CIVIL RIGHTS BILL TO GO BEFORE MAINE LEGISLATURE

The Judiciary Committee of the Maine Legislature has heard testimony, both in favor and against passage of an amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act. L.D. 556, An Act to Prevent Discrimination, will add the term "sexual orientation" to the list of protected categories (race, sex, age, ...) already included in the Maine Human Rights Act in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit. It will prohibit discrimination against gay people in these four areas. This year there is a specific exemption of religious corporations, organizations, and associations from compliance with the law. It is felt that this exemption removes the basis of objection from the bill's opponents.

In the next two-to-three weeks, L.D. 556 will be voted on by the full House and Senate in Augusta. NOW IS THE TIME to let your legislators know that you want them to vote IN FAVOR of L.D. 556. The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance has targeted several legislators in Aroostook County who the Alliance feels may support the bill. These include all three County Senators (Ray Theriault - District #1, Donald Collins - District #2, and Margaret Ludwig - District #3). Four Representatives are targeted: John Lisnik, District 143 - Presque Isle; Carolyne Mahany, District 144 - Easton/Ft. Fairfield area; Susan Pines, District 145 - Limestone area; and John Martin, District 151, Eagle Lake (Speaker of the House).

Take a moment right now and write and/or call your representative, whether the MLGPA has targeted that person or not. You may even contact a member of the Legislature who is not your representative. Tell them that you're writing (calling) about "An Act to Prevent Discrimination", and the bill is numbered "L.D. 556". Let them know you want them to vote for this bill. It's important to protect all of the people in Maine from discrimination. Discrimination cannot be tolerated; this bill will provide legal means for those who are the objects of such discrimination to file a complaint. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO TELL YOUR LEGISLATOR YOUR NAME, make them aware that you are afraid to use your name because of the fear of discrimination.

Most NLN members have received mailings from the MLGPA with sample letters, as well as a survey about violence against lesbians and gaymen. More suggestions for things to say in the letters/phone calls are included in that MLGPA mailing.

WRITE TO YOUR SENATOR: at State House Station #3, Augusta 04333
WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE: State House Station #2, Augusta 04333
TELEPHONE THEM and leave a message with the operator:
SENATE: 1/800 423-6900
HOUSE: 1/800 423-2900
You can be assured that opponents of this civil rights bill are contacting their legislators. Phonecalls and letters in support of L.D.566 are important. IF YOU DON’T DO IT, THEN WHO WILL??!!

LAST CALL TO REGISTER FOR SYMPOSIUM XVI

The 16th annual statewide conference, the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XVI, will be held at the University of Maine in Presque Isle over Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29, 1989. Deadlines are quickly approaching for reservations for housing and food. IF YOU'D LIKE TO STAY ON CAMPUS in the dormitories, space is limited and MUST be reserved by Friday, May 12TH!! If you'd like to eat with everyone at the conference (five meals are provided) but plan to stay at home and not on campus, FOOD RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, MAY 12TH!!

Here are prices:
PLAN A - is three nights lodging (double occupancy), five meals (three on Saturday, two on Sunday), and the registration (admission to all events) - $75 U.S. (requires $35 non-refundable deposit)
PLAN B - is two nights lodging, five meals, and registration - $65 (with a $30 non-refundable deposit)
PLAN C - is one night lodging, four meals, and registration - $50 ($25 non-refundable deposit)

***PLAN D - THIS IS DESIGNED FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS who will stay at home instead of in the dormitories; includes five meals and registration for $40 ($20 non-refundable deposit). ***

PLAN E - Registration only - $15 - payable at the door

LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PLAN D - Symposium has been held at Presque Isle once before. Subsequent Symposia have tried to duplicate the atmosphere created, but just haven't been able to. Because UMPI is a small campus, when it's occupied by almost 200 lesbians and gaymen, it's like being at a gay university. By staying at the campus for meals and all activities, there's a real sense of community, unlike anywhere else. You're urged to join the meal plan as well as registration.

YOUR REGISTRATION includes admission to all workshops, films, panel discussions, dances, Saturday night's cabaret show, and other social events. Registration is only $15. SATURDAY NIGHT will include a special performance by "TEN PERCENT REVIEW", a lesbian-gay cabaret group which has performed in Boston, Provincetown, and off-Broadway in New York City. This is their first performance in Maine. Admission for NON-Symposium registrants is $8 (at the door). The cabaret is followed by a DANCE in Kelly Commons (bring your own beverage). There's an admission charge for that, too (unless you're registered).

HERE'S THE WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, May 26
* 6pm-midnight - REGISTRATION in Emerson Hall

SATURDAY, May 27
* 7:30-8:30am - BREAKFAST served in Kelly Commons
* 8-9am - REGISTRATION in Emerson Hall
* 9am - OPENING SESSION in Kelly Commons, with Welcome from the University, announcements, and the two KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, (1) Svend Robinson, gay member of the Canadian Parliament (Burnaby, British Columbia), and (2) Margaret Cerullo, feminist, activist, and professor at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts
* 10:15am - PANEL DISCUSSION - Topic: The lesbian/gay movement - where we are and where we're headed. Panelists include Svend Robinson, and Margaret Cerullo (keynote speakers), plus Diane Elze (President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance and an organizer of the first Maine Symposium), Hal Hinds (founder and past president of Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, and current member of the New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform), and a member of the Portland-based group, OUTRIGHT, the gay-lesbian youth organization

* noon-1pm - LUNCH served in Kelly Commons (sandwiches, cold cuts, cold salads)

* 1-2:30pm - WORKSHOPS in Folsom/Pullen Hall

* 2:45-4:45pm - SLIDE-LECTURE PRESENTATION - "The Zuni Man: A Traditional Gay Role", detailing the American Native "berdache". The 130 slides and lecture, presented by Will Roscoe of San Francisco, will give an introduction to the land and life of the Zuni Indians, a discussion of their philosophy of gender, what makes a man a man/a woman a woman, and the story of a dress-wearing Indian, We'wha, who spent six months in Washington DC in 1886 and met U.S. President Cleveland.

* 5:30-7pm - BUFFET DINNER in Kelly Commons, featuring both meat and meatless dishes: lasagna, chicken parmesan, eggplant parmesan, spaghetti, garlic bread, dessert

* 7:30-9pm - TEN PERCENT REVIEW cabaret show, in Weiden Auditorium - General admission is $8 (free for those registered for Symposium)

* 9pm-1am - DANCE in Kelly Commons, bring your own beverage - admission charge for those who are not registered for Symposium

SUNDAY, May 28

* 10-11:30am - BREAKFAST served in Kelly Commons

* noon-1:30pm - WORKSHOPS in Folsom/Pullen Hall

* 1:45-3:15pm - WORKSHOPS in Folsom/Pullen Hall

* 4pm - SLIDE PRESENTATION - "She Also Chewed Tobacco" - detailing the lives of late 19th century "passing women", those who dressed as men in order to work, in order to live with other women

* 6:30pm - BARBEQUE (outdoors, if weather permits, otherwise at Kelly Commons) - menu includes hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, chicken, taco salad, salad bar

* 8pm - CONTRA DANCE ("folk dancing") in Weiden Gym, featuring a live band, "The Marsh Island Band" from Bangor, and Phil Lavoie, professional contra dance caller. There will also be GAMES during the evening - volleyball, and other outdoor games, plus board games, and general time for socializing.

MONDAY, May 29

* 10am - CLOSING SESSION in Emerson Hall - hugs, kisses, goodbyes

***PLEASE NOTE*** Unless you have reserved your meals in advance (by May 12th), you will not be allowed to join us at mealtimes. Meals may NOT be purchased individually (buying just Saturday's supper buffet); they MUST be purchased in advance. ONLY THE $15 REGISTRATION FEE is available at the door (this gives you admission to all events, but NO meals)

★★★ AS OF MAY 1st... WORKSHOP TOPICS include:

* Gays & the Church, a discussion led by a lesbian minister

* an AIDS discussion, with representatives from the Maine AIDS group and the New Brunswick AIDS coalition

* "Gay Scruples" - a new board game

* Lesbians and gaymen in the workplace and in unions, discussion led by people from Halifax

* The Gay (Olympic) Gaymes - scheduled for 1990 in Vancouver, a
discussion and information session led by a man from Fredericton
  * Death and Dying - preparing for yours, for a loved one's - discussion led by a man from Fredericton who recently lost his brother to AIDS
  * CIVIL RIGHTS in Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia - discussion with representatives from the three groups in these areas working on legislation - a comparison of what's being done, a chance to network with other lesbians and gaymen in Maine and the Maritimes
  * Ecofeminism - how the "Green Party" ecology movement is related to feminism, and how gaymen (and women) are affected by this
  * Gay and lesbian teachers - discussion led by a gay teacher from New Brunswick
  * Legal issues affecting lesbians and gaymen - "marriage", separation, wills, child custody, the list of issues goes on and on; discussion led by a gay attorney from Maine (and one from New Brunswick, if one can be located)
  * Priests in Newfoundland and the issue of child abuse - led by a man from Newfoundland - there's been news lately of Newfoundland priests accused of having relations with young boys
  * ACOA - Adult Children of Alcoholics - discussion led by a counselor from Aroostook Mental Health Centers
  * Being Native - growing up gay-lesbian in Maine - discussion led by two Natives
  * Running for political office - discussion led by a lesbian member of the Maine Legislature, and a lesbian member of the Portland City Council (and maybe joined by a gay member of the Canadian Parliament)
  * Gay adults/gay youth - a discussion about relations between gay & lesbian youth and the adult gay/lesbian community - what adults can do to help youth - discussion led by members of OUTRIGHT, the Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth

*** FILMS will be screen throughout the weekend, on a rotating basis, usually two films shown at once. These films will include the following:
  * BEFORE STONEWALL - detailing the history of the gay-lesbian movement before the 1969 riots in Greenwich Village, the events which mark the beginning of the modern movement
  * MAURICE - Ian Forster's novel about gay love in the mid 19th century in England
  * OUTRAGEOUS - a Toronto-based female impersonator tries to make it big in New York
  * PRICK UP YOUR EARS - the story of gay English playwright Joe Orton
  * DESERT HEARTS - adaptation of novel (Desert of the Heart) involving love between two women, a university professor from California, and the young woman she meets in a gambling town in Nevada
  * VICTOR/VICTORIA - A woman impersonating a man impersonating a woman, with Julie Andrews
  * MARCH ON WASHINGTON 1987 - a fine presentation detailing the four days when 600,000 lesbians, gaymen, and friends filled the U.S.Capitol to demand our rights
  * THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK - biography of San Francisco gay Supervisor Harvey Milk who was assassinated by Dan White, ex-cop and City Supervisor
  * SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER - 1950s Tennessee Williams play with Katherine Hepburn; story of her homosexual son
  * MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDERETTE - 1980s English film detailing the
relationship between two men and their laundromat

* HAIRSPRAY - last film by female impersonator Divine

This film listing is tentative; more films will be added. Your $15 registration includes admission to all films.

Questions?? Call the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline 498-2088 any Wednesday evening, 7-9pm (Maine)/8-10pm (N-B).

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MAINE RAINBOW COALITION CONFERENCE

The founding conference of the Maine Rainbow Coalition is Saturday, May 20 at the Bath Junior High (6 Old Brunswick Road, Bath). The Coalition "depends on ordinary people united to win the power to improve the quality of life in communities." Mel King, Boston City Councillor and founder of the Rainbow Coalition concept, is keynote speaker. Workshops on discrimination (against lesbians/gaymen, disabled, ethnic groups) plus environmental and labor issues. (207/774-9004, 667-2106)

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PRE-INSRIPTION

SYMPOSIUM XVI

PRE-REGISTRATION

May 26-29, 1989 * le 26-29 mai 1989
University of Maine-Presque Isle campus
hosted by/présenté par
NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD

NAME/NOM ___________________________ M/F ______

ADDRESS/E. ________________________________

TOWN/VILLE ________________________________

STATE/ÉTAT/PROVINCE __________ ZIP CODE POSTAL _______

TÉLÉPHONE ________________________________

I WISH TO REGISTER FOR/Je veux faire l'inscription:

☐ PLAN A ☐ PLAN B ☐ PLAN C ☐ PLAN D ☐ PLAN E

I WILL NEED HOUSING/J'aurai besoin de logement:

☐ FRIDAY NIGHT ☐ SATURDAY NIGHT ☐ SUNDAY NIGHT
vendredi soir samedi soir dimanche soir

☐ NON-SMOKING ROOM ☐ NON-ALCOHOL ROOM
chambre non-fumeur chambre sans alcool

I WILL SHARE A ROOM WITH:

Je partagerai une chambre avec: __________________________

☐ SEND HOTEL/MOTEL INFORMATION
Envoyez les information hôtel/motel

☐ SEND CAMPGROUND INFORMATION
Envoyez les information de terrains

CHILD CARE/LE SERVICE DE GARDERIE

NUMBER OF CHILDREN
Numéro des enfants __________________________

AGES OF CHILDREN
Âges des enfants __________________________

☐ FRIDAY ☐ SATURDAY ☐ SUNDAY ☐ MONDAY
vendredi samedi dimanche lundi

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Mail form and payment to:
Envoyez la formule et la paielement à:

SYMPOSIUM XVI
POB 990
CARIBOU, MAINE 04736 USA
"I gave my lover everything, including AIDS."

If the gay community is to survive this epidemic, we must give up Unsafe Sex. Most of us already have. And you?

SIDA/AIDS

QUESTIONS?
1-800/851-2437 (Maine)
1-800/561-4009 (N-B)

Gay/Lesbian GUIDE Lesbienne/Gai

Northern Lambda Nord (NLNI) CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA, Gay-Lesbian Phone/Line/Telegraf 207/468-2088

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