." Beckey H. Phipps

"Citing questions of church-state separation & the spectre of implicit govt sanction of Anita Bryant's anti-gay crusade, the Nat'l Gay Task force has protested the cooperation of Defense Dept officials in the production of Anita Bryant's television program, "Anita Bryant's Spectacular--"y Little Corner of the World."

Noting the military's past & present record of antipathy towards gays, & the active participation of govt in this religiously-sponsored production, Brydon & Valeska questioned the adequacy of official guidelines & the judgment of military officials who elected to extend govt assistance.

"Beyond this & of immediate & paramount concern to this nation's 20 million tax-paying lesbian & gay male citizens is the implicit govt sanction extended thru this cooperation & participation to the virulent anti-human rights crusade directed against gay people by Ms. Bryant & for which she has a national identification & reputation," wrote Brydon & Valeska. Pointing to the anti-gay activity of Anita Bryant Ministries, Inc and its link with Protect America's Children--both entities have the same executive Director, Edward Rowe--Brydon & Valeska concluded their letter to the Pres. with a challenge--

"The central question in all this is govt cooperation in Ms. Bryant's self-promotion--cooperation we see as inconsistent with the human rights policies of your administration. This issue--the willingness of your administration to actively apply the same value to the civil & human rights of gay people that is accorded to racial & ethnic minorities & your policy reflected by all depts and agencies of the govt.' May we hear from you, Mr. President?"

***ROOMMATE WANTED: lesbian, non-smoking veggie0 to share 2 bedroom apt in Bangor with wonderful me and my cutesome doggie. Call Nancy 947-0468 after 6 pm wkdays or on wkends. Space available May 1.

DATES 0 0v 0 0 0 0 0 0
May 29-June 1 - Nat'l 0 Music Festival #7 - Champaign Illinois - BIG
EVENT: FEATURING: Gwen Avery, Meg Christian, Cassie Culver, Maxine Feldman
Mary Watkins, Robin Flower, Nancy Vogel, Holly Near AND MORE!!! Tickets
\$42.00/week; \$32.00/weekend; \$8.50 single concerts. You can send for tick-
ets-Nat'l 0 Music Fest PO Box 2721, Sta. A, Champaign, IL 61820

***MAINE NOW ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Bar Harbor, May 10. If you want to contribute to conference, or pre-register (\$3.00), contact NOW Conference, Chris Rusner, Wescott, Bar HARBOR, Me 04609, 288-4348

April 30-Come to the 2nd monthly Augusta Area Q's potluck supper, on the full moon, Wed, 7:00 pm. Childcare will be provided. (We hope to start a monthly get together around the full moon, informal, open to all Q, to give a place for focusing Q energy in the Augusta area, to have a relaxed time together, to meet one another, & let other things branch off from this time together. This month we are having the potluck at the home of Donna & Erna & Leslie & Nancy in Readfield, 11 miles from Augusta. For directions call 685-4696.

1. The first group of people who are interested in the study of the history of the United States are the people who are interested in the history of the United States.

PUBLICATIONS to send for:

1. TRANET "A newsletter-directory of, by & for those individuals Y groups around the world who are actively developing Appropriate/Alternative Technologies". Subs for quarterly newsletter-directory & memberships is \$15. Send name & address to: TRANET, Box 567, Rangeley, Me 04970

2) Northern Maine, New Brunswick, & Quebec, has a new organization & newsletter for Lesbians & gays, "Northern Nord". Write: PO Box 990, Caribou, Maine 04736

3) "The Lesbian Insider/Insighter/Inciter, a new Dyke space, maintained by & for Lesbians, a space to celebrate & strengthen ourselves as Lesbians. We intend to describe & criticize any theories or practices which oppress Lesbians." They encourage materials to print. First issue will be out after May 1. Send \$9/13 issues & your name & address to The Lesbian Insider/Insighter/Inciter, 2104 Stevens Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn 55404. "By & for Lesbians only. Our subscription list is confidential, and the word "Lesbian" doesn't show on the outside of the newspaper."

--The Inciter Collective

4) INVERT is the Institute for Non-Violence Education, Research, & Training, a small group looking to become larger. INVERT is involved in issues of non-violence, & does networking of people & info throughout the state. In the past, INVERT Has-done workshops & courses on non-violence & consensus decision making, helped facilitate Clamshell Alliance preparation sessions, & been a discussion group. INVERT produces a state-side newsletter. For details write INVERT, RFD 1 Newport

MORE DATES:

Sat - May 3 1-4 pm - Announcing an afternoon workshop on BACK MASSAGE, including meditation & meridian stretching exercises. For further info call: Helena Lipstadt, Sedgwick, Me (207) 359-2026

***Sunday, May 18th 6:00-pm THE FIRST NEW ENGLAND SHOWCASE FOR Q Musicians 4-6 bands, donation \$3 Proceeds to benefit the Q musicians fund at Tidal Basin, Old orchard St. old Orchard beach, me. or call 774-3791

***MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND There will be an all Q rock & roll concert Sun, May 25th, Monday is an official holiday. A new group "LADY" will be appearing at the One Way beginning around 8:30.

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P O E T R Y C O R N E R

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BREAK OPEN THE EMPTY

In this empty
afternoon, fingers make slippery
sounds till hysteric pores sweat
and cool

In this taut
silence, a shudder breaks
open the blankets, breaks
open the hollow house with voices
with noise like the crack
and creak and thunder of a pine
struck on the edge
of so much, alone

Yes
and if the only
listener is the wind, the only
good of all that heat, a sigh
then gather the echo like knees to your chest
breathes
the golden horizontal light
filtered through the uprooted dust

Loie Hayes
(thanks Loie)
ahhh

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. Thanks.

Send to: MLF
P.O. Box 125
Belfast, Me 04915

Checks made payable to MLF Newsletter
enclosing \$5 yr

JRNAL: April 16th, 1975

0000 The Cris Williamson concert in Orono last night exceeded all my expectations for emotional and political stimulus. I'd had almost no contact with other people for two days and so had to freak out for the first half-hour or so before the music began. I certainly wasn't alone in my excitement though.

The concert began with a medley from Cris' first album, "The Changer and the Changed"-it felt like an anthem. Everyone, dykes, straight ladies, even the few feminist men in attendance - sang along. The decible level was high, but not as high as the feelings of the dykes was singing near-swooning at "There's a wild-fire burning in my heart" and using all their voices like they were singing into the wind from the top of a sea cliff. And that was only the beginning.

Getting to know the other musicians, listening to what they were saying with their new music, I would turn to see faces entranced, all attention focused on the multiple stimulus on the stage. I liked their attitude: Jackie Robbins (onelectric base and cello), her sly, smiling eye-brow flashes on the line "the sky's the limit,"; On lead guitar Jane Millington's sassy rock-and-roll-romance satire; and on piano, Cris' wit that made her seem not so very different from us all. Not only was the music a wonder both in composition and performance, but the lyrics held a wisdom in their simplicity, and the performers made that wisdom seem as attainable as the next day in our own lives. "You win, you loose, but still you choose; you learn your lesson and there's still some left." I could imagine the grief they'd known in past failures and I was bathed in their joy of feeling strong again.

I'd been afraid of going home alone after such a high--afraid of the low I expected as balance. But by the time the encore lullabye had faded, I felt strengthened. I felt that a place had been touched in me, a sore place, my solitude, had been touched and massaged and strengthened. I breathed deeper. I walked taller.

Loie Hayes

Thank you Loie for the poem and the journal. Other Q-- please send us anything you would like to put into the newsletter. We can stand to have some good Q created creative pieces. So please, send them!!