

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD COMMUNIQUE

Volume II: No. 10

15 XII 1981

▼ COMMENTARY - by benj. ▼

"REST AREAS SITES FOR GAYS"

This was the fascinating headline on a front page article in the BANGOR DAILY NEWS (BDN) on Wednesday, 25 Nov., 1981 (the day before Thanksgiving). I couldn't imagine what revealing news I would learn from this item. But, alas, reading it, what did I find but 23 paragraphs of homophobic drivel. It seems that we have what reporter A. Jay Higgins refers to as the "Velvet Underground" --- an organized network of meeting places for male homosexuals. Richard Scofield, of the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT), says the situation is so bad that people may be approached by gays during daylight hours! And another DOT official feared for the safety of children!! Now we've been made aware of the ignorance which runs rampant at the DOT. They haven't given up on this "child molesting" myth (don't they realize that 90% of the children who ARE abused are girls harmed by men --- and mostly by men whom they know?!)

Of course, anyone, gay or straight, who is acting in an illegal manner should be arrested. But of those gaymen who DO frequent rest areas, we are by-and-large law abiding citizens. The so-called "R.A." or "Country Store" in Aroostook is a major social spot for many area gays. To suggest, as state official are doing, that legislation should be adopted to prevent us from congregating at the R.A. is both ludicrous and a dangerous infringement upon our constitutional freedoms of assembly.

One positive note in the Wednesday article was a quote by Cpl. Donald Pushard of the Maine State Police. "You name 'em and they're there. Clergymen, doctors, bank presidents, truck drivers, farmers and accountants." We ARE everywhere, aren't we.

On Thanksgiving Day, a second article, this time in response to Wednesday's, appeared on "the Maine Page" (NOT on page 1). A Gay People's Alliance (GPA) member, Brian Fairbrother, responded with a rebuttal of sorts. (GPA is the group at the University of Southern Maine in Portland). Fairbrother stressed the need for gay gathering places where we would feel welcomed -- pointing

out the lack of any gay and lesbian bars, clubs, or restaurants north of Augusta. It seems to me that it's only a matter of time until some enterprising gay person, male or female (who has the financial backing) opens a business here in northern Maine/New Brunswick which our "family" may patronize and where we can feel comfortable. Everyone knows the clientele is here!

One final comment: State Trooper Pushard was hopeful that publicity about the rest areas would curtail some of the activity. I doubt it. Gaymen who frequent the R.A. SHOULD be wary of police entrapment; but as for discouraging us, I don't think that will happen. As long as there is no other place to go, some gaymen will continue to patronize the R.A... It has become an Aroostook County institution of sorts.

Hopefully, I would like to see an alternative to this public meeting place. Anyone want to open a café/restaurant/bar/club!?

ADDENDUM: As we go to press, the Aroostook County edition of the Bangor Daily, Wednesday, December 9, 1981, features an article about the R.A. and NLN's response to the earlier news items. Again, Virginia Hiltz of the BDN Houlton Bureau has shown us her support by penning this latest item. Thanks, Virginia -- there really IS a Santa Claus! ♥

▼ FPA -- A DANGER ON THE RIGHT ▼

A bill embodying the New Right's social ideals has been introduced into the U.S. Congress. Called the Family Protection Act (FPA) (Senate bill S.1378, House bill H.R.3955), its aim is "to preserve the integrity of the American Family" at the expense of the rights of women, children, racial minorities, teachers, and lesbians and gaymen.

The FPA has many goals: it would cut federal funds to aid desegregation programs, it would deny teachers' unions collective bargaining rights, it would prohibit federal government interference in state statutes which pertain to spousal and child abuse and juvenile delinquency, it would eliminate funding for family planning services to unmarried minors, and it would prohibit the use of federal funds to "secure or promote" educational materials which tend to "denigrate, diminish or deny the role differences between the sexes as (they) have been historic-

cally understood in the U.S." The FPA would also enforce "devotional readings from religious literature" in public schools.

The FPA is the centerpiece of the Right's program to restructure American society to conform with the beliefs of a fundamentalist Christian minority. The kind of family the bill seeks to "protect" is defined in narrow and outdated terms: the father as patriarch and breadwinner, the mother as helpmate -- cook and bottlewasher, the children as essentially property. This model of the family excludes a huge number of Americans, including single parents and their children, non-married heterosexual couples with or without children, people in various kinds of communal relationships, and, of course, lesbians and gaymen. If the bill is passed by Congress and signed by the president -- unfortunately not a far-fetched possibility -- all sorts of non-traditional family ties and relationships will be not enhanced but threatened.

The FPA restricts the rights of women, both married and unmarried, of children, and of teachers. It would drastically curtail federal efforts to combat child and spouse abuse, to reform divorce laws, and to aid minorities in education. But of all groups, it is only gay people who are SPECIFICALLY SINGLED OUT for legalized discrimination. The FPA would make anti-gay prejudice a matter of national law.

The FPA states that "no federal funds may be made available under any provision of federal law to any public or private individual group, foundation, commission, corporation, association or other entity for the purpose of advocating, promoting, or suggesting homosexuality, male or female, as a lifestyle."

The Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress interprets this section to mean that "no person who was a homosexual or (any person) who even intimated that homosexuality might be an 'acceptable' lifestyle could receive any federal funds...such as Social Security, welfare, veterans programs, or student assistance." This would mean that not only lesbians and gaymen would lose these federal benefits, but agencies such as the Arcostook Mental Health Center and the ACAP Venus Clinic, which provide mental and physical health care to gay people, would lose federal funds if they did not expressly maintain that homosexuality is "unacceptable". Colleges and univer-


sities that recognized gay and lesbian student groups (such as the University of Maine) would find that their federal funding of completely unrelated programs was threatened.

The FPA is a dangerous piece of legislation. Its backers want THEIR values and beliefs written into law. As lesbians and gaymen, we are all attacked by this repressive piece of legislation. And how do our representatives feel about the FPA? WRITE THEM and find out! Tell them what YOU think of the so-called "Family Protection Act".

*Rep. Olympia Snowe	*Sen. George Mitchell	*Sen. William Cohen
Main Street	Church Street	Main Street
Presque Isle 04769	Presque Isle 04769	Presque Isle 04769

LATE NEWS: Representatives of over 40 prominent U.S. civil rights and educational organizations have met to form a coalition to oppose the Family Protection Act. Among represented groups: American Civil Liberties Union, B'nai B'rith Women, the Ms. Foundation, the NAACP, the National Educational Association, Women's Action Alliance, the League of Women Voters, the Children's Defense Fund, the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. All coalition members agreed that the FPA must be fought "in its entirety".

At an NGTF-sponsored press conference, opposition to the FPA was expressed by well-known organizations and individuals, among them: Americans for Democratic Action, National Women's Political Caucus, the National Association of Social Workers, and Ed Asner, star of TV'S Lou Grant and president of the Screen Actors Guild. ▽



Information for this issue of COMMUNIQUE was culled, in part, from the following publications: BANGOR DAILY NEWS, Bangor, Maine; THE BODY POLITIC, Toronto; GAY COMMUNITY NEWS (GCN), Boston; ZAP - the newsletter of HOPS: Homophiles of Penn State; THE OPEN CLOSET - the newsletter of the Southern Vermont Gay and Lesbian Community, Brattleboro; BOTH SIDES NOW - the newsletter of the Maui (Hawaii) Gay/Bi/Lesbian Community Organization; TASK FORCE REPORT - Newsletter of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), New York City; MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER, Newport.

NEWS ▼ NOUVELLES ▼ NEWS ▼ NOUVELLES

CARIBOU: The Winter Carnival, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, will take place from February 11-21, 1982.

NLN will be entering the SNOW SCULPTURE competition; the theme of this year's Carnival is from the U.S. Parks and Recreation Department:

"Life. Be in it." Several cartoons (samples at left) are part of the Rec. Department's campaign.



These figures are all involved in various activities. In order for our snow sculpture to qualify for judging, it must include one of these cartoon figures.

(IF WE WANT
IT TO BE
JUDGED)

Any NLN members who wish to help plan and/or work on our snow sculpture are urged to attend a planning meeting on Saturday, January 2, 1982 at 1 PM (Maine time). See enclosed maps for location. ▼

LEWISTON, Maine: The HEYMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY is seeking donations of books and is also open for lending. The library is sponsored by DIGNITY/Maine, an organization for Catholic lesbians and gaymen. To obtain a list of books of interest to gaymen and lesbians, or to request a specific book, write to Dignity/Maine. Books can be sent in an unmarked envelope for \$1 postage and may be kept for one month. To donate books, for a Dignity membership (\$18/year), or for a Dignity newsletter subscription (\$6/year), write: DIGNITY/Maine, POB 7021, Lewiston, 04240. ▼

BANGOR, Maine: The next statewide gathering, the MAINE LESBIAN AND GAYMEN'S SYMPOSIUM IX, will be hosting the 2nd Annual New England Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men. This combined Symposium IX/Conference 2 weekend will be co-sponsored by the Wilde-Stein Club at the Univ. of Maine at Orono and will take place in late March or April, 1982. NLN is involved in the planning of this combined conference. The next planning meeting is on Saturday, January 30, 1982 at 1 PM; the meeting is in Memorial Union on the campus of U.M.O. Several NLN members will be attending; if you are interested, contact any NLN Executive member. ▼

BOSTON: The Boston Women's Health Book Collective needs help from other women in revising their noteworthy book,

OUR BODIES, OURSELVES. For information about how to help: BWHBC, Box 192, West Somerville, Mass. 02144. In a related matter, a Moral Majority-inspired campaign is attempting to remove Our Bodies, Ourselves from libraries. Sections of this award-winning book deal with masturbation, pre-marital sex, and lesbian lifestyles in a positive and supportive manner. Censorship attacks have occurred in approximately 35 small towns; yet even where local citizens are unaware or sceptical of the book's contents, they tend to oppose censorship. ▼

▼TORONTO: The RIGHT TO PRIVACY COMMITTEE (RTPC) is coordinating a Canada-wide effort to call for the repeal of the bawdyhouse laws by publicizing the demand in a full-page ad in the national edition of The Globe and Mail. They want to reach out to people outside the gay/lesbian community. Organizing straight support is an important goal of this ad effort. The ad will be paid for by those people who pay \$10 each to have their names appear in the ad. To donate, send \$10, your name and address to: Privacy Ad Campaign, 730 Bathurst Street, Toronto, M5S 9Z9. ▼

▼TORONTO: Canada's 9TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LESBIANS AND GAY MEN will be held in this city from June 26 to July 5, 1982. Major topics of discussion include the bawdyhouse laws and the bath raids, rural and small town organizing, the gay rights movement in Québec, children's sexuality and the public schools, ghetto politics, the "Moral Majority" in Canada, and developing communications and support networks across the country. ▼

▼WASHINGTON, D.C.: The next annual meeting of the INTERNATIONAL GAY ASSOCIATION will be holding its next meeting here, the first time in North America. The conference will take place at the end of July, 1982. Lesbians and gaymen from many other nations will converge on the U.S. capitol for this historic gathering. ▼

▼TORONTO: The organizers of a joint conference of the University Film Association, the Society for Cinema Studies, and the Film Studies Association of Canada have canceled their meeting here. Hundreds of film educators from North America will not go to Toronto; they are supporting the BOYCOTT ONTARIO campaign of the Right to Privacy Committee, which was begun to point out the harrassment of lesbians and gaymen in the province. Ontario has been criticized for both their film censor's "incapacity to

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judge delicate questions of aesthetics, context or social value", and the "climate of hatred and intolerance" fostered by "attacks on lesbians and gays." ▽

WASHINGTON, D.C.: This city is in a unique position whereby they may pass their own laws and statutes, as may any other U.S. city, yet the legislation may be vetoed by the U.S. Congress if acted upon within 30 days. This happened recently. In the Moral Majority's first major legislative victory, DC ACT 4-69 was rejected by the U.S. House of Representatives. This D.C. law, which had taken several years to finalize and which had been approved unanimously by the D.C. City Council, would have decriminalized most forms of private, consensual sex between adults by repealing sections of the criminal code which prohibited sodomy, adultery, and oral sex; 16 would be the age of consent; wives could charge their husbands with rape. The House rejected the law 281-119. The Moral Majority charged that the measure would have legalized sex with animals, public sex and the seduction of students by their teachers. They totally distorted the effects of the law...and they won! "What happened in Wash. is a threat to every gay person in this country", said a D.C. gay activist. We must give Olympia Snowe, northern Maine's Representative, two points: she voted against the Moral Majority stand and voted for the D.C. law. ▽

WASHINGTON, D.C.: There is currently a LESBIAN-GAY RIGHTS BILL in the U.S. Senate. It now has seven co-sponsors: Tsongas (Dem., Mass.), Kennedy, (D, Mass), Cranston (D, Calif) Moynihan (D, NY), Inouye (D, Hawaii), Weiher (Rep., Conn), and Packwood (R, Oregon). Sen. Moynihan is a conservative, and Sen. Cranston does not endorse "lost causes". ▽

WASHINGTON, D.C.: The Food and Drug Administration has just approved Acyclovir for the treatment of genital herpes. Let your doctor know this! The nation and the world will probably never be told that the major share of the credit for its development belongs to the Gay Men's Health Project of N.Y.C. A Hepatitis B Vaccine has also been developed. Ask your doctor about it. ▽

DAYTON, Ohio: A U.S. magistrate judge has ruled that one's sexual orientation is not sufficient grounds for disciplining or firing a teacher. Former high school vocational counselor Marjorie Rowland was awarded \$40,447 in damages by a jury of 8 women and 4 men. Rowland's principal first suspended and then fired her because she had told her

secretary and 2 gay students that she had a woman lover. The court ruled that the school district had violated Rowland's constitutional rights to freedom of speech and equal protection of the law. ▼

MADISON, Wisconsin: The State Assembly passed a bill on October 23 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. If, as is expected, the more progressive State Senate follows suit and the Governor does not veto the bill, Wisconsin would become the first state in the U.S. to enact legislation to protect gay people from discrimination in housing, public accommodation, and employment. The Assembly vote was 50-46. The success is attributed to a wide base of support from religious groups, including the Milwaukee dioceses of the Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches, and the state bodies of the United Methodist, Presbyterian, American Baptist, Unitarian Universalist, and Lutheran churches. ▼

ATLANTA, Georgia: Former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. and newly-elected mayor of Atlanta has spoken out publicly on behalf of lesbians and gaymen. Andrew Young received support from gay friends on the issue of racism and he is supportive of gay people in our struggle for equal rights and liberation. "I'm comfortable in speaking out on (the gay community's) behalf when gays are not there to speak for themselves." ▼

SPORTS ▼ SPORTS ▼ SPORTS ▼ SPORTS ▼ SPORTS ▼ SPORTS ▼ SPORTS ▼

Tennis star Martina Navratilova continues to face repercussions for her openness about her sexual preference for women. Former lover of lesbian author Rita Mae Brown, Navratilova was forced to resign as president of the Women's Tennis Association, which then elected Billie Jean King, only to be faced later with yet another revelation of a lesbian love affair. Avon Products, Inc. has threatened to cease its sponsorship of women's tennis tournaments because of Navratilova's and King's statements about their sexual orientation. Navratilova, who describes herself as bisexual, is a Czechoslovakian émigré and is concerned about her pending application for U.S. citizenship. ▼

COMMUNIQUE is published by Northern Lambda Nord, Box 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA. COMMUNIQUE solicits articles of interest to lesbians and gaymen; we serve the rural region of Northern Maine, Northwestern New Brunswick, and Témiscouata, Québec. Member: Atlantic Lesbian and Gay Assn.