

the Common SCOLD

75¢

a women's newsletter, Portland, Maine

Sept. 1983 [No. 33]

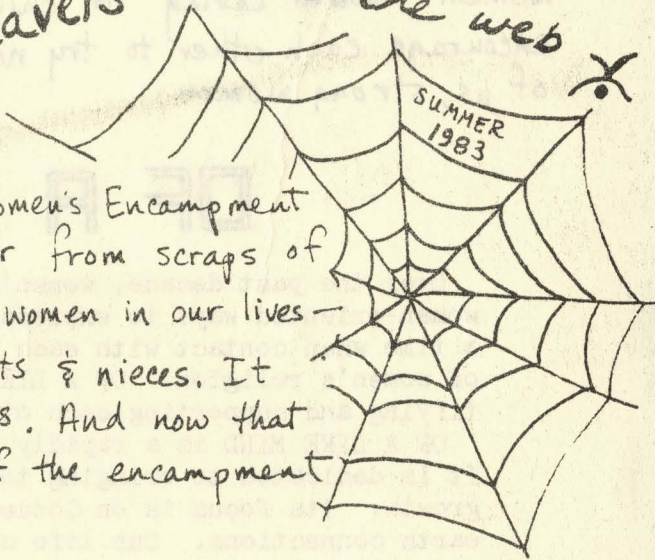
We are the flow

The following is a letter by Nellie Pellington and Sandy Crawford.

we are the flow we are the ebb we are the weavers we are the web

Dear friends —

We spent the day before we left for the Seneca Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace & Justice making a banner from scraps of fabric and other treasures which came from women in our lives — our friends, our sisters, our mothers, our aunts & nieces. It was our way of bringing these women with us. And now that we are back, we want to bring the spirit of the encampment to you...



A piece of my journal from the first day of the encampment:
"... swimming and beginning to make touch with the amazing women here — women of such varied shapes and places — our bodies so different, our manners each unique. I found myself just watching you in awe... women, just women, everywhere. Swimming, joking at ourselves. Falling into grace and ease; feeling at home..."
I remember feeling twinges of envy at my Jewish friends, people who identified themselves with their religion, and found in Israel, despite all its destructive politics and patriarchy, a real sense of belonging — a homeland. I have always wished for a homeland, a nation I could be welcomed in, where I could feel unquestioningly that I belonged. Such a place is Seneca.

[continued on next page]

[We are the flow - continued]

Strong women. Women building a platform for the childcare area, building a pavilion for outdoor gatherings. Women planting a garden - bringing lettuce, comfrey, squash, peppers from our gardens across the country. Women answering phones. Women braving the skeptical looks of men as we entered one of the most strongly defended of male bastions - the lumberyard. Women making our own flags to fly outside the farm on the fourth of July. Women staying up all night to patrol the property; holding at bay noisy, drunk, and somewhat confused young men. Women painting a mural on the side of the barn. Women cooking meals for hundreds from the boxes, cans, jars of food contributed by many of the women. Women caring for children. Women facilitating the long meetings. We encourage each other to try new tasks - there are no experts, and we are, all of us, strong women.

[continued on page 8.]

OF A LIKE MIND

Over the past decade, women's religion has had a resurgence as women sought woman-oriented ways to express their spiritual nature. We have now reached a time when contact with each other is critical to the growth and development of women's religion. OF A LIKE MIND hopes to be able to assist women in identifying and supporting each other.

OF A LIKE MIND is a rapidly growing international network of spiritual women. It is dedicated to bringing together women following a positive path to spiritual growth. Its focus is on Goddess religions, women's mysteries, paganism, and our earth connections. Our life choices at times find us isolated and unable to identify and support each other. OF A LIKE MIND hopes to bring women into contact with each other so that we can share our knowledge, feelings, dreams, and visions. The power of women can be strong. The power of many women sharing and learning together is a force which can make each of us stronger.

You are invited to join OF A LIKE MIND. Any woman can join by making the affirmation of women's spirituality to herself and by defining herself as on a positive path to spiritual growth. There are three types of membership. Each is self-determined by your level of support and commitment. There are three types of membership: Nymph (\$7), Maiden (\$13), and Crone (\$21). The different categories of membership are a way to allow women to decide how much they can afford to financially support OF A LIKE MIND. Benefits for all categories include: information about OALM workshops, training, and services; a one-year subscription to the OALM Newsletter which includes articles, information sharing, and an open forum for discussion; personal contact letters of introduction to women of a like mind.

We are now in the process of gathering articles, information, and art work for the first issue of the newsletter. OALM will publish articles, information, commentary, short stories, biographies (all up to 500 words) and art dealing with women and their spiritual issues.

For more info, contact: OF A LIKE MIND, c/o Re-formed Church of the Goddess, Box 6021, Madison, Wisconsin, 53716.

(Excerpts from a mailing by Jade, Coordinator, OF A LIKE MIND)

SURVIVORS, A Rock Opera

SURVIVORS is a rock opera written by Naomi Littlebear Morena. It was produced in Portland, Oregon, in February 1982; directed and choreographed by Robin Lane.

Naomi Littlebear Morena is a self-taught composer and musician. She has been active in the feminist scene for over ten years. Naomi was the main force of the Izquierda Ensemble, 1975-80, whose album "Quiet Thunder", has sold over 7000 copies. She organized the Dyketones, a 50's rock and roll band, and the Ursa Minor Choir, both in Portland. In 1979, Naomi wrote "songs From a Dying Star", a piece about violence against the earth and womyn, which was performed by Izquierda.

SURVIVORS examines the psychological effects of violence against womyn. Womyn of color have made herstory by resisting physical abuse. They have set courageous and desperate examples, that have been instrumental to all womyn in changing the course of their lives.

Within SURVIVORS there is a struggle to confront the obstacles of race and class, a struggle for self-preservation, and the struggle of creating an identity. The music, through varied styles and modes, dynamically and passionately recreates this journey toward self-awareness.

Work began on SURVIVORS in 1980. Through the talents of many local musicians, performers, and technicians, SURVIVORS was produced for four performances. We believe that it is very important for this music to reach as many womyn as possible.

At present, \$1100 has been donated for recording the music of SURVIVORS. More money is needed for this project. Please send any correspondence and donations to:

RIVERBEAR MUSIC
P.O.Box 14113
Portland, Oregon 97214

STOP THE EUROMISSILES!

On December 12, 1979, the Defense and Foreign Ministers of the NATO countries accepted a United States proposal to place 464 cruise missiles and 108 Pershing II missiles in Western Europe (Great Britain, Italy, West Germany, The Netherlands, and Belgium). The governments of The Netherlands and Belgium have not yet agreed to accept the weapons, largely because of strong domestic opposition.

The cruise and Pershing II missiles are both "counterforce" or "first-strike" weapons. Both are extremely accurate and designed to be used against military targets. The Pershing II missiles, based in West Germany, will have a six minute flight time to the Soviet Union! Both missiles have a high probability of successfully destroying Soviet land-based missiles still in their silos. Because of the accuracy and short flight time of these missiles, the Soviets, of course, would be tempted to launch their own missiles first during any period of high political tension, as fully two-thirds of their nuclear arsenal consists of highly vulnerable land-based missiles. The deployment of these Euromissiles by the United States will dangerously increase the likelihood of a nuclear war.

The deployment is scheduled for December 1983 and will represent a major new escalation of the arms race. Please write letters to your Representatives and Senators and express your concern and your desire that they actively lobby their colleagues to vote "NO" on the deployment. WE MUST ACT NOW!!!!

Keep your eyes and ears open for a statewide action against the Euromissiles to be held sometime the weekend of October 22nd.

Theme for October: Women & Spirituality

Women-Quest, a Transformational Journey:

Mt. Katahdin/Mountain Vision Quest, Wed. 3pm to Mon. 2pm, a 6-day women's vision quest backpacking in the heart of Katahdin's wilderness, meeting point: Millinocket, Maine, cost: \$195, 8/31-9/5.

The Warrior Within/Unmasking Our Fears, Fri. 6pm to Sun. 2pm, Self-empowerment through high ropes course experience, overnight solo, ritual, attunement to group and individual process sweat lodge; co-led with Foxfire Stager. Freedom, Me., Cost: \$85, Sept. 23-25.

For more information contact: Woman-Quest, in care of Gayldawn Price, Gen. Delivery Blue Hill Falls, Me. 04615 or call 374-2127.

Greater Portland N.O.W. meets the 4th Tuesday of every month, 7:30pm at the YWCA. The Sept. meeting will be a discussion about NOW's national campaign against the insurance industry because of its discrimination against women in setting rates and benefits.

Women Outdoors

Backpacking weekend on Bigelow Mtn., call Terri 774-4044. (9/2-9/4)

Rafting on West Branch of the Penobscot Eastern Rivers, Sept. 11th, call Debbie Sugarman, 948-3131, 948-2053.

Whale Watch on Viking Cruises out of Portsmouth, N.H., Sept. 18th, \$20 per person, call Rhonda Berg 773-6338.

Potluck and meeting at Terri's house, Sept. 21, call Terri 774-4044.

The Yellow Wallpaper, a one woman play, by Charlotte Perkins, will be produced by Lunatree and sponsored by the Portland YWCA, Friday, 10/28 from 8-11pm. \$3 donation. Tickets on sale starting Sept. 19 at the YWCA. For more information call 772-1906.

Maine Audubon Women in the Wilderness, a canoe trip led by Bev Cocrane and Ruth Rohde, Wed 9/7 to Sun. 9/11, call Maine Audubon Field Trip Dept., 781-2330.

"An Evening with Kay Gardner"
Cruise on Casco Bay
Saturday, September 17

7 PM

Tickets available through
the Feminist Spiritual Community, #10-

Partners

Summer

you come slowly
I coax you from the trees
like a lover who waits
for the door to open
for the heat upon the flesh.

I've come back from the dead
and so have you.

We emerge from the lifeless winter
like sole survivors of a disaster,
estranged yet bonded by an unspoken knowledge.

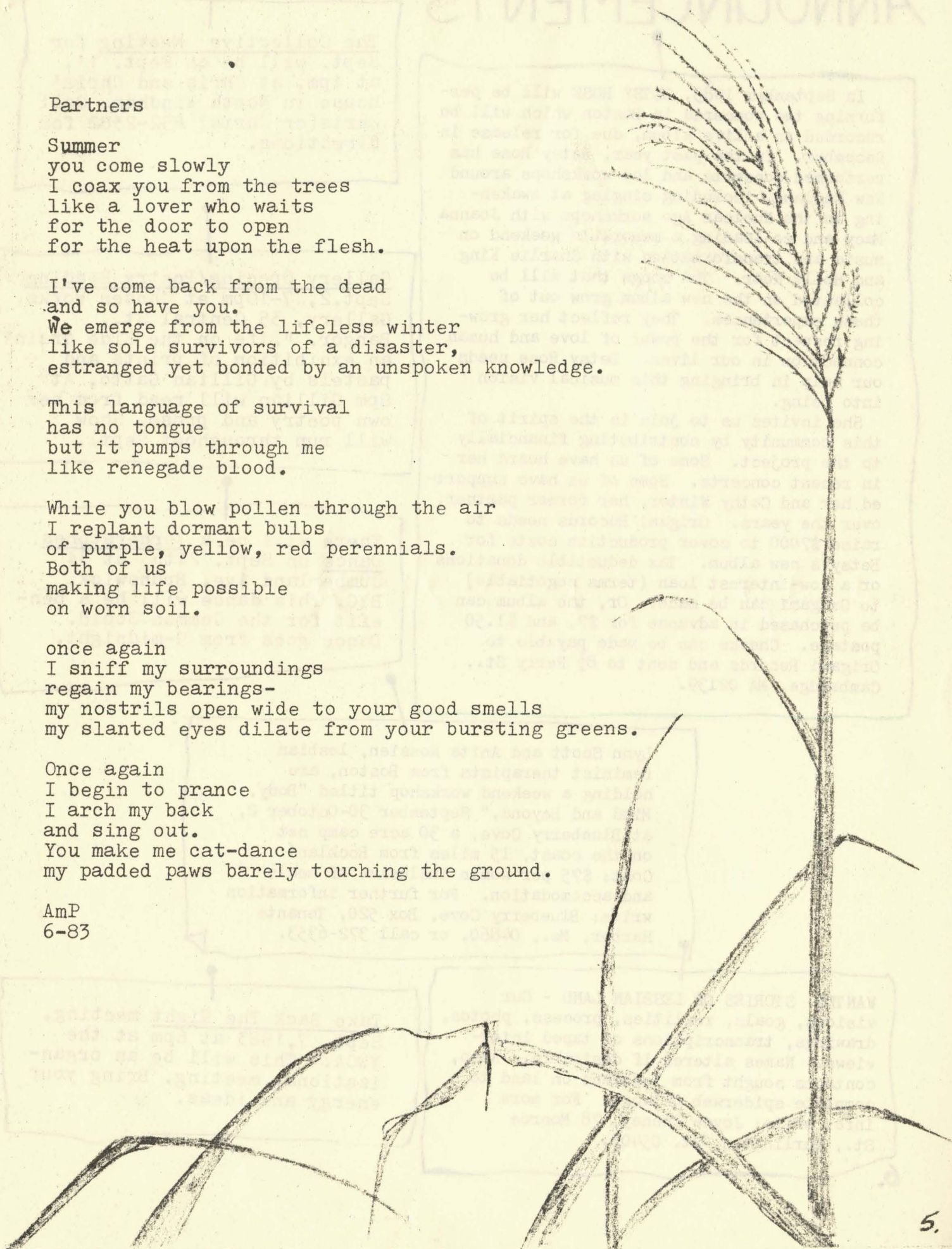
This language of survival
has no tongue
but it pumps through me
like renegade blood.

While you blow pollen through the air
I replant dormant bulbs
of purple, yellow, red perennials.
Both of us
making life possible
on worn soil.

once again
I sniff my surroundings
regain my bearings-
my nostrils open wide to your good smells
my slanted eyes dilate from your bursting greens.

Once again
I begin to prance
I arch my back
and sing out.
You make me cat-dance
my padded paws barely touching the ground.

AmP
6-83



ANNOUNCEMENTS

In September 1983, BETSY ROSE will be performing two concerts in Boston which will be recorded as a live album, due for release in December. In the past year, Betsy Rose has performed concerts and led workshops around New England, including singing at Awakening in the Nuclear Age workshops with Joanna Macy and co-leading a memorable weekend on music and transformation with Charlie King and Holly Near. The songs that will be collected on the new album grow out of these experiences. They reflect her growing respect for the power of love and human connection in our lives. Betsy Rose needs our help in bringing this musical vision into being.

She invites us to join in the spirit of this community by contributing financially to the project. Some of us have heard her in recent concerts. Some of us have supported her and Cathy Winter, her former partner, over the years. Origami Records needs to raise \$7000 to cover production costs for Betsy's new album. Tax deductible donations or a low-interest loan (terms negotiable) to Origami can be made. Or, the album can be purchased in advance for \$7, and \$1.50 postage. Checks can be made payable to Origami Records and sent to 8½ Perry St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

The Collective Meeting for Sept. will be on Sept. 11, at 4pm, at Chris and Chris' house in North Windham. Call Chris(or Chris) 892-2382 for directions.

Gallery Opening/Poetry Reading Sept. 2, 7-10pm at Chosen Works Gallery, 35 Central St., Bangor. "Life on the Side Grain" an exhibition of prints and pastels by Gillian Gatto. At 8pm Gillian will read from her own poetry and prose. Show will run throughout Sept..

There will be a Cornerstones Dance on Sept. 24th at 54 Cumberland Ave, Brunswick. BYC. This dance will be a benefit for the Common Scold. Dance goes from 9-midnight.

Lynn Scott and Anita Rossien, lesbian feminist therapists from Boston, are holding a weekend workshop titled "Body, Mind and Beyond," September 30-October 2, at Blueberry Cove, a 30 acre camp set on the coast, 15 miles from Rockland. Cost: \$75 per woman inclusive of meals and accomodation. For further information write: Blueberry Cove, Box 520, Tenants Harbor, Me., 04860, or call 372-6353.

WANTED: STORIES OF LESBIAN LAND - Our visions, goals, realities, process, photos, drawings, transcriptions of taped interviews. Names altered if desirable. Also, contacts sought from lesbians on land to complete spiderweb network. For more info, write: Joyce Cheney, 78 Monroe St., Burlington, Vt. 05401.

Take Back The Night meeting, Sept. 7, 1983 at 6pm at the YWCA. This will be an organizational meeting. Bring your energy and ideas.

THE COMMON SCOLD is looking for new "scolds". We need and want women who are interested in helping with typing, layout, soliciting ads, collating - all those wonderful production tasks. For more info, please call Chris Clothier (892-2382), Avis or Diane (799-6905), Bunny or Jennifer (772-3457), or Ann (797-3227).

The Maine Women's Lobby will be holding its annual meeting on October 1, 1983, -- time and place to be announced. The theme will be "Economic Justice for Women."

On September 10, 1983, a meeting will be held in Augusta to develop a legislature agenda, and to establish and maintain an effective grassroots network that can effectively put forward the agenda. For more information contact the MWL at Box 15, Hallowell 04347, or call 622-5798.

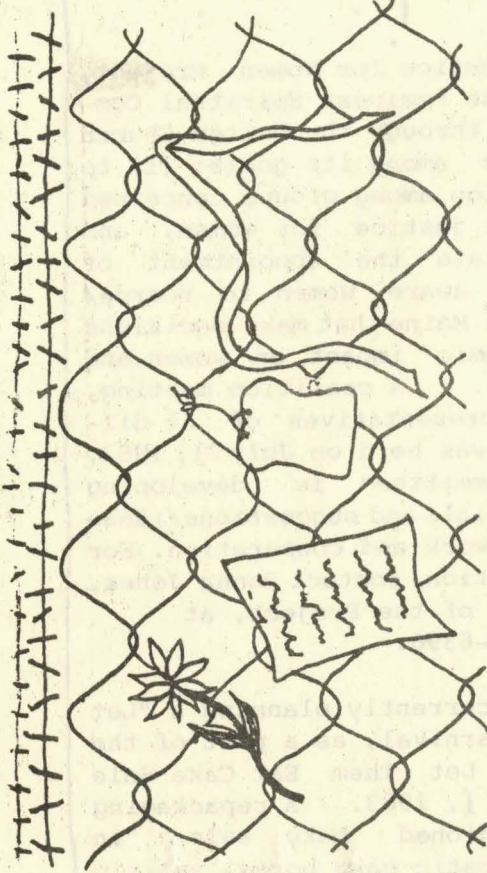
WALK-A-THON FOR PEACE: In an effort to raise funds for local, state, and national peace and disarmament efforts, the National Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign is holding the First National FREEZE WALK on October 1st. The Maine Freeze Campaign is hoping to see WALKS for peace throughout the State on that day. On August 30, 7:30 P.M., in the Preble St. Chapel, Cumberland Ave., Portland, a planning meeting will be held to organize a WALK-A-THON for Cumberland and York County, to take place in Portland. Interested individuals and group representatives are invited to attend. Much support and peoplepower are needed to make the WALK a reality. Money raised will be divided among local peace groups, the Maine Freeze Campaign, and the National Freeze Campaign. For further info, call Susie Schweppe (781-3947), Diane Elze (799-6905), or Avis Loring (799-6905).

A statewide action is being planned by the Maine Freeze Campaign for the weekend of October 22, 1983, around the deployment of Euromissiles.

The Economic Justice for Women Project, a project of the Feminist Spiritual Community funded through the United Church of Christ, has among its goals: (1) to build a coalition among groups concerned about economic justice for women, and (2) to facilitate the appointment of sensitive and aware women to boards/councils within Maine that make decisions having an economic impact on women and their families. A coalition meeting, attended by representatives of 21 different groups, was held on July 21, 1983. A "Steering Committee" is developing follow-up materials and suggestions/ideas for continuing work and cooperation. For further information, contact Donna Jones, the Coordinator of the Project, at 772-0266 or 774-6396.

The Project is currently planning a "Let 'Em Eat Cake" carnival, as a part of the First National Let Them Eat Cake Sale set for October 1, 1983. A repackaging of the old-fashioned bake sale "in politically-themed cake boxes, satiric carnival games and educational activities to raise consciousness about the effects of Reaganomics and place human alternatives on unforgettable display." One of the goals of the "Let 'Em Eat Cake Sale" is to facilitate networking among the many constituencies being hurt by Reaganomics. Money raised will go to the groups which organize and run the Sale. Contact the Project for more information.

The army depot, where we believe the cruise and pershing missiles are held before shipment to Europe, lay beyond our back fence. stretching over



11,000 acres, it is totally surrounded by chain link and barbed wire fencing. Beyond the fence lies a serene sea of ex-cropland, overgrown with scrub trees, bushes, and wildflowers. Inside the fence, perhaps three or four fences in, inside underground bunkers, lie the weapons themselves, breathing, waiting. The men who guard the bunkers are ordered to shoot on sight any intruders. The army itself admits to old weapons stored there having leaked some of their radiation into the surrounding soil. We are assured that these weapons have been sealed off. But as the days passed, many of us sighted deer, their coats a shocking white, grazing inside the fence.

We know not if this is coincidence, consequence or omen. I think of how innocuous the base looked, how serenely the residents of the area sat on their lawn chairs as we walked by their houses, and despite the chilling reality which compelled our presence there, I had a sense that the horror was simply a dream...

Six hundred of us walked to the main gate of the Depot, a mile and a half from our camp. As we neared the gate, some of us moved into a "slow walk" — very slow, deliberate, dramatic movement. For me, this allowed a time to shift from the safety and high spirits of the march, to the reality of the Depot — the weapons it houses and the mentality it represents. It was painful & difficult to move toward the gate, and I could not have continued toward it alone. I felt fear, anger, confusion — and I felt our power together. The walk gave us room to experience and express the depths of our feelings. Women chanted softly in the background. Some women chained themselves to the fence, as we wailed, unearthly wails of anger and suffering, welling up from hidden places, depths of women's being. We read our demands and intentions aloud and passed a copy of them to a guard inside the fence, together with a loaf of bread. The guard, a woman, broke the bread in half, and passed one part back over the fence. "To share," she said.



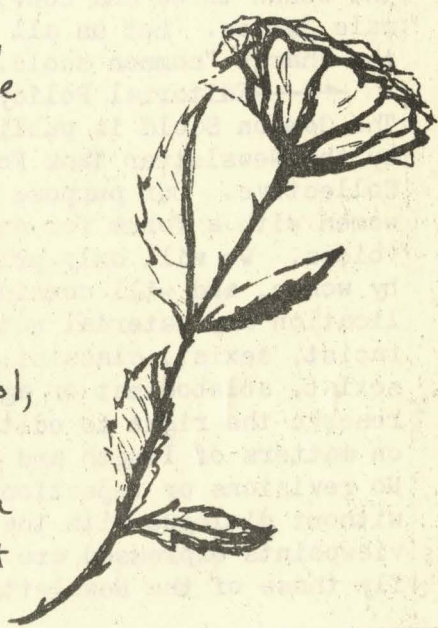
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[We are the flow - continued]

a river of birds in migration
a nation of women with wings
and a place of power buried in
the ground earth is calling us
to lay our bodies down

As an expression of our future vision, we planted two rosebushes in front of the gate, surrounding them with handfuls of earth from our land; land which had been blessed earlier by an Iroquois woman. When we left the encampment for home the next day we stopped to bid the rosebush farewell; a male guard by the gate commented that it looked like they had always been there. His attitude matched that of many townspeople, who were almost overwhelmingly receptive and supportive. Everything seemed to click; we were held strongly by the intuition that yes - the time is right.

I was continually reminded, at Seneca, of our power - the power of resistance, the power of women working together, the power of ritual. I was filled with hope, with the joy of life & love & struggle. And I found, once again, my own strength - my ability to live my life as I choose to, to decide what I want and what I don't. After several difficult months of feeling out-of-control, powerless, trapped in everything from my day-to-day life to the global situation, this weekend marked a transformation - for the first time in months, I felt the freedom to choose...



Days spiral by since our return; but my connection with my power remains. I stand, feet planted, arms outstretched, strong and open.

Jay to you all - we encourage you to join us at Seneca, however you can.

in love, strength, and celebration

Hellie
★ Sandy

circle of hands
circle of bodies
circle of power
circle of arms
circle of voices
others around each one

the Common Scold

Under English Common law, "common scold" was a criminal charge levied against "women addicted to abusive speech." Men could not be so charged. We name this newsletter "The Common Scold" to honor all of herstory's scolds. We honor the women who dared to speak their minds, the women who dared assert themselves, the women tried and convicted by all-male juries. Let us all be guilty of the charge "common scold."

Editorial Policy

The Common Scold is published monthly by the Newsletter Task Force of the Collective. Our purpose is to provide women with a forum for our feminist voices. We will only print material by women, and will consider for publication any material not deemed racist, sexist, classist, hetero-sexist, ablebodied or ageist. We reserve the right to edit material on matters of length and content. No revisions or rejections will occur without dialogue with the author. The viewpoints expressed are not necessarily those of the Newsletter Task Force.

Submission Guidelines

We encourage women to submit articles, graphics, poetry, cartoons, reviews and announcements. We appreciate type-written submissions, though handwritten submissions are also welcome. Deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month. All submissions must include the author's name, address, and phone number (if available) should we need to contact the author. Within the pages of the Newsletter, names will be omitted upon request. Please enclose SASE if you would like your work returned to you.

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Advertising

Cost of advertising is \$5 per issue. Submissions and advertisements should be sent to: The Collective, c/o Elze, 372 Preble St., South Portland, 04106.

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The Feminist Spiritual Community meets every Monday at 7pm, at the State Street Church.

Apt. Available, 3 bdrms, \$275 per month, will become available between Sept. 1 and Oct. 1, 3 apts. in building, 2 are women occupied, Munjoy Hill area, contact Erna Koch days 774-8273 or nights 772-6953.

The Alliance to Preserve Reproductive Choice holds meetings the second Tuesday of each month, 7-9pm at the YWCA.

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September

1.



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Sept 2-5 New England Women's Musical Retreat

Women Quest
Aug 31 - Sept 5

Women Outdoors

Backpacking Sept 2-4
Mt Katahdin/Mountain Vision Quest

4

Labor Day 5

6

7

8

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Maine Women's Lobby Planning Mtg.
Deadline for October issue, ♀ & Spirituality

N.E. ♀ Musical Retreat
Women Outdoors
Women Quest

Maine Audubon - Women in the Wilderness Canoe Trip, Sept. 7-11

Rafting on 11
Penobscot -
Women Outdoors
Collective
Meeting at
Chrises' 4pm

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Feminist
Spiritual
Community
7pm State
St. Church

Alliance
to Preserve
Reproductive
Choice 7-9pm
YWCA

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"An Evening with
Kay Gardner"
Cruise on Casco Bay
[Feminist Spiritual
Community]

Whale
Watch on
Viking Cruises
Women
Outdoors

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Feminist
Spiritual
Community

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Women
Outdoors Potluck
& Meeting at
Terri's 6pm

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Brad Terry &
the friends of
Jazz - Cruise
on Casco Bay
[Feminist Spiritual
Community]

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Women Quest, Sept 23-25 - The Warrior
Within - Unmasking our Fears
22 - Statewide
Action - Maine
Freeze Campaign

23

Cornerstones Dance
benefit for the
'Common Scold'

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Women Quest

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Feminist
Spiritual
Community

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Portland 27
N.O.W. Meeting
7:30 pm YWCA
Sex Discrimina-
tion in Insurance

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Planning
Meeting for
Freeze Walka-
thon. 7:30 pm
Pebble St. Chapel
Cumberland Ave.
PTLD.

30

October 1
Maine Women's Lobby
Annual Meeting
Let Them Eat Cake
Carnival (Fem. Spiritual
Comm.)

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Also Oct 1. - First National Freeze Walkathon for Peace

30 Missile Conf.
Common Cause
Augusta



Theme for October Women & Spirituality

Deadline: September 10

IS THERE A GREEN DOT ON THIS ISSUE OF YOUR NEWSLETTER? If so, then this is your last issue, so resubscribe now- (please!!). Subscriptions are \$8 (more if you can, less if you can't) AND PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS--NEWSLETTERS ARE NOT FORWARDED; and it costs us 25¢ for each returned copy.

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