

COMMUNIQUE

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septembre/September 1993

Maine L-G Political Alliance & National G-L Task Force Workshop

Maine is target of anti-gay Colorado-style amendment

The right-wing has begun a drive to prohibit the enactment of any laws to protect non-heterosexuals from discrimination and to repeal existing laws in Portland and Lewiston. Under the leadership of Carolyn Cosby, the Auburn-based Concerned Maine Families organization has begun a petition drive to limit Maine's non-discrimination laws to those classes which are already protected. The petition question reads as follows:

Do you favor the changes in Maine law limiting protected classifications in future state and local laws to race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status, and marital status, and repealing existing laws which expand these classification as proposed by citizen petition?

In other words, "sexual orientation" and any other class of persons may not be added, and any classification other than those enumerated must be removed, i.e. the Portland and Lewiston ordinances would be nullified.

The Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force co-sponsored a series of workshops in Augusta to educate and organize the gay-lesbian-bisexual community and our supporters as to what to

expect and how to respond to this campaign. Eight people from Aroostook County were in attendance at the day-long event.

At the opening session, Paula Aboud, MLGPA president, made an analogy between the right wing push in the U.S. to codify their brand of Christian theology and morality nationwide, and the rising waters of the Mississippi River. Our decision is where to put the sand bags, how high, and how much help we will have to stop the flow.

A member of the Maine Legislature, Rep. Susan Farnsworth of Hallowell, discussed the history of the Concerned Maine Families group and how the religious right is loosely organized in Maine. The most famous right winger, Jasper Wyman of the Christian Civic League, has distanced himself from Carolyn Cosby's group. He may want to run for governor.

Sally Sutton, Executive Director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, spoke of her organization's goals - to defend the Bill of Rights and to protect the minority from the majority - and the legal issues facing Maine citizens with regards to this type of petition drive.

NGLTF grass roots organizer Scot Nakagawa of Portland, Oregon, traced the

history of the right wing's efforts to maintain the status quo in this country. He noted that their movement is based upon sexism, racism, and homophobia as well as on economic fear. These are the same people who opposed the abolition of slavery, the movement for women's suffrage, civil rights for racial minorities, and equal rights for women. (Remember how much opposition they voiced during the attempt to ratify the ERA, which would have put women's equality into the U.S. Constitution?). Their

modern organizing began with the conservative Goldwater era 30 years ago. It is the most well-organized and well-financed radical movement in the U.S. The Coors family is one of the biggest funding supporters of the right wing. At the Republican National Convention, Pat Robertson referred to this as a "religious war". By fighting for political and religious domination of U.S. society, they feel their place in heaven is assured.

Some people in our society who have never had to acknowledge that they have civil

rights (straight white men, for example) feel threatened by those groups who are now gaining their civil rights, women, racial minorities, gays & lesbians. Scot noted that "local" groups such as Concerned Maine Families are tied to national organizations such as the Christian Coalition who provide financial help and advice.

The balance of the morning and early afternoon included two major workshops held simultaneously. Lambda members made sure they were represented in both discussions. One session covered community/coalition building and grassroots & rural organizing. The second session discussed the

media: how they work, how to get our message out, how to respond/react to the right wing. Complete details about these two important discussions will be the subject of up-coming NLN meetings.

Though we are at the northern end of the state of Maine, what is happening in Auburn, Lewiston, Portland, and Augusta will have a profound, personal affect on our lives in Aroostook County. The Lambda members who attended the workshops have a lot of information to share and hope to apply the skills and lessons learned to better our lives here in The County. Stay tuned. ▼

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THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER

CONSIDERED SAFE:

Mutual masturbation, Hugging/body rubbing, Massage, Social (dry) kissing, Fantasy, Light S/M (without bleeding or bruising), Sex toys (when used only on yourself)

CONSIDERED POSSIBLY SAFE:

Anal or vaginal intercourse with a condom, French (wet) kissing, Sucking (but stopping before climax), Watersports (external only), Cunnilingus

CONSIDERED UNSAFE:

Swallowed semen, Anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom, Watersports in mouth or on skin with sores or cuts, Sharing IV needles, Fisting or rimming, Sharing enema equipment, douching equipment, or sex toys

HIV Testing

Testing for HIV in Maine is both confidential and anonymous - they do not need to know your name, address, phone. Testing in New Brunswick is confidential but NOT anonymous! Call ACAP Family Planning for more information and an appointment.

All Area Code 207

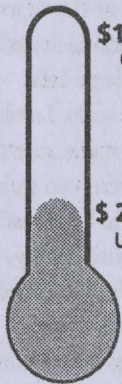
- Fort Kent 834-3513 • Caribou 498-3798
- Presque Isle 768-3056 • Houlton 532-0503

Testing includes both pre- and post-discussion. There is a minimal fee to cover lab costs. ▼

Coloradon't!

Coming Saturday,
October 2
annual NLN
Membership
Drive Party at
the Caribou
Country Club
Be there or be
square!

BUILDING FUND



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.

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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, 207-947-3947
AIDS New Brunswick/SIDA Nouveau-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 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)
GAZETTE For Lesbians & Gay Men in Atlantic Canada, published 10 times yearly, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS B3J 3S1
GAIS & LESBIENNES DE

MONCTON/GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CP/POB 1072, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.855-8064
GAIS 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 10818, 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

Do
more
than
belong.

participate