



SEACOAST NOW

www.seacoastNOW.org

August, 2004

SEACOAST NOW IS BACK AFTER SUMMER RECESS PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING!

Wednesday, September 8, 2004, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

MEETING WILL BE AT

The Friendly Toast, 121 Congress Street, Portsmouth

JOIN US FOR DINNER, FOR DESSERT, OR JUST FOR A BEER OR A COFFEE!

TOPIC: Setting the Agenda for 2004/2005

Everyone is welcome!

PLEASE NOTE: Seacoast NOW recognizes that the cost of dinner may be prohibitive for some people. We do not want this to be a barrier to anyone joining us. Financial assistance can be arranged anonymously by going to the website (www.seacoastnow.org) and contacting us via e-mail or calling Suzy Colt at 942-5135. Also NOTE: The location is handicap accessible.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tues., Sept. 7, 2004, 7:00 pm** - Candidates for Governor Educational Funding Forum sponsored by Coalition Communities will be held at Portsmouth City Hall in council chambers. All four candidates have agreed to participate. They are Gov. Benson, Rep., New Castle Selectmen Charles Tarbell, Rep., John Lynch of Hopkinton, Dem., and State Rep. Paul McEachern of Portsmouth, Dem. Seats will be reserved for citizens from the Coalition Communities, but the general public is invited. Seating will close at 6:45 p.m. For more information, e-mail at Coalition@ch.cityofportsmouth.com or by telephone at 603-431-2006, Ext. 281.
- **Tues., Sept. 14, 2004 - PRIMARY DAY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE - Get out and VOTE!**
- **Sat., Oct. 23, 2004 (tentative date) - NH NOW Conference** - Mark your calendar! Look for details in the NH NOW Newsletter and next Seacoast NOW Newsletter. NH NOW is seeking candidates to run for all of the office positions. If you are interested or you know someone who would be interested in running for President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer contact the Nominating Committee (Gretchen Stewart, NH NOW President @ 321-0879 or Melissa Correia, NH NOW VP @ 321-0879).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, SUZY COLT

NBC's Coverage of Olympics

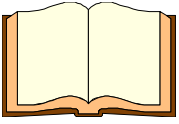
You would think that after all these years of feminist action, we would not be subjected to hearing the words "manhandled" or "outmanned" in the context of women's beach volleyball at the 2004 Summer Olympics. Why is it okay to say "girl's gymnastic team" but not "boy's gymnastic team?" Haven't we progressed further than that? Shame on NBC for hiring sexist commentators. If you hear these offensive references or anything like it, im-

mediately go to NBC.com and contact them with a complaint. Hopefully by the end of the Olympics they'll get it right.

Help with Setting Agenda

I hope we will see you at the next Seacoast NOW meeting at The Friendly Toast. We will be setting the agenda for action for the 2004/2005 year. There is so much to do and our resources are limited and over tapped. Do we want to focus our energies on a Voter Registration drive? Can we get the 22

million single women who did not vote in the 2000 election to step up and vote? You might want to check out www.onevotefilm.com and send it to your single women friends. Or you can participate in the 10 for Change campaign (www.10forchange.org) that NOW is sponsoring. That is NOW's voter registration drive that is user friendly and offers incentives for registering voters. Check it out, if you haven't already done so. At any rate, we hope to see you at the next meeting!



LIZ'S REVIEW

Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons by Lorna Landvik

Landvik's first novel, *Patty Jane's House of Curl*, combined humor and pathos, and offered many sharp insights about human behavior. Again, in her latest novel, Landvik strikes gold. After introducing us to five women, varying in age, who live on Freesia Court, a cul-de-sac in a small Minnesota town in 1968, Landvik takes us through their trials and tribulations for the next thirty years. These diverse and dynamic women form a book club with the bland name of Freesia Court Book Club, which gradually becomes a support group and a lifeline. The club later assumes the book's title as its name when one husband, at a cookout with club members and spouses, disparagingly characterizes the book group as a bunch of "angry housewives eating bon bons." (One of the women is, in fact, not married.)

Each chapter is titled with a date (August, 1968), the hostess (Kari), the book (*Middlemarch* by George Eliot) and the reason chosen ("I wanted the first book I chose to be one they read in my mother's book club"). The booklist compiled by the end of the novel proves invaluable—a very eclectic selection. Taken together the titles reflect books of the times (Eldridge Cleaver's *Soul on Ice* and *Fear of Flying* by Erica Jong (reason chosen: "Because it's bound

to make hundreds of banned lists") as well as some classics (*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin and *Dr. Faustus* by Thomas Mann). Although the books are not discussed in any detail (in fact, often very little), they still contribute focus and structure to this unique novel. The women develop an enduring bond, and their lives reflect the adversities and heartaches they suffer as well as their individual achievements and happiness. References to the history of the time in which these women's lives unfold provide context. Landvik writes precisely and with wit, humor, and understanding about such themes as love, loss, forgiveness, struggle, and acceptance. A very enjoyable read.

Suzy's eclectic summer reading:

All the books about Mma Precious Ramotswe, owner of Botswana's *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*, by Alexander McCall Smith (maybe Liz will write reviews about these pleasurable novels about a special lady detective).

Tales of the City & More Tales of the City, by Armistead Maupin - I was inspired to start this series whilst touring in San Francisco this summer. It was the coldest summer I experienced. Boy, do these books take you back to the 70's and 80's in San Francisco with vivid and funny stories and characters. I'm loving them! I'm presently reading ***Further Tales of the City***.

The greatest discover was ***The Forest Lover***, by Susan Vreeland. It is a fictionalized account of artist Emily Carr's amazing life (1871-1945) in Victorian British Columbia. Carr is a relatively unknown feminist icon. She was inspired by a mission to capture on canvas the starkly fierce totem poles carved by the Indian tribes of British Columbia. She traveled the wilderness of BC and Alaska to search out the poles and document them before they were stolen or destroyed. I discovered a marvelous artist who captures the spirit of the native Indian tribes. Reading this book inspired me to discover more about her on the web at: www.emilycarr.com.

Congratulations

to

Nicole Ruane & Andrew Powell

on the birth of

Francis John Powell

July 18, 2004

7 lbs., 15 oz., 21.5 inches

Seacoast NOW Board

Suzy Colt, President 942-5135

prez@seacoastnow.org

Nicole Ruane, Vice President 436-1136

vp@seacoastnow.org

Mary Fosher, Secretary 664-7275

sec@seacoastnow.org

Cassandra Donovan, Treasurer 749-0103

treasurer@seacoastnow.org