

Communiqué

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NORTHERN
L A M B D A
N O R D

ELECTION VICTORIES FROM AUGUSTA TO WASHINGTON

November saw an increasing number of lesbians and gaymen and our supporters winning elections in jurisdictions throughout the United States. In Aroostook County, State Representative **Judy Paradis** of Frenchville/Madawaska, ran unopposed in her bid for re-election to the Legislature. She has been a strong, outspoken supporter of civil rights for gay people in this state. In other County races, however, those candidates endorsed by the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) failed to win election. Every incumbent to the Maine House and Senate from Aroostook was re-elected, including noted homophobe **Mary MacBride** from Presque Isle.

The Maine Senate will be a brighter spot this next legislative session with the election of **Dale McCormick** of Monmouth in Senate district 18, which includes towns west and south of Augusta. McCormick, carpenter, teacher, and activist, is the former president of the MLGPA. She won the seat in a hotly contested race, defeating incumbent **Norman Weymouth** of West Gardiner. Weymouth accused McCormick of trying to cover up her homosexuality and radical politics. McCormick, who ran a very aggressive campaign with hundreds of volunteers, accused Weymouth of trying to distract voters from his mediocre record as a legislator.

In other Maine races **Susan Farnsworth**, another MLGPA member and an attorney, won re-election to the House seat from district 91 encompassing the Hallowell area, near Augusta. She defeated **Wayne Jacobs** by a wide margin. **Sive Neilan**, running for the Maine Senate from district 21 in the Rockland area, lost in her bid against opponent **Linda Brawn**.

In Maine's first Congressional district, which encompasses the southernmost part of the state, **Tom Andrews**, another supporter of our rights, will go to Washington, replacing **Joe Brennan** in Congress; Brennan lost in his bid for Governor

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ELECTION SCOREBOARD

Dale McCormick 9392

Norman Weymouth 8196

Susan Farnsworth 2120

Wayne Jacobs 1423

Linda Brawn 8946

Sive Neilan 6021

SENATE in AROOSTOOK COUNTY:

#1 - Ray Theriault - Fort Kent

#2 - Donald Collins - Caribou

#3 - Margaret Ludwig - Houlton

HOUSE in AROOSTOOK COUNTY:

#140 - Rodney Bowers - Island Falls

#141 - Nason Graham - Houlton

#142 - Mary MacBride - Presque Is.

#143 - James Donnelly - Presque Is.

#144 - Carolyn Mahany - Easton

#145 - Sue Pines - Limestone

#146 - Wilfred Bell - Caribou

#147 - Malachi Anderson - Woodland

#148 - Hilda Martin - Van Buren

#149 - Ed McHenry - Madawaska

#150 - Judy Paradis - Frenchville

#151 - John Martin - Eagle Lake



THREE ARRESTED IN CARIBOU GAY-BASHING

Three area men were arrested in connection with the October beating and robbery of Clayton

Fortin, 39, of Van Buren. All three were indicted by the Aroostook County

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against incumbent **John McKernan**. McKernan's spouse, **Olympia Snowe**, a longtime homophobe who represents the northern part of Maine, edged out her opponent in her bid for re-election to Congress.

In Massachusetts, the two members of the U.S. Congress who are out, **Barney Frank** and **Gerry Studds**, both won re-election. Studd's narrow margin of victory (52% to 48%) surprised and worried many of his supporters. Frank won easily with 65% of the vote. The Massachusetts governor's race pitted a conservative Democrat and homophobe against a Republican and lesbian-gay supporter; **William Weld**, the Republican, defeated **John Silber**, president of Boston University and target of protest for his opposition to non-discrimination sexual orientation statutes at that school.

In North Carolina, however, the premier homophobe in the U.S. Senate, **Jesse Helms** won re-election, pledging that we *ain't* seen nothin' yet! ▼

GAY-BASHING

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Grand Jury on a total of 20 counts.

The three charged are: Steve Plummer, 20, of Presque Isle, Ed Wilson, Jr, 22, of New Sweden, and Clayton Violette, 18, of Caribou.

The bashing occurred between 2 and 3am on the morning of Sunday, October 14 at the Caribou Rest Area (known as the "R.A.") on U.S. Route 1. The R.A. is a known meeting spot for gays.

Fortin was found unconscious Monday

around 9am in a gravel pit across from Route 1 near the Aroostook River. He was badly beaten about the head and face. Newspaper accounts gave no motive for the beating. Later news reports on WAGM-TV in Presque Isle quoted the State Police as viewing this as a gay-bashing, since the RA is a known "homosexual meeting place" and whether or not the victim was gay, the police felt that gay-bashing was the motive. ▼

A reasonable person would simply have discontinued his observation and left the scene; he would not kill the lovers. Whatever a persons' view about homosexuality, the law does not condone or excuse the killing of homosexuals any more than it condones the killing of heterosexuals.

Judge denying an appeal of a man who killed one lesbian and seriously injured her lover.

MINISTER RESPONDS TO GAY-BASHING

The following is a reprint of an article by the Rev. Sydney K. Wilde from the Caribou Unitarian-Universalist Church bulletin, November 2, 1990

Some of our members have come to me asking me to comment on the violent beating that took place a couple of weeks ago at the Rest Stop on the Access Road. One man was left for dead with his head kicked in. I understand that he is still in Intensive Care, and will probably never be the same again.

I'm also told that the motive for the violence was most likely Homophobia, Gay bashing. Apparently that Rest Area is a known rendez-vous (sic) for Gay men.

Well, I do have a response; it is one of out-rage, disillusionment, pain and sadness. There is no excuse for that kind of violence. It doesn't matter whether a person is red, brown, yellow, white or black, gay, straight or bisexual, physically, emotionally, mentally handicapped or sound, man or woman; there is no excuse for attempting to beat someone to death. Such bigotry and rage is based on fear, ignorance, self doubt and personal insecurity and immaturity. People who perpetuate violence on others have so much hatred & rage against themselves and/or their lives that they look for the first convenient target as acceptable for their violence. There is no excuse!

A common response to my out-rage is: "I don't condone the violence either, **BUT** neither do I approve of their life style.." I have never met a gay man who has **chosen** to be gay. How many heterosexuals do you now who have **chosen** to be attracted to the opposite sex? I know some gay men who have tried desperately to become "straight" and some who have chosen to be celibate rather than seek love and comfort from those to whom they are attracted, but none who **chose**

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Supreme Court to Army: Re-inlist that Gayman

During his 14 years in the U.S. Army, **Perry Watkins**, had compiled an exemplary record and received regular promotions. When he was drafted in 1967, he acknowledged that he was gay, but was nevertheless accepted. At each successive re-enlistment he again told his superiors that he was gay, but they allowed him to remain. However, in 1981, Army regulations changed; they mandated that all gaymen and lesbians be discharged. Watkins filed suit to force his reinstatement. The American Civil Liberties Union represented him in his efforts, which culminated in a 1989 decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, commanding the Army to accept Watkins. The Army appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On November 5, 1990, the Supreme Court handed Watkins a victory when they decided not to hear the appeal, *United States v. Watkins*. Their refusal lets stand the Circuit Court's ruling.

While this decision does not directly affect the military's ban on gay people in the armed forces, it sets an important precedent.

An interesting side note: While most every print and electronic news source reported the Supreme Court's decision, mention of it was notably absent from the *CBS Evening News with Dan Rather*, which is the only commercial U.S. network news source available to non-cable viewers in Aroostook County. ▼

SIDA

FUMEURS PLUS A RISQUE

Une recherche effectuée auprès de 1 000 hommes porteurs du VIH a révélé que les fumeurs parmi eux rencontrent un risque plus élevé de développer des symptômes du SIDA que les non-fumeurs. Selon cette étude de l'University of California à Berkley, le fait de fumer est un facteur qui accroît en effet ce risque, puisque pendant les 54 mois de la recherche, les fumeurs ont montré un taux de décès deux fois plus élevé en plus de développer un fongus et un SIDA complet. Les scientifiques croient que le fait de fumer augmente le nombre de cellules blanches qui, conséquemment, deviennent de nouvelles cibles pour le virus. ▼

AIDS

MORE RISK IF YOU SMOKE

A research study of around 1,000 men infected with HIV, the virus believed to cause AIDS, has shown that smokers are at greater risk of developing symptoms of the disease than are non-smokers. According to the 54-month study at the University of California at Berkeley, smokers had a rate of death two times greater, and had twice the chance of developing "full-blown" AIDS than non-smokers infected with HIV. Scientists feel that smoking increases the number of white blood cells which, consequently, become new targets for the virus. ▼

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to be attracted to their same sex. There are few people in this world who would chose to live with the shame and ostracism placed on gays in our society.

Other folk have complained, "Why do **they** meet in a Rest Area, anyway. Everything would be fine if **they'd** just keep to themselves at home." But when was the last time you went courting? Did you meet your husband or wife in your kitchen? Can you imagine what would happen if a fellow caught your eye at a restaurant or bar like straight men catch the eye of a single woman? All hell would break loose. It is not safe for gays to use the usual avenues for courting, so they are forced into clandestine meetings. I find myself disillusioned by this incident of Gay Bashing in a State which advertises, "Maine where life is the way it ought to be". No, not being able to use a Rest Area for fear that people might assume that your life style is different than theirs and beat you to a pulp and leave you for

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dead, that is not the way life should be.


Unitarian Universalist Principles declare that we support and affirm the worth and dignity of every person. That means that we as a religious community are committed to assuring that all people regardless of race, gender, physical, emotional or mental handicaps, or sexual **orientation** (not a preference, an **orientation**) receive basic human and civil rights. We as a religious group have an obligation to speak out when injustice is done. It is not an easy thing to do. **But**, tolerance (even acceptance) of diversity as well as a commitment to justice, equity and compassion in human relations is the vital core of our religious beliefs. In the future I intend to speak out publicly on this issue. I hope many of you will join me. If you can't bring yourself to speak out for acceptance of differing sexual orientations, at least speak out against the violence. In a small community such as Caribou, **we can make a difference.**

And, I welcome open dialogue here in our church.

Sincerely, Sydney ▼

Communiqué

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USA. Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber/Téléphone: 207.498-2088
AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP meets Sundays, 7pm (Maine time) in Madawaska. Groupe bilingue/bilingual group. Call NLN Phonenumber, 207.498-2088 to contact.
AM CHOFSI Maine Jewish group, meets monthly; 207.871-1014 (Bob)
DOWNEAST LESBIAN GAY ORGANIZATION (DELGO), Unitarian Church, 126 Union Street, Bangor 04401, 942-6503
DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland 04104
GAIS & LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/ GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CP/POB 7102, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.858-1013
GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern Maine, 92 Bedford Street, Portland 04102, 207.780-4085

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK POB 212, Bangor 04401, 862-5907/866-7958
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OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine, published monthly, 9 Deering Street, POB 10744, Portland 04104, 761-0733
OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, age 22 and under, POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04102, 774-HELP/774-TALK
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