

A COMMUNIQUE

Volume II: No. 5 May-June 1981 mai-juin

▼ AGA MEETS IN AROOSTOOK ▼

During the weekend of May 15, 16, and 17, 1981, members of the Atlantic Gay Alliance/Association des Gai(e)s de l'Atlantique (AGA) converged on northern Maine for their second meeting. Hosted by NLN, lesbians and gaymen from Halifax, Fredericton, the Lamèque-Bathurst region and local NLN members attended a Friday evening social, the Saturday meeting and evening party, and a Sunday picnic. The individual events were held in Houlton, Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle, and Van Buren -- a "sampler" of where NLN members live.

The highlight of the Saturday meeting was a presentation by a member of NLN who spoke of the current divorce and custody case which this person was going through. We all expressed our sincere support and encouragement.

A film was shown on Saturday afternoon; "Michael, A Gay Son", an award-winning Canadian film about a man who comes out to his family, sparked discussion afterwards about our own coming-out experiences.

Sunday's picnic took place in a log cabin around the fireplace during a mid-May snowstorm. Hot dogs and fresh fish were cooked to everyone's satisfaction. The business of the previous day was concluded at a short wrap-up meeting.

The next AGA meeting will be in Moncton, tentatively scheduled for Labour Day weekend. At that time, discussion will center around the October Atlantic Lesbian-Gay Conference and about our outreach program to the Moncton and Saint John areas.

Again, we want to thank our NLN members who offered their homes and helped to make the weekend a success. We also hope that our guests enjoyed the weekend and will want to return to beautiful northern Maine.

▼ CARIBOU CHURCH SAYS "NO" -- AGAIN ▼

For the second time in 6 months, the First Universalist Church of Caribou has refused to allow NLG the use of space in the church for our meeting. Their decision is totally contrary to the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of which the Caribou church is a member. The UUA is publicly supportive of lesbians and gaymen and has an Office of Lesbian-Gay Concerns in Boston. The UUA has issued several statements during the past 10 years in support of the equal rights and treatment of homosexuals in society, and they have urged all member congregations to be open to their lesbian-gay male communities.

The Board of the Caribou church, through their continued refusal to adhere to the principles of the UUA, has shown that they are influenced by the myths and falsehoods which society presents about lesbians and gaymen. Our course of action is clear; we must continue to approach the church members and show them that there is nothing to fear from us. With the help and support of members from the Boston Office, and from other UUA churches in Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, we will soon be successful in our application for use of church space in Caribou -- we must be patient and persistent.

▼ MAINE LESBIAN-GAY RIGHTS BILL DEFEATED ▼

For the third time in as many legislative sessions, the Maine House and Senate have rejected a bill to outlaw discrimination against lesbians and gaymen in Maine. LD-961, a bill to add the term "sexual or affectional orientation" to the Maine Human Rights Charter, was voted down by the smallest margin in 6 years -- in the State Senate: 16-13; in the House: 98-36. Although we lost, we have shown that with time and ^{with} education of our legislators, we CAN WIN our rights. But we cannot wait until the next session in 1983 -- we must begin lobbying again soon. By changing only 2 votes in the Senate, we would have been successful in that body. It will take time, but we will win our equality under the law, in BOTH houses of the legislature!

P.S. Aroostook County had the strongest lobbying in favor of LD-961 of ANY area in the state!

▼ NEW US GROUP FORMED ▼

At the April Conference at UCLA in Los Angeles, a new national organization was formed. NOLAG - the National Organization of Lesbians and Gays - is a grass-roots movement to begin to counteract the so-called new right. Local chapters are in formation, including a NOLAG/Maine group. Specific details about the organization will be in a separate mailing next month. ALL NLN MEMBERS ARE URGED TO JOIN!

▼ MLGS VIII - PORTLAND ▼

The 8th Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium was held on the Portland campus of the University of Southern Maine on May 8-10, 1981. Over 25 workshops were held on a wide variety of topics. The weekend was attended by about 250 lesbians and gaymen from throughout the state.

Issues discussed included the relationship of lesbians and gaymen within the movement (which NLN will discuss at some of our local meetings), issues facing gaymen (specifically our sexuality - public sex, cross-generational relationships, s&m) and the forthcoming New England Weekend in Boston (see Calendar).

One project in the works is a lesbian-gay radio program in Maine. Alaska has had "gay radio" for four years -- now is the time for Maine to get on the air. Radio is probably the BEST outreach program we can have in a rural area -- closeted (and not-so-closeted) lesbians and gaymen can sit amongst the hangers and clothes with their transistor radios at their ears and find out what's happening in our community. If anyone has any experience in radio or broadcasting, in news-gathering or reporting, in music (both gaymen's and women's) or in writing, PLEASE write to NLN/Radio if you can help.

▼ NLN ON THE AIR ▼

NLN's Media Committee is at it again -- getting our name on the radio through Public Service Announcements. The FCC mandates that radio and TV stations MUST accept announcements from homosexual groups which present themselves to the station.

We've been successful in some cases, unsuccessful in others. We have the FCC regulations on our side -- our media committee needs your support. PLEASE, when you hear an announcement for our group on local radio, make note of the time, date, and station and send it to NLN/Media Committee. It will help us to see if the stations are airing our PSA's when they say they will -- or if they are just giving us a run-around.

Stations to monitor:

AM Radio - WAGM - Presque Isle
 WEGP - Presque Isle
 WFST - Caribou
 WHOU - Houlton

FM Radio - WDHP - Caribou/Presque Isle
 WHOU - Houlton
 WOZI - Presque Isle

* NLN CALENDAR * NLN CALENDRIER * NLN CALENDAR * NLN CALENDRIER

▼ Sunday, June 14, 1981
 dimanche, le 14 juin 1981

NLN June meeting
 at 1pm (2pm in N-B)
 meeting and pot-luck meal
 (see enclosed map)
 Proposed agenda:
 -NLN summer activities
 -choose 6 executive members
 for the next 6 months
 -discussion ...

Rencontre de NLN
 à 13H. (14H., N-B)
 rencontre et souper
 (voir carte inclu)
 Agenda proposé:
 -activités d'été
 -votez l'exécutif
 (6 mois)
 -discutez ...

▼ June 15-21, 1981 (Monday - Sunday) - BOSTON, Massachusetts:

Lesbian-Gay Pride Week. Commemorates the 12th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, the beginning of the modern lesbian-gay liberation movement. Activities throughout the week, including the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (on Tuesday, the 16th); a variety of cultural events: lesbian-gay theatre, art shows, poetry readings, dances, and much more. The week's activities reach their climax on the weekend - June 20-21: On Saturday, the Lesbian-Gay Freedom March will take place. Join with our sisters and brothers from throughout New England as we march through the streets of Boston and show our strength and pride. Last year's march drew 8,000 -- they estimate 10,000 of us will be in the streets this year. A space in the march is set aside for the Maine contingent. If you have never been to such an event, it is an incredible experience you shouldn't miss!

The energy in our numbers is overwhelming. The week's activities end with the New England Lesbian and Gay Conference. "The conference will include workshops, entertainment, etcetera. It will be an exploration of ourselves and a chance for New England to discover just how lesbian-gay oriented we really are." Suggested workshop discussion topics include the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| -Gays/Lesbians in the Church | -Cuban Gays |
| -Alcoholism in Our Community | -Rural Gays/Lesbians |
| -Lesbian/Gay Health Care | -Older Gays/Lesbians |
| -Lesbians Contemplating Motherhood | -Radical Faeries |
| -Lesbians/Gays in Unions | -Self-Defense Methods |
| -Gays/Lesbians in America | -Coming Out |
| -S&M - Its Dynamics | -Lesbian/Gay Youth |
| -Fundraising | -Sexuality |
| -more... | -more... |

For information about housing in Boston, details about the schedule of the week's activities and plans for the Weekend Conference, call or write:

Mondo, 617/354-1755 or Kathy, 617/628-7969
 New England Conference, PO Box 365 (Central Square Station)
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

- ▼ September 5, 6, 7, 1981
le 5, 6, 7 septembre 1981 MONCTON, N-B
Meeting, Atlantic Gay Alliance
Rencontre, Association des Gai(e)s de l'Atlantique
...details this summerdétails cet été
- ▼ Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 16, 17, 18, 1981
vendredi, samedi, dimanche, le 16, 17, 18 octobre 1981
FREDERICTON, N-B
4th Atlantic Community 4e Conférence des Lesbien(ne)s
Lesbian-Gay Conference et Gais de la Communauté
de l'Atlantique
ALL nln members are invited. Billeting available.

▼ NEWS BRIEFS ▼ NEWS BRIEFS ▼ NEWS BRIEFS ▼ NEWS BRIEFS ▼

▼ HALIFAX (The Body Politic): A group of young people met in Halifax April 1 to form the Gay Youth Society of Halifax. One of the main objectives of the group is to work towards establishing a meeting place for gay youth. For information: c/o PO Box 276, Station M, B3J 2N7.

▼ OTTAWA (TBP): The Letter Carriers Union of Canada has, for the first time, bargained for an anti-discrimination and anti-harassment clause on behalf of its gay members. The 1981 contract is expected to be ratified and signed soon.

Sources say management put up no resistance to the sexual orientation clause. LCUC joins the Canadian Union of Postal Workers in assuring gay rights protection to post office employees.

▼ WASHINGTON, DC (TBP): A new religious task force opposed to "racism, sexism and homophobia" within one of the most fundamentalist branches of Christianity formed early this year.

According to director Dr. James Tinny, the Pentecostal Coalition for Human Rights was founded in response to the "almost total identification (in the public's eye) of our churches with such extremist groups as the Moral Majority, Christian Voice, and Religious Roundtable." Tinny sees the PCHR playing an educative role, exposing "the fascist character of alliances

between right-wing politics and conservative religion."

For further information, : PCHR, Box 386, Howard University, Washington, DC 20059.

▼ LONDON, England (Gay Community News): Two doctors report in the British Medical Journal that an operation they performed converted a "vigorously heterosexual" man with no previous gay inclinations into a happy homosexual.

Drs. Christopher Bass and David Rees say they performed a vasectomy on their patient because he and his wife had decided the operation was the most effective form of birth-control available. But, the doctors report, "within six weeks his homosexual fantasies began to emerge. His sexual interest in his wife declined to negligible levels. Had our patient not undergone vasectomy perhaps some other event would have served to make his latent homosexuality manifest. He found his change in sexual orientation a rewarding experience and expressed no desire to alter it."

The patient's recovery was complete, the doctors report, when "three months after the operation he started a homosexual relationship."

▼ News sources: The Body Politic (Toronto) and Gay Community News (Boston).

NOT WHOLLY NUNSENSE

FROM

THE SISTERS

OF

PERPETUAL

INDULGENCE



Photo: BEEDACHE (Montreal)

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for Lesbians & Gay men

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PO Box 8953 Station A
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Professional Gayman, 38, who summers in Aroostook, winters in New York City, wishes to correspond and meet other gays from Aroostook. Write: G. Stafford, c/o Incentra Village House, 32 Eighth Avenue, NYC, New York 10014...212/691-7010.



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▼ **READ!** ▼