

# Mainely Gay

JULY/AUGUST 1980

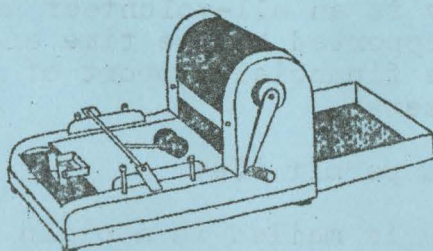






# CONTENTS

1	WHO WE ARE	<i>Contributors</i>
2	NOTE TO READERS	<i>Editors</i>
3	FEEDBACK	<i>Letters</i>
5	NEWS	<i>Lesbian/Gay Press</i>
9	ANTHOLOGY FOR TEACHERS	<i>P. Kellogg &amp; S. Anderson</i>
10	CUMBERLAND COUNTY CURMUDGEON	<i>Susan Henderson</i>
12	LABOR DAY CONFERENCE	<i>M.G.M. &amp; D.E.G.A.</i>
15	STATE STREET STRAW	<i>Peter Prizer</i>
23	DICHOTOMY IN WALDO COUNTY	<i>Denise Goodman</i>
34	SEABROOK OCCUPATION/BLOCKADE	<i>No Nuclear News</i>
40	GAY/LESBIAN CUBAN REFUGEES	<i>Dale Leeche</i>
42	WHITE HOUSE RESPONDS	<i>Press Release</i>
43	LISTING OF LESBIAN/GAY ORGANIZATIONS SERVING MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, VERMONT AND ATLANTIC CANADA	



# Who We Are

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## LAYOUT

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## COVER

tim bouffard (see note to readers)

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

annual sub rate.....\$8  
single copy.....\$1

## ADVERTISING

rates available upon request.

The opinions of Mainely Gay are expressed only in its editorials and Note To Readers.

Mainely Gay is published approximately every two months (six issues per year) in Portland, Maine.

Please mail all subscriptions, correspondence, advice and admonitions to: Mainely Gay, PO Box 4542, Portland, Maine 04112.

Mainely Gay is an all-volunteer non-profit publication. It is supported by the time and energy of the staff and by the financial support of friends and the display advertisers.

Third-class permit #284

Mainely Gay is mailed in a plain envelope.



# Note To Readers

AS we began to put this issue together, the thought occurred (as thoughts often do, at times, with this group) that we had produced a NO NUKES issue, by virtue of the various articles on nuclear power that appear on these pages.

This realization was perfectly OK with us, as we are opposed to the idea and reality of nuclear energy, and the 23rd of September is, after all, the date of the referendum that will decide the fate of nuclear energy in Maine.

However, we do realize that the main idea of this publication is not to report on news concerning the environment except in the abstract), and we have managed to include a few essays on human liberation, too. Or so we think...

WE'VE reprinted an article on Midcoast Gay Men and Maine Lesbian Feminists that appeared in the Belfast "Republican Journal" in September, 1979. We contacted the author to request permission to reprint, but we never heard

from her, so we took the response, or lack of one, to indicate her tacit approval.

Rather than attempt to edit an article that--how can we say this?--was intended for readers of the "Republican Journal," we have merely presented it as it originally appeared.

THE cover, like last issue's, is taken from a poster by Tim Bouffard entitled, "Is Your Homophobia Hurting a Friend?" We don't know if our phobias are hurting any friends, but the single poster we've got certainly can't stand too many more assaults with the scissors. Again, Thanks, Tim!

THIS issue is MG's Sixth year of publication, a feat more remarkable than it appears when one considers that most of us had had enough after the 4th or 5th issue, back in 1974. All collector's items, folks!



# FEEDBACK

Dear Mainely Gay,

The Metropolitan Community Church is an ecumenical church with a special ministry to Lesbian and Gay people. Its primary outreach is the service and support of the Gay community and has accomplished this in other cities through weekly worship services, Gay and Lesbian drop-in centers, hotlines and support groups and through political organizing and involvement in the media.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, UFMCC, numbers over 100 churches and missions in the world as diverse as conservative fundamental churches in southern United States, innovative churches in northeast United States, a tribal church in New Zealand and mission of India's Untouchables. UFMCC clearly carries out the Biblical messages of liberation from all oppressive societies and remains one of the strongest challenges to the mainline churches in the area of sexuality and acceptance of all people as sexual beings.

Some members of MCC Worcester, Ma. will be moving to Portland this Fall and would like to contact anyone who may have an interest in MCC in the Portland area. If you would like to know more about MCC or have any questions please contact:

Carole Dees  
c/o MCC Worcester  
2 Wellington St.  
Worcester, MA 01610

Everyone at Mainely Gay,

I want to thank you for a delightful read! You are all obviously well endowed with a keen political



sense, and a beautiful sense of humor.

I found you recently as I browsed through the Oscar Wilde bookstore on Christopher Street in Manhattan. I saw this little booklet nudged in between all of the others - I laughed out loud when I read the title, and grabbed it immediately.

Maine is very dear to me as I've always spent my summers there. It is also where I had my first gay sexual experience (in the middle of Lake Androscoggin!), and it is where I will return this month and next - for the first time as a self-realized gay person.

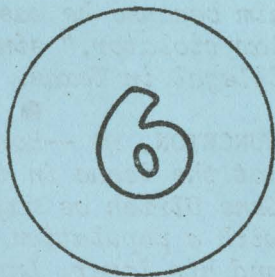
I'd love to meet any or all of you if you ever pass through the Augusta area. Or, if you ever visit New York city or New Jersey, please look me up.

After all, brothers and sisters are stronger when they are together.

Best wishes to all of you!

Sincerely,

Mark





# news

ANCHORAGE, AK --According to Gay Alaska, Holly Coors, wife of the President of the Board of Directors of Adolph Coors, Co., made a \$5,000 contribution in December 1979 to the Moral Majority Political Action Committee, an anti-gay lobbying group in Washington. The donation was discovered through reports on file with the Federal Elections Commission.

LOS ANGELES, CA --"Cruising" was shown across the country with an R rating, when it actually got an X rating. Although Producer Jerry Weintraub and Director William Friedkin agreed to cut 108 seconds from the film that offended the Classification and Rating Administration, those cuts were never made. Weintraub and Friedkin, in effect, told the rating system where to go and got away with it.

NEW YORK, NY --The Gay Switchboard of New York was denied tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue. The district office believes the Switchboard is more a function and service of the gay business community than a charity aimed at the entire gay and lesbian community. The Switchboard, the oldest continuously functioning gay hotline in the country, is appealing the decision.

LOS ANGELES, CA --Four city council members raised a question at a hearing of the Police, Fire and Public Safety Commission of the Los Angeles City Council. "Why are policemen in gay bars in the numbers they are, when there are serious crimes all over the city of Los Angeles?" The department has been sharply criticised by gay bar owners, disco patrons and straight citizens for concentration on "victimless crimes" rather than more serious ones.

LAKELAND, CO --Golden District Judge Winston Wolvington ordered lesbian mother Carol Mueller to relinquish custody of her 9-year-old son to their father and to pay him \$200 per month child support. The children's father sued for custody after he learned his ex-wife was involved in a relationship with another woman.

DALLAS, TX --A 29-year-old, Steve C. Childers, has sued the police department for refusing to hire him because he was "a habitual law violator," since sodomy is illegal in Texas.

BUNCETON, MO --Homosexuality was not the issue in the election of Gene Ulrich as mayor of the town with a population of 437, Ulrich and his lover, Larry Fowler are well known and respected. Everyone seemed to agree he was the best person for the job.



NEW YORK, NY --A manual used in the Fire Arson Investigation Training Course of the National Fire Academy has been revised following a complaint by the National Gay Task Force. The manual asserted that female arsonists are often thought to be lesbians. Further it claimed that a male pyromaniac, if a homosexual, retains distinct predilection for arson "initiated by hatred, jealousy or other uncontrolled emotions."

HONOLULU, HA --Hawaii Governor Ariyoshi has stated his support for the civil rights of gay men and women. He promised to meet with his cabinet to discuss how they could best respond to the civil rights needs of gay people.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN --Sharon Bailey, coordinator of the John Anderson delegates and George Soule, head of Anderson's Minnesota campaign, asked Tom Higgins, a local gay bathhouse employee, to drop out of the delegate race because he is a high-visibility gay activist. Higgins agreed to do so.

LINCOLN, NE --The tribal councils of the Sioux Indians are upset by passages in Ruth Beebe Hill's best selling book *Hanta Yo* which reviewers have touted as the Indian version of *Roots*. The book refers to homosexuals (winkte) having ritual status in Sioux

society, oral sex as part of the marriage ceremony, and the ritual sodomizing of war prisoners.

SANTA BARBARA, CA --Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden were hosts at a "Gay Western Week-end" at their 200-acre Laurel Springs Ranch, a mountain-top spread outside Santa Barbara. The week-end long party was a political fund-raiser for the Campaign for Economic Democracy founded by Hayden and his wife to foster cooperation between the citizen activist organization and the gay community.

DORCHESTER, MA --Integrity, the organization for gay Episcopalians has announced two winners of the 1980 Integrity Award. Dr. Evelyn Hooker, pioneer in scientific studies of gay people and Dr. E. Otis Charles Episcopal Bishop of Utah and long time supporter of the gay Christian community will be presented the awards at the Integrity Convention in Boston on August 21-24.

DENVER, CO --Coors Beer Company, which has been the target of a gay boycott, donated a delivery truck to the Metropolitan Community Church. The company has taken out ads in many gay publications and sent letters to gay leaders throughout California trying to counteract what they feel is an unfair boycott against the company.



PITTSBURG, PA --200 Lesbians, gay men and supporters gathered to "Greet Anita Bryant" as she appeared before a private function of Shriners. The demonstration was not a protest against Bryant's right to sing or appear before the Shriners, but a protest of her continued role as spokesperson for anti-lesbian/gay, anti-abortion and anti-ERA forces.

RALEIGH, NC --Wake County Democrats recently endorsed a platform that calls for "protecting the civil rights of gay and lesbian people and the repeal of all laws which are used to stigmatize persons on the basis of sexual preference." The gay rights resolution was passed by a vote of 529 to 400 at the party's county convention in Raleigh.

MILWAUKEE, WI --An openly gay man is running as the presidential candidate of the Socialist Party, U.S.A. David McReynolds was unanimously nominated by the party at a February special convention to run for president.

NEW YORK, NY --The National Gay Task Force announced that Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem-MA) has promised to sign an Executive order banning discrimination against homosexuals in government and services if he is elected Pres.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA --The San Fran-

cisco Lesbian Chorus angrily stormed out of a benefit concert for San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt charging entertainer Charles Pierce was "racist" and "sexist." A spokesperson for the group stated that Pierce's opening material was offensive on many levels, including being racist, sexist, woman-hating, anti-Semitic and classist."

CHICAGO, IL --Marlo Thomas walked Michigan Avenue to campaign for the ERA recently. As she approached a line of construction workers eating lunch, one of them, Robert McCullough, stared after her, then rose to his feet in anger. "I'm sick and tired of communist stuff," he exclaimed. "If you pass ERA you're just backing the homosexuals and turning Illinois into another California. Listen, people think ERA's just for women. It's not. It's for the homos. It means equal rights for everybody. Regardless of someone's perversions it says they're just like everybody else."

Editor's Note: Right on!!

SAN FRANCISCO, CA --On September 1, Atlan Savings and Loan, the nation's first gay savings enterprise, plans to open its doors to the public. Almost \$3 million dollars has been pledged from 600 stockholders and Atlas has already received its state permit, awaiting federal ins. approval.



# news

MASHAD, IRAN --According to the official Iranian news agency, PARS, five men were sentenced to death by the firing squad by the Islamic Revolutionary Court on charges ranging from adultery to sodomy.

PARIS, FRANCE --Gay Soviet filmmaker Sergei Paradjanov has asked permission from the Soviet government to emigrate to France. Paradjanov, an Armenian noted for his support of the rights of national minorities in the U.S.S.R., served a prison sentence for his homosexuality in 1973.

TIJUANA, MEXICO --The first gay rights coalition of Tijuana has been organized. FIGHT (Frente Internacional de Garantías Humanas de Tijuana) plans to protest anti gay U.S. immigration policies. They have also announced Mexico's first gay hotline. For more information write FIGHT, AP 3302, Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico.

ETON COLLEGE, ENGLAND --The Headmaster of Eton, Britain's most celebrated public (i.e. private) school, announced the practice of "fagging" will be banned as of July, when the current term ends. Eton was founded in 1440 by Henry VI, and fagging became popular in the 17th century. Young servants are called "fags" and their ser-

vice "fagging," became in the 1660's "to fag" meant to toil. There are many different types of "fags" at Eton including "tea fags," "common fags," and "library fags." The young person who preserved discipline among the group has the title of "Keeper of the Fag."

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA --Potchefstroom College, a teacher's training college in Johannesburg, has officially expelled four students for being homosexual. Apparently their sole offense was to have frequented gay clubs and bars in the area. All four students had above average academic records and the news of the expulsion has only recently been made public by a Durban newspaper which claimed that authorities may have used intimidation in their investigation since it is understood that two of the students were asked to sign sworn affidavits implicating other students.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA --Lesbians and gay men here are boycotting a popular disco following alleged attacks on women by the disco's promoter. No women would be allowed to enter on Wednesday nights (Gay Night), unless accompanied by a gay male. Walsh reportedly instituted the policy after vandalism to the women's toilets.



## LESBIAN AND GAY ANTHOLOGY FOR TEACHERS

We are soliciting articles on experiences of being lesbian or gay in elementary or high school and experiences of teachers who have discussed lesbian and gay issues with students. The Education Exploration Center, an alternative education organization, is compiling an anthology on teaching lesbian and gay issues in pre-school through twelfth grade. The book will contain personal experiences, information, lesson ideas and a resource list. We need articles such as: coming out to the principle; handling queer jokes; being a minority within a minority, like a Black or Jewish lesbian; being gay in a Catholic school or on an Indian Reservation; and student's reactions to a gay speaker. We particularly want experiences from a Third World, ethnic, working-class and rural perspective.

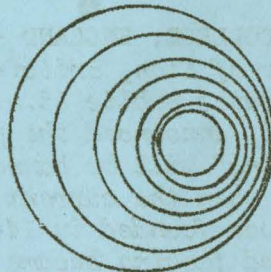
What would you like to see taught about lesbians and gays? What ways of explaining lesbian and gay issues have you found useful? We need articles about: positive aspects of being lesbian or gay; scape-goating, homophobia, stereotypes; sexism and sex-roles; gay themes in young people's literature and media; lesbian and gay literature and history; and teaching ideas for English, history and psychology classes.

For the Resource List, let us know of any books, articles, films or tapes useful for teachers, students or parents. Send us the address of any organizations in your area which provides classroom speakers or support to teachers or students.

Write: Polly Kellogg or Shelley Anderson  
Education Exploration Center  
PO Box 7339, Powderhorn Station  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

(612) 722-6612 Ext. 6

Donations are needed and are tax-exempt.



Thanks!



# Cumberland County Curmudgeon

By Susan W. Henderson

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## TEMPUS FUGIT, OR, THE NOSTALGIA NUMBER

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It's hard to believe that *Mainely Gay* has been publishing for six years. In fact, considering the exceedingly ad hoc nature of our organization (?), it is one of Goddess's miracles. We started out as the *Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter*, four sheets of legal-sized paper stapled in a corner. It was a rough printing job, but oh, the contents!

It is amazing, looking back on it, how many things our people were doing. There were at least six or seven active Gay groups. We started having the Maine Gay Symposium every year. In fact, it was Symposium I that brought MGTF and the *Newsletter* into being. We had monthly dances and suppers all over the state. We picketed the Stowe house for firing all their women servers to hire men. We picketed the Freedom Train because it was commercial and left out minority groups, including ours. We picketed Wells and Ogunquit for their homophobia. We picketed TV stations over homophobic shows--remember "Marcus Welby" and "Policewoman"? For over a year MGTF had its own office and phone line. Twice we tried to get a Gay Rights bill through the Maine legislature; and we succeeded in getting a Gay Rights plank in the state Democratic Party platform.

One of my favorite memories is of rushing out leaflets on the Bangor Unitarian Church's hand-crank mimeo in time for the convention, after one of the brothers and I had too-liberally sampled the candidates' hospitality suites the night before, and then rushing home to fry chicken for the Wilde-Stein Club picnic the next day.

continued on next page



## —WHERE IS ALL THAT ENERGY NOW?—

The energy's going in different places now, I think, but it's still there. The Gay movement hasn't died--we found that out when Anita Bryant hove onto the scene. Again we had meetings--I remember one community-wide one in the late Phoenix disco. Again there were phone calls, fund-raising, and a picket when one of Bryant's fellow travellers, Word of Life Inc., came to town. That was a first in the country and made the AP wire service (as was the Freedom Train picket).

When the need arises, the energy is there. In the meantime, we put our energy into being a community, into the human relationships out of which support networks grow. Some issues are still with us. The struggle against sexism is part of the daily lives of many of us. Racism is not as immediate an issue here as it is in the cities, but it is nonetheless present, and I hope we are working on that too. The community is quiet the way a plant is quiet--not much noise and movement, but growth is taking place.

*Mainely Gay* is growing too. Our mimeographing and layout have become more polished. We've developed an exchange network with publications all over the country and in Canada, and so can print more news. We've run some outrageous stuff, and sometimes made everybody angry, but I think we learned from it. In one way the quieting-down of the community has hurt us--we need people to write and draw for us! Send in your stuff--it will be read all over the country! Meanwhile, as I am fond of saying, *MG* continues to flourish like the green bay tree. Hope you readers do, too.

A political benefit weekend will be held in Bellows Falls, Vermont August 15-17. The weekend will benefit the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, the March on Washington Debt Fund, the Southeast Vermont Lesbian and Gay Men's Coalition and Gay Community News of Boston. For information contact Andrews Inn, Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101; (802) 463-3966.



## "GETTING IN TOUCH"

(A Conference for Gay & Bisexual Men)

### LABOR DAY WEEKEND

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SPONSORED BY

MAINE GAY MEN & DOWN EAST GAY ALLIANCE

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Maine Gay Men and Down East Gay Alliance will hold a gathering of Gay and Bisexual men on Labor Day weekend at a location near Bath. Participants are invited to bring canoes, games and outdoor recreation equipment; also tents and sleeping bags. LIMITED indoor lodge space will be available. FRIDAY EVENING refreshments, and SATURDAY and SUNDAY brunch and supper will be provided.

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### WORKSHOP TOPICS

GAYS AND SPIRITUALITY---GAY DRINKING AND HEALTH---ECONOMIC SURVIVAL AND LEGAL CONTRACTS---ORGANIZING A STATE-WIDE GAY SELF-DEFENSE NETWORK---MASSAGE---FEMINISM AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM---HOW TO ORGANIZE A GAY GROUP---COMING OUT IN RURAL MAINE---

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FOR REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION CONTACT:

### "GETTING IN TOUCH"

PO Box 554  
BAR HARBOR, ME  
04906

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PHONE

(207) 832-4041 OR (207) 288-4369

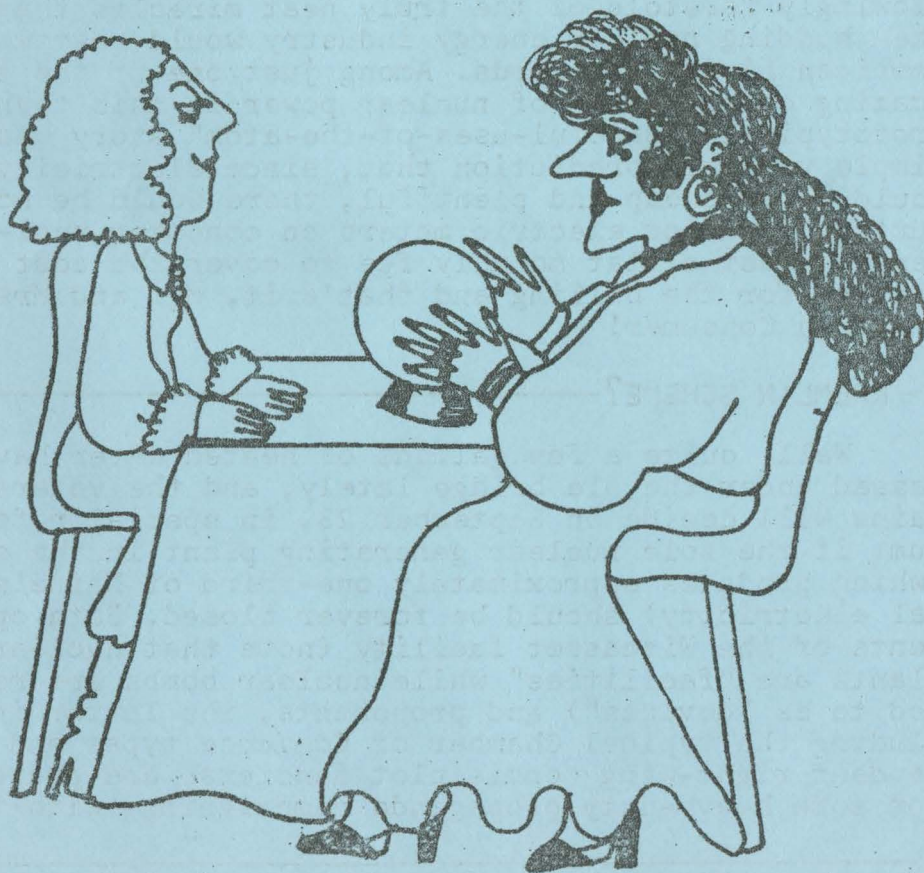


LESBIAN CORRESPONDENCE CLUB  
Directory of sisters arranged  
by state codes. Join fastest  
growing club of its kind with  
members all over the U.S. In-  
expensive, but effective. Send  
S.A.S.E. for free details to:  
THE NEW DAWN, P.O. Box 907,  
Phoenix, AZ 85001.





**LESBIAN CONTACT: WE ARE EVERYWHERE!!**  
Write to lesbians in other parts of  
the U.S. and Canada. Send general in-  
formation about yourself - likes, dis-  
likes, hobbies - and the state or pro-  
vince you wish to write to. Include  
\$1 (cash only) for postage and hand-  
ling to: **WRITESISTERS**, P.O. Box 8824,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408



cartoon from "I'm In Training To Be  
Tall and Blonde" by nicole holland



# The State Street Straw

By Peter Prizer

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## GONE FISSION...

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The concept of generating electricity by nuclear reaction or, more precisely, the boiling of water with heat created by nuclear reaction, first impressed my fragile mind, it seems, sometime back in the late 1950's, when I remember one particularly astute article in an issue of (excuse me) Reader's Digest that glowingly foretold of the truly neat miracles that the then budding nuclear energy industry would bestow upon American Living Standards. Among just one of the truly amazing consequences of nuclear power in this then prototypical "peaceful-uses-of-the-atom" story was the simple yet bold prediction that, since electricity would be so cheap and plentiful, there would be no further need for electric meters on consumer residences. Just a flat monthly fee to cover the cost of postage for the billing and that's it, Mr. and Mrs. American Consumer!

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## — KREMLIN SCHEME? —

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Well, quite a few gallons of heated water have passed under the ole bridge lately, and the voters of Maine will decide on September 23, in special referendum, if the sole nuclear generating plant in the state (which produces approximately one-third of Maine's total electricity) should be forever closed. Both opponents of the Wiscasset facility (note that nuclear plants are "facilities" while nuclear bombs are referred to as "devices") and proponents, the latter including the typical Chamber of Commerce types and attendant right-wing commie plot fanciers, are geared up for some heavy-duty propaganda campaigning, with the



pro-nukers in the obvious position to spend the most money influencing voters between now and the 23rd. For no-nukers (the side I'm on) the first dilemma is that Central Maine Power (CMP) is flatly promising ratepayers bills will rise if Maine Yankee is forced to close (to pay for expensive replacement fuel, they say), and we all know that electric bills have, in the past few years, grown from a minor inconvenience for many to a major expenditure for all. And many voters in Maine are aware that CMP's first allegiance in all financial transactions is to providing an "adequate" stock dividend to its far-flung stockholders--the great majority of whom probably don't reside, with the exception of the summer months, within a 100-mile radius of Wiscasset. For the "Save Maine Yankee" group, the problem will be at least two-fold: first, they must not give the appearance of lavishing utility money too blatantly during the campaign and generate an unfortunate backlash similar to that experienced by the greedy beer distributors in recently held bottle bill referenda, and second, they must appear to be honestly up-front about some of the risks inherent with nuclear energy, thus developing trust with the citizens, yet not too up-front, lest the po' folks freak and banish the beast once and for all.

#### —DEALER WINS IN CASE OF TIE—

There is one slight problem for the anti-nukers and, conversely, a possible ace-in-the-sleeve for the utilities: the whole referendum may be unconstitutional. The courts will decide if federal law preempts state statute in the area of nuclear regulation, and it's likely that the courts will go with the feds on this one.

Virtually all of the state's "responsible" media support the CMP position that nuclear power is crucially needed (among other things, to put out newspapers), with sundry variations here and there, depending on the particular editorial slant of the individual enterprise



(Maine Times being the sole exception, thus far.) Up to now, the debate, or so it seems, has centered on the basic pros and cons of nuclear energy (with brief forays into fantasy by the particularly paranoid of both persuasions), but the referendum itself--by virtue of its very existence--has much more long-term significance for all of us.

### —THEY GOOFED—

In short, the decision-makers, both entrenched in government and corporate business, made a rather large error when they heartily embraced nuclear power and then decided to casually integrate the whole deal among the population at large (that's us.) That a nuke exists only 85 miles or so from Times Square attests to this phenomenon of proliferation. Of course, the powers-that-be (for the record, will the heterosexual, white males of wealth please stand?) really aren't accustomed to having their well-rehearsed plays called back to the scrimmage line by uppity citizens--especially the death-dealing errors like Vietnam--and so, like the fable of the Emperor's Clothes, we can sideline observe the on-going charade in which elite decision-makers, with aid from the supportive press, cover their exposed asses with obvious foolishness about the "safety" and "desirability" and "cheapness" of nuclear energy. Like the war in Vietnam, the nation's leaders are telling us that there's really light at the end of the tunnel; but in this instance the light is lit by throwing off significant amounts of plutonium as waste by-product, which piles up in various "holding" sites around the country.

Again, there may be a way out: there's always solar energy, which will be coming "on-line" just as soon as the multinational energy companies can figure out a workable method to control it through large, centralized facilities, rather than individual units on consumer residences--owned by the consumers.



—PLEASE STAND BY:  
WE HAVE TEMPORARILY LOST PENNSYLVANIA—

Nuclear energy does work. The water actually gets heated and generators actually get turned by the steam. Yet, and this is a crucial point, the whole process does not exactly smack of Yankee ingenuity (the name of the Wiscasset plant to the ridiculous contrary); the generating of electricity in this method has been compared to the heating of a baby's milk bottle with a blow torch.

—LESS NUKES...MORE KOOKS!—

The real crime against the poor and working people of Maine, however, may not simply begin and end with the integration of nuclear energy in our society by the powerful decision-makers. What will continue to happen is this: the people of Maine will continue to pay inflated prices for energy created by oil and uranium while utility companies like CMP and Bangor Hydro will continue to pass on the expected added costs to the consumer, with built-in profit guaranteed in writing by the Public Utilities Commission with the stockholders, too, making a tidy return in the process. Never mind that Maine is the most wooded state in the nation, or that wood is a renewable resource, or that wood can be burned to heat water to steam--what's going on is that the planners and deciders in government and business have apparently decided that it's easier to simply continue with the old decisions about oil and uranium, and let the public deal with the future ramifications of these already questionable decisions.

—TRUST US—

The September referendum is radical not because it seeks to close an existing power plant (which the media keep reminding us, warily) but because it gives average citizens like us the unusual opportunity to officially



note whether or not we're pleased with the elite "guardians" of the masses and whether or not we're comfortable with their decision-making. Unlike a regular election, we won't just be ratifying a matter already decided, or simply choosing a particular variation on a similar theme proposed beforehand by the elites; we'll be telling them they goofed and that they've got to clean up their mess...and that's radical!

If the referendum passes the likely path will be, pardon the phrase, straight to the courthouse, where the Maine Attorney General, in a bizarre role reversal, will find himself answering allegations raised in a nasty suit filed by the power companies jointly owning Maine Yankee, and he'll have to defend the shut-down, probably in federal district and appeals courts and possibly right up to the Nixon Supreme Court. There, the Justices, with some dissent, will then uphold the preemptive intent of whatever federal nuclear energy regulation act that's necessary in this case, sparing both the attorney general a victory in a case that the state would like to lose and the threatened elites from a close brush with unruly citizen initiative.

—TH-TH-TH-THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!—

In the boardrooms across America, however, the decision-makers must realize, as do other people even casually familiar with the hazards of nuclear energy, that the end is looming, just like the proverbial light at the end of the optimistic tunnels of yesteryear. One great accident, either in this country or in France will really make people pause and demand accountability. At this admittedly cruel point, the glib responses of the power company people, along with the steady reassurances from people in government, will not be enough, and the decommissioning of active nuclear power plants will begin, if reluctantly, just like the evacuation from Vietnam by the various "experts" that got us locked into that fiasco in the first place.



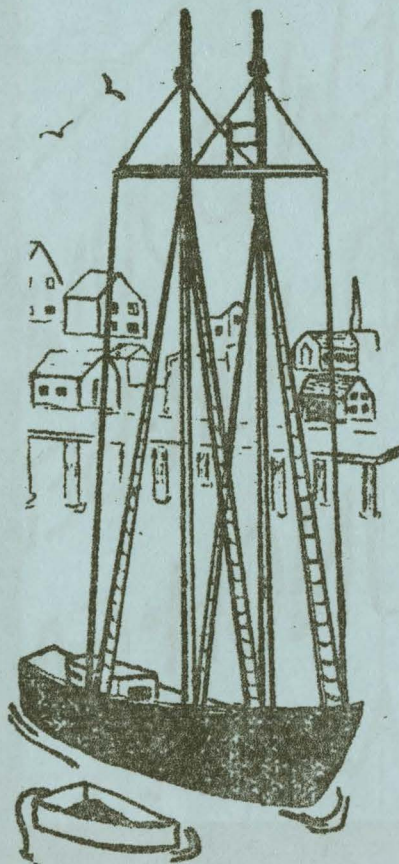
— PS: FOOTNOTE ON PUBLIC UTILITIES IN MAINE: —

The Portland Water District (PWD), which sells water to Portland and several adjoining towns has, over the past few years, seen fit to raise its water rates to a point where the PWD should no longer be deemed a "benign" utility. But they've perfected a process that must make them the envy of every other utility in Maine; including the clever ones like CMP and New England Telephone: for every \$1 of water the PWD sells to its customers, it charges, for use of the sewers, \$2 to remove it!

# THE EAST SIDE

RT. 3  
N. BELFAST AVE.  
AUGUSTA, ME.

622-4393





SUNDAY BRUNCH  
NOON-3P.M.

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EVERY NITE  
8P.M.-1A.M.

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LIQUOR BEER  
LUNCH GAME ROOM  
11A.M.-1A.M.

HOT!

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PORTLAND  
772-9401



HOT!

10 UNION ST.  
PORTLAND  
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*(Ed. note: The following article was originally published in The Republican Journal, October 25, 1979. It is reprinted here in its entirety.)*

# Isolation/Privacy: Gay Dichotomy In WALDO COUNTY

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BY DENISE GOODMAN

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(Please note: In the following article, Karen Saum, Bo Bergstrom, Ted Stone and Roy Starr are the real names of persons interviewed. Alan, Bill, Chris and Jane are the pseudonyms invented by the writer to identify persons who asked that their real names not be disclosed.)

"If every person who is gay came out at noon today, the world would never look the same," Karen Saum, a lesbian who lives in Waldo County, declares.

Most gay people and many straight ones know of homosexual couples who have lived quietly in Waldo County towns for decades. Because they've never made an issue of their sexual preferences, they have generally been accepted, if not thoroughly into the community mainstream, then at least as harmless eccentrics.

Younger local gay persons--in their 20's, 30's and 40's--are different. As the nation's consciousness has been raised in recent years about homosexuality, so has theirs. More now see a glimmer of hope for being frank about their gayness, more frequently gather in still very private settings for mutual support and some have begun to form more structured groups like the Midcoast Gay Men organized by Bo Bergstrom of Northport. But very few gay people have "come out" in Waldo County and even fewer are willing to talk about their



situations and experiences with a reporter, even when anonymity is promised.

After months of spreading the word, through the grapevine and a blind classified ad, that the Journal was interested in talking to local homosexuals about the political, social and economics aspects of being gay in rural mid-coast Maine, only eight people agreed to be interviewed. Half agreed to be identified and half asked that their real names and anything else which might identify them be omitted.

And so what follows must be qualified. It cannot be *the* definitive article on being gay in rural Maine because so few were interviewed. If the county at all mirrors general American society and the estimates of human sexuality authorities are correct, some 2,500 of the county's residents may be latent or overt homosexuals.

Still, what these eight persons have to say explains in large part why the others refuse to talk about their lives. And even among these eight there is enough diversity to shatter a number of stereotypes of gays which many straight people unquestioningly accept.

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### NO STEREOTYPED GAY

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First, the stereotypes:

"There is no stereotypical gay," insists Ted Stone, who owns a housing rental and renovation business in Knox and Waldo counties and lives with his lover, Roy Starr, in Northport. "I'm no queen with a limp wrist and a pink chiffon number." In fact, Ted is a former representative of the Teamsters union and Roy is a former machinist. Neither career fits the image of gay men as primarily artists, writers or musicians.

Among the other gay men interviewed is a Waldo County native who is into Yoga, natural foods and homesteading, a teacher who summers here but works out of state, another businessman and Bo Bergstrom who formerly was manager of a Washington, D.C. gay liberation bookstore.

There is political and philosophical diversity as well. Alan thinks gays, as a group, are more sensitive than are straights and speaks of a "gay sensibility which forces a person to relate to just about every oppressed minority in the world." Chris says that's



hogwash and insists sensitivity is evenly meted out to gays and straights.

Karen and Jane, who regard themselves as lesbian feminists, say Maine law should offer gays the same legal protection against discrimination in jobs, housing and public accommodations now afforded racial, religious and ethnic groups. Bill says the strongest political action he can take "is coming out where I won't damage myself or someone else...That beats everything for effectiveness."

What they all hold in common is a painful sense of being oppressed because of their private sexual preferences.

Karen, a 44-year-old mother of three grown sons (who she says, are very supportive of her), was a history professor at the University of Maine at Augusta when she publicly acknowledged her homosexuality at a Unitarian Church five years ago.

"I was promptly thrown out of my apartment and that spring my contract was not renewed," she reports, quickly summarizing the possible devastating effects of "coming out."

Karen says she'd had one promotion and three merit pay increases at UMA, but was then suddenly told "I had become incompetent." Because she didn't have tenure, UMA officials didn't have to explain their decision.

She temporarily lost her children, she says, when her ex-husband took them out of the state where the custody agreement applied and threatened to expose her lesbianism if she tried to get them back. "Four years later, he got a divorce and sent the children back.

Karen says she felt "battered" by the experience. But she's pulled her life back together. She later headed the Women's Project for the Waldo County Committee for Social Action, spearheading the production of the film "Working Women in Waldo County" which has since been shown in dozens of communities in Maine as well as on out-of-state college campuses and on Maine Public Television channels 10 and 12.

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## HESITANT TO COME OUT

Experiences like Karen's keep people like Jane in the closet. While Jane acknowledges her lesbianism to close friends, she has not proclaimed it generally "because of jobs. I've lost jobs just because of being a feminist--being a woman and being outspoken." Jane says she feels a recurrent sense of suppressed outrage at the jokes about women and gays bandied about her on the job.

"I always told people that as a gay I didn't need any more civil rights than anybody else," Ted says. Now he's not so sure. He's been involved in complex court action regarding the visitation rights for his twin daughters, action based primarily on his homosexuality. He's appealing a Knox County court ruling which says his daughters may visit him only if no one else, male or female, is in the house.

"I realized that obviously I don't have the same rights as other people. This has been a shattering, eye-opening experience," Ted says.

Bo recently returned from Washington, D.C. where, on October 14, he participated in a march of some 75,000 lesbians, gay men, their friends and families calling for a Presidential executive order to end discrimination based on sexual orientation. The demonstrators want the order to end discrimination against homosexuals in the federal government, the military and federally-contracted private business.

They also called for an end to discrimination in lesbian mother and gay father custody cases and passage of comprehensive lesbian/gay rights legislation in Congress. Bo says such legislation would protect non-straight people "from the whims and prejudices of homophobic employers, landlords and proprietors. We don't need any special laws for us," he maintains. "We just want to defeat the laws against us."

Just how oppressive mid-coast Maine is for gays depends on where they've been.

continued on page 28



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## BETTER THAN BIBLE BELT

Alan feels Waldo County may be among the nation's more progressive areas, especially when compared to the mid-West--"the real Bible Belt regions where people are more 'moral' but in a negative sense."

But Bill spends part of each year in New York City and says there he can "be more myself" than in Maine. The major difference between his two homes, he says, is that "sex is so readily available in the city." "But it's anonymous sex," he adds.

Still, he says he feels dependent on his neighbors in his rural Maine community and is leery of "having a lover" for fear of neighbor's reactions.

"Women living together are usually regarded as harmless or even sweet," Karen says. "Women tend to establish long-term and monogamous relationships. 'Anonymous' sex is characteristic of male homosexuals, perhaps, but not of lesbians," she maintains.

Rural Maine presents, for some, a dichotomy. It offers, especially in the inland areas outside more populous villages, a great degree of privacy. But it also promotes a sense of isolation.

Chris observed at a recent pot-luck supper meeting of Midcoast Gay Men that a half-dozen men in the room live within a couple of miles of each other, but they'd probably never have gotten together if the organization hadn't been developed.

Even spreading the word about the group posed a bit of a problem, Bo says. He tacked up posters around Belfast--at supermarkets and other community bulletin boards, but they were quickly torn down. Most contacts came through classified ads he placed in local newspapers.

A sign of the oppression gay people feel locally is the fact that many take blind post office box numbers. "I wouldn't dare have any gay literature delivered to the house," Bill says.

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It's difficult to determine whether more gay people are moving to Waldo County, as some observers claim, or whether more who've lived here for years are simply becoming more open about themselves.

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### 'GROWING COMMUNITY'

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Karen says she feels there is a "growing community of lesbians in the mid-coast region. A couple of strong women moved here and bought land," she says, and others followed "because we aren't particularly welcomed in the larger community. They realize that if difficult things happen in their lives, there is support here." Both the men and women agreed that lesbians seem more organized--living in clusters or communities--than are gay men who are just beginning to meet together for moral support.

One price gays pay for choosing a rural setting is the absence of the social opportunities larger urban areas offer. There are no gay bars or gay restaurants or other public gathering places in Waldo County. Roy is quick to point out that not all gay night spots are just places to pick up a sex partner. Others, he explains, are simply places "where you can eat and enjoy yourself--where you can sit on the same side of the table with your lover without being stared at."

"There are only a handful of gay bars in Maine," Ted says, "so you get someone who will drive all the way from Houlton to Portland for a Saturday just so they can dance...You meet a lot of people from your own area in Portland," he adds.

Lesbians don't want to talk about where they gather locally. They say they fear violence. "One reason we keep a low profile is that homosexuals are vulnerable to physical abuse," Karen says. "I have lesbian friends who've been beaten up," Jane notes, adding that a motorcycle gang once raided a gay bar in Kennebec County. "It's not a myth that people hate us," she declares.

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### EFFECTS OF ISOLATION

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And because there are few gathering places for gay people in rural Maine, young people who discover they are gay have no place to turn for counseling or for role models, according to Ted and



Roy.

Roy talks about his own experience. Married for five years, he says, "I never went out on my wife. But after five years, I came to the conclusion that I had to tell her. I felt I was going to kill myself...I had no male friends whatsoever for fear I might expose my true self."

(The gay men all say they know many others who are married. The absence of counseling opportunities may force gay men to first try the role which society expects of them, they say. Some remain married, satisfying their gayness with a furtive rendezvous, the men say, while others like Ted and Roy finally come to terms with their sexuality and end their heterosexual marriages.)

When Roy did "come out," he recalls, "I felt I had to act a certain way because I was gay--that I shouldn't get my hands dirty and that I shouldn't do anything 'masculine.' I was a machinist and, of course, that was greasy, dirty work. But I had no gay role models." Since then he says he's discovered there is no "typical" gay and is comfortable doing physical labor, working with Ted on restoration of homes.

In fact, if the eight gay people interviewed for this article are at all typical of gay people in general, they may know themselves far better than do most straights. They've had to. "We all searched for our identity. I had to research just what constitutes a homosexual," Roy says.

"The biggest problem is with young people," Ted points out. "Some are fully aware of the fact that they are gay at a very early age, but they have nowhere to turn." Asked what agency might provide the staff and setting for such counselling, he suggests the YMCA.

If there are few gay groups in Waldo County, with whom do gay people socialize?

The response depends on the individual.

"I have really good friends here, but they're all heterosex-



ual," Alan says. "When I see them playing their little love games, it puts me on the outside."

Ted says he's socialized for years with straight people, with business friends who know he's gay and don't care. Until recently, he was a member of the Rockland Rotary Club.

But Roy says, "I tend to stay away from straight people. It's so hard to convince them that you're not out to attack them."

Karen acknowledges that she just doesn't have much time for men, not so much because she is a lesbian as because she's a woman and a feminist who believes "all men are oppressors in the same sense that all whites are racist. I just don't have time in my life to be with people who don't regard me as fully human." And because of her experiences when she revealed her gayness, she admits, "I harbor a fair amount of resentment against the straight world."

Karen and Jane acknowledge, too, that they are radical lesbian feminists, but that not all lesbians share their political views on the subject. But, they charge, lesbians who are not feminists are usually trying "to pass" as straights.

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### WHY THEY 'CAME OUT'

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Despite the oppression--and some feel it more keenly in rural and socially conservative Waldo County--the younger gay people seem increasingly uncomfortable with the concept of "passing." And they face a tension between a belief that their sexuality is their own business and, as Roy puts it, "living a lie."

Bo sees "passing" as a heterosexual as far from a private matter "for one self-oppressive deceit generates a thousand others. Put more positively, each time the public reads the word 'gay' or 'homosexual' or hears about a gay person close by, the shock of foreignness is eased and the reality of homosexual persons becomes nearer. This can only be positive," he says.

"I don't make an issue of my sexual orientation and basically I don't think one's sexual orientation is very interesting," he said on another occasion. "It's clear to everyone who knows me



that I'm gay and I have straight male friends and straight female friends." Bo says he sees calmly acknowledging his gayness as an integral part of his total personal commitment to "authenticity."

Others continue to struggle with "coming out."

Chris says he's sure his neighbors know he's gay (he says he is really bi-sexual to the point that "I've never ruled out the possibility of getting married to a woman or having a male lover.") but "coming out" in Waldo County where he summers would simply place unfair burdens on his family.

Jane says, "I come out only when I feel safe--usually to one or two people where I work." When will she go further? "When I have the inner security and serenity that Karen has," she responds.

Bill is still uneasy in Maine, though he is open about his gayness in New York. The best way to be gay is to have a very good income," he says with a bit of cynicism.

Alan says he finds many gays practice what he calls "a kind of psychic judo. I've been very elusive (about acknowledging his gayness). In one breath you say, 'yes, I'm gay.' And then, when people think they have you pegged, you say something else." Other members of Midcoast Gay Men indicated they practice similar skills--never firmly denying their gayness but, on the other hand, seldom openly affirming it among straight people.

Approaches toward gaining acceptance in the straight world vary.

Karen indicates she has little time or inclination to worry about educating straight people about homosexuality. She's part of a lesbian community which provides support and is too busy writing and filming to spend time on the way others view her.

Ted takes a frankly physical approach. "If you get the message across--win, lose or draw--that you're not going to take it... I did this years ago...Nobody says anything to my face...Nobody's called me a faggot because they know they're going to get decked if they do." he declares.

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Bo is more philosophical.

"If you're self-assured and confident and have self-esteem and you implicitly demand that in the way you operate with others, I think usually you're going to receive respect."

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### ORGANIZATIONS SERVING MID-COAST MAINE GAYS

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There are two area groups specifically organized for gay people--Midcoast Gay Men and the Maine Lesbian Feminists.

According to Bo Bergstrom, a spokesman for MGM, it is primarily a social group which meets bi-weekly, often at potluck suppers. Members are available for peer counselling for gay or bi-sexual men who "want someone to talk to," Bergstrom says, and the group has a cooperative relationship with the Mid-Coastal Mental Health Center and Community Alcohol Services to exchange referrals.

Some members are also available to speak to local groups. The group may be contacted by writing P.O. Box 57, Belfast, Me. 04915

Members of the Maine Lesbian Feminists declined to discuss any details of the group except to say they may be contacted by writing to Box 125, Belfast, Me. 04915



## SEABROOK OCCUPATION/BLOCKADE

-from NO NUCLEAR NEWS

For the second time in less than eight months, anti-nuclear activists from across the United States converged on the Seabrook nuclear plants under construction in New Hampshire. Repression came early from the State. Shuffling for a good public image, politicians alternated between expressions of remorse at having to spend much needed welfare money to defend the corporate property of Public Service Co. of New Hampshire (owners-builders of the plant) and violence-baiting of the Coalition for Direct Action at Seabrook in the media. Further harrassment of Seabrook supporters who offered land to the anti-nuclear groups, and instigation for an unconstitutional anti-assembly/anti-camping ordinance in the town of Seabrook filled out the State's strategy of appearing lawful and reasonable, yet tough and invincible.

Ultimately, threats by local supporters to defy the assembly/camping ordinances and CDAS' back-up plans (including strategies which anticipated the complete absence of staging land) contributed to Seabrook town Selectman agreeing to camping health, fire, and permits for nearly 1600 people. Other CDAS groups camped on semi-public lands.

Activists from 28 states and more than 60 anti-nuclear groups arrived in Seabrook for a single purpose that weekend: to take direct action against construction of the Seabrook nuclear plants through Occupation and Blockade of the site. This was to culminate months of anti-nuclear organizing, and participation by CDAS groups in a variety of activities geared towards expanding the anti-nuclear movement.

Using a 64 page handbook filled with information to enable people to participate democratically in the action, CDAS remained committed to providing as much information as possible to anyone who was interested in taking direct action.

The strategy for May 24 was broadened over October's occupation attempts to include a simultaneous Blockade of access roads to the construction site. For the first time anti-nuclear forces



planned on creating actual barricades in an effort to shut down a nuclear plant - further experimentation with tactics that are applicable at many nuclear sites.

Beginning Saturday at 12 noon and continuing through Monday groups of occupiers, wearing protective gear like gas-masks, helmets, or goggles attempted to gain access to the site from at least 5 principle points around its perimeter. Whole sections of fence were removed as occupiers worked in teams using wooden shields to protect people weakening fences with large boltcutters, followed by others who attached grappling hooks and "carabiniers" on ropes and chains to tear down the fence. At each breach police using clubs, mace, dogs, and firehoses were able to overwhelm and force back occupiers at each breach. Protective clothing helped keep injuries down in the face of police violence, and gas masks and the wind once again often made police use of gas ineffective.

The numbers of people who actually went to the fences increased dramatically over the October action at Seabrook as did the effectiveness of fence take-down tactics. But clearly the overall numbers of occupiers, about 2000, were no match for the hundreds of police and national guard called up to protect PSCo.'s nuclear plant. (Estimated range from 500 to 900 police and guard). In spite of this massive police presence occupiers remained collectively steadfast in confrontations, chanting and linking arms to quell police assaults. Numerous arrests were thwarted by group rescues and tight organization.

Simultaneously, a few hundred people built barricades of scrounged dead trees against the 2 main gates along Route 1 (the gates are about 3/4 of a mile apart). This tactic worked well initially taking the authorities by surprise and heat off occupying groups. However, the lack of numbers took its toll here as well - while most barricades were built high, they were not very thick or solid in construction. When the company brought out an earth-mover to tear them down other barricades were built further out from the gate and on Rt. 1 itself. These tactics were generally uncoordinated, and needed more planning, but Bockade tactics seem to be especially viable in light of the authorities limitations in extending their perimeter too far from a nuclear site. Meanwhile, a smaller number of people continually created a sit-in



at the Rocks Rd. gate near Rt. 1, though they were sometimes violently driven off by the police.

During these days of siege against the Seabrook plants supporters from throughout New England arrived to picket and march on Rt.1 where they were joined by additional supporters along the way to the gates. They set-up moving pickets in support of the occupation/blockade.

Organizationally, the May 24th actions covered some interesting ground. New forms of organization attempted to help us take action. "Clusters" of affinity groups were the basic decision-making and tactical unit of the May action. This change raised the level of involvement from simply 5 or 15 people in an isolated affinity group to coordination of 50 to 150 people in many ag's working together. Decisions were made by Cluster Representatives and, generally, were arrived at more quickly than in most past nuclear actions. Clusters were substantial enough to make significant tactical decisions during the action in order to adjust strategy or manoeuvre.

Was it a success or failure? Obviously, the largest goal - that of permanently shutting down Seabrook - was not realized. Failure as a completed direct action can be clearly attributed to limited numbers, since tactics aimed at the site were diverse (i.e. occupation, blockade, support) and appeared viable. A more fundamental question could be: What should direct action groups do to increase their numbers?

One success was apparent early on: May 24-27 were days of community and strengthened commitment between anti-nuclear activists from across the country. Many clusters still exist, and regional organizing and educational projects continue.

Will Seabrook die of its own weight? It's not enough to rely on an unjust and oppressive system to close down nuclear power. While much work remains and many questions must be resolved about the movement's future, actions like May in Seabrook will continue to be part of the anti-nuclear strategy because they involve people in actually creating solutions.



## NUCLEAR REFERENDUMS

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WASHINGTON - Citizens in at least nine states may get a chance to vote this fall on a variety of nuclear power issues.

In Maine and South Dakota, anti-nuclear referendums already have qualified for the ballot. Activists are trying to round up enough signatures to go before the voters in Arizona, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

The most radical proposition faces Maine voters Sept. 23 when they will decide whether to close their own nuclear power plant. The unit supplies about a third of the state's electricity.

"I think it's going to be a fight right down to the end... pretty close to an evenly split vote with neither side winning overwhelmingly," predicts Raymond Shadis, a leader of the Nuclear Power Referendum Committee, an anti-nuclear group.

A spokesman for the Central Maine Power Co., Norman J. Temple, dismisses the recent endorsement of the shutdown by the state Democratic convention as an aberration caused when a majority of the delegates left the hall for a reception honoring native son Edmund S. Muskie, the new secretary of state.

"I would not expect it (the endorsement) to have any impact in the long run," says Temple. "It is not a partisan issue because leaders in both parties have come out against the referendum."

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IN SOUTH DAKOTA, the Nov. 4 ballot proposition would ban future atomic reactors as well as the mining and milling of uranium. The state has no reactors and none are planned. There has been some exploration for uranium, but currently there are no mines.

In a related development, further uranium exploration was halted several months ago in Vermont by a series of votes at town



meetings.

The other initiatives are going through the process of meeting requirements to be placed on ballots in November. Organizers have until varying dates in July to get the required number of registered voters to sign petitions.

Two potential propositions are being debated in Arizona, where there are no operating nuclear plants but three are under construction. One initiative would place a moratorium on construction until a solution to disposal of radioactive waste can be found. The other would bar a utility company from raising rates to pay for cleaning up an accident in a nuclear plant.

The Dogwood Alliance in Arkansas is seeking a place on the ballot for its proposal to give the state energy department authority to shut plants down during emergencies and phase them out if they are not needed.

The antinuclear forces received a psychological boost earlier this month when Arkansas Power and Light ignored a request by the state health department to delay venting some radioactive gas into the atmosphere. The venting had been approved by officials of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the utility company said the state agency did not have authority over it.

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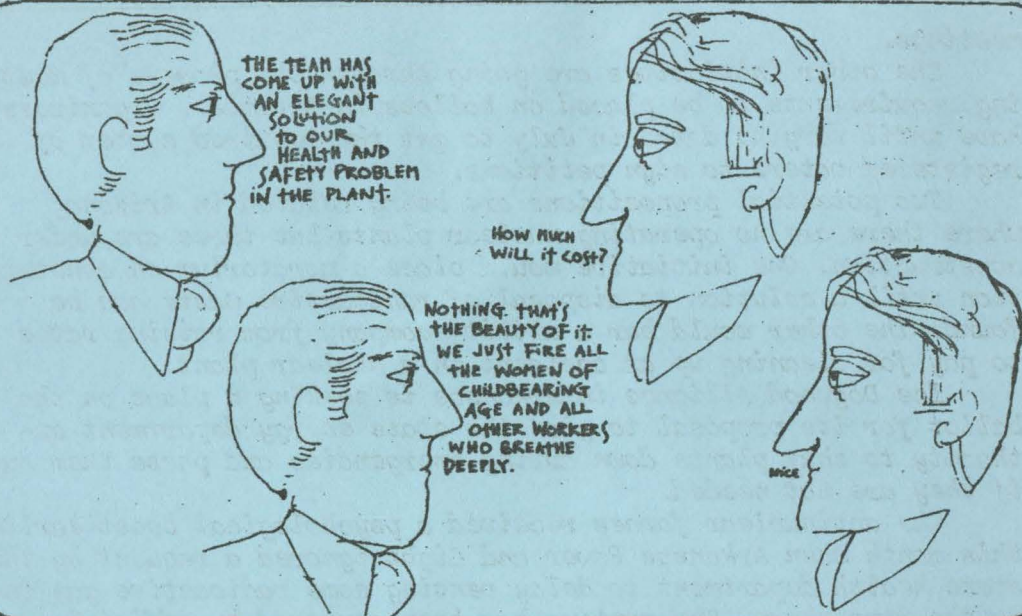
ABOUT HALF the legislative districts in Massachusetts have been targeted to get a non-binding "public policy question" to ban future nuclear plants placed on the ballot. The procedure serves as an instruction to the legislature on pending legislation, but has no legal standing, explains Tom Boreiko of Citizens for Participation in Political Action.

"It's a way to goad the legislature," he says, adding that the petitioning may serve as a dry run for a binding statewide referendum in 1982.

Legislatures already have been goaded in five states where they have banned construction of new plants until the question of what should be done with radioactive waste is resolved. The states are California, Connecticut, Maine, Montana and Oregon, reports the Atomic Industrial Forum, the trade association of the nuclear industry. (by Michael F. Conlan, Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger)



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## GAY CUBAN REFUGEES

DATELINE TORONTO, CANADA---Nearly \$60,000 has been pledged to begin work to aid 10,000 to 12,000 Lesbian and Gay Cuban refugees being held at concentration camp-style facilities of three US military camps. Responding to an appeal by The Rev. Troy D. Perry, start-up funds have been pledged by ministers representing Metropolitan Community Churches attending the UFMCC Eastern Ministers Conference ending today outside Toronto, Canada. "At this moment," Rev. Perry said, "there are thousands of Lesbians and Gay men in the Cuban refugee camps who have been stigmatized with the label homosexual. Up to this point, not one social agency has come forward to express willingness to help them. They are in limbo behind barbed wire at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania; Elgin Air Force Base, Florida; and Fort Chafee, Arkansas. They are despised and rejected by the other refugees.

"We are appealing to all Lesbians and Gay men to accept the responsibility of caring that we might demonstrate to the world that we are not guilty of discrimination and that we are compassionate. It is our aim to negotiate with government agencies to facilitate the release and relocation of our sisters and brothers. Further, we will arrange for them to be visited now in the camps, ministered to, and reassured that the Lesbian and Gay community in our country really cares."

Working from UFMCC headquarters in Los Angeles, a specially assigned Task Force is establishing official contact with the US Government and other resettlement agencies. The Task Force is also finding sponsors who will assist in finding jobs and homes for refugees and in gathering financial assistance to get the refugees who lack families to sponsor them--out of the camps. Within the next three weeks, teams of Spanish-speaking Lesbians and Gay men will be sent into the three camps. Persons in the vicinities of the camps fluent in Spanish and/or with expertise in Cuban culture are urged to contact UFMCC. The Rev. Bob Arthur, Director of UFMCC's Institutional Ministries, has been deputized to work for six months in this effort. The UFMCC Cuban Refugee Program will be working in conjunction with the Carter Administration's Inter-



agency Task Force, with the International Rescue Commission, and with the U.S. Catholic Conference to aid refugees from Castroite homophobia.

"We are getting calls from all around the country," says Dale Leeche, Project Facilitator.

"When Castro gave permission for anyone who wanted to leave Cuba to go, the tidal wave of immigrants began," Rev. Perry said. "Boat owners who came to Cuba to pick up friends and relatives were forced by the Cuban government to take as many people as the boats would hold. People were marched at bayonet point and loaded on the boats. Members of the press who have spoken with some of these refugees report evidence of massive physical abuse including bayonet marks. They are our sisters and brothers who have suffered this abuse.

"We have a tremendous job ahead of us," Rev. Perry said. "We are asking for help from throughout the Lesbian and Gay community in the United States."

Checks may be made payable to "UFMCC Cuban Refugee Relief Fund," a special tax-deductable account, which will be administered separately by the UFMCC. For further information, contact:

Dale Leeche  
c/o UFMCC  
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard  
Suite 304  
Los Angeles, California 90029  
(213) 464-5100



PRESS RELEASE

WHITE HOUSE RESPONDS

On behalf of President Carter, Anne Wexler, Assistant to the President for Public Liason, responded to an April 1 National Gay Task Force letter that protested the participation of the West Point Glee Club in a television program sponsored by the Anita Bryant Ministries, Inc.

The program, "Anita Bryant's Spectacular - My Little Corner of the World" was aired during March on independent television stations across the country. Considering that Anita Bryant Ministries is essentially a religious organization, the cooperation of the military raised serious questions relating to the traditional separation of church and state.

In her June 24th letter, Wexler stated that "The Department of the Army has concluded...the Glee Club's appearance was not consistent with Department of Defense's guidance concerning the Department's support of and participation in events and activities in the civilian sector."

She went on to say that "The Military Academy has been informed that the appearance of the West Point Glee Club was inconsistent with regulations. The producers of the show...are aware of the objection of the use of the West Point segment in connection with Anita Bryant Ministries, Inc."

In concluding, Wexler said: "...the Department of the Army is studying the matter to see whether changes in procedures are necessary to avoid repetition of the event."

NGTF Co-Directors Charles F. Brydon and Lucia Valeska expressed general satisfaction with the Administration's response. "There is little justification for this kind of incident. Separation of church and state is a fundamental principle of our form of government. If the military establishment was not so infected with homophobia, the helpful intervention of the White House would not have been necessary."



## ORGANIZATIONS

### MAINE

DOWN EAST GAY ALLIANCE  
PO Box 594  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE  
Univ. of Southern Maine  
92 Bedford Street

MAINE GAY TASK FORCE  
PO Box 4542  
Portland, ME 04112

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS/  
MLF NEWSLETTER  
PO Box 125  
Belfast, ME 04915

MIDCOAST GAY MEN  
PO Box 57  
Belfast, ME 04915

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD  
PO Box 990  
Caribou, ME 04736 USA

PARENTS OF GAY PEOPLE  
Evelyn and Floyd Bull  
c/o PO Box 4542  
Portland, ME 04112

WILDE-STEIN CLUB  
Memorial Union  
University of Maine  
Orono, ME 04470

## ORGANIZATIONS

## ORGANIZATIONS

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

CENTRAL NH MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP  
31 Union Street  
Concord, NH 03301

DARTMOUTH GAY STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION  
Hinan Box 5057  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, NH 03755

LESBIAN FEMINIST COLLECTIVE  
PO Box 47  
Penacook, NH 03061

NASHUA AREA GAYS  
PO Box 3472  
Nashua, NH 03061

N.H. COALITION OF  
LESBIANS & GAY MEN  
PO Box 521  
Concord, NH 03301

N.H. LAMBDA  
PO Box 1043  
Concord, NH 03301

SEACOAST GAY MEN  
PO Box 221  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

## ORGANIZATIONS



## ORGANIZATIONS

### VERMONT

CENTRAL VERMONT GAYS  
PO Box 1264  
Montpelier, VT 05602

GAY HOTLINE  
Univ. of Vermont  
802-656-4173

GAY PEOPLE AT MIDDLEBURY  
c/o Sandy Levine  
PO Box 3432  
Middlebury College  
Middlebury, VT 05753

GAY STUDENT UNION  
University of Vermont  
Burlington, VT 05401

INTEGRITY  
PO Box 11  
Winooski, VT 05404

SOUTHERN VERMONT LESBIAN'S  
GAY MEN'S COALITION  
21 Eliot Street  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

## ORGANIZATIONS

### ATLANTIC CANADA

GAYS  
PO Box 1297  
Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0

## ORGANIZATIONS

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### ATLANTIC CANADA

CANADIAN HOMOPHILE ASSOCIATION OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND (CHAN)  
PO Box 613, Stn. C  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
A1C 5K8

FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS  
PO Box 1556, Stn. A  
Fredericton, N.B.

GAY ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY  
PO Box 3611  
Halifax South Postal Station  
Halifax, NS B3J 3K6

GAY ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND (GOWN)  
PO Box 905  
Corner Brook, NFLD A2H 6J2

GAYS & LESBIANS AT DALHOUSIE  
c/o SUB (Student Union Bldg.)  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, NS

SPARROW OF ATLANTIC CANADA  
GAY CHRISTIANS  
PO Box 3611, So. Sta.  
Halifax, NS B3J 3K6

THE SISTER'S LIGHTSHIP  
PO Box 3611  
Halifax South Postal Station  
Halifax, NS B3J 3K6

## ORGANIZATIONS



# ROLAND'S TAVERN

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413A  
CUMBERLAND AVE.  
PORTLAND

1PM-1AM DAILY 772-9159