

COMMUNIQUÉ

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A Chance Meeting at the Post Office

Just How Tall is Carolyn Cosby, Anyway?

by Dick Harrison, New Sweden

If you haven't heard of her yet, her name is Carolyn Cosby and she's from Auburn, Maine. Her organization, Concerned Maine Families, has launched a petition drive to put an anti-gay referendum on the November 1995 ballot in Maine. They're receiving advice and financial help from out-of-state Right Wing groups. If passed, the referendum would

any other characteristic not already included.

Well, it was Thursday, April 28 around 3:30 in the afternoon. I stopped at the Caribou post office to check my mail and I noticed a woman petitioner in the lobby asking people to sign up. I had a feeling that it was someone from Concerned Maine Families. So I stood by for a moment and I heard her ask people if they wanted homosexuals to have "special rights" or gain "minority status."

That was all I needed. I explained my side of the story (i.e., the truth) to the innocent person who had been stopped by the petitioner. This person listened attentively, then turned to the petitioner and said, "I've heard what *he* has to say; what's *your* explanation of the petition?" The petitioner angrily replied, "I've already explained it to you." She then decided to continue her signature-collecting on the sidewalk in front of the post office. So of course I followed her. I stood next to her and attempted to talk with

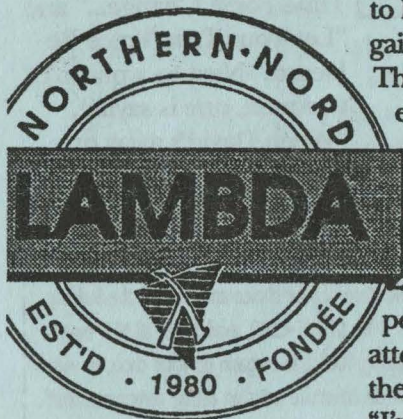
the next person she stopped. The petitioner then turned to me and, looking down (she must have been 6'6" tall, towering over my fragile 5'5" frame) she raised her voice and said, "You're harrassing me! Stay away! I'm afraid you're going to hurt me! I'm going to call the police!" which she did.

Meanwhile, the postmaster came outside and told both of us that we could not be inside if we were going to cause a disturbance, and that we had to refrain from blocking anyone's access to the post office. I said, "That's fine." She said, "I'm afraid of him he's harrassing me. I'm going to wait inside until the police arrive," which she did.

But could I trust her standing inside, alone, telling lies to all those people coming and going?! Certainly not!! So as each person entered the post office, if it looked as if they were going to turn left towards where she was standing I said to each, "There's someone inside with an anti-gay petition. Please do NOT sign." Most people just stared at me, wondering, and went inside.

Finally both Caribou police cars arrived. The petitioner came back outside and one police officer approached her and one approached me. He said that if there were any kind of public disturbance, they would have to make arrests. I explained what she was doing, what the petition was, and why I was there. He said I should not bother her; I could get my own petition, hand out flyers, or stand there with a sign. *A sign! A sign!* So I said, "thanks" to the police officer, ran across the street to the office supply store, purchased a magic marker and a piece of posterboard, and returned to my place in front of the post office. She was still there, standing to the right of the building's steps; I took my place to the left. As people approached I made sure they saw my sign, which read, "Don't sign the petition! It's a hate campaign! Ask me why!"

There were some people who still signed the petition, but after seeing my sign, many appeared to want to avoid getting involved in any controversy, so I think it had some effect in reducing the number of signatures that the



remove "sexual orientation" from Portland's non-discrimination ordinance and from University of Maine policies. It would also restrict the Maine Human Rights Act to its current wording, thus prohibiting adding non-discrimination protections based upon sexual orientation or income or

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

petitioner collected.

Meanwhile, some of the petitioner's cronies arrived. They caucused among themselves, kept looking over at me, and I could tell they were not sure how much longer to stay at the post office. One cronic came over to me yelling, "Why do you have to flaunt it?" and went to her car and drove away.

It was close to 5pm and the petitioner and her other cronies decided to leave. They climbed into their little grey Ford, and as they drove away I noticed their bumper sticker: "There's no room for hate". I thought, "You've GOT to be KIDDING!!!"

I heard that they were spotted later that afternoon at the north end of town in front of LaVerdiere's. Doug, another Lambda member, told me he approached this same petitioner during the afternoon and asked her her name and what group she represented; she refused to answer!

It wasn't until three weeks later that Doug called me about a news item he heard on Maine Public Radio. It seems that Concerned Maine Families' leader Carolyn Cosby had had some problems at the Caribou and Brewer post offices. She was going to sue the postmasters for prohibiting access to the premises. I listened later in the day and again the following morning, but

Maine Public never repeated the report.

So now I was curious, lavender. Was that the infamous Crosby (comma) Carolyn who trembled before me in fear?! I checked with the Caribou Police. They looked up the record of that incident. Sure enough, Carolyn in the flesh. Wearing a sensible Republican cloth coat, with some type of

late June to participate in the world's largest international sports event, the Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival. They will compete in racquetball and track and field events, two of the 10,000 athletes, both straight and gay, representing 40 countries and competing in 31 sports. Officials conservatively estimate that the Gay Games will

I tell the homosexual that I love them to throw them off-balance. It's like in Judo. In order to defeat your enemy you must throw them off-balance. My message of love to the gay community is designed with this in mind.

Rev. Charles McIlhenny, who spoke to Concerned Maine Families' supporters in Bangor, Lewiston and South Portland during April.

beeper or some other device attached to the lapel.

Dare she show her face in Caribou again? Can she withstand the possibility of having to defend her views? Just try it, Carolyn. I'm waiting! ▼

Gay Games

Two Aroostook Women To Participate In Gay Olympics

Two Northern Lambda Nord members from Presque Isle will travel to New York City in

Continental Airlines, Miller Brewing Co., and Naya Water have signed up as corporate sponsors of this event. Visa credit cards, though not an official sponsor, has made a \$10,000 donation to help fund the games. ▼

Corporate Campaign Wants Our Money

AT&T Targets Gay & Lesbian Customers

In a recent mailing from long distance telephone carrier AT&T, their brochure shows same-gender couples along with groups of men and women and notes, "It's Time For A Change..." and "Let Your True Voice Be Heard." Next to a photo of two men, one is saying, "When David's away on business, we like to stay close. I love to know what

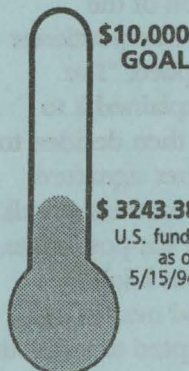
attract 500,000 people.

According to an article in Advertising Age magazine headlined, "Gay Olympic' join race of sport events seeking sponsors,"

Win a \$100 Shopping Spree at the store of your choice and Support the Building Fund! Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$1 (US=CDN), available at all NLN events.

Gagnez un Faire la Fête de Shopping 100\$ à la magasin de votre choix, et vous supportez notre projet de construire pour un centre communautaire!

Billets: 1=\$2, 3=\$5 (CDN=US), disponible à toutes les événements NLN.



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. ▼

he's doing and what's on his mind." And a woman is pictured saying, "Saving money on long distance is important to me. I don't know who talks to my grandmother longer. Me or Claire."

This is the latest in an attempt by corporations who have recognized us and have targeted the gay and lesbian market. Accompanying the AT&T brochure is a letter from members of LEAGUE, the company's lesbian, bisexual, and gay employee organization, urging us to sign up for AT&T long distance, complete with the requisite pink triangle on the customer form.

The LEAGUE letter also notes that "AT&T is pleased to be a part of Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival . . . come to the Unity Center and receive a free gift."

This is only the latest long distance carrier

targeting lesbians and gays. Over one year ago the gay-owned Overlooked Opinions organization started Community Spirit Long Distance, a marketing group which promised to share 2% of your long distance charges with the gay, lesbian, bisexual, or AIDS/HIV group of your choice. Community Spirit purchased time on long distance phone lines through another company, Trans-National, which has since started it's own Pride Network, which also donates money to the gay group of your choice. ▼

In NLN's Lending Library

Just Pages Away From Completion

Northern Lambda Nord's lending library, *Bibliothèque Lambda*, has had a face lift, courtesy of

Wayne, our new librarian, and Ray. The rearrangement of the shelving has made a big difference. Almost the entire 1000-volume collection has been entered into the computer. The next step is to use a computer print-out of the book list and compare it with the books on the shelves, placing them in the proper order and seeing if any were not entered into the computer file.

Pockets have been ordered and will be put into each book. These pockets will be used to hold the card necessary for each book and used when materials are checked out. The pockets will be inserted and the books sorted on the shelves at the next library day, ^{Sunday} Saturday, July 10th at 1pm (Maine)/2pm (N-B) in New Sweden. NLN's monthly meeting will be at 4pm/5pm

followed by a barbecue at 6pm/7pm. Everyone is invited.

Four new travel guides are the latest additions to the library. They are part of a new series from Detour Publications of Sacramento. They are detailed guides to New York City, Miami/Fort Lauderdale/Key West, Washington DC, and London. Each volume covers places of interest, restaurants, accommodations, and important items such as getting around the city, and suggested itineraries. If you're planning a trip any time soon, these are great guides to look through. ▼

What's Going On?

Calendar!

For more information on these and other NLN events, call the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, 207/498-2088, Wednesdays 7-9pm (Maine time).

• S • I • D • A •

LES NIVEAUX DE RISQUE

LE BAISER avec échange de salive (french-kiss) ne comportent aucun risque. LES CARESSES ET LA MASTURBATION ne constituent aucun risque de transmission du VIH. LE SEXE ORAL Il est peu probable que cette pratique sexuelle puisse transmettre le VIH. LA PÉNÉTRATION ANALE ET VAGINALE non protégée par un condom constitue un haut risque de transmission du VIH, qu'il y ait éjaculation ou non. LES JOUETS SEXUELS (ex: vibreur, godemiché) non partagés ne constituent aucun risque de transmission du virus. LÉCHER L'ANUS ne constitue pas un mode de transmission du VIH. Cependant, elle ne vous protège aucunement de l'hépatite B ou des autres MTS. ACTIVITÉS SADO-MASOCHISTES qui ne causent pas de saignements et qui n'impliquent aucune autre activité à risque ne favorisent pas la transmission du VIH.

• A • I • D • S •

THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER

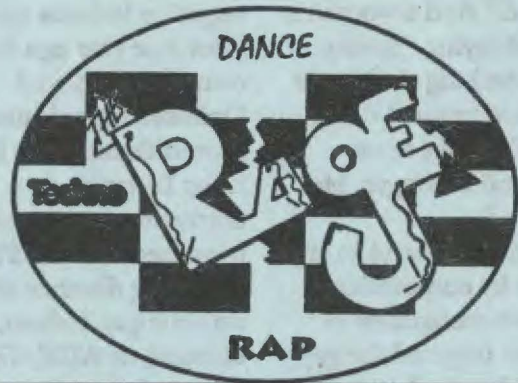
CONSIDERED SAFE: Mutual masturbation, Hugging/body rubbing, Massage, Social (dry) kissing, Fantasy, Light S/M (without bleeding or bruising), Sex toys (when used only on yourself)

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

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

- Sun, June 12, 3pm
(Maine) - NLN Meeting
Lions Community Center,
High Street, Caribou
- Sat, June 25, Noon
(Maine) - Aroostook
County's own "Gay
Games" and First-Day-of-
Summer Barbecue in
New Sweden - volleyball,
croquet, and more
- Sun, July 10, 1pm (Maine)

- Library Day followed by
NLN Meeting at 4pm
(Maine) and a Barbecue at
6pm (Maine), all in New
Sweden
- Sat-Sun, July 16-17 -
Lakeside party on the Van
Buren side of Long Lake,
swimming, boating,
barbecue, games,
overnight if you bring a
sleeping bag. ▼



THE RAGE 123 Franklin Street, downtown Bangor 947-1213

HIV Testing

Testing for HIV in Maine is both confidential and anonymous - they DO NOT need to know your name, address, phone. Testing in New Brunswick is confidential but NOT anonymous! Call "Health 1st" in northern Maine for more information and an appointment.

All Area Code 207

- Fort Kent 834-3513 • Caribou 498-3798
- Presque Isle 768-3056 • Houlton 532-0503

Testing includes both pre- and post-discussion. There is a minimal fee to cover lab costs. ▼

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Gay/Lesbian G·U·I·D·E Lesbienne/Gai

New Brunswick • Maine • Nouveau-Brunswick

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

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 E18 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 & 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, 800.339-4042

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

10%: Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men, POB 10536, Portland 04104

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

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