

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Victory for the Right Wing in Lewiston

Non-Discrimination Statute Repealed by Voters

by Dick Harrison, New Sweden

Voters in Lewiston, Maine chose to repeal an ordinance which protected city residents from discrimination based upon their sexual orientation. The statute had been passed by the city council in January, 1993. The vote in Maine's second-largest city was 8,342 to 4,041, or 76-33%. Last year, Portland voters upheld *their* city council's decision to adopt a similar measure.

The overwhelming defeat surprised those who felt that many Lewiston residents would remember the discrimination they, as Franco-Americans, have faced and would support this measure.

The leader of "Citizens of Lewiston for the Repeal of Special Rights", Paul Madore, claimed, "This is not a vote against gay people. It was a vote for family values."

The results of this vote can only bolster the determination of "Concerned Maine

Families" and it's leader, Carolyn Cosby. They are attempting to gather enough signatures to place a referendum on the statewide ballot which, if approved by voters, would prohibit any attempt to include "sexual orientation" as a protected status in state and local laws in Maine. It would also remove that phrase from the Portland city ordinance. If not enough signatures are gathered by the January 31, 1994 deadline for inclusion on the November '94 ballot, then there's a good chance that it will be on the ballot in 1995.

Organizing has begun in the southern half of Maine - from Bangor south - and people in Aroostook County, too, have begun to organize against the Radical Right. A small group has met four times since September 1 to try to figure out how to get this part of the state organized to defeat Cosby and friends. The

direction is towards building as broad a base of support as possible, to find out who the people are in The County who want to work to defeat those who wish to impose their version of morality on the rest of us.

On the national level, there is an organization which has as its mission to defend "pluralism, individuality, freedom of thought, expression, religion, a sense of community, and tolerance and compassion for others." The group is People For the American Way. They work to counter the Radical Right by monitoring their actions, tracking their strategies, and mounting a multi-faceted response. In addition to countering the Right's attempts to limit the civil rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and others, People For works against intolerance on many levels, from censorship of books and artworks to racial and religious bigotry. They have a broad base of support, including

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CP/POB 990 Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégal 207.498-2088 (TDD/Voice-Vois)

many in the religious community. People For has been contacted and they, in turn, will get in touch with the people they know in The County to let them know about the next organizing meeting in Aroostook. It will be Saturday, December 4 at the home of Dick Dickinson and Tim Lewitt in Orient, 20 miles south of Houlton. It will begin at 3pm; a pot luck will follow the meeting. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to attend. ▼

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does. - Margaret Mead

AIDS

Coming To A Town Near You

by Lynn Craig, Presque Isle

What is it like to be HIV-positive? That's one of the questions a small-town Maine resident answered at a recent AIDS workshop October 25 at The Aroostook Medical

Center in Presque Isle, sponsored by the Eastern Maine AIDS Network. East Holden's Paul Camire described moving into a rural town, not knowing any gay people and wondering how the community would accept his "gayness." He said that, at the time, he was unprepared for the kind of acceptance he and his longtime partner received, and he counted himself very lucky to be able to live peacefully among his neighbors. Camire said he had to, however, rethink the acceptance issue all over again in his mind when the day came that both he and his partner were diagnosed with HIV. "What do I tell them now?" Paul wondered, but found luck was going his way once again when the backlash he'd expected didn't occur.

"It isn't easy," Paul explained at the workshop gathering. "I live on a pond. You know how they echo? Some days, especially in the beginning, I used to just go off by myself into the woods and cry, to scream, 'Why me, God? I've got AIDS. Why me?,' and then I'd find myself going back later and apologizing to Him for the kind of cursing I'd done about the whole thing. I've had

to take care of my partner. He was sick long before I knew I had it. I swore I'd never go through the pain again of seeing someone die like that after my grandmother died in my arms years before. I was wrong. I still have to keep going. This is my second time speaking to folks in public and it scares me 'shitless.' It scares me being gay in a town where I don't know any other gays except my partner, but it scares me more with this thing I've got."

Paul Camire was one of five speakers at the workshop. Elizabeth Denniston of Pigeon Hill shared the life and death of her son, Bruce, by giving a detailed account of the progression of AIDS and what it's like to be the caregiver. She offered her own recount with a publication entitled, "The Caregiver's Guide: A Labor of Love." Other discussion centered on who can get AIDS, how HIV is contracted, how to avoid it, the importance of testing, and how testing is done. In addition, a videotape was shown of four Maine women with AIDS and how the children in their lives have been affected. Another

videotape, from The Names Project, was shown as the Quilt comes to Orono.

As part of The County's action on AIDS, it is important to know that by next spring, an Eastern Maine AIDS Network case manager will be available two days each month to help provide assistance and services to HIV patients and their families. For anyone currently wishing to be tested on an anonymous basis, the Aroostook County Action Program will do that for a \$15 fee. You are only asked to take a number and are not required to give your name. Paying in cash and not by check makes this anonymity work. The hospital asks a \$25 fee. Paul Camire and Elizabeth Denniston have made themselves available to Northern Lambda Nord. They said they would be interested in speaking with the gay community during their upcoming visits to the area. This will be something to think about as we plan the calendar and get the word out about health issues that affect the gay and lesbian community. Any feedback will be appreciated. ▼

AIDS IN MAINE

cases as of August 31, 1993
Bangor and north, 64
central Maine, 148
southern Maine, 216

Events and Organizations

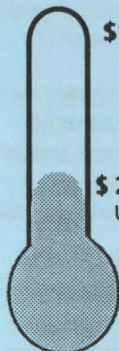
What's New

✓ **Attention, Lesbians** Lesbian student working in Portland with the Salt Center for Documentary Field Studies is a writer working on a project about lesbians in Maine. Focus is on women living in country/rural areas. Some questions: Why do you choose the lifestyle that you do (in the country), or *do you choose it?* How do you network with gay/lesbian/bisexual community and connect with

other women? What is your relationship to the community in which you live? Wants to conduct interview in your home - soon! Confidentiality is a concern. Contact Sandra Leiser, 35 Cumberland Ave, apt.3, Portland 04101, 773-9706 (messages ok) or at Salt Center, 761-0660 (messages ok, but not confidential).

✓ **International S/M Leather Fetish Celebration** New York City, June 23-26, 1994, in conjunction with the 25th anniversary celebration of Stonewall, and the Gay Games. Held at Grand Hyatt Hotel, 42nd St & Park Ave. Seminars, workshops, displays, benefit night, dance. Info from *Leather Celebration* 332 Bleeker St., Suite 452, NYC 10014, 212/727-9878 (24 h, leave message).

Do more than belong. participate



\$10,000
GOAL

\$2866.36
U.S. funds
as of
11/14/93

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. ▼

✓ **Maine Teams at Gay Games** Three people from Aroostook County may participate on Maine teams going to the Gay Games in NYC, June 1994. Events: aerobics, badminton, basketball, billiards, bowling, cycling, diving, figure skating, flag football, golf ice hockey, in-line skating, judo, marathon, martial arts, physique, powerlifting, racquetball, soccer, slow pitch softball, women's fast pitch, sport climbing, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track & field, triathlon, volleyball, water polo, and wrestling. Enter by Dec 31. Info & forms available from NLN & Phoneline ▼



THE RAGE 123 Franklin Street downtown Bangor 947-1213

Gay/Lesbian GUIDE 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

New Brunswick • Maine • Nouveau-Brunswick

FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG) POB
1556, Station A E38 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon &
Thurs 6-9pm)

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

GAZETTE 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-lewi 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