

Communiqué

Volume XIII: no. 6 juillet-août/July-August 1992

NEW BRUNSWICK REPORT

GAY RIGHTS IS THE LAW!

NEW BRUNSWICK HAS A "GAY RIGHTS" LAW! On Wednesday, May 13, the New Brunswick legislature gave third reading to a bill outlawing anti-gay discrimination in private and public sector employment, housing, public services, and professional associations and signs. The amendment came into effect May 20.

"This is not a question that challenges the morals of the people," said Advance Education Minister Vaughn Blaney in his introduction to the bill. "This is a human rights question." However, during the two-hour long debate, several COR members (Confederation of Regions party) said that the government could not divorce the morality aspect from its human rights laws. "People in this society should not be accused of discrimination because they refuse to associate themselves with activities they consider immoral," said COR member Beverly Brine. "I'd like to remind the member that discrimination is also immoral," Blaney responded. A few COR mem-

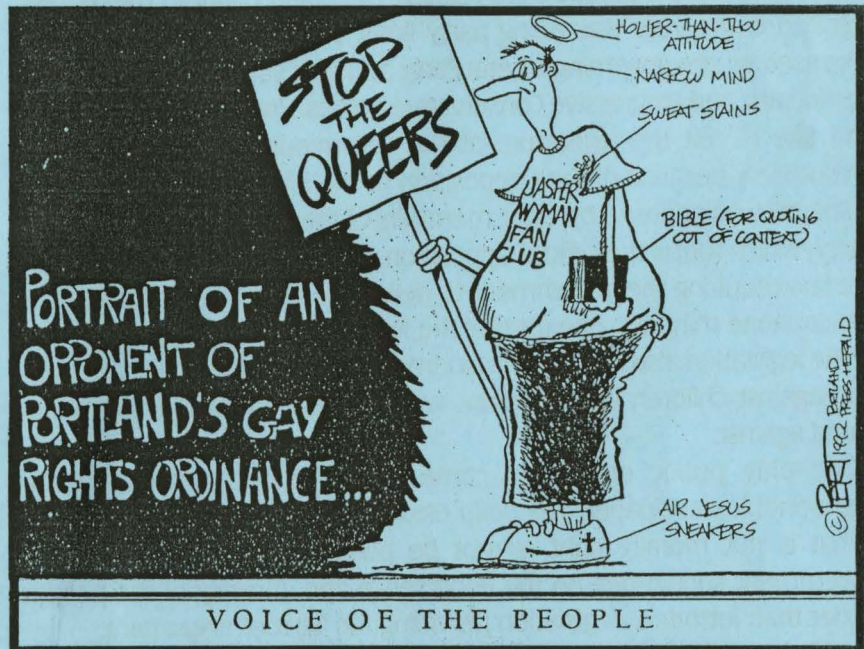
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BUILDING FUND

\$10,000
GOAL

\$ 1219.44
U.S. funds
as of
6/21/92

The NLN Building Fund is designed to raise money for a community center for this region. The center would house the phoneline, library, office, meeting space, and party space. Since NLN is a 501(c)3 group, all donations are tax-deductible on federal U.S. income tax; merely ask for a receipt. Donations of any amount - U.S. or Canadian funds - are appreciated. ▼



EDITORIAL CARTOON - Portland Press-Herald, May 20, by Jeff Pert

MAINE'S LARGEST CITY

PORTLAND PASSES RIGHTS LAW

On Monday, May 11, the Portland City Council passed the first law in Maine prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. City ordinance Chapter 13-A covers employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations such as restaurants, theatres, hotels, etc. The vote was 7-1 with one absent. No sooner had it passed than right wing religious groups threatened to mount a petition drive to send it to a public referendum. The repeal drive is led by James Duran, a Baptist minister and official of the Maine Christian Civic League. Though Duran denies it, most people believe that Civic League executive director Jasper Wyman and his organization are behind the move. Opponents of the ordinance need 1500 validated signatures in order to place the repeal measure on the November ballot, a small number of signatures in a city of over 60,000 people.

Do more
than belong.
Participate.

Citizens for a United Portland, a grassroots group formed to fight the repeal effort, is planning an intensive education campaign to counter what is expected to be a negative and bigoted media blitz. Persons interested in supporting Citizens United may reach them at POB 1894, Portland 04104, 780-5656. ▼

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CP/POB 990 Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégai 207.498-2088 (TDD/Voice-Voix)

NEW BRUNSWICK continued from page 1

bers also sought media coverage by asking red herring questions about bestiality, such as would the bill "allow an old man to live with a sheep" and a bride to marry a goose. Blaney later aluded to COR members when he said, "When I look across the floor, my mind turns to turkeys."

The amendment passed third reading by a 34-8 count in the 58-seat legislature; the vote was along party lines. The amendment had been proposed by the governing Liberal Party and was supported by the New Democratic and Progressive Conservative parties. However, a few Liberals and one PC left the legislature at the last minute to avoid the vote, presumably because of their opposition to the bill.

The bill was opposed by eight members of the right wing populist COR party, which forms the Official Opposition. COR *raison d'être* is to oppose the law requiring the government to deliver its services in French to the francophone minority, one third of the New Brunswick population.

The legislation also included amendments which outlawed discrimination against children and pregnant women, issues that COR members voted against.

The only public opposition came from Fredericton's chronically homophobic newspaper, *The Daily Gleaner*. A May 7th editorial stated, "what is not morally right cannot be politically right," and that the government should rely on the good sense and decency of the people rather than introduce legislation providing for "special" treatment.

With the addition of protection of the New Brunswick population, nearly three-quarters of Canadians are covered by similar anti-discrimination laws. Québec adopted a law in 1977, and since then Manitoba, the Yukon, Ontario, and Nova Scotia have passed legislation. British Columbia and Saskatchewan are expected to follow suit in the near future. ▼

Communiqué

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Gay/Lesbian G·U·I·D·E Lesbienne/Gai

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA
GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE 207.498-2088
TDD/Voice - staffed Wed, 7-9pm (Maine)
AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP meets Sundays, 7pm (Maine time) in Madawaska. Groupe bilingue/bilingual group. Call 207.498-2088 to make contact



ACT UP/BANGOR POB 1554, 04402-1554, 947-3947
AIDS/SIDANew Brunswick 800.561-4009
AIDSLINE/Maine 800.851-AIDS-Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm
AM CHOFSI Maine Jewish group, meets monthly; POB 5017, Portland 04101, 207.871-1014 (Bob) or 833-6004 (Susan)
APEX: A Point of Departure, published monthly by Phoenix Press, POB 4743, Portland 04412
DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland 04104
EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 990-EMAN

FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG) POB 1556, Station A E3B 5G2, 457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)
GAIS & LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CP/POB 7102, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.858-1013
GAIES NOR GAYS CP/POB 983, Bathurst E2A 4H8
GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern Maine, 88 Winslow Street, Portland 04103, 207.874-6596
GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK POB 212, Bangor 04401, 862-5907/941-2189
GAY/LESBIAN PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 780-4085/772-4741
HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-levi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104
INTEGRITY Episcopalian group, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 623-3041/845-2985
LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 10772, Portland 04104
MAINE LESBIAN-GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB 232, Hallowell 04347
NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA RÉFORME DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK POB/CP 1556, Station/Succursale A, Fredericton E3B 5G2
OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine, published monthly, 9 Deering Street, POB 10744, Portland 04104, 761-0733
OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, age 22 and under, POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04102, 800.339-4042
OUTRIGHT CENTRAL MAINE for age 22 & younger, every Fri, 7:30pm 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St, Auburn; POB 802, Auburn 04212, 800.339-4042
OUTRIGHT TOO Bangor area Gay-Lesbian Bisexual youth group, c/o POB 212, Bangor 04401
PWA (People With AIDS) COALITION OF MAINE 377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland 04101, 773-8500

DID YOU KNOW

- ▶ **FLAG DANCE** Saturday, July 25 at École Ste-Anne, Priestman St., Fredericton, 9pm
- ▶ **W.O.M.Y.N.'S GROUP CAMPING TRIP** Friday-Monday, July 31-August 3; contact WOMYN's Association, POB 20082, Fredericton E3B 5G2, 459-9726
- ▶ **Gaie.s Nor Gays (GNG) DANCE** Saturday, August 8, Chalet Sportif, rue Golf, Bathurst
- ▶ **Third annual "Summer Fun" Arts Gala to support AIDS NB/ N-B SIDA**, at Fredericton Playhouse, Friday, August 14
- ▶ **New Brunswick-wide provincial gay & lesbian organizations networking weekend**, Aug 28-29 (tentative; contact FLAG, POB 1556, Station A, Fredericton E3B 5G2, 457-2156)
- ▶ **VERMONT GOVERNOR signed that state's "gay rights" bill April 23**, making the state the 6th in the US with such legislation
- ▶ **THE QUILT** will return to Washington DC from October 9-11 where the more than 20,000 panels will be displayed at the steps of the capitol. Five years ago, when The Quilt was displayed in DC, it included 1,920 panels, remembering 26,000 Americans; now nearly 200,000 Americans have died from AIDS. (The NAMES Project Quilt, 2362 Market Street, San Francisco 94114)
- ▶ **LEVI STRAUSS corporate policy offers health benefits to domestic partners of its employees, the largest US company to do so.** Levi Strauss has also stopped funding the Boy Scouts of America (they have given over \$40,000 annually) because the Scouts' ban gay troop leaders and scouts.
- ▶ "She's done more to put us on the map than anybody, and we are extremely please with her. Her preferred life-style is insignificant to me." Mayor Marlene Arp, of Consort, Alberta, commenting on k.d. lang's coming out in The Advocate.