

FONDATION DE L'ASSOCIATION GAIE DE L'ATLANTIQUE A FREDERICTON

C'est à Frédérickton, durant le weekend du 30 janvier, qu'est née la toute nouvelle "Association Gaie de l'Atlantique."

A l'occasion d'une rencontre regroupant les exécutifs des trois associations gaies des provinces de l'Atlantique, en plus d'un groupe d'amis gais de la péninsule acadienne du Nouveau-Brunswick, il fut décidé de former un front commun gai dans notre coin de pays, qui prendrait le nom d' "Association Gaie de l'Atlantique."

Les objectifs principaux de l'A.G.A. sont de permettre une plus grande échange entre le "Gay Alliance for Equality" de Halifax, le "Frederickton Lesbians and Gays" et "Lambda Nord"; de favoriser une meilleure échange d'information entre nos trois groupes; de se soutenir mutuellement, non seulement pour affronter nos crises mais aussi pour partager et célébrer nos victoires et enfin d'encourager la naissance de d'autres groupes gaies dans ce coin de l'est du pays.

L'A.G.A. est une lueur d'espoir à l'horizon! A nous tous, confrères et consœurs gais(es) de l'Atlantique, d'encourager la croissance et la force de sa lumière parmi nous, afin de nous sentir tous plus forts et plus unis que jamais, dans notre commun combat pour assurer les justes droits de la communauté homophile de chez-nous.

UNE ASSOCIATION GAIE POUR

LA PENINSULE ACADIENNE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK?

Samedi, le 31 janvier, cinq hommes gais de la péninsule acadienne ont rencontré l'exécutif de Lambda Nord à Frédérickton, afin de discuter des possibilités de former une association gaie dans ce pittoresque coin de l'Acadie.

Il est à noter que pour l'instant cette région de l'Acadie est sous la responsabilité de Lambda Nord. Par contre, dû à la distance entre le nord-ouest et le nord-est de la province et les pauvres moyens de communications entre les deux régions concernées, il est très difficile pour Lambda Nord de desservir la région du nord-est adéquatement.

Aussi, il fut donc proposé de préparer, pour très bientôt, une réunion d'information, dans la péninsule, afin d'encourager un éventuel regroupement des effectifs gais de cette région. Il fut aussi décidé qu'un membre de l'exécutif de Lambda Nord soit présent à cette réunion afin de donner quelques conseils et beaucoup de support à la communauté gaie-acadienne de cette région.

En plus, il faut mentionner que l'association gaie d'Halifax, G.A.E., s'est offert d'assumer les coûts d'un petit circulaire d'information pour aider un éventuel groupe de gais du nord-est du Nouveau-Brunswick, à prendre racine. Voilà de beaux exemples de solidarité parmi la communauté gaie de chez-nous.

C'est à espérer que nous verrons naître très bientôt une nouvelle association gaie, sur terre acadienne. Bonne chance aux gens gais(es) de la péninsule! Les membres de Lambda Nord sont avec vous dans toutes vos démarches de développement et d'épanouissement.

NAISSANCE D'UNE ASSOCIATION ANTI-GAIS(ES) EN FRANCE

C'est à Marseille qu'est né dernièrement un mouvement d'extrême droite, baptisé le Renouveau français. Cette organisation vient de lancer une pétition nationale réclamant la persécution ouverte des homosexuels masculins et féminins, dans toutes les régions de la France.

Le Renouveau français veut, en effet, la dissolution de toutes les associations gaies de la France, le rétablissement de la censure au cinéma, dans la presse et l'édition et l'expulsion de tous les homosexuels étrangers, sans distinction de race ou de couleur.

Le COMITE D'URGENCE ANTI-REPRESSION HOMOSEXUELLE envisage une poursuite judiciaire contre cette pétition.

Nos confrères et nos consœurs gaie(es) de la douce France ont une lourde bataille devant eux. En effet, la droite française ressemble de plus en plus, tous les jours, au néo-nazisme.

L'homophobie n'est qu'une partie du problème que vit présentement la France, puisque l'antisémitisme est aussi à la hausse dans la mère-patrie.

Le foyer de LIBERTE, EGALITE ET FRATERNITE, a-t-il vraiment déjà existé. -JJ. (en partie extrait du BERDACHE)

Well, I'm not so depressed any more. Love to you all.

***** NEWS FLASH ***** NEWS FLASH ***** NEWS FLASH *****

***ARTHURETTE, N-B: As reported in our December '80 newsletter, DIGNITY, an international organization of lesbians and gay Catholics and concerned friends, has formed a chapter in Lewiston and a satellite group in Portland, Maine. Well, it hasn't taken long for runblings of activity to be heard in our neck o' the woods. If you are Catholic and gay, if you seek a more constructive inter-relationship between the Church and lesbian/gay people, and if you are interested in forming a Dignity chapter in this region, please get in touch with Leo Grégoire, CP 8, Arthurette, N-B, EOJ 1CO (phone 506/273-3482). Leo wants to agrange a meeting time and place to begin our local chapter.

***** NEWS ***** NEWS ***** NEWS ***** NEWS *****

***CARIBOU: As you may have noticed, this issue of the newsletter (and the next several editions) has not been photo-copied (at a cost of over \$20 per issue) but is being mimeographed. One of our Central Aroostook members has obtained access to a mimeo machine and has volunteered to help reproduce the monthly publication -- at no cost to NLN! We all say "merci beaucoup."

***CARIBOU: Several new orders of business took place at NLN's First Anniversary meeting in January. Two amendments to the Constitution were approved: one adopting a method of amending the constitution, the second creating a separate set of by-laws. Membership fees for 1981 were accepted: \$10 for one year (including newsletter), \$7 for newsletter only, and \$6 for low-income membership (including newsletter). Membership will run from Jan.1st until Dec.31st. All 6 Executives were chosen, 3 from New Brunswick, 3 from Maine. NLN will continue to hold monthly gatherings, but we will change the format. Every other month will be the regular business meeting, followed by a pot-luck meal, as we have had in the past. But beginning in February (and, if successful, again in April and June) every other month will be a social gathering. These events will be open to all members of the gay community.

***CARIBOU: Have you something to say? Do you want to let other gay people in this area know what you've been thinking? Writing for the NLN newsletter is the perfect way to get your point across. We're looking for stories, essays, poetry, personal experiences... anything which is related to being gay is of interest to us all: how you cope at work as a (closeted?) gay person, relating to your family and friends; how did people react when you came out to them? We're all in the same boat. By reaching out to each other a little bit, it can make it easier to live gayly in the cold north. So let's hear from you. Newsletter deadline is the first of each month.

***CARIBOU: The total population of our region is at least 150,000; 10% of the population is gay, so there are about 15,000 lesbians and gaymen in the area. One hundred people is less than 1% of the total number of gays in Aroostook, Northern N-B, and Temiscouata! NLN's 1980 membership grew to 70; our goal for 1981 is to reach the 100 mark. We can do it if each of our current members can get one new member to join us. Do you know someone who may want to join?

***"Rights are not won on paper; they are won only by those who make their voices heard."--the late Harvey Milk, openly gay San Francisco City Supervisor.

***CARIBOU: One of our women members has suggested a way to help NLN financially. It's getting close to tax time, and many of us will receive tax refunds. How about setting aside a portion of your rebate, say from 5 to 10% of the refund, and donate it to the gay community -- send a "rebate" to NLN!

***OTTAWA: The age of consent for homosexual acts among consenting adults would be reduced to 18 from 21 under a bill before Parliament. The bill would also legalize private sexual activity involving more than 2 adults of either sex. The proposal is the most significant in a package of amendments to the Criminal Code's sex offenses. It follows 1968 Code amendments making homosexual behaviour legal between 2 adults, age 21 or over, in private. "The state has no place in the bedrooms of the nation." P-E Trudeau.

***ROOMMATE WANTED: Gay woman looking for same to share 3-bedroom apt. in Ft. Fairfield; share of rent, \$110. Write c/o NLN.

***** LETTERS TO NLN *****

"Dear Friends, Hi, I saw your group listed in the Body Politic. I will visit your area in spring/summer '81. I don't know any gays there and would like to make some friends first. Do you know anyone who would like to be penpals? I'm 30, good looking, 5'9" tall, 150 lbs., blue eyes, brown hair, masculine, warm, friendly and sincere. I'll write and exchange pictures with anyone who cares to correspond (with hopes of meeting). Thank you. Sincerely, Jim Jones, POB 32211, Fridley, Minnesota, 55432."

UN RECENT REJET DES DROITS DES GAIS(ES)
PAR LE COMITE CONSTITUTIONNEL DU CANADA

La proposition du Nouveau Parti Démocratique, qui aurait fait valoir pour les homosexuels(les) les mêmes droits constitutionnels que bénéficient déjà les hétérosexuels(les) du pays, a été rejetée, jeudi, le 29 janvier, à Ottawa.

Les députés libéraux et progressistes-conservateurs du comité constitutionnel du Parlement canadien ont rejeté la proposition du N.P.D. 22-2.

Jack Epp, le port parole "éclairé" des Progressistes-Conservateurs, affirma avec toute sa brillante intelligence, qu'il s'est opposé à la proposition de peur (voilà ce gentil mot encore une fois) que les instituteurs et institutrices homosexuel(les) profitent d'une telle loi, afin de promouvoir librement leur préférence sexuelle dans les écoles.

Malgré ce recul dans cette longue démarche vers notre éventuelle libération, nous nous devons tous d'être très reconnaissants au député Svend Robinson du N.P.P.D., qui a introduit cette proposition devant le Comité constitutionnel.

Notre bataille n'est pas terminée, elle débute seulement.

-J.J. (extrait Presse Cnde)

BRAVE F.L.A.G.!!!

L'exécutif du Lambda Nord tient à sincèrement remercier l'association "Fredericton Lesbians and Gays" pour leur chaleureuse hospitalité durant la réunion, du week-end du 30 janvier.

L'organisation de cette rencontre fut des plus professionnelles et nous ne pouvons que vous réitérer nos félicitations pour l'excellent travail d'équipe que vos membres nous ont si bien démontré lors de ce week-end.

Bravo F.L.A.G. Et surtout continuez votre excellent travail, puisque toutes les personnes gaies de notre province en recueillent des bénéfices d'une façon ou d'une autre.

LES EDITIONS HOMEUREUX

Vous désirez faire des lectures intéressantes concernant la communauté gaie, et bien nous vous recommandons les trois publications suivantes:

1. Le Guide Gai du Québec, par Alain Bouchard. 225 pages, au prix de \$8.00. Ce bouquin contient les adresses de tous les groupes et associations, clubs, tavernes, discos, saunas à travers le Québec. Les lois qui concernent les gais. Et bien d'autres informations en quantité et en qualité.

2. Les Homosexuels s'organisent, par Paul-François Sylvestre. 178 pages, \$6.00. Ce livre est au sujet de l'histoire du mouvement de libération homosexuelle au Québec et au Canada.

3. Nouvelle Approche de l'homosexualité/Style de vie, par Alain Bouchard. 140 pages, \$6.00. Comment vivre homosexuel/le et être heureux: conseils, suggestions pratiques tant sur le plan psychologique que social. YAM

Vous pouvez adresser votre commande aus:

EDITIONS HOMEUREUX

C.P. 245

Succursale N

Montréal, Québec H2X 3M4

Toutes commandes seront dans un paquet discret.

Bonne lecture à tous.



COMMENTARY - by benj.

I'm sitting at home, trying to organize my reactions to and feelings about this past weekend. With several other members of Lambda Nord, I went to Fredericton for a regional meeting of gay groups -- the 3 existing organizations in Atlantic Canada -- Northern Lambda Nord, Fredericton Lesbians and Gaymen (FLAG), and Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE) from Halifax. The weekend included a Friday night cocktail party, the Saturday afternoon regional meeting, a Saturday evening pot-luck supper followed by a barn dance, and a brunch on Sunday. To summarize the results of the meeting: (A) The "AGA" was created: The Atlantic Gay Association/Association des Gai(e)s de l'Atlantique -- an umbrella organization, to which all current (and future) gay groups in the 4 provinces are invited to join. It will act as a means of communication between NLN, FLAG, and GAE, and will help to form new organizations in the area (a group in Northeastern New Brunswick is in formation with help from NLN.) If NLN can get it together, the next meeting of the AGA will be sponsored by our group. (B) Membership in one local organization will be recognized as membership in the others at their local events. (C) Invaluable ties were established among the 3 (soon to be 4) Atlantic groups. (D) In November, 1981, FLAG will sponsor the 4th annual Atlantic Conference of Lesbians and Gaymen. The first 3 were held in Halifax. If this past weekend were any indication of the planning, organization, and success of the Atlantic Conference, then November is a must go to Fredericton!

Now to my thoughts. Much of it revolves around a comparison of NLN with the other organizations. It really hits home how different NLN is from FLAG and GAE. Let's take a look at Halifax: a gay organization in a large urban area, 55 active members in GAE, which is responsible for operation of their club/disco, "The Turret" -- which has 1,000 social members. A successful group which has been active for 5(?) years.

FLAG is in a small urban area, total membership 200(?). They hold a dance every Saturday, and they have a phone-line which disseminates information about FLAG activities and provides a contact point for the gays in the area. They've been in existence for 1½ years, meeting 2 times per month.

Northern Lambda Nord. 70 members. One year old. No urban center around which to focus but dozens of small, rural towns, most less than 5,000 population, with no single town having more than 3 Lambda members and spread out over an area as large as the state of New Jersey (7 times the size of PEI). The executive committee is organized not as a hierarchy, with a president, vice-president, secretary, etcetera (as in FLAG), but as a collective of 6 people. A group whose members live in two countries, speak two languages and whose clocks are questioned as to "is that 2 o'clock your time or my time?"

I spend 2½ days in Fredericton in a totally gay environment, feeling incredibly positive and warm being around so many loving gay people and not wanting it to end -- and I arrive home depressed.

I realize Northern Lambda has been successful this past year, that our membership has grown steadily, that we have received newspaper coverage which has been denied the other gay groups by their anti-gay, homophobic local press, that we've stuck together despite the differences in language, the distances we must travel and the oftentimes staring eyes of our small town neighbors. I realize that we have a newsletter which has received positive ff feedback from many corners. But I say to myself -- can't we be more like the other groups? Even though most every phone call in our region is a toll call, would it be feasible if NLN set up a phone line? Don't we have any members who own or know someone who has access to a large hall or meeting place and who's not afraid to have a gay dance? Do we have enough members who would be willing to give out-of-towners a place to stay if we sponsor a regional gay meeting?

I sometimes get discouraged -- because of what appears to be lack of interest on the part of local gay people, and because of having to deal with aspects of rural life which make the functioning of an organization such as NLN more difficult.

But I'm living in the country because I want to. Too many gays feel they must move to Montréal or Toronto, to Boston or New York to be comfortable. But isn't that the primary purpose of NLN -- to provide a comfortable, supportive gay presence here in the boonies? To provide an atmosphere -- even just once per month -- where we can feel safe and can be ourselves? I guess we don't have our own club with dances every week -- but we can if enough of us want it. We just need to get together and do it! No one is