

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD

PO BOX 990 CARIBOU MAINE 04736 USA

VOL. I, NO. 6

1 - VIII - 1980.

GAY ANNOUNCEMENTS REJECTED BY STRAIGHT MEDIA

During the past two months, members of the organizing committee, seeking to publicize the existence of our organization, have run into a stumbling block. It seems that some people find us objectionable, inappropriate, and downright unacceptable (homophobia). These people are those who control the power of the media in Aroostook County.

ITEM ONE: In the Saint John Valley, there are 2 US radio stations - WSJR-AM in Madawaska and WLVC-AM in Fort Kent. They are essentially the same station on 2 different frequencies. During late June, a meeting was held between the management of WSJR-WLVC and representatives of Northern Lambda to discuss Lambda's request to air a 15-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) on a regular basis on the Valley radio stations. The PSA stated simply: "Northern Lambda Nord is a recently-organized group of lesbians and gay men whose primary aim is to provide support for the gay women and men in this region. For more information, write NLN...." The management of the radio stations refused to air our PSA on the grounds that it may "offend the sensibilities of our listeners and advertisers." (homophobia) They felt that their audience would not want to hear about gay people (homophobia). The Lambda representatives were told that if the station were requested to place an announcement for the Ku Klux Klan, they would refuse that as well - at the same time assuring us that we're not at all like the Klan! (First they refuse to advertise the KKK, then they refuse to advertise gay people, then who will be refused next - whoever is "offensive"??) [Please note: since the meeting, the management of the stations has offered to announce the date, place, and time of our meetings - neglecting to realize that we do not tell those things to the general public.]

ITEM TWO: In Aroostook County, there are 6 weekly newspapers: the Saint John Valley Times, the Caribou Aroostook-Republican, the Presque Isle Star-Herald, the Fort Fairfield Aroostook Advertiser, the Houlton Pioneer-Times, and the Ashland Rolling Log. However, one company publishes four of them: the papers in Caribou, Presque Isle, Ft. Fairfield, and Houlton are all products of Northeast Publishing of Presque Isle. A short, 2-paragraph item, announcing the monthly meeting of Lambda, was submitted to both the Caribou and Presque Isle papers - both rejected the item. (The St. John Valley Times and the Bangor Daily News both accepted it!) When contacted by a member of NLN, a man, who seemed to be the person who made the "top level" decision to refuse our item in all their papers, said that an announcement of our group was not appropriate in his papers - they were a "family" publication! (homophobia)

Since we've come to a dead end as far as local publicity concerns, our course of action seems clear. With regard to the radio station, we are notifying the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of the station's refusal to air our PSA - in spite of FCC rulings to the contrary. The Maine Human Rights Commission is also being notified with regard to both instances of discrimination. Our publicity items were refused not because of what they said, but because of what we are. As gay people, we must be awfully frightening to the men in power. Their phobia is not fear of heights or of the dark,

it's fear of gay people - homophobia. Look closely at how people act and react whenever the subject of homosexuality is brought up - nervous, hostile, angry?! That's their homophobia showing. What an unhealthy attitude they have. But what's even worse is GAY people who are homophobic - that's our self-hatred. We can be our own worst enemies. There are many gay people in positions of authority and power who could help their fellow gays - but they're so fearful of being found out - of opening their closet doors too far, that they're harmful to other gays - and even more harmful to themselves. Until each of us can become more self-accepting of who and what we are, we will continue to live a lie - a secret - a double-life. The "problem" of homosexuals is NOT OUR problem; the problem is society's - their refusal to accept gay women and men as part of the total society. There have always been homosexuals and there always will be homosexuals. Society can't ignore us any more. Too many of us have pushed those closet doors open and they refuse to be closed again! -benj. ▼

Everyone in our lives knows that we are lesbians and the only thing we had to be afraid of was our own fear. We will talk to anyone about our being homosexual. We will put in any effort to educate or help anyone, but WE WILL NOT TRY TO JUSTIFY OUR EXISTENCE. Let those with homophobia justify their hatred!

-Val and Cate, North Bay, Ontario
(from The Body Politic letters) ▼

A PLEA FOR OUR FUTURE

On Tuesday, September 23, 1980, the citizens of Maine will have the chance to determine the future and quality of our lives in this state. We will be asked to vote on the continuation or abandonment of the use of nuclear power in Maine. I believe that it is important for every qualified voter to go to the polls and vote "YES" - let's STOP the dangerous spread of nuclear power in our state. Let's avoid the risk of another Three Mile Island at the Maine Yankee plant in Wiscasset - and the risk is there!

FACT: Every nuclear power plant creates waste. Over 300 TONS of high-level radioactive nuclear waste has accumulated at Maine Yankee since it began operation in December, 1972. By 1983, their storage areas will be filled to capacity. Officials at Maine Yankee haven't said what they'll do next. Perhaps they'll want to bury it in Arrostook County - there aren't many people living up there!

FACT: Nuclear plants need uranium to operate. Known uranium reserves will run out before oil and gas reserves. After 1982, Maine Yankee has no contract to buy more uranium. Uranium prices have risen over 600% in the last 6 years. These price increases are passed on to the consumer on our electric bills.

FACT: All nuclear plants will eventually become too radioactive and must be shut down. Maine Yankee's license expires in 22 more years. Estimates of the cost for shut-down of the plant are 150% of the cost to build Maine Yankee - the costs again will be passed on to consumers on our bills.

FACT: In 1970, Canada offered to sell cheap hydro-electric power to Maine. Central Maine Power (CMP - the major investor in Maine Yankee) lobbied against that in the state legislature and won. So now New York State is buying that reliable power at a cost less than Maine's. Last month, Hydro-Québec offered again to sell cheap hydro-electric power to Maine. What's going to happen this time?

FACT: On April 17, 1979, when an EARTHQUAKE occurred near Wiscasset, the two accelerograph devices, which are intended to record earthquakes and to sound alarms for the reactor operators, were found to be CORRODED from neglect, so that they did not work!

FACT: In June, 1978, all 6 of the applicants trained by Maine Yankee to be control room operators FAILED their NRC licensing tests!

FACT: Before Maine Yankee, most of Maine's electricity came from

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dams and other cheaper generating processes. But CMP has shut down 30% of its hydro generating capacity - creating demand for nuclear.

FACT: During mid-July, 1980, the news reported the discovery of scores of dead fish in the waters near Miscamot. The reports said the cause was unknown. Can we take it as a warning of future tragedy?

FACT: At the May, 1980 State Convention, the Maine Democratic Party voted to support the closing of Maine Yankee and to prohibit the future generation of electricity by means of nuclear fission in Maine. But the news media played it down. (The news media did the same last October by ignoring or playing down the 200,000 lesbians and gay men who marched on Washington - is there a pattern here?)

The anti-nuclear movement is a grass-roots people's movement - the people fighting against the powers and money of big business, trying to get control of their own lives and how they want to live. The gay movement is also a grass-roots movement; we're fighting to get control of our lives from the powers which control our society. ALL these "minority" movements are related - the gay movement, the women's movement, the Native American's desire for dignity, the handicapped peoples fight for equal access, the anti-nuclear fight for putting control in the hands of the people. We're all trying to take control from the same people - those with so much power over our lives - those with so much money who tell us how to live. But more of us are telling them how WE want to live, that we want MORE control over our own lives. If every home had its own generating capacity for electricity, (wind and solar), we'd be taking control away from the hands of the big utility companies - they couldn't sell us electricity any more - and they don't want that to happen!!!

The closing of Maine Yankee may cost more now, in terms of dollars and cents, but it will be cheaper in the long run. There are better, cheaper, and SAFER means to produce electricity. Let's put Maine in the position to develop those sources. We can be the harbinger for a better future. Our state has great hydro-electric generating potential (that's the way it used to be done). We have great solar generating potential because of the numerous days per year of clear, sunny skies (unlike most of the country). STOP the spread of dangerous and costly nuclear power. Make sure you're registered to vote. And VOTE YES on September 23rd. We will ALL benefit. "No nukes is good nukes!" -benj. ▼

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

A questionnaire has been sent to our local (US) politicians to ascertain their views on issues important to the lesbian/gay community of Northern Maine. Every state senator and representative, plus Senator Cohen and Representative Snowe, as well as candidates for office have been sent this query. Four issues were dealt with by the questionnaire: (1) The INS statute barring foreign gays from entering the US and pending legislation to change this law. (2) The Federal (US) Gay Civil Rights bill (3) the Maine state gay rights legislation (4) Gay teachers.

The opinions of each politician were requested for each of the four topics. Do they support lesbian/gay civil rights via legislation or not?

The questionnaires were mailed 20 May 1980. As of mid-July, NO responses have been received. They shall hear from us again! We will be ignored no longer!!! ▼

SUBSCRIBE! SUBSCRIBE! SUBSCRIBE!

During the past 11 years of the modern lesbian/gay rights movement, numerous periodicals and journals by and for the gay community have begun publication. There are national and regional news periodicals, literary publications, scholarly reviews, research journals, slick photomagazines, and locally produced newsletters, such as this one. Their regularity varies - they are published weekly, fortnightly, monthly, bi-monthly, or irregularly (whenever those responsible can get the time and energy and money together.)

Each of these periodicals is produced by and for members of the gay community. Many of them are non-profit or low-profit and are produced by collective or volunteer labor. The support of the gay community, through our subscriptions, can help keep these important sources of information and ideas open and growing. Much of the news is not available through the straight press. Only the gay press reports many, many items of import to us.

This month, we're spotlighting one of the best English-language gay periodicals: GCM - Gay Community News. Based in Boston and published 50 times a year, this weekly newspaper is by far the best source of up-to-date news and opinion for every gay person. The quality of GCM improves with each issue. They have been publishing for over 7 years, and are recognized world-wide as a source of excellent gay journalism. If you were to subscribe to just one gay publications, this should be on the top of your list. Your subscriptions will "keep them healthy". By supporting the gay press, we in turn support ourselves as gay people. We urge you to subscribe to GCM. The cost is only \$5.00 (12 weeks) or \$10.00 (25 weeks). Their mailing list is confidential; the newspaper comes in a plain brown envelope and usually arrives on Monday for a week of wonderful articles. Support gays. Support gay press. Subscribe to GCM! Write: GCM Subscriptions, 22 Bromfield Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108. -benj.▼

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At our June business meeting, the members of Northern Lambda Nord's organizing committee decided to postpone elections until September. There are no business meetings planned for the summer. The next meeting is Sunday 28 September 1980. Summer activities are scheduled throughout August and September (see enclosed schedule and maps). The next newsletter will be dated 15 October 1980 and will resume its monthly publishing schedule at that time.▼

IT AIN'T TOO LATE TO JOIN!

Northern Lambda Nord needs your support! For \$5.00, your membership in nLn will encourage the growth of the gay movement in Northern Maine, North-western New Brunswick, and Témiscouata, Québec. Our membership has more than tripled in just 7 months! Our organization is unique - how many other gay groups conduct their business meetings in two languages?! - and have a bilingual newsletter! Take advantage of us! Join today! ▼

DID YOU KNOW?...

*** The US Democratic Party's Rules Committee made sweeping changes in the party's by-laws and charter. On 9 July 1980, they voted to make permanent a rule which mandates that 50% of the delegates to national conventions and members of major party boards and committees be women. The committee also agreed that minority representation (such as Blacks, Hispanics, Asian-Pacific Americans, Native Americans, women and youth) at party meetings and organizations should "as nearly as practicable" be proportionate to their numbers in the Democratic electorate. And protection of gay people was adopted when the term "sexual orientation" was added to the list of classes such as race, sex, age, and national origin which are protected from discrimination in the party charter itself. -GCM ▼

*** The Democratic Party Platform Committee has adopted a lesbian and gay rights plank as part of its platform for the November elections. Adoption of the plank marks the first time a major party has included lesbian and gay rights as part of its promises to voters. Since no opposing minority resolution was passed, the resolution is virtually certain to be approved by the convention itself in August. This is a far cry from the Republican Party which not only did not adopt a similar platform plank, but has withdrawn its 40 year support of the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) and also called for a constitutional amendment banning abortions. -GCM ▼

*** A US Federal District Court judge has ruled that the US Army's regulation banning lesbians and gay men as soldiers is unconstitutional. The

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Army was ordered to halt all punitive discharges based on the charge of homosexual sexuality until they can prove that one's sexual preference relates to one's ability to perform one's duties as a soldier. The ruling came as a result of a suit brought by Miriam Ben Shalom who was discharged in 1976 for "publicly admitting" her lesbianism. The judge ordered Ben Shalom immediately reinstated. The judge ruled that "constitutional privacy principles clearly protect one's sexual preferences in and of themselves from governmental regulations." The decision was based on the First, Fifth, and Ninth Amendments to the US Constitution. -GCN ▼

*** The US is planning a Holocaust Memorial in Washington, DC to honor those who died under Hitler. Jews, Gypsies, political dissidents - every group which Hitler singled out for extermination is being honored except for one - (guess who?) - the estimated 50,000 to 500,000 gays who were imprisoned and killed by Nazi Germany. They wore the pink triangle to their deaths, yet the US Holocaust Memorial Council has chosen to EXCLUDE the slaughtered gays from the Memorial. Now is the time to demand that lesbian and gay input be utilized in the creation of this Memorial. There is no time to delay, or once again our history will be silenced. Send your suggestions, ideas, facts to:

Elie Wiesel, Chairperson	Rabbi Joseph Acher
US Holocaust Memorial Council	c/o Temple Emanu-El
425-13th Street, NW, Suite 832	or Arguello and Lake Streets
Washington, DC 20004	San Francisco, California
	94118

/s/ Dov ben Khayyim, San Francisco, via GCN letters ▼

*** A new liason bulletin entitled Dialogue has just been published under the aegis of the Canadian Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The bulletin is bilingual and deals in its first issue with lesbian participation in the coalition. The editor-in-chief is Michael Arkin, C.P.2919, Succ. D, Ottawa, K1P 5W9. -GCN ▼

*** In Iran, under the Islamic republic of the Ayatollah Khomeini, known homosexuals are being rounded up and executed. TV news reports have been noting the numbers of our sisters and brothers slaughtered in Iran. ▼

*** An Italian man was taken into custody in Moscow after he staged a one-person protest, during the Olympics, demanding gay rights. An NBC camera crew attempted to film the incident but was "dissuaded" by Soviet authorities. ▼

*** The Second Annual Conference of the International Gay Association (IGA) was held during April near Barcelona, Spain. Almost 200 delegates, representing 45 organizations from 21 countries were in attendance. Forty-five of the participants were lesbians, representing 12 countries. Lesbian participation has grown dramatically since last year. Next year's conference in Italy expects even greater lesbian involvement. The addition of "lesbian" to the name IGA (ILGA) was suggested but the women's workshop recommended retaining the official IGA name with the addition of the subtitle, "International Association of Gay Women and Men." One result of the IGA conference was the creation of the International Gay Press Agency - 21 periodicals and 1 radio program from 12 nations. If the Press Agency is successful, it should result in better coverage of international gay news and a wider circulation of articles of interest to gay readers. -The Body Politic ▼

*** Bell Canada has added "sexual orientation" to the list of non-discriminatory grounds in their new contract. Telephone workers are now protected from dismissal for being gay. ▼

*** In Saint John, New Brunswick, 3 male waiters were fired for being gay. The management of Captain's Quarters/Pier One Restaurant feared the eatery was becoming "too notorious" because there were too many gay male employees. A formal complaint has been filed by Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) with the N-B Human Rights Commission. Sexual orientation is not specifically mentioned in the N-B Human Rights Code (nor in Maine, but it is in Quebec). FLAG hopes the Commission will investigate the complaint. If you want to

support these men, and demonstrate to the N-B Human Rights Commission the need for inclusion of gays in the Code, write them a letter. It can only help YOU in the long run. Write: Dr. Noel A. Minicella, N-B Brunswick Human Rights Commission, Fredericton, N-B. -The Body Politic ▼

*** A crowd of 8000 joyous and proud gay women and men marched through the streets of Boston to celebrate Lesbian/Gay Pride '80 - the 11th anniversary of Stonewall. Could you imagine 8000 dykes and faggots parading through Saint-Leonard and Van Buren?!! ▼

*** Planning to travel through the Maritimes? Here are 2 gay information phone lines you may want to call: In Fredericton - 454-8130; in Halifax - 429-6969. ▼

*** Fredericton has a new gay bar/disco. It's in the Club 565, at 565 Prospect Street, opposite the Fredericton Hall. It's open every Saturday evening from 9-1; there's a cover charge at the door. The once-a-week affair is sponsored by FLAG. Northern Lambda Lord members are encouraged to visit Fredericton, meet some of our gay sisters and brothers, and support FLAG's efforts. ▼

*** There are an estimated 10,000 gay Cuban refugees currently living in US government camps who are in need of homes and jobs. A relief fund has been established by the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) and the United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). The 9 resettlement agencies licensed by the US Government have been unable or unwilling to find sponsors for the gay refugees. The MCC has been working through cooperating licensed resettlement agencies, like the World Church Services and the US Catholic Conference to aid the refugees. The local gay organization in Dade County, Florida has found placements for over 800 refugees so far. In addition to sponsors, the refugees need medical care, legal services, clothing, jobs, and English lessons. For more information or to offer aid to the refugees, contact: Adam DeBaugh, MCC, Washington, DC 203/543-2260

Bob Arthur, MCC, Los Angeles 213/464-5700

Armando Gaitán - Comité de Asistencia y Homosexuales de Boston
617/554-1755

MCC-Boston 617/523-7664

Dignity-Boston 617/536-3518

Integrity-Boston 617/825-3368

Donations, which are tax deductible, may be sent to:

Cuban Refugee Relief Fund

c/o UFMCC

Suite 304

5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90029

Do what you can to help our sisters and brothers in need. ▼

*** Rabbis representing the Conservative wing of American Judaism passed a resolution (156-115) favoring the ordination of women. It was the first time that the conservative Rabbinical Assembly has taken a position on this issue. Only Reform Jews have female rabbis. -New York Times ▼

*** According to an item in the Montréal gay monthly Le Lardache, Anita Bryant will not have her contract renewed this August by the Florida Citrus Commission. The reasons given were the decrease in sales of Florida orange juice over the past years since the Dade County, Florida vote on gay rights, in which Ms. Bryant was involved. Her ardent opposition of the gay rights ordinance lead to a boycott of Florida orange juice by gays in the US - and evidently it was successful. ▼

*** In response to a distraught parent of a lesbian, Dear Abby suggested writing to Parents of Gays, 201 West 13th Street, New York City, 10011. They are a non-profit support group who love their children dearly, and help other parents understand homosexuality and try to accept it. They received over 1000 letters in response to Abby's column. Abby said, "One thing is certain: God made gays just as surely as He made straight. All His children are entitled to live and love in dignity, without shame or guilt." ▼

BRAVO ABBY!

-Christopher Street ▼

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est vice-président de la région du nord-est et H. David Veilleux de Madawaska Maine en est le secrétaire. Avec Messieurs Veilleux et Duplessis comme officiers nationaux les Acadiens du comté d'Aroostook et tous les francophones du Maine seront forts bien représentés au sein de l'AFA.

Encore plus près de chez-nous, soulignons le grand succès du festival Acadien à Madawaska, Maine. Du 21 au 29 juin 1980, plusieurs centaines d'Acadiens du haut de la vallée de la rivière Saint-Jean (des deux côtés de la frontière entre le Maine et le Nouveau-Brunswick) ont célébré avec enthousiasme leur riche héritage culturel. ▼ J.J.

?IL CONSIDÈRE...

A travers les rideaux, on épie,
Au restaurant du coin, on commère;
Sur une piste de danse, on classifie,
Dans ce petit monde, on préjuge.

J'ai entendu dire que...
Y paraît que...
Il me semble que...
On m'a dit que...

Si je l'ai entendu, ça doit être vrai,
Si ça paraît, rien de plus vrai;
Si elle semble différente, c'est sûrement vrai,
Si on le dit, c'est définitivement vrai.

Ecoutez son parler,
Regardez sa démarche;
Étudiez son regard,
Observez son habillement.

Si elle parle sur ce ton, elle doit être...
Si sa démarche est telle, elle doit être...
Si son regard est bien fixe, elle doit être...
Si elle s'habille de telle façon, elle doit être...

Remarquez ses yeux bizarres,
Jugez ses agissements;
Associez son entourage,
Évaluez sa liberté.

Si elle a les yeux bizarres, elle doit être...
Si elle agit différemment, elle doit être...
Si elle est vu avec un tel entourage, elle doit être...
Si elle n'est pas dépendante, elle doit être...

La langue est comme épée à deux tranchants,
Ce qui sort de bouche n'est pas toujours pensé;
Vaut mieux être sourd et peser à l'instant,
La source de vérité avant de se tromper.

---Libre ▼



**** Pour ceux et celles qui voyageront dans les provinces maritimes, voici deux numéros de téléphones qui vous aideront à obtenir de l'information au sujet des activités gaies qui peuvent avoir lieu dans notre coin de pays. Lignes téléphoniques gaies: Frédéricton- 454-3130; Halifax - 429-6969. ▼

*** Le contrat qui liait Anita Bryant et la "Florida Citrus Commission", lequel doit prendre fin en août prochain, ne sera pas renouvelé. C'est ce que déclarait récemment un porte-parole de la commission chargée de la mise en marché et de la promotion des oranges et citrons de Floride.

La mise-à-pied de Mme Bryant fait suite à un boycottage en règle des produits fruitiers de cette commission organisé par les Gai-e-s américain-e-s et qui dure depuis deux ans. Cette mesure avait été prise par les Gai-e-s après que Bryant se soit mise en tête d'un mouvement visant à faire abroger les lois favorables aux personnes homosexuelles dans le comté de Dade, Floride.

Fait à noter, il s'agit du deuxième contrat perdu en un an par Anita Bryant, puisque la compagnie Singer avait récemment refusé de signer un contrat de un million avec elle, par crainte de déplaire à sa clientèle gaie.

-extrait du Le Berdache ▼

*** En Iran, la loi islamique de l'ayatollah Khomeiny préconise le meurtre de tous les homosexuels connus, dans ce pays. Déjà plusieurs de nos confrères et de nos consœurs de l'Iran ont été exécutés de façon scandaleuse. Nous avons aussi nos martyrs et nous devons tous nous souvenir d'eux avec tendresse et compassion. ▼

*** Pour devenir membre de Lambda Nord ça ne vous coûte que \$5.00. Votre contribution encouragera le mouvement gai au nord-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick, au Témiscouata et au nord du Maine à continuer ses efforts de sensibilisation et d'animation auprès de la population gaie de cette grande région, qui est principalement rurale. Les gens de l'extérieur de cette région sont aussi invités à devenir membre de Lambda Nord - le bébé des organisations gaies à l'est du Québec. ▼

VIE HUMAINE

Heureux comme est l'oiseau
Celui qui vie avec un coeur chaud.
Et beau comme le jour
Est celui qui vie d'amour.

Heureux celui qui sourit
Avec un bon ami.
Celui-ci aimera la vie
Et n'aura pas e'ennuies.

L'ami que tu te feras
Celui-là ne le perd pas.
Soit heureux comme un roi
Et obéis toujours à cette loi.

--- L. ▼

LES FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS DE L'AGROUPEMENT

Le 30 mars 1980, durant la 3^e Conférence annuelle des Franco-Américains à LaFayette, Louisiane, la constitution d'une nouvelle association, regroupant les Franco-Américains de toutes les régions des Etats-Unis, fut officiellement adoptée. Le nom de cette nouvelle association est: Assemblée des Franco-Américains (A.F.A.). Tous les citoyens américains de descendance française sont éligibles à devenir membre.

Les buts de l'AFA sont de contribuer et d'encourager l'épanouissement de la langue et de la culture française aux Etats-Unis.

Parmi les officiers de cette nouvelle association nous soulignons M. Armand B. Chartier de l'Université du Rhode Island, qui en est le président; M. Homer Dyess de Baton Rouge, Louisiane, en est le premier vice-président; M. Stephane Duplessis de Orono, Maine (originaire de Van Buren)

Acadiens des autres provinces du Canada. Le trait commun entre toutes ces délégations était leur situation de groupes minoritaires francophones au sein d'un Etat souverain, tel que l'Italie, le Canada, etcetera.

Le thème général de cette conférence était l'adaptation des structures politiques au droit des entités linguistiques et culturelles. Les objectifs étaient les suivants:

- * renforcer les liens de solidarité entre ces différents mouvements nationalistes
- * rappeler que les problèmes posés par les divers états en cause ont une parenté évidente, les mêmes injustices entraînant partout les mêmes effets
- * exprimer la volonté de bâtir un destin commun
- * intensifier les échanges et coordonner certains moyens d'information sur le plan international.

Durant la conférence sept sous-thèmes furent discutés dans les ateliers, dont voici la liste:

1. Les grandes leçons de l'histoire
2. La décentralisation: une réponse?
3. Le processus de changement politique et le pouvoir économique
4. La peur et son exploitation
5. Le changement et la défense des intérêts.
6. Le rôle du territoire
7. Instruments d'émancipation

Dans l'un des ateliers (le #5), un Québécois d'environ 30 ans a affirmé que la perte du référendum par le Parti Québécois était dû en grande partie à sa politique trop avant-gardiste à l'égard des homosexuels dans cette province. Les autres participants de cet atelier (Québécois, Acadiens, Jurassiens...) l'ont vite remis à sa place. Il était aussi évident que certains congressistes ont tout-à-fait rejeté un tel argument plus par conviction personnelle que par simple justice sociale. En effet, j'ai été particulièrement touché par le nombre, non négligeable, quoique toujours bien discret, de personnes gaies à cette conférence. Aussi, je crois sincèrement que nous, nous devons d'être toujours et partout présents, afin d'affirmer notre point de vue sur les questions culturelles, éducationnelles, économiques, sociales et politiques de la société dans laquelle nous vivons.

Je souligne qu'une quinzaine de personnes ont représenté notre région du Madawaska-Victoria à cette conférence, dont Mgr. Lacroix, évêque du diocèse d'Edmundston.

Durant cette même conférence se tenait à Québec la Rencontre des Francophones d'Amérique.

La francophonie nord-américaine s'affirme de plus en plus. C'est un signe fort encourageant et qui ne doit cesser de s'accroître à chaque jour.

Soyons forts! soyons fiers! soyons différents! soyons des francophones identifiables... Québécois, Acadiens, Jurassiens, Wallonnais!!! ▼ J.J.

LE GAI SAVIEZ-VOUS?

*** Du 26 juin au juillet 1980, eut lieu à Montréal, la semaine du cinéma gai. Ce fut un événement de grande importance pour tous les gais(es) du Canada. Ce sont par des actions semblables que nous réussirons tous à bel et bien sortir du placard et démontrer notre force et notre créativité au reste de la société. Félicitations aux organisateurs! ▼

*** Dans le nouveau contrat des employés de Bell Canada une clause prévoit la protection d'emploi pour les employés(es) gais(es) de cette compagnie. ▼

*** Trois serveurs dans un restaurant de Saint-Jean au Nouveau-Brunswick ont été congédiés de leurs emplois le 11 février 1980, parce qu'ils étaient gais. Le restaurant en question est le Fier One. L'organisation "Fredericton Lesbians and Gays" (FLAG) a fait parvenir une plainte à la Commission des droits humains du Nouveau-Brunswick. Par contre la loi au Nouveau-Brunswick ne couvre pas la discrimination due à l'orientation sexuelle. Tous les gais(es) de la province qui désirent faire parvenir leur indignation à cet égard sont priés d'écrire à la Commission des Droits Humains du N-B à Fredericton.

NORTHERN NORD

PO BOX 990 CARIBOU MAINE 04736 USA

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L'EGLISE CATHOLIQUE HOLLANDAISE ET L'HOMOSEXUALITE

L'Eglise catholique hollandaise est reconnue comme étant bien avant-gardiste. Ne voulant pas se limiter uniquement aux positions antécédentes des encycliques de Rome, l'Eglise catholique hollandaise a formé des groupes d'études sur certains sujets controversés au sein de l'Eglise, tels que les différentes méthodes de contraception, l'avortement, le célibat du clergé, le rôle de la femme au sein de l'Eglise et l'homosexualité.

Aussi un groupe de laïcs et de prêtres catholiques d'Hollande, assistés par quelques membres du clergé protestant, ont commencé à travailler auprès des homosexuels de ce pays, s'efforçant de repenser la pastorale des homosexuels et même de reprendre la réflexion morale chrétienne sur cette question.

L'expérience de ce groupe de personnes, intéressés à la pastorale auprès des homosexuels en Hollande est très significative pour nous tous. Voici l'une des expériences du groupe qui, à notre avis, est bien révélatrice. Dans une classe d'étudiants, ce groupe de pastorale a noté que les gens les plus compréhensifs de l'homosexualité étaient ceux qui avaient connu et côtoyé un homosexuel: ami d'enfance, camarade de collège, ou de travail, etc. En conséquence le groupe d'étude de l'Eglise hollandaise en est arrivé à la conclusion suivante: "qu'être informé d'un phénomène libre et transforme l'attitude avec laquelle on en parle par la suite." De plus, selon eux, le progrès dans les connaissances de l'homme impose plus qu'un simple replâtrage du jugement chrétien sur l'homosexualité. Deux livres, publiés par ce comité hollandais de pastorale font état de ces recherches, dont: Dieu les aime tels qu'ils sont.

Si ces recherches ont été des plus positives à notre égard, on doit tout-de-même noter que le catéchisme Hollandais, à son tour, manifeste une attitude accueillante mais quand même un peu plus prudente ou réservée que celle des comités de recherches pastoraux. Au sujet de l'homosexualité, ce catéchisme nous dit plus ou moins que: "les homosexuels doivent aussi essayer d'apprendre que la grandeur de la vie consiste à donner et à recevoir...." Aussi si l'on accepte la validité de la position du catéchisme hollandais, une relation homosexuelle responsable pourrait être jugée un moindre mal dans certaines situations. ▼ J.J.

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LES ACADIENS

Du 28 juin au 7 juillet 1980, les Acadiens et les Franco-phones du Nouveau-Brunswick furent les hôtes de la VI^e Conférence des communautés ethniques de langue française, qui eut lieu dans la belle municipalité de Caraquet.

Cette conférence internationale a réuni les groupes francophones suivants: les Wallons et les Bourguignons de la Belgique; les Jurassiens de la Suisse; les Valdôtains du Val d'Aoste du nord de l'Italie; les Québécois et les Acadiens du Nouveau-Brunswick. A ces délégations-membres de la conférence, s'est ajoutée la participation de représentants de la Roumanie, de la Nouvelle-Angleterre, de la Saskatchewan, des Franco-ontariens et des