

Guest column

By JoAnne Dauphinee

"We recognize the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child. That right necessarily includes the right of a woman to decide whether or not to terminate her pregnancy."

United States Supreme Court, 1-22-73

The right to decide, the right to choose whether or not to terminate her pregnancy, is a woman's fundamental right under a democratic government. Public debate concerning abortion often revolves around whether termination itself is good or bad; interruption of fetal growth or murder. Arguments are passionate and debaters seldom change their minds. Many turn to the Bible for answers, but there is disagreement among Biblical scholars, and organized religions fill the spectrum of argument. So the questionable benefit of religious consensus as a guide does not exist.

The real question to be asked is, who, in a fair and just society, shall decide whether or not any particular woman may terminate her pregnancy. Some say we should force all pregnant women to carry the fetus to full term, with no exceptions. If this sounds outrageous, don't look now but a call for a federal constitutional convention is being urged by compulsory pregnancy advocates and six states have so far passed the resolution. As the Constitution is currently interpreted by the Supreme Court, the right to choose is guaranteed. A federal amendment is necessary to give the government the right to control women's reproductive lives. All efforts to give reproductive control to the government must be opposed.

There is more than one way to skin us of our rights, be assured. Rep. Hyde (R-Ill.) wrote the following amendment to appropriations legislation for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare: "none of the funds contained in this act shall be used to perform abortions except when the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus was carried to term." The legislation was enacted

Basic right denied

Sept. 30, 1976, but was never implemented due to a court injunction issued on the grounds that it was unconstitutional. This amendment says to pregnant poor women, "If you 'choose' to continue your pregnancy to term, federal assistance is available. If you 'choose' to terminate, you'll have to fend for yourself." This is clear and willful coercion. This denies poor women their constitutional right to choose, as effectively as handing them a coat hanger. This amendment discriminates against poor women by discriminating between services to be made available to them. It is a blatant attempt by the government to reduce the choices for poor women to unwanted children and suicides as punishment for not abiding by the upper class facade of marital and family morality.

In the 1977 version of the Hyde amendment the House voted to ban funding for all abortions, even if the mother's life is in danger! The Senate wants to ban funds for abortions; except in cases of rape, incest, or therapeutic need. But let's not confuse the issue. For whatever reason a woman chooses to terminate a pregnancy, the choice is hers. Not Sec. Calfano's and not President Carter's.

No one denies the "technical" difference between forced pregnancy and coercion. But arguing the legal technicality while denying the legal intent and reality is outrageous hypocrisy. Women, too, lead lives of quiet desperation, especially poor women. Does this society value women's lives so little that we can turn our backs on this matter? Is death now the punishment for poor women who need abortions?

If you believe that the right to control your reproductive life is something you should decide, then you must act on your belief, or your rights will be stolen from you. Take the time to write to the members of the congressional delegation and talk to your friends about it. Human life is at stake.

I feel compelled to address myself briefly to the inevitable question of fetus rights. There is a difference bet-

ween living organisms and human beings. The debate rages as to which category the fetus falls under. There is no clear way to check with the deities as to their opinion. What is abundantly clear is that it is a religious argument, and whatever an individual feels is a determination based on faith.

Can an author's first words, first chapters be truly equal to a finished book? Is it not the author's right to toss some efforts aside, despite its loving conception? Once the book is complete, and the author sends it into the world, it takes on its own life and rights. But can someone really compel the author by rule or law to complete each book she starts? Or will the author in desperation or love destroy the chapters she never intended the world to have?

Human rights are a matter of democratic principle. The right to choose is constitutionally protected. There is no room for debate. To recognize the rights of poor women to be assisted for a full-term pregnancy while denying all assistance should she choose to terminate her pregnancy is like giving you the right to vote, then cutting off all federal assistance to states with Republican and Independent governors. It would be like recognizing the right to choose whatever religion you want, then voting federal assistance to Catholics, but not Jews.

If you believe the government should control your reproductive life and if you believe that the power, money and influence of federal programs should be used to sabotage the right of a woman to determine her own life and to be in control of her own body, then you do not believe in democracy. For it is no longer a democracy that cannot separate civil liberties from biased morality. It is no longer a democracy that guarantees constitutional liberties only to the monied classes. It is no longer a democracy which says to any woman, you must surrender your life to government control for the full duration of every pregnancy; you have no choice!

JoAnne Dauphinee is vice-president of Greater Bangor N.O.W.

Guest column

By JoAnne Dauphinee

Alice Paul, they put you on page 2, the write-up was 1½ inches (less than 4 centimeters), under a small picture of your proud face (BDN, July 11). It read, "ERA author dies." Damn it. I had this fantasy that ERA would pass in '79, the nation would turn to you in tribute to your life's work; that when you finally died thousands would come to your funeral, their very presence promising that we shall always hold the party in power responsible as you taught us, that equality will not come with the Equal Rights Amendment. We'll have to fight for it as you warned. Let your epitaph inspire women and men of good conscience to dedicate their lives to your dream for equality.

Born into a well-to-do Quaker family in January of 1885, Alice Paul was raised to believe in the humane principle of equality. The discovery that, even among the so-called defenders of liberty, women were purposely excluded from the definition of humanity so infuriated and amazed her that her entire life reads as a struggle to awaken women to their full potential and lead them in the fight for equal justice. She saw the struggle as a political one and, influenced by three years of suffrage work with the Pankhursts in England, she convinced American feminists that the traditional genteel methods of NAWSA (National American Woman Suffrage Association) were not enough.

A visionary of rare quality and dedication, her intellectual curiosity is reflected in her outstanding credentials in academe. In more than 20 years of university study she earned a B.A. at Swarthmore, 1905; M.A., University of Pennsylvania, 1907; Ph.D., U. of Pennsylvania, 1912; L.L.B., Washington College of Law, 1922; L.L.M. and D.C.L., American University, 1927-8. At age 20, she served as a resident worker in the New York College Settlement, haven for the poor and powerless. At 22, in 1907, she went to England when the suffrage movement there was in full swing. The movement had divided with the explosive leadership of Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughter,

Christabel. A courageous minority, called Suffragettes, staged public demonstrations, physically assaulted cabinet ministers, and eventually resorted to arson and sabotage in efforts to call attention to their cause. When jailed, they went on hunger strikes and were often force-fed.

In 1910, Alice Paul returned to the United States, a militant suffragist. As of that year, four years after the death of Susan B. Anthony, the suffrage amendment had not come to a vote in the House of Representatives and only once in the Senate, in 1887. In 1912, she came to Washington, with \$3 and a list of names, and created the Congressional Committee of NASWA. After several clashes with NASWA over tactics, her group broke off, becoming the Congressional Union, and finally the independent National Woman's Party.

In 1913, at Woodrow Wilson's inauguration, a suffrage march in Washington of five thousand women, organized by Alice Paul, Lucy Burns and Crystal Eastman, was met by U.S. troops. Following the Woman's Congress at the Hague in 1915, these women organized the Women's Peace Society. In 1917, Alice Paul and others began a silent vigil at the White House, and over a period of several months 218 women were arrested. Alice Paul was placed in solitary confinement and again, with several others, went on a hunger strike. Before their release, they were painfully force-fed. Alice Paul continued to organize rallies, disruptions of meetings, and functions of all sorts.

Due in large part to the efforts of this fearless, dedicated woman the 19th Amendment became a reality in 1920. Now, women could vote in the United States. But still there was much work to be done. With unwavering determination, Alice Paul repeated her dream, first echoed in 1913, "Equality not protection." In 1923, at the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Seneca Falls convention (the event commonly credited with the inception of the Woman's Rights Movement), Alice Paul and lawyer, Burnita Shelton Matthews,

proposed the Equal Rights Amendment that they and the Women's Party had drafted. That amendment was meant to be — and still is — the proper and necessary accompaniment to the suffrage amendment. Yet the struggle for the vote had exhausted the suffragists, as well as the nation. One woman was not exhausted: Alice Paul. For nearly 20 years she kept the ERA alive before the Congress and in many states. In 1938, she founded the World Women's Party for Equal Rights which later pressed the United Nations to include equal rights for women in its charter. But with the onset of WWII, the ERA and the debate she had kept alive so long was submerged.

The second wave of feminism in the 1960s and 70s has found the lost amendment and again taken up the cause. From her nursing home telephone, Alice Paul directed the struggle for passage of the ERA in the Maine Legislature. With her help, our efforts were successful. Susan B. Anthony once said, "With women dedicating their lives, failure is impossible." Alice Paul's life will remain an unending source of strength to those who struggle for equality and the passage of her amendment. Her death, on July 9, 1977, was a cause for great sorrow in the hearts of those who knew her story. She lived 92 years, but she did not live to see the ERA take its rightful place in the U.S. Constitution.

On August 27, the Saturday following Women's Equality Day on the 26th, Maine National Organization for Women will join a national effort to raise funds for passage of the ERA. A walk for equality will take place in Augusta. Walkers and sponsors are needed. This writer will be remembering Alice Paul's words, "...once you put your hand on the plough you don't remove it until you get to the end of the row." We will finish the garden, our children will reap the harvest. There will never be another season of silence.

JoAnne Dauphinee is vice president, Greater Bangor National Organization for Women.

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Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

So reads the full text of the Equal Rights Amendment. First proposed in 1920, as a necessary compliment to the women's suffrage amendment won that same year, Congress finally sent the ERA to the states for ratification in 1972. Three-fourths (38) of the states are required to establish Constitutional citizenship for women. Maine passed favorably on the amendment in 1974. Thirty-five states have ratified, as of 1978.

Currently being considered by the Judiciary Committee (or one of its subcommittees, working its way up) of Congress is H. J. Res. 638, legislation designed to extend the deadline for ratification of ERA beyond the originally proposed date, March 22, 1979. Rep. William Cohen is a member of that crucial committee. Though leaning toward extension, he is undecided. Maine NOW urges you to write Rep. Cohen encouraging him to vote for extension. His Washington address is: House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515.

The American people are three states shy of establishing full citizenship for all of our adults with equal legal rights and responsibilities for everyone. Once part of the Constitution, the courts, at long last, will have clear and undebatable language requiring discrimination to be for a compelling cause; states will no

ERA: Matter of time

longer be allowed to use gender as the reason for establishing or continuing discriminatory practices.

Some argue that there is no need for ERA because women are covered by the "equal protection" clause of the 14th Amendment. This is simply an "old husband's tale." In 1971, in the case of Reed v. Reed, for the first time since 1868 (when the 14th Amendment was ratified) the court found a limited prohibition of discrimination by a state government against women. Reed held, to everyone's surprise, that a state law preferring males over females as administrators of estates violated the guarantee of equal protection. However, since Reed, the standard for measuring sex discrimination (never before a Constitutional offense) has been ambiguous at best. Without going into detail, suffice it to say the Supreme Court has not found sex equality to be a fundamental right. Nor has it found the need for states to have a "compelling interest" in order to justify sex discrimination.

There are those who feel the struggle for extension is an admission of defeat. On the contrary, it is merely one more logical step to secure the hope for humanity ERA offers. There is nothing magic about March 22, 1979. We are not "changing the rules in the middle of the game." The struggle toward human dignity cannot be likened to a game. There is far too much at stake. Those who are keeping score, or taking odds on the advancement of civilization; those who are worried about the bruised image of feminists, should passage run beyond an arbitrary deadline, have misplaced concerns. . . .

Letters to Rep. Cohen are essential for extension, but ERA itself should be made a national priority. Question our president's commitment to

equality, request a fireside talk about this issue on which he has been so silent. . . .

America, indeed the world, moves ever closer to the day when females shall no longer be legally, socially, economically and politically handicapped. It is only a matter of time before the special advantages granted to males are surrendered to the pressure for justice, fairness, and equality. The elimination of prejudice is never easy and some measure of bigotry may always be with us. But Susan B. Anthony, whose birthday we celebrate Feb. 15, echoes our confidence, that, "With women dedicating their lives, failure is impossible."

JoAnne Dauphinee is president, Greater Bangor National Organization for Women and a member of Maine NOW State Board.

Women rally for ERA in Augusta

*It's time to kiss privilege goodbye
Time to fight instead of cry
Together we can make this dream come true.*

Joanne Dauphinee of Bangor,
former NOW state coordinator.

By Davis Rawson
NEWS State House Bureau

AUGUSTA — In a last push for "simple justice," more than 100 women held a one-hour rally on the steps of the State House Tuesday for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

"I'm sorry this rally is even necessary," Gov. Joseph E. Brennan told the sun-washed crowd in urging support for enactment of constitutional amendment.

Brennan recalled that he was a Democratic floorleader when the Maine Legislature approved the ERA in 1974. He said he saw the amendment as a vote for human dignity for all citizens, for equality and for respect for men and women.

The State House rally, organized by the Maine affiliate of the National Organization for Women, was one of 200 nationwide Wednesday, one year to the day when the extension granted the ERA effort by Congress will expire.

Ratification by three states is needed for enactment during what is billed as "The Countdown Year." Including Maine, 35 states have ratified ERA.

"The reality is that this is our last chance for constitutional equality for women in this century," said Lois Reckitt, northeast regional coordinator for NOW.

"We need to get perspective on this. It took 72 years to get the vote and it (the Equal Rights Amendment) was 50 years in Congress," said Penny Harris of Bangor, vice president of the Maine League of Women Voters. Ratification, comparatively speaking, was still a young issue, she claimed.

"We're in trouble if it doesn't get passed by the country. Then we have to come back all over again and pass a law at the state level," Harris said.

A parade of speakers representing several organizations urged support for ratification as green-clad women held "ERA YES" signs aloft and passed out buttons and pamphlets.

"Join us in confirming simple justice," said Julie Motherwell, chairman of the Maine Commission on

Women. "We don't want to live in just a ratified state. We want to live in a ratified country."

"Sex discrimination is an indisputable fact of life for all who are female," said Alice Johnson, president of the Maine League of Women Voters. "It is time to declare that our female citizens, although 51 percent of the population and still a minority, are finally, at last, created equal under the law."

Women merely wanted the same opportunities for development and recognition as men, said Linda Dyer of the Maine Women's Lobby. "No administrative degree, no court decision, no statute is sufficient."

Reckitt suggested a variety of activity that Maine ERA activists could take, although the Legislature had ratified the amendment.

The most obvious need was for money, she said. Volunteers also were needed for the Last Walk for Equality, a march from Kittery to Caribou scheduled for August.

Women were urged to sign petitions to President Reagan, "not your average, rabid ERA'er," Reckitt's said.

She drew chuckles announcing openings for ERA missionaries to Utah to take the fight to the headquarters of the Mormon Church, a traditional ERA foe.

She cautioned about complacency in the face of "a president who is against women's rights and a Congress that is becoming increasingly conservative...However, if we roll over and play dead, our opponents will believe that they no longer have to believe the political clout of the feminist movement."

Other speakers at the hour-long rally included Patricia Ryan, executive director of the Maine Human Rights Commission, who detailed instances in which, under current laws, women were discriminated against—gaining equal access to pension and insurance benefits, inheritance rights, control of their own property and marriage, for example.

ERA would put women's rights to equality beyond the reach of politics and changing policy, Ryan said, and extend the American ideal that all people are equal.

Joining in support of ERA were representatives of the Maine State Nurses Association, the Maine Civil Liberties Union, the Maine Federation of Business and Professional Women and the Maine State Employees Association.

Harassment horrors unveiled

NOW leader kicks off hour-long litany of incidents

By Nancy Garland
Of the NEWS Staff

JoAnne Dauphinee, president of the Greater Bangor Chapter of the National Organization for Women, recalled Tuesday how years ago a manager at a local parks and recreation department sexually harassed her when she was an 18-year-old college student.

Dauphinee kicked off an hour-long litany of sexual-harassment horrors told by women of the Greater Bangor area during an emotionally charged speak-out on the subject. The event was sponsored by NOW and was held at the Bangor-Brewer YWCA.

It was 1969 when Dauphinee, a work-study student at the Brewer Parks and Recreation Department, said the man — not her boss — forced her hands between his legs and told her lewd jokes after beckoning her into his car at her work site.

Dauphinee said she escaped his clutches but suffered continuous emotional trauma, partly because the perpetrator joked about the incident with some of her colleagues.

The specter of this fall's confirmation hearings for Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court amid charges that he sexually harassed Anita Hill has galvanized many Maine women, some of whom spoke Tuesday about sexual harassment.

They included:

- Joan Willoe of Lincolnville, who quit her postal job in Pittsburgh, Pa., after seven years of sexual harassment by her boss. The man grabbed her, threatened her and made her perform heavy labor when she didn't comply, Willoe said. She complained to her union, but she said the harassment intensified. She quit after continued harassment, lack of support, and warnings from her female Equal Opportunity employee representative that her life was in jeopardy.

- Val Hayward of Winslow, who complained of sexual harassment of minority women, both in Maine and in her native New York City. Minority women — blacks, Hispanics and others — are viewed as sex objects, she said. She urged women to support other females who have been sexually harassed. She urged women "never to bond with the enemy" by minimizing the effects of sexual harassment.

Angered by Thomas' appointment to the Supreme Court and by the Senate's apparent rejection of Hill's sexual harassment charges against him, women have started a grass-roots effort to publicize the horror of sexual harassment in the workplace, Dauphinee said.

Maine women's groups, from NOW to the Maine Commission for Women, have been deluged

with thousands of telephone calls since the Thomas-Hill hearings, Dauphinee said. The topic will be taken up again at a NOW meeting Nov. 7 in Bangor and at a speak-out in Oakland in December.

Dauphinee lambasted President George Bush for fostering sexism by nominating Thomas. She criticized Sen. William R. Cohen for voting for Thomas, calling the senator "one of George's boys." Women's groups are considering a protest at a Cohen appearance in Maine, she said.

State Rep. Mary Cathcart, D-Orono, spoke of a new Maine law that directs employers to educate workers about sexual harassment. The first of its kind in the nation, the law provides stiffer fines — up to \$10,000 for the first incident, \$25,000 for the third incident — for companies found liable in lawsuits charging sexual harassment.

Geri Reed, vice chairwoman of the Maine Commission for Women, said the televised Thomas hearings left women "questioning the integrity of our congressional representatives, questioning our silence and resignation, questioning what's next" for women in the workplace. The climate of male-female relationships must change for conditions to improve and "everyone must be a catalyst for change," Reed said.

Hazards of being female

... Jack Hegarty has been quoted as saying, "If there had been a man in that cabin, there never would have been a shooting." He is not alone in believing that the fact the officers were going against a woman played a major role in the officers' actions. In the United States, harassment and violence against women is practically the national pastime. And, I would add, the kind of woman she was — independent, highly skilled, fun-loving, intelligent, outspoken — is exactly the kind of woman men most fear and fantasize about "putting in their place." Passive, more accommodating women can take no comfort here, however. Just being female in the United States puts us in considerable danger....

We applaud the courage and determination of Jack Hegarty, Gail Edwards and others who continue to insist that we recognize the danger and outrage of such monstrous events having too little consequence. Join the efforts of the Remember Kathy Hegarty Committee.

On Wednesday, July 1, there will be a demonstration in Augusta at noon on the State House lawn. We encourage women and men who value and respect women as human beings to find a way to join these efforts. At 7 p.m. Monday, July 13, the Greater Bangor NOW meeting will discuss the issues further. We encourage women to take the power and live out your dreams. We encourage women to stand by each other.

If we want peace, we must work for

justice. Justice for all people will only come when the women and men who care are the system. Get involved. Lend a hand to some positive community effort. There is a bit of Dirty Harry in all of us, but if you are a person prone to act out in violence against others, seek help.

Poet Anne Herbert advises, "Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty." Take a good long look at how women are treated. Better yet, stand by the women you know who work to expand the circles of justice and equality. Don't turn your head. Be a witness to injustice. Find your voice. In the '60s we used to say, "If you are not a part of the solution, you are part of the problem." I still believe it.

JoAnne Dauphinee, coordinator
Greater Bangor
National Organization for Women
and political analyst
Maine NOW PAC

How to write to us

Letters should be brief and must include a signature, address, and daytime telephone number. The NEWS reserves the right to edit submissions for libel, taste, clarity, and to fit available space. The volume of mail prohibits the NEWS from returning letters or contacting writers about the status of their letters. Send to Our Readers Write, Bangor Daily News, P.O. Box 1329, Bangor 04402-1329.

NAFTA is free to oppress

By JoAnne Dauphinee

Congress is currently considering the North American Free Trade Agreement, a treaty with Mexico and Canada establishing a free trade zone and encouraging U.S. companies to move investments, jobs, whole industries to Mexico. Urge our federal representatives to vote "no."

Who will pay the price, both human and in billions of dollars, for all this corporate profit? "Free trade" with Mexico would be a license to exploit laborers, especially women and people of color, as well as our environment.

Some say an international trade agreement shouldn't be muddled by other issues. The question is not whether we should insist on addressing fair labor and health standards, human rights, discrimination and sexual harassment, environmental and other concerns. NAFTA will unalterably affect all of those things. The question is how.

Under NAFTA, corporations and jobs are headed south. In the United States, without adequate retraining and assistance, many good people will be uprooted with nothing but a bootstrap and "good luck" from companies seeking competitive profit in a brave new world. Many predict there will be massive layoffs in both the United States and Mexico, and even Bush's old pro-NAFTA experts now admit the treaty will result in U.S. job loss.

Some say even so, other jobs, other consumers, will be created. But Mexican jobs, paying less than \$30 a week, aren't creating consumers, says Jim Hightower, "they're creating serfs. What a deal: We lose our jobs, and Mexicans get toxic waste and serf wages." It's a world where it will be even easier to exploit sweatshop workers, especially in the transnational factories or "maquiladoras." These factories are often the Mexican subsidiaries of U.S. companies, "trading" with themselves in order to exploit unorganized labor, dodge taxes, and avoid the relatively high U.S. health and environmental standards. Unions must overcome any continuing sexism and racism in order to organize ourselves transnationally.

Between 70 and 80 percent of the half million maquiladora workers are women, most between the ages of 16 and 25. The average hourly manufacturing wage in Mexico is \$1.80, but at the maquiladoras it's closer to 55 cents. In the United States, it's around \$15, and in Canada it's more than \$16. Overwhelmingly, the layoffs will be women, and, ironically, many will be Mexican women who came to the United States seeking a living wage.

From 1974-82, women and girls made up 87 percent of maquiladora workers. The percentage is decreasing as more technical jobs go south, since sex segregation in jobs is the rule. Most of the women workers in particular are willing to endure dire working conditions and rampant sexual harassment, since they have often never before received wages for work. But if women become pregnant, they are fired. If women try to organize unions, they are fired. Even Mexican labor laws that are on the books are unenforced. And, as badly as people need work, the turnover rate in the maquiladoras is 20 percent per month.

Whether your chain is pulled more by sexism, racism, or classism, there is much to be angry about in NAFTA. NAFTA doesn't just fail to address these problems, its policies will exacerbate them. The AFL-CIO calls NAFTA "an economic and social disaster ... not being done to help Mexico, but to sell stuff ... at a greater profit." Environmentalists and health activists have exposed the massive pollution of air and water around the maquiladoras, referring to the "toxic stew" at the Mexican-U.S. border as "a 2,000-mile Love Canadal." The American Medical Association calls it "a virtual cesspool and breeding ground for infectious disease."

Bill Clinton supports NAFTA. Though he admits it is flawed, he prefers supplemental agreements to renegotiation. That is insufficient. NAFTA will make already intolerable conditions worse.

We must insist that the heart of any treaty contain careful standards and enforcement mechanism, not just empty promises. There must be a social contract between traders that would ban products made by exploiting children's labor, set a minimum wage, minimum health and safety standards for all workers, hiring and wage standards that are non-discriminatory. And, we just find ways to disempower sexual harassers in all nations. The unchecked pollution at the border must be halted, and anticipated years of cleanup must be debited to the exploiting corporations.

Congress must vote "yes" or "no" on the full agreement. Ask Sens. Michell and Cohen to vote "no." Ask Reps. Snowe and Andrews to join the Stop NAFTA Caucus and to vote "no." Let President Clinton know your concerns.

Maine NOW is a member of the Maine Coalition for Fair Trade. For more information, write to us at 359 Main St., Bangor. Or, Citizens Trade Campaign, 215 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

JoAnne Dauphinee is a member of the Maine board of the National Organization for Women.

Women remember efforts of suffragists

Speakers recall 19th Amendment in Maine

By Roxanne Moore Saucier
Of the NEWS Staff

BANGOR — How long would you wait to register to vote? A half-hour? An hour maybe?

On Sept. 1, 1920, 24-year-old Honore Lynch stood in line for 6½ hours at Portland City Hall in order to register. As a senior citizen, Lynch later would embarrass granddaughter Anne Oleson on occasion by wearing blue jeans with "Vote" emblazoned on the back pocket.

But Oleson of Dixmont was more than proud Saturday evening to share a few memories of her civic-minded grandmother, now deceased, at a celebration of the 75th

anniversary of women receiving the right to vote.

The gathering was held at the new headquarters of the Peace and Justice Center below Epi's at 128 Main St.

Time was of the essence when Maine women registered, because Maine's elections in those days were held in September, a couple of months ahead of most states.

Lynch wasn't the only member of her family to stand in line that day. Accompanying her were her mother, sister and two aunts.

Oleson shared these details from a small diary her grandmother kept at the time. When Election Day came a couple of weeks later, Lynch "voted in the midst of a



JoAnne Dauphinee

downpour," her journal indicates.

Martha Dallas of Orono also had memories of a grandmother who was at the forefront. Constance Snow Dallas was the first woman

See Vote, B2, Col. 1

Maine women celebrate efforts of suffragists

Vote, from B1

to serve on the Philadelphia City Council, her granddaughter recalled. Educated only through the eighth grade, her grandmother was largely self-taught and fairly involved in politics. Constance's husband was a relative of James K. Polk's vice president, George Dallas.

Not all the women honored Saturday were relatives. JoAnne Dauphinee, the first speaker of the evening, mentioned a variety of women who had done their part during Maine's involvement with suffrage.

The most famous suffragist, Susan B. Anthony, spoke in Bangor back in 1854. Fourteen years later, the state's first suffrage club was organized in Rockland by Lavina and Mary Snow. Julia Ward Howe and others gave speeches on

"equal pay for equal work" at a two-day convention in Augusta, and the hall was standing-room-only.

The Maine Woman Suffrage Association became very active in Maine, and often its activities were published by Alice Stone Blackwell in *The Woman's Column* in Boston.

An 1895 volume on display at the Peace and Justice Center with a large variety of other suffrage materials described a hearing before the Joint Judiciary Committee of the Legislature. Petitions asking the Legislature to pass voting rights for women were signed by "Ann F. Greeley and 177 others" of Ellsworth, "Mrs. L.M. Fitch and 216 others" of Houlton, and by "Hartwell D. Jenkins and 208 others" of South China.

According to *The Woman's Column*, Greeley wrote the Ellsworth American about spending two

weeks to gather names for the petition. With all but five businessmen in the community signed, she said:

Those who refused gave as a reason that they were afraid bad women would vote or that women would become contaminated.

In 1917, Dauphinee explained, the campaign for a state suffrage amendment was led by Deborah Knox Livingston, a Bangor resident and wife of a minister at Columbia Street Baptist Church.

An amendment did go to referendum eventually, and the voters — all male of course — turned it down.

Woman suffrage on the state level came back to the state Legislature in 1919, introduced by Guy Gannett in the House and Percival Baxter in the Senate. The Legislature passed it, but legal wrangling forced it to referendum.

By Aug. 26, 1920, 36 state legisla-

tures had given their approval, and the 19th Amendment to the Constitution became law.

Ironically, Dauphinee said, the referendum was still on the Maine ballot, so Maine women ended up voting on whether they should have the right to vote. The measure passed by more than 50,000 votes.

The fight isn't over, said Jean Hay, who ran for Congress in Maine's 2nd District in 1994.

Considering it has been 75 years since women could vote, she said, the numbers of women serving in Congress are abysmal: six out of 100 senators, and about 10 percent in the 435-member House of Representatives.

"We have a statue of the suffragettes relegated to the basement of the Capitol building and Newt Gingrich stalling any measures to put it in a place of honor," Hay

said. "Too dangerous. Might give women some ideas."

Despite history's description of women as weaker and less capable, the record tells a different story, she added. Hay went on to describe a bank program in Bangladesh that lends villagers \$100 to \$500 to start home businesses.

"Guess what they found?" she asked. "Only about half the men granted a loan managed to pay it back, but the women — *the women* — came through more than 97 percent of the time, not only paying back the original loan, but going on to be successful in the business of their choice."

Those attending the commemoration Saturday included state Sen. Sean Faircloth of Bangor. After the program, an evening of Dixieland music was provided by Six Street Basin.

23rd Roe anniversary is marked

NOW chapter reviews abortion rights history

By David N. Walsh
Of the NEWS Staff

BANGOR — Pro-life proponents on Sunday gathered hundreds of protesters in Augusta, ringing the State House to mark the 23rd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, while supporters of the U.S. Supreme Court decision were able to attract only about a dozen people Monday night to a meeting in Bangor.

The Greater Bangor Chapter of the National Organization for Women held a sparsely attended Celebration of Choice at the Peace and Justice Center on Main Street featuring a discussion by NOW President JoAnne Dauphinee and a presentation by Martha Temple, a Bangor lawyer.

Four members of the media, two potential candidates for the U.S. 2nd Congressional District seat now held by Rep. John Baldacci, members of NOW and some area residents sat around a table.

Dauphinee said the local NOW chapter was working closely with the Mable Wadsworth Women's Health Center and the Committee United for Reproductive Choice to ensure that there is safe health care for women.

She credited NOW's political activism and its program of candidate endorsements with preserving Maine's abortion rights.

Dauphinee expressed concern for the terrorizing of abortion clinics by members of the pro-life movement, charging that there was a national conspiracy among members of the movement when it came to violence at the clin-

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Roe anniversary marked

NOW chapter reviews history of abortion rights

Pro Choice, from B1

ics. Many of those arrested for clinic violence knew one another, she said, and they were found to have large sums of money. She said about 30 leaders of the pro-life movement have signed a document justifying the killing of abortion providers as justifiable homicide.

To defend against that violence, she said, people in the Bangor area now are training to provide nonviolent defense at the Mable Wadsworth Center.

She said Maine was lucky to have a pro-choice governor and a pro-choice Legislature. The Bangor City Council has passed an ordinance that limits the right to demonstrate in front of the Wadsworth Center and doctors' homes.

Lawyer Temple reviewed court decisions and legislation since Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that wiped out laws that criminalized abortions.

Norma McCorvey of Dallas County, Texas,

sought an abortion in 1970, and County Prosecutor Harry Wade brought charges against her. The case went to the Supreme Court, and was decided on the basis of interpretations of the 14th and Ninth amendments of the U.S. Constitution, concentrating on the right to due process and privacy issues that were raised.

But, she said, ever since Roe vs. Wade, pro-life supporters have been chipping away at its strength. In the 1991 case of Rust vs. Sullivan, abortion opponents managed to eliminate federal funding for abortion services. Legislation that called for getting parental consent for minors further impeded access by young women to abortions.

However, she said, laws have been tightened to limit the amount of protest allowed at abortion clinics. Demonstrators are forbidden to use megaphones or stop people from entering the premises, but they have not been able to get banned the holding up of posters supposedly depicting aborted fetuses.



JoAnne Dauphinee
... president of Bangor NOW

Temple said it was possible that Roe vs. Wade could be struck down, but she doubted its intent could be completely eliminated because there were still serious privacy rights to consider.



Rachel Lowe (left) of Richmond, the Maine NOW's state coordinator, and JoAnne Dauphinee of Brewer, president of the Greater Bangor NOW, share a laugh Monday at the Peace and Justice Center in Bangor as T-shirts help them reminisce about NOW activities. The shirts were used as decorations for Monday night's "Celebrate Feminism!" meeting. (NEWS Photo by Michele Stapleton)

NOW, others celebrate voting rights milestone

19th Amendment anniversary focuses on women's activism

By Nancy Garland
Of the NEWS Staff

BANGOR — JoAnne Dauphinee hauled a pile of T-shirts laden with political buttons out of the back seat of her car parked at the Peace and Justice Center in Bangor.

Dubbed the "quintessential activist" by a colleague, Dauphinee used the decorative T-shirts — a collection garnered over the past 28 years — in a clothesline display to help mark the 76th anniversary of U.S. women winning the vote through passage of the 19th Amendment, ratified in August 1920.

Suffragist Susan B. Anthony might have blanched at some of the politically incorrect slogans on the T-shirts — words praising gay rights and proclaiming

"housework sucks," among other things.

But the women who paved the way for the 1920 constitutional amendment were invoked with respect at Monday's gathering, titled "Celebrate Feminism!"

With a public discussion of the past, present and future of women's activism in Maine, Dauphinee and friends also marked 30 years of feminism and the 25th anniversary of activism by the National Organization for Women in the state. Dauphinee is in her third term as president of the Greater Bangor NOW.

In October, the national NOW organization will celebrate its 30th anniversary and Dauphinee has been around to "see it all — at least most of it," she said.

As with Anthony, the seeds of activism sprouted early in Dauphinee, who took an interest in women's issues in 1968 during

her high school years in Bangor. Activism followed Dauphinee to the University of Maine, where she majored in sociology. With the help of some feminist faculty members, Dauphinee took part in starting the first local NOW chapter in 1971.

In the beginning, about six women attended meetings regularly, she said. Today the state has five NOW chapters — in Bangor, Portland, Brunswick, Farmington and the Augusta-Waterville area. The Maine chapters boast 1,000 to 1,500 dues-paying members and about 700 other people who belong to a "friend's list" — mainly sympathetic politicians and other community movers and shakers with whom NOW wants to be associated.

Joining Dauphinee at Monday's event were Ilze Petersons, program coordina-

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NOW, others mark voting milestone

Bangor event highlights 19th Amendment

NOW, from B1
tor for the Peace and Justice Center; Rachel Lowe, Maine NOW coordinator; and Beth Edmonds of the Dirigo Alliance and former NOW national board representative. Lowe encouraged young feminists to take a stand for women's rights. Edmonds shared stories of her trip to the women's conference in Beijing last fall.

The Maine chapters of NOW boast 1,000 to 1,500 dues-paying members

But Dauphinee's history with NOW and her stories of serious activism — tinged, on occasion, with wry humor — took center stage during the day's activities and the night's party.

In the beginning, Maine NOW was a "small but feisty" group of feminists, according to the 45-year-old Dauphinee. Southern Maine NOW in Portland was the first group to form, followed closely by the Heart of Maine NOW in Bangor, the predecessor of Greater Bangor NOW.

One of the high points of the early NOW days in Maine occurred in 1971 when a group of activists from northern and southern Maine raided a males-only tavern at Scarborough Downs, a facility that was opened to females shortly afterward.

Dauphinee said NOW also played a key role in winning two significant courtroom battles in 1974, one allowing Maine women to keep their birth names even if married, and another forcing Eastern Maine Medical Center to withdraw restrictions on first-trimester abortions.

But NOW wants to be identified with broader topics than the abortion debate, although that remains a fundamental issue, Dauphinee said.

As the organization heads toward its second quarter-century in Maine and reaches middle age nationally, it is delving into many human rights issues.

Women and children in Maine and the rest of the country face one of the greatest threats ever to their economic well-being, Dauphinee said.

President Clinton's signing of a restrictive new welfare law "will throw millions of our most vulnerable citizens into stark poverty and homelessness," Dauphinee said.

Locally, Greater Bangor NOW will join PICA — Peace Through InterAmerican Community Action — Sept. 2 to kick off a Bangor Clean Clothes campaign. The rally in Cascade Park will protest the abuses of factory workers in sweatshops in this country and abroad.

As NOW has matured, its members have evolved from radical protesters to more sedate people who have learned how to orchestrate change by working within the political system. For Dauphinee, this metamorphosis has positive and negative aspects.

"Hands-on activism — a good protest — still can be very stimulating and a good catalyst for change," she said.

OpEd

Mother of all feminists

By JoAnne Dauphinee

Every day, I see articles and issues in the Bangor Daily News on which the National Organization for Women might write. In January, there were several articles mentioning NOW. But, the issue that sent me to the computer was Linda Rier's OpEd commentary (BDN, Feb. 15), "Motherhood is a full-time job."

Ms. Rier urges us to grant to mothers the respect and dignity they have long deserved, including mothers who are, by chance or choice, full-time. So far, this is the message of the feminist movement. But, Ms. Rier, inexplicably, spends much of her article "shooting the messenger." She blames feminists for the lack of respect for mothers, and claims we denied women the choice to be full-time mothers.

Feminists have a long and proud tradition of criticizing the institutions of marriage, motherhood and the workplace for the lack of respect society show for women in those roles. Nineteenth century feminists tried to improve marriage by changing the idea that wives and children were the property of the husband; they often struck the word "obey" from marriage vows. Suffragists such as Lucy Stone kept their own names after marriage to symbolize the humanity of women. Meanwhile, feminists fought (and continue to fight) sweatshop working conditions and a sex-segregated labor market.

Many feminists sought reform in the late 1800s. But, the issue of women as chattel was even more directly addressed by "sex radicals" and "free love" advocates. They were not advocates of promiscuity. Rather, feminist and free-love advocate Victoria Woodhull was among those who believed sex should only be without coercion. That is, she was an early opponent of marital rape.

Feminists are the undisputed proponents of a right to violence-free marriages. When I first started lobbying the Maine Legislature, in the early 1970s, about rape and violence inside marriages, they said it was nobody's business what a man did inside his own marriage. It was a long, slow public relations campaign that has finally begun to change public (and lawmakers') opinions about the rights of women and children to violence-free families.

Feminists never had either the power or desire to deny women the choice of full-time mother and homemaker. Attempts by feminists to increase the availability of quality child care options, and to improve women's lot as wives, mothers, and in paid employment, are all meant



to have the exact opposite effect!

It is feminists who believe in supporting and respecting mothers regardless of society's "hyphens": so-called "welfare-mothers," "lesbian-mothers," "teen-mothers," "single-mothers," "minority-mothers" (many of whom have suffered from government-sanctioned sterilization abuse) — mothers who are "imperfect" by someone else's standards, by some "ideal family" value.

It is feminists who have advocated, for example: wages, Social Security, IRAs, and other financial protections for primary homemakers; financial protections such as credit in her own name, and the right (and expectation) to inherit property; access for full-time homemakers to their husbands' pensions, social security and military entitlements in the event of divorce or his death.

Even Ms. Rier admits that feminist Adrienne Rich's 1976 book, "Of Woman Born," makes "the distinction that the institu-

tion of motherhood" was the object of criticism, not actual "maternal childbearing and caring for children." The distortion of this distinction is central and critical, not incidental. That the distortion was the deliberate product of feminist opponents, not sloppy feminists, is also critical. Early portrayals of feminists in the second wave (1970s onward) were far from flattering and often purposely and gleefully distorted.

Ms. Rier and feminists ought to be on the same side. Sentimental notions of the good old days do not wash. Respect for wives and mothers must be concrete. It should include: rights as human individuals, as well as rights as marriage partners; financial rights and access; and freedom from fear and violence in her home. Actions speak louder than words.

JoAnne Dauphinee is president of the Greater Bangor National Organization for Women and has been a feminist activist for nearly 30 years.

Guest column

By JoAnne Dauphinee

Alice Paul, they put you on page 2, the write-up was 1½ inches (less than 4 centimeters), under a small picture of your proud face (BDN, July 11). It read, "ERA author dies." Damn it. I had this fantasy that ERA would pass in '79, the nation would turn to you in tribute to your life's work; that when you finally died thousands would come to your funeral, their very presence promising that we shall always hold the party in power responsible as you taught us, that equality will not come with the Equal Rights Amendment. We'll have to fight for it as you warned. Let your epitaph inspire women and men of good conscience to dedicate their lives to your dream for equality.

Born into a well-to-do Quaker family in January of 1885, Alice Paul was raised to believe in the humane principle of equality. The discovery that, even among the so-called defenders of liberty, women were purposely excluded from the definition of humanity so infuriated and amazed her that her entire life reads as a struggle to awaken women to their full potential and lead them in the fight for equal justice. She saw the struggle as a political one and, influenced by three years of suffrage work with the Pankhursts in England, she convinced American feminists that the traditional genteel methods of NAWSA (National American Woman Suffrage Association) were not enough.

A visionary of rare quality and dedication, her intellectual curiosity is reflected in her outstanding credentials in academe. In more than 20 years of university study she earned a B.A. at Swarthmore, 1905; M.A., University of Pennsylvania, 1907; Ph.D., U. of Pennsylvania, 1912; L.L.B., Washington College of Law, 1922; L.L.M. and D.C.L., American University, 1927-8. At age 20, she served as a resident worker in the New York College Settlement, haven for the poor and powerless. At 22, in 1907, she went to England when the suffrage movement there was in full swing. The movement had divided with the explosive leadership of Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughter,

Christabel. A courageous minority, called Suffragettes, staged public demonstrations, physically assaulted cabinet ministers, and eventually resorted to arson and sabotage in efforts to call attention to their cause. When jailed, they went on hunger strikes and were often force-fed.

In 1910, Alice Paul returned to the United States, a militant suffragist. As of that year, four years after the death of Susan B. Anthony, the suffrage amendment had not come to a vote in the House of Representatives and only once in the Senate, in 1887. In 1912, she came to Washington, with \$3 and a list of names, and created the Congressional Committee of NASWA. After several clashes with NASWA over tactics, her group broke off, becoming the Congressional Union, and finally the independent National Woman's Party.

In 1913, at Woodrow Wilson's inauguration, a suffrage march in Washington of five thousand women, organized by Alice Paul, Lucy Burns and Crystal Eastman, was met by U.S. troops. Following the Woman's Congress at the Hague in 1915, these women organized the Women's Peace Society. In 1917, Alice Paul and others began a silent vigil at the White House, and over a period of several months 218 women were arrested. Alice Paul was placed in solitary confinement and again, with several others, went on a hunger strike. Before their release, they were painfully force-fed. Alice Paul continued to organize rallies, disruptions of meetings, and functions of all sorts.

Due in large part to the efforts of this fearless, dedicated woman the 19th Amendment became a reality in 1920. Now, women could vote in the United States. But still there was much work to be done. With unwavering determination, Alice Paul repeated her dream, first echoed in 1913, "Equality not protection." In 1923, at the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Seneca Falls convention (the event commonly credited with the inception of the Woman's Rights Movement), Alice Paul and lawyer, Burnita Shelton Matthews,

proposed the Equal Rights Amendment that they and the Women's Party had drafted. That amendment was meant to be — and still is — the proper and necessary accompaniment to the suffrage amendment. Yet the struggle for the vote had exhausted the suffragists, as well as the nation. One woman was not exhausted: Alice Paul. For nearly 20 years she kept the ERA alive before the Congress and in many states. In 1938, she founded the World Women's Party for Equal Rights which later pressed the United Nations to include equal rights for women in its charter. But with the onset of WWII, the ERA and the debate she had kept alive so long was submerged.

The second wave of feminism in the 1960s and 70s has found the lost amendment and again taken up the cause. From her nursing home telephone, Alice Paul directed the struggle for passage of the ERA in the Maine Legislature. With her help, our efforts were successful. Susan B. Anthony once said, "With women dedicating their lives, failure is impossible." Alice Paul's life will remain an unending source of strength to those who struggle for equality and the passage of her amendment. Her death, on July 9, 1977, was a cause for great sorrow in the hearts of those who knew her story. She lived 92 years, but she did not live to see the ERA take its rightful place in the U.S. Constitution.

On August 27, the Saturday following Women's Equality Day on the 26th, Maine National Organization for Women will join a national effort to raise funds for passage of the ERA. A walk for equality will take place in Augusta. Walkers and sponsors are needed. This writer will be remembering Alice Paul's words, "...once you put your hand on the plough you don't remove it until you get to the end of the row." We will finish the garden, our children will reap the harvest. There will never be another season of silence.

JoAnne Dauphinee is vice president, Greater Bangor National Organization for Women.