

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER
February 1981

"Maine Lesbian Feminists 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." CH

The MLF meeting for December-January was held Saturday Jan. 17 at Connie's in Bangor.

MINUTES: DECEMBER-JANUARY !(*! 1981

MLF Newsletter: Where do we go from here? was the question raised in the last issue of the newsletter and at this meeting. Women from the Mid Coast area had grown tired of putting out the newsletter and had requested that women from another area pick up the job. A group of women from the Bangor area volunteered. This issue is coming to you from the newsletter's new home in Bangor!

Hazardous Waste: Women were encouraged to work towards the passage of ordinances in their areas forbidding the dumping of hazardous wastes. This involves presentation of the ordinance at your town meeting. Nan offered information to interested women concerning this process.

Contact Dyke List: It was suggested that a list be compiled of women who would be open to being contacted by other lesbians in their area. The mechanics of where the list will be kept and how the info will be given out will be discussed at the next meeting.

The February-March meeting will be held on Sunday March 1st at Pam's in Orono.

AGENDA

- 12:00 Greetings
- 1:00 Workshops: Lesbian motherhood
Lesbian/Gay Rights offered by a lawyer
- 2:00 Workshop: Anger
- 3:00 Business meeting: to discuss policy regarding
newsletter contributions and to discuss the Contact
Dyke list, in addition to general business

***There is a wooded trail along the Penobscot river for hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and whatever for those interested!

DIRECTIONS TO PAM'S

From the south: Take I-95 North to Orono; get off at the Kelley Road Exit; bear to the right and follow road to stop. Turn Left and follow through the Town of Orono. Pass down gentle hill and over Bridge over the frozen Penobscot; take right turn immediately after bridge and follow this road alongside river. Take the fourth road, turn left (If you go over the RR Tracks, you've gone too far) and find #57 a grey house, the fifth on the right. Pam's is upstairs (Landlord Downstairs, use discretion)

From the MidCoast Follow Pt 1 to Belfast; take 1A to Bangor, in Bangor get on I-95 and follow above directions

SEE YOU ALL THERE!! HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY JOURNEY.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SUSAN B. ANTHONY FEB 15

CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS: FUN AND GAMES AND ???

First Saturday-each month is Women's Nite at The East Side (formerly Flo's), Belfast Road, Augusta. Cover charge, women only.

Each Sunday. Wilde Stein Club. Peabody Lounge, UMO, Orono.

All meetings at & 7:00 pm. Schedule of speakers:

- 2/15 Rev. Douglas Young, Augusta Unitarian/
Universalist Church "Suffering is Optional:
Why Stay in the Closet?"
- 2/22 A lawyer speaks on "Legal Rights and the
Lack Thereof"

LOCAL EVENTS- CONT.

FEB. 8 HOLLY NEAR IN CONCERT with Adrienne Worf "Feminism 101" Morrell Gym, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me Tickets \$6.50. Available from UMO Women's Center, Women's Resource Center, Bowdoin. and ??? Concert starts at 8pm. Wheelchair Accessible, ASL interpreted, No Alcohol.

FEB 14. Valentine's Day Dance, MCA Center, College Ave., Orono Sponsored by Wilde-Stein Club, Admission \$1, BYOWhatsoever Everyone is welcome.

FEB. 15 Susan B. Anthony Birthday Coffeehouse. Sponsored by Greater Bangor NOW Brewer Savings Bank, Brewer & 7:00pm. Bring a SBA\$ and your fav musical instrument.

FEB.21 Downeast Gay Alliance (DEGA) A revival meeting held at David's at 7:30. \$1 contribution. For more info call 422-3000 eves.

FEB.28 Maine Lesbian and Gay Symposium Meeting. 1pm Univ. of Maine, Augusta, Jewett Hall.

MARCH 1 MLF Mtg. Pam's Orono. Noon onwards

MARCH 5 MEG CHRISTIAN IN CONCERT Women's Symposium UMO Orono

MARCH 5-7 UMO Women's Symposium, Memorial Union, UMO., Orono

MARCH 9 The Traveling Newsletter Circus will meet at Catharine and Mary's to compile the MLF Newsletter. All women invited to participate. Pot Luck Dinner, wonderful company etc. Arrive at 6:30 (947-1653 for directions and the secret password!!)

NATIONAL EVENTS

MARCH 13, "Law and the right for Lesbian and Gay Rights" More info from Gay law Students/National Lawyers Guild, Univ. of Pittsburgh, School of Law, Forbes and Bouquet, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

APRIL 24,25,26-National Conference on Lesbian and Gay Rights. Los Angeles, Ca Maine Contact is Dick Harrison, PO Box 1024 Houlton, ME Meeting to choose delegates will be held on FEB7 at the Unitarian Church Augusta, ME.

UMO Women's Symposium March 5-7. A variety of speakers, films, and work shops will be offered Everyone welcome, no admission charge. As part of symposium, UMO Women's Center presents Meg Christian in concert. Thursday March 5, 1981, Damn Yankee Room of the Memorial Union UMO, Orono. Tickets are \$5 advance and \$5.50 at the door and on the day of the show For Tickets or more info, contact the UMO Women's Center, Third Floor Memorial Union, UMO (581-7801)

Cantabrigian Counseling Associates Announce the opening of the Orono Maine practice in psychotherapy and community outreach for women and their loved ones. A variety of services are available, including a "Non-residential weekend for Lesbians, 35 and older Through the Looking Glass" March 7-8, 1981 Registration and info Call 207-985-6696 or write: Box 80, Fox Farm Hill Rd., No. Berwick, ME 03906

Human Life Amendment A major effort is being made in February to inform people about the Human Life Amendment. HLA, if passed, would not only prohibit abortion, it would also make other forms of contraception illegal. The Brunswick Chapter of NOW is heading up the education Campaign for Maine. To learn more about the HLA and join other women in sponsoring an ad in Maine newspapers, contact Greta Wark, CT Box 310, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me 04011 (//From INVERT, /Feb. 1981

Buddy rides again! Rev. Herman C. (Buddy) Frankland, noted Bangor Homophobic, has been granted a radio license. He is now operating radio static WHCF-FM (his own initials, no less!) Frankland was recently quoted in the Bangor Daily News on some of his outrageous anti-gay views. The air waves are a public trust and have no place for bigots or homophobes. The Federal Communications Commission should be sensitized to our presence and a letter would help to do this. Let's nip this problem in the bud! Send letters to the FCC, Bangor Daily News, and Senators Cohen and Mitchell.
Upcoming RISE Workshops. "Family Reconstruction Workshop" Feb. 12-13 and "Communicating Effectively with Co-workers: for Secretaries and Administrative Assistants" Feb. 24. Both workshops are in Augusta. For more information, contact RISE, Kennebec Valley Regional Health Agency, Waterville, ME

Symposium News. Maine Lesbian and Gay Men's Symposium VII will be held May 8,9,10 in Portland. If you want to have a say in what's happening, please attend the next planning meeting! The next one is planned to be Feb. 28 a 1:00 in The Student Union of the University of Maine at Augusta. We will be working on the budget and deciding on films and presentations. It was decided that the women's keynote speaker will be Karin Krut. If you are interested in facilitating a workshop, please send the following info to the appropriate folks:

Title of Workshop/s:

Name of facilitator/s
address/es
telephone/s

Description of the workshop as you would like it to appear in the Symposium booklet. Limit to 5 sentences, please.

This workshop is for: ---- everyone _____ women only _____ men or
_____ kids _____ other (who)

If you choose not to be a facilitator but know someone who might, please pass this info on. Return this form to:

Pam B.
57 Hill St.
Orono, ME 04473

OR Michael Leonard
9 Spruce St.
Augusta, ME 04330

THANK YOU

*** * * * * PUBLICATIONS

Spinsters, Ink. announces the publication of THE CANCER JOURNALS by Audre Lorde and BONES AND KIM by Lynn Strongin. Available from Spinsters Ink., RD 1, Argyle, NY 12909

Parthenogenesis Newsletter forming. One issue is already printed, two others are planned, All three for \$3.00. These women are also interested in an info exchange, and opinions, research in the area etc. Write to Sarah Feinstein, PO Box 85, Yellow Springs, Ohio, 45387.

Sinister Wisdom, NEW ADDRESS PO Box 660, Amherst, MA 01004.

Tee Corinne Notecards and Poster. Available from Lincoln Legion of Lesbians, PO Box 30137, Lincoln, NEB. 68503

Telewoman: a woman's newsletter. PO Box 2306, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Full Circle PO Box 235 Contoocook, NH 03229.

The Crossing Press, Trumansburg, NY 14886 has a wonderful new Spring 1981 catalogue.

The "oman's Carpentry Book: Building Your Home From the Ground Up. edited by Jeanne Tetrault, co-author of Country Woman Anchor Books, \$10.95. (This is a terrific book, especially for the beginner and those women who want to build a distinctly woman-space. Great pictures, too!)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interested in Law School? Rutgers Law School has info concerning their Lesbian and Gay Caucus. Any woman wishing admissions info or other stuff, write to: Office of Admissions, Rutgers Law School, 15 Washington /St., Newark, NJ 07102. More info on the caucus can be obtained by writing Lesbian/Gay Caucus address above.

The Women's Writers' Center, a one year program in writing workshops and tutorials, in feminist literary history, criticism, and aesthetics, and in independent study projects." More info from The Women's Writers' Center Inc., Cazenovia College, Box AY, Cazenovia, NY 13035.

The Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) Latest bulletin deals with the recent elections and includes "Some Helpful Hints for Writing to Congress." More info and contributions: GRNL PO Box 1892, Washington, DC 20013.

Gay Texan Christians have formed the Montrose Church Christ. More info an church bulletins available from Montrose Church of Christ, PO Box 66734 Houston, TX 77006.

POETRY

.VOID

The silence of the air is split
and charged with
Repeating, Repeating, Repeating,
Death, Death, Death.

The overture is premature,
rending the stillness to immobility,
Repeating, Repeating, Repeating,
Death, Death, Death.

The knell peals out impending peril;
signals the onerous omen,
Repeating, Repeating, Repeating,
Death, Death, Death.

The sound of silence becomes noise;
hammered out sychopathic syncopation,
Repeating, Repeating, Repeating,
Death. Death. Death.

The rehearsal through the bulls eye
of the macabre machination,
Repeating, Repeating, Repeating,
Death. Death, Death.

The opulence begetting much flatulence
explodes the myth of need broadcast,
Repeating, Repeating, Repeating,
Death. Death. Death.

7 The brotherhood joined; the game plan conceived;
anesthetized, await the birth,
Repeating, Repeating, Repeating,
Death, Death. Death.

The phallus raised; dissemination,
dross, disintegration,
Repeating, Repeating, Repeating,
Death. Death. Death.

Jessie Baham

The Cow

I move towards a clearing in
the light and try to breathe, remembering
her red and handsome face

sleek as a setter she descended
to the water edge clogged with rock
and broken trees, and drank, ears twitching

she was rusty and smooth and flawless
she was lovely and all red

but when she turned, flanks taut
with the uphill climb, I saw
her long distorted sack, watched her
drag her milkskins
as she went, with painful caution
over the lake's debris

Anna Maxwell

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The Portrait

I paint your portrait in my mind
Every line, each shadow in detail
In every pose; you don't realize how often.
Tonight you sat half in darkness half in light.
And I couldn't help but notice.
I pondered on how much your pose
Was like your life this last year:
Spent half in the night, half in the warmth of the sun.
How true my painting was this night!
Did anyone else see?
Maybe they could not see the darkness.
I could not penetrate the light.
But I copied it carefully with each stroke of the brush
To study later when I could think.
Maybe the day you will turn full into the light,
And I will know its depth and essence.
Tomorrow I will paint from my memory.

Laura E. Stadler

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION
INFORMATION

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 con-
tribute as much as you can, if not \$5. ALL contributions welcome and
needed. Thank you! Make checks payable to MLF Newsletter

Send to MLF/POBox 125/Belfast, Me 04915

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

- enclosing \$5/yr
- I will send \$ when I can
- Contributing \$ _____
- I dont want the News-
letter, take me off the list

We received the following article for publication. Feedback and comments are welcome.

THE UNITED HEALTH CARE PROJECT: QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR LESBIANS AND GAYS
by Anne Berner and Shelley Cohen

The United, an organization of lesbians, gay men and their supporters in Madison, Wisconsin is implementing a health care project to assist the health care needs and to change practices, policies and procedures that inhibit the delivery of quality health care to our community. The project received funding from the City of Madison Human Services Department and will continue through December, 1980 (? ed.) At that point the future of the project will depend on the availability of funds. To the best of our knowledge this is the first project of its kind in the country.

The project is comprised of four parts: health care needs assessment of the lesbian and gay community, policy review and revision, education and advocacy. In the initial stages of the project a needs assessment questionnaire was widely distributed throughout Madison's lesbian and gay community in an effort to locate and identify the health care needs of our community as well as identify the potentially discriminating aspects of the "traditional" health care system. The results of the questionnaire illustrated cases of both overt and covert discrimination. The most pointed example of overt discrimination resulted in denial of treatment. Covert discrimination, although more difficult to pinpoint, also reported primarily with respect to the heterosexist assumptions inherent in the delivery of patient care. The fact that women are routinely asked prior to receiving treatment whether or not they are on birth control clearly illustrates this bias.

The policy component of the project focuses on hospital policies that assume a conventional definition of the family. This poses a particular problem with intensive care unit policies which restrict visitation in most cases to "family" members. As a result, the rights of lesbian and gay patients and their significant others may be denied. The United Health Care Project has been requesting area hospitals to adopt the phrase "significant other(s)" to their intensive care unit visitation policies to address this issue. In addition, the inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the Patients Bill of Rights has also been requested.

The information gathered from the needs assessment highlighted a lack of appropriate education among health care workers regarding homosexuality, thus perpetuating the existence of homophobic attitudes and practices. In response to this problem in-service workshops have been designed and presented to area hospitals and clinics. The workshops emphasize demythologizing the gay/lesbian patient, sensitizing practitioners to key issues and encouraging them to explore their own attitudes concerning sexuality.

Because of the oftentimes intimidating atmosphere of the traditional health care delivery system an advocacy program has been designed. This service will be provided by and for gay men and lesbians at their request. Advocates will be trained to assist the health care consumer in several ways. Developing strategies, formulating questions, providing financial information and accompanying the consumer to the visit are among the services advocates can provide. Self-advocacy is the ultimate goal of this type of service.

Educating our community has also been a project focus. In September we will be co-sponsoring a forum on preventative health care for gay men and lesbians in conjunction with local community health center. The forum will concentrate on issues specific to our community and will include a discussion on how to deal with the heterosexist attitudes and practices prevalent throughout the traditional health care system. We will also educate the participants about their rights as patients and thus, encourage them to act as their own advocate.

A Lesbian and Gay Health Care Workers Alliance has also been organized to offer support for those working in the oftentimes alienating hospital environment. The organization functions as a support group at present and hopes to expand its goals in the future. We see the support group providing advocacy from within the system, thus helping to insure the needs of the lesbian/gay patient are met.

The United HCP is strongly committed to the availability of quality health care to the lesbian and gay community. It is with this aspirational mind that we are eager to share our project with our community throughout the country. For more info, contact: Ann or Shelley/The United Health Care Project/306 N. Brooks St./Madison Wisconsin 53715