

May 8/

Maine Lesbian Feminist Newsletter

Maine Lesbian Feminists was formed at a workshop at Symposium III. The purpose of the organization was, and is, to provide a basis for support, consciousness raising and political action. Also, a celebration for Lesbians throughout the state..

Meeting Minutes: There were only five women present at last weekend's meeting. Lunch and a good time were had by all. The next MLF meeting will be at Lorraine's house in Swannville, on June 20, 1981. Call 338-1975 for supplemental directions. Pot Luck lunch at noon, please bring a dish.. Agenda: Provocative conversation, topics unknown.

Newsletter News: The next two issues will be divided into two categories: one section will consist of announcements and the other will be for an open forum - letters, thoughts, editorials - a sort of Lesbian Chatter column. We would like for every third Newsletter to be devoted to Poetry, Short stories, Journals, etc... we need your contributions. Begin sending them to us now.

Financial Update: After this mailing, the newsletter fund has been reduced to .95¢. That was left in to keep the bank account going, extra \$ was contributed to finish buying the necessary supplies. So PLEASE if you owe \$, send it, if you have any extra that you'd like to donate do, encourage others to subscribe, give a gift subscription, ANYTHING!

State News: The following is an editorial from the Kennebeck Journal. "It was a disgraceful scene. As supporters of a bill which would prohibit discrimination against homosexuals looked on, several members of the Maine House indulged in highly emotional tirades against the bill labeling homosexuals "animalistic" Rep. R.J. Carrier and Rep. V. Jorda carried on at such length and with such lack of control that the acting speaker, Rep. Sharon Demoit, asked that a visiting Jr. Hi. class be removed from the gallery.

Often, when one of these debates gets going, the actual matter at hand is forgotten. Rather than debate the bill, which would make it illegal to fire someone for his or her sexual orientation, the lawmakers manage to rope in all the old tired arguments about whether Gays ought to be running around loose.

Calling psychologists "looney tunes", Rep. Carrier argued that passing the bill would "condone homosexuality"

Condoned or not coned, there have been homosexuals from the beginning of recorded history, and the Maine legislature is not going to make them go away by failing to pass this bill.

All the House did Monday was to add a little more weight to the burden of anguish carried by those gays who feel compelled to cloak their sexuality under a guise of "normality".

As Rep. Sylvia Lund said Gays "deserve housing, jobs and credit...that is all we're asking for."

But apparently thats too much to ask of this Legislature."

MLF recieved the following letter (this is an edited version) and we invite your comment and response. Anyone wishing to contact the author may do so through the newsletter...responses will be kept confidential if requested. We feel that this is a subject that will elicit discussion and would like to publish selected responses we receive.

Solar North announces a workshop for women in solar domestic hot water system. NO SKILL REQUIRED. Costs \$475 tuition & \$30 per week food. Projected dates are in Apr. in So. Me. Contact Andrea Frank of SOLAR North, Me. 04073

Letter Cont.

Dear MLF,

My lover and I need your help.

In May of 1980 I applied to the LA County Department of Adoptions to adopt a child....there has never been an agency placement of a child with an open gay.....at least in California. One employee of the Department stated that there are two policies. The first, (and official) policy is that there is no policy. The second (and unofficial) policy: NO WAY! My Lover and I went to two different Dr's to be evaluated, both recommended that we be approved to adopt. Neither of us has the desire to make law or advance a cause when the happiness and welfare of a child is concerned. Our objective is to have a kid to raise, to worry over, to spoil and to love. This letter is being written in the slim hope that you might know of a parent somewhere who for emotional reasons, economic hardship, or for any reason at all, might consider placing his or her child in our care to raise and care for as the child's guardian(s). My lover and I have known each other for nine yrs. And have lived together for the last five of those years. We have a stable, monogamous and loving relationship, and fully expect to be together the rest of our lives. While we are not financially wealthy we are certainly a long way from poor.

Well what do you think? We'd like to hear from you on this or on other issues of interest to you....

Dyke Jargon (PI or PC: I need my space) Sizeism/Looksism
 Dykes and Families Spirituality & the Goddess Our Herstory or
 A Female Head on a Male Body? Substance Abuse

Conferences and other events

Community for Creative non-violence: June 2 - July 3, people will be entering the White House, through tour lines, and kneel to pray at various locations. By not moving these people will be subject to arrest. More info contact Carole or Wendy at 202-667-6407

The Assoc. for Women in Psychology, New England Chapter, will be having a one-day workshop, focusing on AWP regional activities. June 13 in Boston, contact AWP, Dept. of Psychology, Boston Univ., Boston, Mass 02215

A Day For A Nuclear Free Maine Saturday, June 20 Capitol Park, Augusta Noon till dark, Cony High School if it rains.

Feminist Therapist Therapy for women, individuals, couples and groups. A group will be starting in mid to late June with an emphasis on the integration of body image & physical awareness with our emotional lives. For further info contact Elizabeth Cinnamon, MSW, in Portland, at 773-1394. I also do consultation to existing groups to promote support, clearer communication, and understanding of the psychological effects of external & internalized oppression. Will travel for consultation or training.

VI International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews July 2-5 Holiday Inn Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pa. Contact P.O. Box 7566, Philadelphia Pa. 19101; 215-922-3872.

Women's Vocational Exploration: Three of Maine's Vocational Technical Institutes will be offering a Vocational Exploration Program for Women this summer. For additional info and applications write WVEP 122 Stat. St., State House Station 103, Augusta, Me. 04333. Call 207--2893032.

Feminist WICCA is offering to provide a workshop in Me. this summer. Contact Womonground, Troy, Me. 04987..

Solar North: announces a workshop for women in solar domestic hot water system. NO SKILL REQUIRED. Costs \$475 tuition & \$30 per week food. Projected dates are in Aug. in So. Me. Contact Andrea Frank c/o Box 1214 Sanford, Me. 04073

Resources

Poppa Joe's in Augusta has a "gay" night every Saturday: no cover, dancing, food and drinks: the dance floor is separate from the tables many women are going and the atmosphere is supposed to be nice.

Acid Rain threatens Maine: more info call 207-772-1226.

Maine Nuclear Regerendum Newsletter is available through P.O. Box 262 Augusta, Me. 04330

Woman Loving Woman is a 25 minute slide/tape presentation which explores popular misconceptions about Lesbians. The presentation shows the richness of Lesbian culture and documents the contributions that Lesbians have made to society. Call 617-744-9141.

Capitol Hill, the newsletter of the Gay Rights National Lobby is available by writing GRL, P.O. Box 1892, Washington, DC 20013 or by calling 202-462-4255

Feminist College offers an education that encourages co-operative study and problem study; reflects the resources of all learners; relates survival issues and global concerns; envisions more just and humane future. Feminist College, P.O. Box 4705 DTS, Portland, Me. 041

Gayellow Pages NE edition #2 includes listings of the bars, business organizations, and publications for Lesbians and Gaymen in all NE States. Send \$3.50 to Renaissance House, Box 292, Village Station, NY, NY 1001

The National Assoc. of Gay Alcoholism Professionals is now in the process of publishing the 1981 Directory of Facilities and Services for Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics and Chemically Dependant Persons. If you would like a copy, or have information on facilities/services to be listed in future issues please contact P.O. Box 376, Oakland, NJ 0741 or call 201-337-1087

Dignity Maine P.O. Box 7021 Lewiston, Me. 04240

Education Exploration Center is producing a teaching cirricula, Teaching and Learning About Lesbians and Gays. They need \$ to continue the project. Contributions should be sent to EEC, P.O. Box 7339, Powderhorn Station, Minneapolis, Minn. 55407, Call 612-722-5705.

Green Mountain Dykes has folded, if you have any reactions or comment please write GMD News, P.O. Box 426, Bennington, Vt. 05201/

Exodus Center is a tax exempt, non-profit resource for sexual minorities and their families. Our goal is the establishment of a Resource Retreat Center to house a wide range of services. 25 Huntinton Ave. Boston, Mass., 02116

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

It is the expressed intent of the NCADV to further the empowerment and rights of individual women over their lives and personal choices, and since such empowerment concerns every aspect of a womans life, sexual preference cannot be excluded from this analysis. The Lesbian Task Force of the NCADV wishes to examine action or lack of action which has been used to deny or discredit the work and leadership of Lesbian women in the Battered Women's Movement.

The Lesbian Task Force is a group of both lesbian and straight women committed to the task of education around sexual preference and the internal conflicts of our movement which are caused by discrediting each other on this basis. In order to design an educational and training package to acknowledge and deal with the issues of lesbian-baiting, homophobia, and lesbian leadership, we are gathering material on these subjects. If you have any info on these subjects please contact Nancy Gentile, P.O. Box 653, Bangor, Me. 04401

Materials should be recieved by June 1, 1981. (Even though this is after the requested date we felt it should be included, maybe the date could be extended or late materials included at a future time.)

SPECIAL EVENTS

June 13, 1981
It's time to fling open those closet doors! and get out those tux's & chiffons, this is a Fancy Dress Prom! Indulge all of those politically incorrigible fantasies! Grab your honey's hand and come strut your stuff at the:

RUFFRUIT RUMBLE

Music and Dancing

Saturday June 13, 1981, 8-1:30

Unitarian Church, King Street

Augusta, Maine

Donation \$2.00 Proceeds to Family Violence Proj
Augusta

July 25, 1981 Sexuality Workshop

It is important, yet often difficult, to talk with each other about sex/sexuality/relationships in good solid ways. During a three hour session, in lesbian space, we will view five movies and have an opportunity to do some sharing. The movies are: Home Movie, by J. Oxenberg, using her home movies to explore growing up as a lesbian; Looking for Me, by a dance therapist, about her work with autistic and "normal" individuals and the importance of body communication/contact; Holding and We Are Ourselves, (lesbian lovemaking) and Shirley, (female Masturbation). NOTE: the last three movies are sexually explicit.

Discussion will be led by Vicki Fabriner who has led similar workshops in Atlanta, Georgia. She currently lives in Boston and has friends in Maine.

Donation is \$3, /Space has been provided for this workshop at the Unitarian Church in Augusta. The date is July 25 at 1 pm.

Calendar

- June 6 Women's night, Eastside (Flo's), Augusta
- June 6 S.T.A. dance, Belfast
- June 6 Exodus Center Workshop - Gays and Spirituality
- June 13 Prom: Unitarian Church, Augusta
- June 13 A.W.P. workshop, Boston
- June 19 - 21 New England Gay and Lesbian Conference, Boston (Gay Pride Week)
- June 20 Nuke Free Maine, Augusta
- June 27 Exodus Center Workshop, Lesbian Mothers & Gay Fathers
- July 2 - 5 6th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, Phil.
- July 4 Women's Night, Eastside (Flo's), Augusta
- July 25 Sexuality Workshop, Unitarian Church, Augusta

August Solar North Workshop

WANTED: Angora Goat or any information. Please write: Womonground, Troy, Maine 04987

FOR SALE: Refrigerator \$25 Call: 382-6160

FOR SALE: '74 Super Beetle, rebuilt engine, \$1600 or best offer, call Kathy at 589-4643

Subscription Information

MLP needs your \$/yr in order for us to continue the Newsletter. It costs \$\$\$\$ to send it out, so please contribute as much as you can. ALL contributions are welcome and much needed. THANK YOU

Name _____
Address _____

Make checks payable to MLP Newsletter. Send to P.O. Box 125, Belfast, Me. 04915. The Newsletter is sent in a plain envelope.

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