

Communiqué

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NORTHERN
LAMBDA
N O R D

HOMOPHOBIC UNITARIANS IN CARIBOU

At least two members of the board of the Caribou Unitarian-Universalist Church are less than gay-supportive. When told at a board meeting that their minister was leading a discussion on "Homosexuality & Religion" for a Lambda discussion group, two board members left the room. The Caribou church has had a homophobic reputation for years.

RESULTS OF SURVEY OF AREA PROFESSIONALS

Since early December 1990, surveys were sent to more than 135 area physicians, dentists, lawyers, and clergy asking if they would accept referrals from NLN's Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, from people looking for a "gay-positive" doctor, lawyer, or minister. As of February 25, 1991, these are the positive responses:

PHYSICIANS

Paul Pelletier, Eagle Lake; Aroostook Valley Health Center, Ashland; Lee M. Wong, Madawaska; Nancy O'Neill, Presque Isle; Paul S. Hamlin, Presque Isle

ATTORNEYS

Bernard O'Mara, Easton; Frank D'Alessandro, Pine Tree Legal, Presque Isle; Margaret Johnson, Presque Isle; Bob Bellfleur, Madawaska; James Moriarty, Presque Isle; Peter Kelley, Caribou

CLERGY

Rev. Sydney Wilde, Unitarian Church, Caribou; Rev. William Barter, St. Joseph's Catholic, Wallagrass; Rev. James Plourde, St-Agathe Catholic, St. Agatha; Elder Duane Gordon, Church of Christ, Caribou
* "While I personally hold no animosity toward the gay community, and will help them when possible, I must honestly inform you that my chief goal in any such encounter will be to influence them to get out of a Biblically immoral situation." D. Gordon ▼

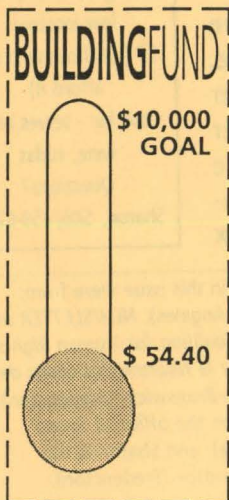
IS THE BDN MORE SUPPORTIVE THAN GCN?

A press release from Northern Lambda Nord was published by both the *Bangor Daily News* and the *Maine Times* but failed to appear in either *Gay Community News* or *The ADVOCATE*, two major gay-lesbian publications.

The news reports detailed the refusal of the Loring Air Force Base newspaper, the *Limelite*, to continue to accept advertising from the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, a project of Northern Lambda Nord. The Loring Base Commander, speaking through his representatives at the Office of Public Affairs, let the Presque Isle publisher of the Air Force weekly know that the Commander could keep the paper from being distributed on base if the publisher accepted the Phoneline ad. The Public Affairs Officer said that this was only a matter of information, not a threat. This effectively keeps Northern Lambda Nord from gaining access to advertising space in the *Limelite*. Requests for investigations by Maine Senators Mitchell and Cohen and Member of Congress Snowe were fruitless.

The Presque Isle staff writer from the *Bangor Daily News* contacted members of Lambda to verify the press release before publication. The article appeared on the business page of their statewide edition of the paper rather than on the Aroostook County page, where other NLN press releases have been printed. The *Maine Times* picked up the story and published an article about the incident.

Two of the largest lesbian-gay publications in the US did not print the press release. Members of Lambda expressed their feelings that perhaps *The ADVOCATE* and *Gay Community News* felt the item "was not newsworthy". ▼



BOOK REPORT

Northern Lambda Nord's lending library, **Bibliothèque Lambda**, has over 300 volumes in its collection. Volunteers are cataloguing the books, which include fiction, non-fiction, and reference materials. A "library party" will be held soon to collect information about the books. People will be asked to help fill in forms with details about each book;

this information will then go into the computer and a master library list will be sent to each Lambda member. To give people an idea of what's in *Bibliothèque Lambda*, a sampling of books in the library will be published in *Communiqué* each month.

☞ **MY COUNTRY, MY RIGHT TO SERVE:** *Experiences of Gaymen and Women in the Military, World War II to the present* by Mary Ann Humphrey (1990). The author was a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve for nine years until her discharge for being a lesbian. This book is an oral history, ranging over the past five decades. "When I was in the military they gave me a medal for killing two men, and a discharge for loving one." -- Leonard Matlovich, Vietnam. "General Eisenhower said, 'It's been reported to me that there are lesbians in the WAC battalion. I want you to find them and give me a list. We've got to get rid of them.' I said, 'Sir, if the General pleases, I'll be happy to check into this and make you a list. But you've got to know, when you get the list back, my name's going to be the first.'" -- Johnnie Phelps, World War II

☞ **SOCRATES, PLATO, & GUYS LIKE ME:** *Confessions of a gay schoolteacher*, by Eric E. Rofes (1985). Former staff member of

Gay Community News in Boston and longtime activist, Eric Rofes was a featured speaker at an Atlantic Gay-Lesbian Conference in Fredericton. This book tells of his life as a gay teacher in suburban Boston, providing the opportunity to view the issue from the front of the classroom and not from the pulpit, school board, or legislature.

☞ **THE COMING OUT STORIES** edited by Julia Penelope Stanley and Susan J. Wolfe (1980). This is a collection of 41 essays by women; both men and women can relate to these stories. "One of the greatest hurdles a Lesbian faces in her life is the hurdle of self-acceptance. The intimate glimpses of Lesbian lives in *The Coming Out Stories* gives the reader a sense of the fear and pain, the bewilderment and denial that comes out of being different in a conformist society. But over-all, there is an awareness of the rightness of each woman's feelings, the triumph of her self-acceptance, and the strength her knowledge of self brings to her."

☞ **THE SECRETS OF MABEL EASTLAKE** by Donald S. Olson (1986) Three murders occurred on the same night in 1939 in the mansion of screen star Mabel Eastlake. According to Hollywood legend, her lover had killed both her husband and her director, then taken his own life. The truth about recluse Eastlake's life intrigues a gay investigative reporter, Alex Klein.

Do more
than belong.
Participate.



SO THEY SAY

Support for lesbian and gay civil rights must be viewed not in the context of the Bible or the Koran but in the context of the Constitution. - Rev. Jesse Jackson



WOMYN'S DANCE

Saturday, March 2
9pm-1am (N-B time)
St. Charbel's Hall, corner
Argyle & Westmorland
Streets, Fredericton.
Admission: \$3
(unwaged, unemployed,
low income)
\$5 (for those who can
afford it)
Cash bar - serves beer,
wine, sodas
Questions?
Sharon, 506/459-9726

NEWS & FEATURES in this issue were from:
The ADVOCATE (Los Angeles), *NEWSLETTER of the New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform/Coalition pour la réforme des droits de la personne au Nouveau-Brunswick* (Fredericton), *OTTAWA REPORT* from the office of Svend Robinson, MP (Ottawa), and Sharon & the Womyn's Dance committee (Fredericton).

NEW/NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Spokespersons for a human rights coalition appeared before the New Brunswick Legislature's Law Amendments Committee in Fredericton. *The New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform/La Coalition pour la Réforme des Droits de la Personne du Nouveau-Brunswick*, is the province-wide organization which is working for inclusion of discrimination protection for lesbians & gays in the N.B Human Rights Code. Claude Olivier, Coalition president, and Thérèse Robitaille testified before the legislative committee, urging adoption of legislation to ban such discrimination in employment, housing, and public services. "A 1990 survey shows that half of gay New Brunswickers have experienced anti-gay discrimination in employment and 17% have experienced discrimination in public services," said Olivier. "Over 80% have experienced some type of violence and abuse; 40% have experienced some form of harassment in school," he added.

The Law Amendments Committee held public hearings on the *Towards a World Family* report, also known as the Ferris Report; Charles Ferris is the Solicitor for the Ombudsman. The 270 page report, released in November 1990, makes 152 recommendations dealing with human rights, one of which is that discrimination based upon sexual orientation be banned. Such civil rights protections already exist in Québec, Manitoba, the Yukon, and Ontario, protecting more than half the Canadian population. The New Brunswick Coalition proposes that "sexual orientation" be defined as "heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality." Non-gays would be protected against discrimination because of their orientation or because they associated with gays or were mistaken to be gay.

Robitaille noted that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees equal protection of the law without regard to sexual orientation. However, most persons cannot afford to enforce their Charter rights in court. Accordingly, an amendment to the provincial Human Rights code is necessary; the existing Code is probably invalid because it fails to protect against anti-gay discrimination.

A 1985 Gallup poll showed that 71% of Atlantic Canadians supported a sexual orientation amendment. Organizations which support such an amendment include the *Société des Acadiens et Acadiennes du Nouveau-Brunswick*. ▼

CAMPAIGN TO ADD CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS IN MAINE GEARS UP

While New Brunswickers work to gain equal rights in that province in a legislature composed solely of members of the Liberal Party, the effort in Maine is gearing up for a late spring vote to amend that state's Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation in housing, employment, public accommodations, and credit.

The Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance is the driving force to gain equal civil rights for gaymen, lesbians, and bisexual persons in the state. At their 6th annual Awards Banquet in early February in Augusta, over 400 supporters heard the prediction that this year is the year that both houses of the Maine Legislature will pass this bill. Tom Andrews, newly-elected member of the US Congress from southern Maine, Dale McCormick, Maine's first openly-lesbian State Senator, and US Congressman Gerry Studds, one of two openly-gay members of the House of Representatives, all felt the momentum was with us this year. NOW is the time to contact your State Senator and Representative and urge them to support civil rights for all Mainers. ▼

CANADIAN ACT MAY BE AMENDED

Justice minister Kim Campbell recently confirmed that she will soon introduce amendments to the Canadian Human Rights Act, the first since the law took effect in 1978. According to the offices of Svend Robinson, MP from Burnaby, B.C. and the only openly-gay member of Parliament, now is the time to contact your MPs and urge them to support an amendment to include "sexual orientation" as a prohibited ground of discrimination. ▼

A I D S

THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER

CONSIDERED SAFE:

Mutual masturbation, Hugging/body rubbing, Massage, Social (dry) kissing, Fantasy, Light S/M (without bleeding or bruising), Sex toys (when used only on yourself)

CONSIDERED POSSIBLY SAFE:

Anal or vaginal intercourse with a condom, French (wet) kissing, Sucking (but stopping before climax), Watersports (external only), Cunnilingus

CONSIDERED UNSAFE:

Swallowed semen, Anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom, Watersports in mouth or on skin with sores or cuts, Sharing IV needles, Fisting or rimming, Sharing enema equipment, douching equipment, or sex toys

Westman House

circa 1890

A Bed and Breakfast
in the Heart of Aroostook County

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Caribou, Maine 04736
207 896.5726

Communiqué

COMMUNIQUÉ publié dix fois par année par **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**, une organisation pour la communauté lesbienne-gaie-bisexuelle au nord-ouest du Nouveau Brunswick et au nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton-Aroostook). **ABONNEMENTS** - 10\$ par année. **COTISATION NLN** - 15\$ par année, dans lequel inclus la subscription. Les fond E-U et canadiennes sont acceptés au par. Ceux qui ont de la difficulté financièrement, des paiements à terme peut être organisée. NLN est une organisation a but non-lucratif; toutes donations sont taxe deductible aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le **COMMUNIQUÉ** sont disponible. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenue. **COMMUNIQUÉ** is published ten times yearly by **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**, an organization serving the lesbian-gay-bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton counties). **SUBSCRIPTIONS** - \$10 per year. **NLN MEMBERSHIP** - \$15 per year, which includes a subscription. U.S. and Canadian funds are accepted at par. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are U.S. tax-deductible. Advertising rates in **COMMUNIQUÉ** are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA. Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégal - 207.498-2088
AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP meets Sundays, 7pm (Maine time) in Madawaska. Groupe bilingue/bilingual group. Call NLN Phoneline, 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 G•U•I•D•E Lesbienne/Gai

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK POB 212, Bangor 04401, 862-5907/866-7958
GAY/LESBIAN PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 780-4085/772-4741
GROUPE GAIE DE L'UNIVERSITE LAVAL (GGUL) CP 2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cité Universitaire, Sainte-Foy, Québec G1K 7P4, 418.648-2751
HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-levi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104
INTEGRITY Episcopalian group, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 623-3041/845-2985
LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102
MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 1792, Portland 04104, 874-6596 (leave message)
MAINE LESBIAN-GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB 232, Hallowell 04347

NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA REFORME DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK POB/CP 1556, Station/Succursale A, Fredericton E3B 5G2
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
PARENTS & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS & GAYS (P-FLAG), POB 2080, Great Island, Brunswick 04011, 725-4769/729-0519/623-2349
PWA (People With AIDS) COALITION OF MAINE 377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland 04101, 773-8500
WILDE-STEIN CLUB Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono 04469