

COMMUNIQUE

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First Time in Ten Years

Hundreds Attend Atlantic Regional Conference

*Atlantic Conference Successful
by Harry Gordon, Bangor*

Close to 250 men and women from the Maritimes and Maine participated in the Atlantic Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia October 8-10. Using the Dalhousie University Student Union Building, the weekend had a familiarity, patterned as it was after Maine Symposia. Indeed, there were many familiar faces and hugs of welcome.

Workshops from the personal to the technical were presented Saturday and Sunday. Essayist Robin Metcalfe and writer Makeda Silvera were keynoters. Robin spoke of the importance of our differences, provoking a lively discussion. Makeda noted the history of lesbianism in the Afro-Jamaican culture, which she illustrated with wonderful stories from her grandmother.

Entertainment was

prominent. Fourteen films from the Canadian National Film Board were screened, including "Forbidden Love" and "Company of Strangers." Witty and very hot Faith Nolan performed a long song set on opening night. Spirits were sent soaring at the closing musical revue, presented by a lesbian and four gaymen who sang and danced their way into the hearts of the admiring audience.

From the discussion at a closing meeting, it appears we can look forward to Symposium in Maine during May and the Atlantic Conference in the Maritimes in the fall. ▼

*Feelings on the Halifax
Conference by Hank Williams,
Fredericton*

I was so very happy to have had the opportunity of attending the Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual conference in Halifax during the long weekend of October. It was

time well spent.

I would congratulate the organizers of the conference for they did a great job on everything, from billeting to workshops to brunch.

I found the workshops that I attended to be informative and uplifting. I was particularly happy to have had the opportunity to sing with the choir at Sunday brunch.

I drove over expecting to have a good weekend, but by the time it was over, it was more like a fantastic one. The conference really recharged my gay batteries and I left with a sense of empowerment. It was so nice to have been surrounded by so many good gay people.

I hope there'll be another next year just as successful. ▼
*Getting There Was Half The
Fun! by Dick Harrison,
New Sweden*

After an almost-two hour drive Thursday evening from New Sweden to Orient, Phil and I met up with Harry at around 11pm at Dick and

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Tim's home. For the next few hours we talked, ate, and napped a bit until it was time to leave to catch the train. We were to meet it at 4:24am as it passed through Danforth, Maine on one of it's thrice-weekly eastbound overnight journeys from Montréal to Halifax.

The temperature was in the high 30s F as we waited in Danforth, about 20 minutes south of Orient. We stood on the platform with luggage and a freshly-charged flashlight, just to make sure the engineer saw us and stopped the train.

When first boarding, most people were asleep. Many occupied two seats, which obliged the conductor to wake them and ask them to let us sit. We sat in separate areas in the car, but by the time we reached Saint John, we had jockeyed around and had five seats together.

We arrived at 3:20pm Halifax time, which allowed us enough time to get settled and get to the conference registration by 6pm. The first keynote, Robin Metcalfe, is a long-time Halifax activist. His Friday evening address detailed a history of the Halifax lesbian and gay communities, and was

extremely interesting. He pointed out that in that city, the local gay-lesbian organization operates the bar and dance club. He also focused much of his talk on the "shirtless war", which seems to be a never-resolved issue in Halifax (do we let anyone, men and/or women, dance shirtless at the club?). Though a tantalizing thought, I didn't think that that part of the presentation was appropriate for a regional - not local - audience, and of little concern to those of us from New Brunswick and Maine.

There were a lot of good workshops, and good ideas for next year's Maine Symposium (which I hear is at the University of New England in Biddeford, just south of Portland). But I didn't go to any of the workshops, preferring to spend time visiting friends. I did make it to the Saturday evening dance at around 11pm. Some of the women and most of the men had already left, using the free passes we were given to go to the local club, so it became a lively women's dance at the student union.

"Rumours" is the name of the club operated by the Gay and Lesbian Association of Nova Scotia, GALA/NS. It's

located in a former grand movie house. Imagine most of the seats removed, several levels of seating, and a large dance floor on the lowest level in front of the stage and curtain. Music videos are shown on the screen, and there's a pool table and popcorn on the "balcony" level. The projection room is used as a meeting space. It didn't seem smokey, but the drinks were expensive: a gin and tonic was a glass filled with ice and tonic, then a splash of gin on the top for flavour, \$3.25.

Sunday morning brunch was served just before the second keynote address by Makeda Silvera, a black lesbian originally from Jamaica. She discussed "self-censorship" as it applies to expressing ourselves and to her writings, how much does she tell about herself as a lesbian, how much does she hide.

The train ride back was as great as the trip Friday morning. Before ViaRail eliminates their passenger service through Maine, I highly recommend a trip to Montréal or Halifax. Maybe for the 1994 Atlantic Conference?! ▼

NLN and AMHC

Phoneline Meets With Helpline

by Lynn Craig, Presque Isle

Three volunteers from Northern Lambda Nord's Gay-Lesbian Phoneline met October 9 with crisis volunteers from the Aroostook Mental Health Center's Helpline. Our Phoneline people were asked to speak with AMHC volunteers and answer their questions about issues around sexual orientation.

Until recently, AMHC has referred calls dealing with gay/lesbian/bisexual issues to the Caribou-based Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, but they wanted to meet with some of our community to try to better understand about who we are and some of our daily concerns. Topics discussed included: the Kinsey reports; suicide; gay/lesbian symbols; myths about fashion styles; hate crimes; media portrayal of gay people; the fear of AIDS and/or STDs; the acceptance or intolerance of religious communities; why people may choose to stay in

the closet while others come out; general fear of discrimination, etcetera.

This workshop operated on a strictly anonymous level; no confidentiality was breached. It was well-received and a wide variety of questions were asked of the three panelists, who were thanked kindly and given an invitation to return for future workshops.

It is our hope that this type of outreach to the mental health community will be a significant step towards bridging the gap between gay and straight people in this region. We hope to do this again and offer a responsive invitation to anyone wanting to know more about our Phoneline. ▼

Events and Organizations

What's New

✓ **Maine Lesbian and Gay Law Association, LeGaL** - Recently-formed organization of Maine attorneys, judges, paralegals, legal secretaries, law students, law firms, and other legal professionals. Addresses legal issues concerning and fosters an open and supportive environment for lesbians, gaymen, and bisexuals in the practice of law. POB 443, Portland 04112, 207.829-3379, fax 829-4424

✓ **"Health In Our Hands: Women Sharing Knowledge and Power"** conference, Sat, Oct 30, 8:30am-4:30pm, Bangor Airport Marriott, sponsored by Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center. Keynote: Sen. Dale McCormick; film: "Still

Do more than belong. participate



\$10,000
GOAL

\$ 2862.61
U.S. funds
as of
10/17/93

BUILDING FUND

The NLN Building Fund is designed to raise money for a community center for this region. The center would house the phoneline, library, office, meeting space, and party space. Since NLN is a 501(c)3 group, all donations are tax-deductible on federal U.S. income tax; merely ask for a receipt. Donations of any amount - in either U.S. or Canadian funds - are greatly appreciated. ▼

Killing Us Softly - Images of Women in Advertising"; workshops. Info: 207.947-5337.

✓ **Men's Singles Weekend** in Provincetown, Mass, Fri-Sun, Nov 5-7. Activities include massage workshop, bicycle repair, bridge, singing, mystery party, drawing and photographing the male nude, more. Info: 800.371-5507, 508.487-1800. ▼

Gay/Lesbian G·U·I·D·E Lesbienne/Gai

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA
GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE 207.498-2088 TDD/
 Voice - staffed Wed, 7-9pm (Maine), 8-10pm (N-B)
AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP
 meets Sundays, 7pm (Maine time) in Madawaska.
 * Groupe bilingue/bilingual group. Call 207.498-2088 to make contact

▼
ACT UP/BANGOR POB 1554, 04402-1554, 207.947-3947

AIDS New Brunswick 800.561-4009

AIDSLINE/Maine 800.851-AIDS - Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm

AM CHOFSI Maine Jewish group, meets monthly; POB 5017, Portland 04101, 207.874-2970 (Rheatha)

APEX: A Point of Departure, published monthly by Phoenix Press, POB 4743, Portland 04112

COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER: The newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine, published monthly, 142 High St, Suite 634, Portland 04101, 207.879-1342

DIAL KIDS, 774-TALK for lesbian, gay, bisexual & unsure youth under 19

DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland 04104

EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 207.990-EMAN



THE RAGE 123 Franklin Street downtown Bangor 947-1213

New Brunswick • Maine • Nouveau-Brunswick

FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG) POB 1556, Station A E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)

FRUITS OF OUR LABORS Lesbian-Gay-Bi events calendar published monthly, POB 125, Belfast ME 04915

GAEZETTE For Lesbians & Gay Men in Atlantic Canada, published 10 times yearly, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS B3J 3S1

GAIS & LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CP/POB 1072, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.855-8064

GAISES NOR GAYS (GNG) CP/POB 983, Bathurst E2A 4H8

GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern Maine, 88 Winslow Street, Portland 04103, 207.874-6596

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK POB 212, Bangor 04401, 207.862-5907/941-2189

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 207.772-4741 (Frank)

HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-levi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104

INTEGRITY Episcopalian group, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 207.622-6631

LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 10818, Portland 04104

MAINE LESBIAN AND GAY LAW ASSOCIATION (LeGal) POB 443, Portland 04112, 207.829-3379

MAINE LESBIAN-GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB 232, Hallowell 04347

NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA RÉFORME DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK POB/CP 1556, Station/Succursale A, Fredericton E3B 5G2 506.457-2156
NO BORDERS/SANS FRONTIÈRES POB/CP 461, Campbellton, NB E3N 3G4

OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, age 22 and under, POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04102, 800.339-4042

OUTRIGHT CENTRAL MAINE for age 22 & younger, every Fri, 7:30pm, 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St, Auburn; POB 802, Auburn 04212, 207.783-2557

OUTRIGHT TOO Bangor area Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual youth group, c/o POB 212, Bangor 04401

PWA (People With AIDS) COALITION OF MAINE 377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland 04101, 207.773-8500

SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick 800.561-4009

TIME OUT outdoor activities, monthly calendar, POB 11502, Portland, ME 04104

WOMYN's GROUP POB 20082, Fredericton E3B 6Y8, 506.457-2156