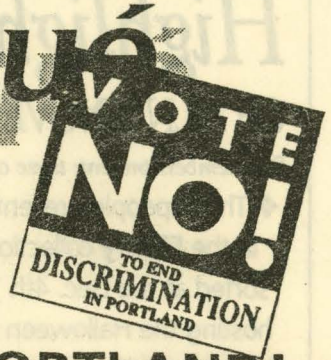


Communiqué

Volume XIII: no. 10 décembre/December 1992



Gays Score Big in U.S. Elections

Results of elections at the national, state, and local levels showed support for gay and lesbian candidates as well as support for those candidates who were outspoken in favor of gay rights issues in the United States. At the top of the ticket, Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton won with 43% of the popular vote; President George Bush garnered 38% nationwide, and independent candidate H. Ross Perot won 19% of the vote. This translated into 370 electoral college votes for Clinton (he needed 212 to win), and 168 for Bush. Perot did not win any states and therefore received no Electoral College votes.

[Editor's note: Contrary to popular belief, the U.S. president is not chosen directly by the voters. Votes are cast in each state for members of the Electoral College. The number of Electoral College members from each state is determined by the total number of members of Congress from that state; for example, Maine has 2 Senators and 2 Congressmembers for a total of 4 electoral votes. The Electoral College then casts their votes for president. It is winner-take-all in the Electoral College at the state level, so that if Clinton beat Bush by 1 vote in Maine, Clinton would take all 4 of Maine's Electoral College votes. It's not impossible for a candidate to win the popular vote but lose the Electoral College and thus the election. This system makes the larger states the important ones at the expense of the smaller states.]

In Maine, Clinton took 39.3% of the popular vote, Perot had 30.4%, and Bush took 30.3%. Maine and Utah were the only states where Perot came in second; in Maine he beat Bush by 316 votes statewide. Maine had the highest voter turnout in the nation with 73% of all eligible voters going to the polls; the national average was 55%.

Clinton's victory means that gays and lesbians should see inclusion rather than exclusion as the rule. Clinton has pledged to issue an executive order to eliminate the ban on gays & lesbians in the military.

continued inside

**WE
WIN
IN PORTLAND!**

Religious fundamentalists and ultra-conservatives lost in their effort to repeal a Portland city statute which protects residents from discrimination based upon sexual orientation. The November 3rd vote was 57% to keep the ordinance and 42% to repeal the protection. Similar battles were also waged in Oregon, Colorado, and Tampa, Florida. In a vote similar to that taken in Portland, voters in Tampa repealed their gay-lesbian civil rights ordinance 58% to 42%. In Oregon's statewide referendum, which would have barred governmental bodies from banning anti-gay and lesbian bias and forbidden the promotion of homosexuality, bestiality, necrophilia, and other behaviors that the initiative termed abnormal, the measure was defeated 56% to 44%. But in Colorado, an amendment to the state constitution which voids gay-lesbian rights ordinances in Denver, Boulder, and Aspen, and prohibits the passage of future gay-lesbian rights legislation was approved by a 53% to 47% vote. ▼

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Highlights

OF NLN'S NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING



Six members present; three of them Steering Committee members.

❖ Those people present at the first "first Friday" event Nov. 6 were able to sort all the fiction in the **library** collection and put the books in order on the shelves. The non-fiction will be sorted at the Dec. 4th "first Friday" event. ❖ **Thank yous** go to Stephen in Presque Isle for hosting the Halloween party, and to Lorraine in Caribou for hosting the pot luck and discussion about HIV testing. ❖ **Outreach:** The Caribou Unitarian-Universalist Church appears to be making an effort to educate their congregation re: support for gay people. It's been almost one year since NLN requested monthly meeting space in the church (and was refused); we will ask again. ❖ The **building fund** is up \$58.50 since October, but a \$100 raffle prize was paid out this past month, so the total funds are down. ❖ **Maine Public Radio** is requesting a donation from NLN (we were Radio members in 1989 under the name "Gay and Lesbian Phoneline of Aroostook".) It was voted to contact MPR again and say that we will make a pledge plus encourage individuals to join MPR if they will air the weekly gay-lesbian radio news & information program, "This Way Out", which they receive for free over the satellite. ❖ NLN wants to support the new Edmundston-area group **EAGLE** so we will be in contact with them re: exchanging newsletters, honoring each others memberships at functions, and maintaining regular communication. ❖ The **amended NLN Constitution** was adopted and nominations were taken for the ten positions on the Steering Committee. Nominations will continue to be accepted until December 10. Voting will be at the New Year's Eve party. ❖ **Activities calendar** ❖ "First Friday" event - Fri, Dec 4, 7pm (Maine) - help sort and arrange the books on the library shelves followed by a movie at 9pm; ❖ *Christmas Turkey Dinner and Gift Exchange* - Sat, Dec 19, 7pm (Maine), Presque Isle; ❖ *Monthly meeting* - Sun, Dec 20, 3pm (Maine), Caribou; ❖ *Fold & Stuff the January newsletter & calendar* - Wed, Dec 23, 7pm (Maine), Caribou - at the Phoneline; ❖ *EAGLE Christmas Party* - Sun, Dec 27, 8pm (N-B), St-Joseph; ❖ *New Year's Eve party* - Thurs, Dec 31, 8pm (Maine), New Sweden; ❖ *Discussion & Pot Luck* - Sat, Jan 9, topic: Maine's gay-lesbian civil rights bill and what we can do to get it passed; a board member from the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance will be the presenter; ❖ *Monthly meeting* - Sun, Jan 17; ❖ *Snow Fun Day - sledding, snowshoeing, hot toddies!* - Sun, Jan 24, New Sweden - snow conditions permitting!

The meeting adjourned after 1 hour 15 minutes; adoption of the changes to the Constitution and Steering Committee nominations took 30 minutes. ▼

concluded from page 1

U.S. Elections

He has also promised to appoint an "AIDS czar" to coordinate the fight against the disease.

In Congressional races, there may be as many as 13 additional potential co-sponsors of a federal gay-lesbian civil rights bill, including the four new women members of the Senate, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer of California, Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois, and Patty Murray of Washington.

Several openly gay and lesbian incumbent state legislators won re-election, including Maine's Senator Dale McCormick from Monmouth and Representative Susan Farnsworth of Hallowell. Other legislatures with "out" incumbent victories include Oregon, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, Washington, and Texas. Newly-elected gay and lesbian lawmakers will sit in the Wisconsin and New Mexico legislatures. Harold "Dick" Dickinson of Orient, NLN member and candidate for Maine's 3rd Senate district (southern Aroostook County) was unsuccessful in his bid to unseat incumbent Margaret Ludwig of Houlton. ▼

Federal Court of Canada Rules

MILITARY MAY NOT EXCLUDE GAYS, LESBIANS

The Canadian Armed Forces has been ordered to stop discriminating against gay and lesbian service members. In an October 28th ruling, Canada's highest court ruled that the military's policies on gay and lesbian members violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. "This is a great day, not only for gays and lesbians, but for the military," said a jubilant Michele Douglas, the former air force lieutenant whose court challenge to the policy resulted in the Federal Court decision. "Now the Canadian Armed Forces will march in step with the times."

"Canadians, regardless of their sexual orientation, will now be able to serve their country in the Canadian Forces without restriction," Gen. John de Chastelain, Chief of Defence Staff said just hours after the ruling.

With the election of Bill Clinton in the United States, a similar lifting of the restriction on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military is expected via a presidential executive order. The director of the U.S. Military Freedom Initiative Project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force called the lifting of the Canadian ban, "yet another nail in the Pentagon's policy." ▼

Caribou Unitarians: UPDATE

The Unitarian-Universalist Association in North America is a religious denomination with a long history of support for gays and lesbians. For close to 20 years they have had an "Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns" at their Boston headquarters. The UUA ordains openly gay and lesbian clergy, performs gay and lesbian commitment ceremonies/marriages, and has been outspoken in support of equal rights for all. The Caribou Unitarian-Universalist congregation has been a glaring exception to the rule. Twice they have refused to allow NLN to use meeting space in their South Main Street building. In a letter dated February 29, 1992, Rev. Sydney Wilde and congregation president Philip Ring wrote that the Caribou UUA Board "voted 6 to 3 to: 1. deny the request of Northern Lambda Nord to meet in the church at this time, and to 2. undertake an education program in an attempt to dispel the fears, misinformation and stereotyping which lead to homophobia. The education program has begun with the possibility of some future policy changes arising out of the discussion."

There is recent evidence that the Caribou congregation's education program has been implemented. In the church president's column in their November 1992 newsletter, Philip Ring reprinted an article by the chair of the Lesbian & Gay Concerns Committee for a UUA district in North Carolina. The article read in part, "If your congregation is still questioning whether it is important to become more 'welcoming' toward your gay, lesbian, and bisexual members, consider that yours might be the only church within a hundred miles where a lesbian mother can find a church school that does not subject her children to the mental and verbal abuse of hearing their mother referred to as an abomination.

"If we are going to really affirm the first principle of our UUA covenant promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we must begin in our own congregations. I encourage you to get started on the goals of the Welcoming Congregation program."

In mid-November an openly-gay UUA minister, originally from Washburn, was in Caribou to preside over his son's wedding at the Caribou church; he was asked to speak at their Sunday service.

It should be acknowledged that at least some people in the Caribou congregation are attempting to change the 6-3 vote from a negative one to a positive one. Even though

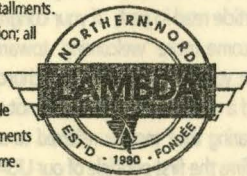
the Caribou UU church has not been in touch with NLN since February, either to invite our membership to participate in their education efforts or to let us know what measures they are taking to confront their congregants' homophobia, word of their efforts gets around, and they must be applauded for it. It is for this reason that the NLN membership at the November meeting voted to make a third request for use of church space for our monthly meetings. ▼

Communiqué

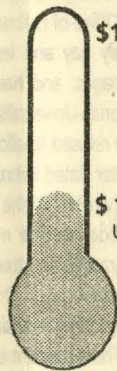
COMMUNIQUÉ publié dix fois par année par **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**, une organisation pour la communauté gaie-lesbienne-bisexuelle au nord-ouest du Nouveau Brunswick et au nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton-Aroostook). **ABONNEMENTS** - 10\$ par année. **COTISATION NLN** - 15\$ par année, dans lequel inclus la subscription. Les fonds E-U et canadiens sont acceptés au par. Ceux qui ont de la difficulté financièrement, des paiements à terme peuvent être organisés. NLN est une organisation à but non-lucratif; toutes les donations sont taxées déductibles aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le **COMMUNIQUÉ** sont disponibles. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenus.

COMMUNIQUÉ is published ten times yearly by **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**, an organization serving the gay-lesbian-bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton counties). **SUBSCRIPTIONS** - \$10 per year. **NLN MEMBERSHIP** - \$15 per year, which includes a subscription. U.S. and Canadian funds are accepted at par. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments.

NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are U.S. tax-deductible. Advertising rates in **COMMUNIQUÉ** are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.



BUILDINGFUND



\$10,000 GOAL

\$ 1303.19
U.S. funds
as of
11/22/92

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. ▼

NEWS & FEATURES
in this issue were from: Bangor Daily News, Caribou UUA Newsletter, Gaezette for Lesbians & Gay Men in Atlantic Canada (Halifax), and The Advocate (Los Angeles). ▼

DO MORE THAN BELONG.
participate

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, 207.947-3947

AIDS New Brunswick/SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick 800.561-4009
AIDS Line/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 04112
DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland 04104

EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 207.990-EMAN
EDMUNDSTON AREA GAYS & LESBIANS FOR EQUALITY (EAGLE) POB 611, Edmundston E3V 3L2 506.735-5029

FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG) POB 1556, Station A E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)

GAEZETTE For Lesbians & Gay Men in Atlantic Canada, published 10 times yearly, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS B3J 3S1

GAYS & LESBIENNES DE

MONCTON/GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CP/POB 1072, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.855-8064
GAYS.ES NOR GAYS (GNG) 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, 207.862-5907/941-2189
GAY/LESBIAN PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 207.780-4085/772-4741

HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-levi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104

INTEGRITY Episcopalian group, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 207.623-3041/845-2985

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 506.457-2156
OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine, published monthly, 9 Deering Street, POB 10744, Portland 04104, 207.761-0733

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, 207.773-8500
WOMYN'S GROUP POB 20082, Fredericton E3B 6Y8, 506.457-2156