



AROOSTOOK LAMBDA  
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Beginning: Volume I Number 1

15 January 1980  
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This is a beginning... a newly formed group of lesbians and gay men is alive and well and living in Aroostook County. This is the first newsletter of AROOSTOOK LAMBDA. Hopefully, there will be ~~you~~ many more.

As the new decade begins, there is hope that the 1980's will be the beginning of a new time of humanity; that more people will begin to treat their fellow human beings with respect and dignity, no matter what our color, religion, or race; whether we are women or men, whether we are gay or straight: WE ARE ALL PEOPLE FIRST.

The early gay rights movement began in Germany in 1864. It spread throughout Europe over the next seventy years; It ended with Hitler's rise to power. How many people wore the pink triangle of the homosexual to their deaths at the hands of the Nazis?

The modern gay rights movement was reborn in 1969 on the streets of Greenwich Village in New York City when, after years of harassment, the dykes burst (excuse the pun) at the Stonewall Bar; the drag queens fought back. They refused to be treated as second class, to be ridiculed and mocked; we refused to be "faggots and dykes" any more. We are gay men and women. We demand our dignity.

It has been just over ten years since Stonewall. We have made some progress in the struggle for our right to be treated as equal; to be judged upon our abilities; to be free from the fear that our employer might "find out"; but we have just barely opened our closet doors. Oh. if they could only know that we AREN'T so different - that we laugh and cry, feel joy and pain, want to give love and to be loved. We want the right to choose whom we love. We want the same rights that straight people take for granted!

Nineteen-eighty is a beginning. When the next decade arrives, we hope that gay support groups such as Aroostook Lambda won't be necessary; that we each as individual lesbians and gaymen may live without fear, may love without fear: that everyone will remember that we are all PEOPLE first.



BY BERRY BREATHED  
REPRINTED FROM GCN  
"THE ACADEMIA WALTZ"  
WHO REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM  
THE DAILY TEXAN

DID YOU SEE???..... The ABC Special "Homosexuals" ?  
At least one of our state legislators from Aroostook did! A short note was sent to every one of our 17 representatives in Augusta (3 state senators, 14 representatives) urging them to watch the special program (aired last December 18). The note also requested "your written reaction to the program." So far, only Representative, Marty H. MacBride of Presque Isle has responded. She said:

I think the program did provide a better understanding of your people, and felt the film was well done. However, I did think there was too much emphasis on photography (which was very good, incidentally) and not enough emphasis on real fact and analysis. She concluded by saying that she was "always interested to know what the people in my area are thinking and feeling."

Here is the list of our (?) representatives who did ~~not~~ not respond to their constituency:

Senators - Carpenter (District 33)  
Roland D. Martin (District 32)  
McBrealrty (District 31)

Representatives -

Lougee (Island Falls area)	Peltier (Houlton)
Smith (Mars Hill area)	Mahany (Easton/Fort Fairfield area)
McHenry (Madawaska/St. Agat')	Barry (Fort Kent/Frenchville area)
John L. <del>XXXXX</del> Martin (Eagle Lake area)	Violette (Van Buren area)
Roope (Mapleton/Presque Isle)	Matthews (Caribou)
Peterson (Washburn/Caribou area)	Nelson (New Sweden/Stockholm area)
McKean (Limestone)	

DID YOU SEE???... Here is a reprint of what Gay Community News (GCN) said about ABC's "Homosexuals":

GCN. 12 January 1980 Vol. 7 No. 24 page 2

NCTF Protests ABC's "Homosexuals"

New York NY - The National Gay Task Force (NCTF) has responded to the Dec. 18 airing of ABC News Close-Up: Homosexuals, stating that, "While community response to the program has been mixed, the overwhelming reaction that we have received has been negative."

In a prepared statement, NCTF said the documentary is being protested for several reasons; among them that "through editorialized content" the film "claims to represent a genuine summary ~~and~~ portrait of lesbian and gay life in America." which renders it "harmful and misleading"; that lesbians are under-represented in the film; that "the major portion of the film is devoted to the personal agony suffered by a small number of documentary subjects"; the feeling that "the film belabors our suffering to the near total exclusion of experiences of pride and ~~power~~ power in gay identity" thereby, reinforcing the stereotype that "gay life" is sad and lonely; and because the



CCN C continued~~Producer MARR~~

producer agreed to permit representatives of NCTF to preview the program before it was aired and later ~~MARR~~ allegedly reneged on that agreement.

NCTF Co-Executive Directors Lucia Valeska and Charles F. Brydon made it clear that they did not "in any way want to condemn the courageous contributions made by those lesbians and gay men who were willing to share their stories with the producers and viewers." However, they said, "The experience teaches all of us a hard lesson. Although we must risk unfair ~~the~~ treatment at the hands of a much needed, theoretically unbiased non-gay media, we must also scrutinize ~~it~~ and gain control over the uses and product of our energy. openness and courage, which in this case resulted in a portrait of gay people which at best evokes a tainted kind of sympathy."

Citing the alleged abrogation of ABC's agreement with NCTF, Valeska and Brydon urged ~~a~~ that "the lesbian and gay community should exercise extreme caution in all contacts with ABC News."

DID YOU HEAR???... on MPBN (WMEM-FM Presque Isle). "All Things Considered" aired a segment (8 January 1980) about how we gay women and men are "increasingly making our political presence felt." They cited the recent courting of the gay vote by Governor Jerry Brown of California (Democratic Presidential hopeful). He was present at a gay disco in Washington, D.C. for a "Gay Vote USA" benefit (both Carter and Kennedy sent representatives). The program also noted that a White House spokesperson said that Jimmy Carter may sign an executive order banning discrimination against ~~lesbians~~ lesbians and gay men in federal government!!! (It's about time!!!)

note note note note note : The next meeting of Aroostook Lambda is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, 27 January 1980 \*. Circle that date on your calendar. You will be notified of the exact time and place as soon as it is determined. BRING A FRIEND.

\*weather permitting

It's hard to read, so here's the dialogue from the cartoon on page one:  
 frame one: What is it, thresher? Look, Dancer... Me bein' your next superstar running back... I thought we'd talk... (2) So talk. Well, I shan't beat around the bush ole' boy... I'm quite gay of course, and I lead a ~~very~~ flagrantly open gay lifestyle... (3) Jesus... AKERS is gonna simply freak. There's more: Y'know how we pat each other's butt after a good play?... (4) Yeah ... so? So, I linger.

More... on the ABC News Special: Here is a reprint of a letter in CCN (12 Jan. 80) which seems to do an excellent job of "analysing" the program, "Homosexuals"...

Straight Media Oppression Dear CCN:

The 60-minute ABC documentary, "Homosexuals" aired on December 18, was a perfect example of the straight media going into a topic with preconceived notions - and then finding naïve, unsuspecting interviewees to play into their notions. I felt as if I watched ten lesbian and gay sheep being fed to the wolves!

~~NEARLY~~ Nearly everything about the presentation (even the commercials) was objectionable. The moderator choked on the word "homosexual" every time he attempted to pronounce it. The lesbians and gay men featured were, for the most part, self-loathing, ~~puzzled/misfits~~ puzzled misfits who had absolutely no grasp of their oppression. I can't believe that out of the 10,000 people ABC supposedly interviewed for the program, those people were the best they could come up with!

Almost none of the interviewees' frustration was expressed constructively. The bits of quotes that were aired included such outrages as "Everyone in gay life is starving for affection", "You get eaten up alive in the gay world," and "We're all painfully inadequate either psychologically or physically."

ABC undoubtedly believes all those things and just found weak or overly-introspective people to articulate those thoughts. Why were no well-known activists who had a grasp of societal oppression featured in the documentary? ~~W~~ They could have laid the blame for unnecessary suffering where it really belongs - on straight society's doorstep.

Instead, we hear people continually complaining about life and putting themselves down. Many of their quotes (in fairness to them, probably taken out of context by ABC) were ~~and/or~~ ambiguous and merely fed societal myths. Like "being gay is a big mistake, an error" and "I had to admit I was queer." If the subjects were trying to be sarcastic, it definitely did not come off in the film.

One gay man, a bar patron in San Francisco, was embarrassingly drunk during the interview, and the camera focused on his face, making strange expressions for several seconds. He talked about his "tricks" as pieces of candy in a candy store. Why is it that news shows never air interviews with drunk heterosexuals (except maybe if it's about alcoholism), but gay drunks get copious coverage?

One black gay was shown crying on camera not in a meaningful way, but in a childish, self-pitying manner. A ~~PR~~ Puerto Rican gay was so insecure he actually said on camera that he probably wouldn't be gay if his parents ~~had~~ loved him and taught him "values and convictions."

The lesbians on the show were a little better, with at least two lesbians living professional lives and interested in entering responsibly into a love relationship with another woman. But I found none of them articulate or angry enough at society's oppression for my liking.

For example, one lesbian attempted to explain homophobia and said it was "self-hatred for loving a person of the same sex." Fine - but that's only half of it. Homophobia is also fear of homosexuality in others. This, perhaps, is the essence of my objection to the ABC documentary. They found people who were extremely open and vulnerable - and took advantage of the situation to play on their guilt. Rather than examining society's oppression ~~against~~ against gays - ABC turned the tables and made it seem like gayness, itself, was the oppression. Straights can be just as

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CONTINUED...

homophobic as gays (just look at this documentary). but that was never dealt with.

Also, I don't think it was any coincidence that the commercials scheduled practically all had to do with childhood diseases -- ~~hell~~ <sup>one's</sup> horrible ~~ones~~ like myasthenia gravis, mental retardation, etc. "This child can be saved and helped if diagnosed in time" one commercial stated, and I couldn't help but feel the commercials were deliberately planned to take advantage of the shock waves sent ~~1966~~ through Middle America by the sensationalized ABC documentary. One commercial for UNICEF and the Year of the Child even had a play on words and a put-down against "unisex" children. The message, clearly, with all these commercials was "HELP SAVE OUR CHILDREN."

Let ABC know that we know what a cheap scare job their show was. They weren't interested in interviewing gay ~~people~~ people of any depth or in fulfilling, giving relationships. Rather, the station chose to ~~titillate~~ titillate America by focusing on the more sordid aspects of gay life and by finding pliable subjects who could do the dirty work for the station. (If a gay man calls himself faggot or ~~queer~~ queer, then it's OK to air.)

Let ABC know that we're on to their tactic and that we ~~deserve~~ deserve (indeed DEMAND) better! /s/ Tim Cwiek Philadelphia - Pennsylvania

NEWS .. NEWS ... NEWS ..

Kennedy supports gay plank in platform... says he would sign executive order banning discrimination... it's election time again and he's getting on the bandwagon. let's hope he lives up to his promise (written to NCTF) if he's elected!

*Sorry about the  
typographical errors!*