

# Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

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## MAINE CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION

LD 602 is a bill to amend the Maine Human Rights Act to include the term "sexual orientation" in the protected categories of employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit, providing gaymen and lesbians protection from discrimination in these areas. Hearings before the Judiciary Committee, originally scheduled for May 5, have been re-scheduled for Monday, May 11 in the State Office Building, Augusta. This Legislative Session will conclude no later than June 15. The Judiciary Committee will recommend that the gay-lesbian civil rights bill "ought to pass" or "ought not to pass". Legislators will vote on the bill between mid-May and the end of the session. Now is the time to let your legislators know what you think. You may write your State Senator and Representative or you may choose to call them. When you call, you can identify yourself or merely state that you live in their district. Whatever you do, contact your two legislators.

When speaking about the bill, refer to it as it is titled (a bill to include sexual orientation in the Maine Human Rights Act) or as the "gay civil rights bill". Try to avoid the term "gay rights bill".

Opposition comes exclusively from a small group of fundamentalists. Employers, landlords, banks, or restaurant owners, those who would be affected by the bill, have not testified against it. The Chamber of Commerce in Maine has taken no position.

As to the religious question, the issue is separation of church and state. Objections are made to the bill on moral grounds based on religion. These people have a right to hold these beliefs, even to teach their children these values. But they do not have the right to impose this narrowly-held moral view on the rest of society. Passage of this bill will not impinge on or limit in any way the private practice of any religion.

The bill does not talk about unlimited rights, or more rights than others have. It would grant us the right not to be fired, evicted, denied public accommodation, or denied credit SOLELY because of our sexuality.

On AIDS: The lack of civil rights of gay people impedes the fight against AIDS. The State of Maine's policy is a contradiction when dealing with gaymen and lesbians. We are not granted equal protection under the law and have no redress through the courts. Enter AIDS. Now the State Bureau of Health is urgently seeking our advice and cooperation in fighting AIDS. The Bureau would also like gaymen to be tested for exposure to the virus (HIV), but because of years of lack of legal protections, gay people are wary of government and have learned how to hide. The State cannot have it both ways. Civil rights must be granted to lesbians and gaymen to foster the cooperation that is urgently needed.

Here are the names, addresses, and home phone numbers of the 15 members of the Aroostook County delegation. Call them at home on the weekend. We pay their salaries; they work for US. There's nothing wrong with contacting them at home. They expect it. You may want to contact them in Augusta by mail (Senators: State House, Station 3, Augusta 04333; Representatives: Station 2) or by telephone: Senators: 1-800-423-6900/Reps: 1-800-423-2900. The switch-

board will take a message. Whatever method you choose to tell your two legislators to vote for LD 602, TELL THEM TODAY. A single phonecall or letter has tremendous impact.

#### MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Districts 140-151 (Aroostook County)

- 140: Rep. Carl B. Smith, POB 39, Island Falls 04747, 463-2192  
 141: Rep. Gennette M. Ingraham, 45 Court Street, Houlton 04730, 532-2415  
 \*\*142: Rep. Mary H. MacBride, 63 Hillside Street, Presque Isle 04769, 769-0421  
 \*\* Mary MacBride is a member of the Judiciary Committee. You don't have to live in her district to urge her support for LD 602!  
 143: Rep. John Lisnik, RFD 1, Box 130, Presque Isle 04769, 764-0827  
 144: Rep. Carolyn T. Mahany, RFD 1, Box 159, Easton 04740, 488-2741  
 145: Rep. Susan J. Pines, 22 Long Road, Limestone 04750, 328-4821  
 146: Rep. Kenneth L. Matthews, 24 Garden Circle, Caribou 04736, 498-3317  
 147: Rep. Malachi Anderson, Route 1, Caribou 04736, 492-1771  
 148: Rep. Hilda C. Martin, 20 Poplar Street, Van Buren 04785, 868-2802  
 149: Rep. Edward A. McHenry, 14 North 6th Avenue, Madawaska 04756, 728-4365  
 150: Rep. Judy Paradis, RFD1, Box 1009, Madawaska 04756, 728-4854  
 151: Rep. John L. Martin (Speaker of the House), POB 250, Eagle Lake 04739, 444-5556

#### MAINE SENATE, Districts 1-3 (Aroostook County)

- 1: Sen. Raymond Theriault, 1 First Street, Fort Kent 04743, 834-3082  
 2: Sen. Donald F. Collins, 4 Dorcas Avenue, Caribou 04736, 492-0291  
 3: Sen. Margaret G. Ludwig, 3 Rogers Road, Houlton 04730, 532-2715

#### CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION ADOPTED IN ONTARIO AND THE YUKON

Two jurisdictions in Canada have adopted legislation protecting lesbians and gaymen from discrimination. Ontario's Liberal government passed a bill to include "sexual orientation" in that province's Human Rights Code. Similar rules have been adopted in the Yukon by their New Democratic Party government. Quebec also provides legal protection against discrimination for the gay people of that province. No Atlantic Canadian governments have adopted similar protections. It has not been finally determined if the recently-adopted Charter of Rights and Freedoms will include gay people as a protected class.

#### REAGAN CONTINUES BAN ON ENTRY BY FOREIGN GAYS

Ronald Reagan has signed into law a newly-adopted U.S. Immigration Reform and Control Act which leaves fully intact language in the previous immigration law which bars gaymen and lesbians from entering the United States. Under current law all gay people can be excluded from the US on the basis of being afflicted with a "psychopathic personality". This law applies to foreign gays entering the US to visit, do business, or to immigrate. All Canadians are reminded to avoid identifying themselves as gay when entering the USA. Avoid wearing buttons or T-shirts dealing with gays or carrying books or magazines which may indicate that you are gay.

#### NLN AGENDA

The agenda for Lambda's next monthly meeting in Fort Fairfield will include nominations for the Steering Committee for the period June-December 87. Elections will be at the June meeting in Presque Isle. There will also be a report about the newly-acquired books, many of which are first-editions and autographed copies of lesbian-gay literature.

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#### SYMPOSIUM XIV - 'COMING OUT FOR FREEDOM'

The Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XIV, this state's annual statewide conference, will be held over the July 4th weekend. The conference will be held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Charlie Howard Memorial Day observance. The sponsors, the BAGLSC group ("bagels" - Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition) has planned the Symposium for the Orono campus of the University of Maine. On-campus housing will be available for out-of-town guests. Registration begins at noon Friday, July 3. Two workshops will be held from 4-6pm Friday: \* Lesbian Sex, with Diane Elze, and \* Gaymen's Sex, with John Preston. After a dinner break there will be a "contra dance" that evening.

Saturday, July 4 begins with Low Impact Gayrobics, the welcome address and announcements, and a Keynote Address by Lois Reckett from the National Organization for Women. Four workshop periods will be held during the day. Saturday dinner will be included in your registration fee. Fourth of July fireworks in Bangor will be held that evening followed by a Symposium Dance at the UMO Campus.

Sunday begins with a Memorial Service for Charlie Howard, a march through downtown Bangor, and a Memorial Speaker, Darrell Yates Rist.

For more information and registration, contact BAGLSC, POB 1805, Bangor 04401.

#### COORS BEER BOYCOTT CONTINUES

The ten-year-old boycott of Coors beers continues in North America. The most recent sign of the growing boycott is the decision by Fenway Park officials in Boston, home of the Boston Red Sox, to discontinue sale of Coors beer at the stadium. Local union representatives, gay Boston City Councilmember David Scondras and Fenway Park management reached the agreement earlier this year. Scondras said that "Boston baseball fans should not be subsidizing a terrorist war in Central America, nor should they help support a family (Coors) that is dedicated to attacking the rights of gay people, blacks, women, and unions."

The family-controlled Adolph Coors Brewing Company gives thousands of dollars to a variety of far-right groups. When you purchase Coors beers your money ultimately helps finance Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum, a tax-exempt New Right humanitarian and Contra support group; the John Birch Society; the Moral Majority; plus several other right wing groups whose work is aimed at stopping any efforts by gay-lesbian groups to gain civil rights, working against the Equal Rights Amendment, against a woman's right to an abortion, against sex education, and against birth control counseling, among other issues.

US Surgeon General Everett Koop has spoken strongly in favor of AIDS education in the schools, use of condoms to help stop the spread of AIDS, and, despite his personal fundamentalist Christian beliefs, continues to realize that AIDS is a health issue, not a moral issue. When Koop spoke at a pediatric AIDS conference, his participation was protested by a host of conservative groups which attacked his stand on safe sex, condom advertising, and AIDS education. Phyllis Schlafly, protest organizer, said, "Every time he opens his mouth, he digs himself further in. It looks to me like the homosexuals are editing his material."

When the American Heart Association in Oregon held a benefit Valentine's Day race, it was noted in their literature seven times that same-sex couples were prohibited from participating. Despite a claim that "the American Heart Association in Oregon does not discriminate against gays or any other group. After all, heart disease is non-discriminatory," the Couple's Run race sponsor claimed that "the set-up of the race was not adaptable to same-sex runners." Sponsor of the race? The Adolph Coors Brewing Company.

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### Gay/Lesbian GUIDE Lesbienne/Gai

- ★ **NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK:** Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA. Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber/Télégai, 207/498-2088, Wednesdays/mercredi, 7-9pm (Eastern time/heure de l'est)
- **FREDERICTON:** Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG), POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2 - FLAGline, 506/457-2156
- **ORONO:** Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine 04469 - meets in Thursdays, 6-9pm in Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union Building
- **BANGOR:** Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition (BAGLS), POB 1805, 04401 - meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7pm, at 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer - 989-3306
- **BANGOR:** Interweave, Inc., POB 8008, 04401 - Meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 8pm at University College Center, Texas Avenue, Bangor - Dance and coffee house every Saturday, 9pm-1am at University College Center - \$3.00 - Information: 884-7079
- **QUEBEC:** Centre homophile d'aide et de libération (CHAL), 175, Prince-Edouard, G1K 2M2, 418/523-4997
- **QUEBEC:** Groupe gai de l'Université Laval (GGUL) et Groupe des femmes gaies de l'Université Laval (GFGUL), CP 2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cité Universitaire, Ste-Foy, G1K 7P4
- **MONCTON:** Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton/Gays and Lesbians of Moncton (GLM), CP/POB 7102, Riverview E1B 1V0
- **PORTLAND:** Gay/Lesbian Alliance, University of Southern Maine, 92 Bedford Street, 04102, 207/780-4085
- **PORTLAND:** Harbor Masters, Inc., leather-levi group, POB 4044, 04104
- **HALIFAX:** Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE), Box 3611, South Postal Station, B3J 3K6, 902/429-6969
- **NEWFOUNDLAND:** Gay Association in Newfoundland (GAIN), Box 1364, Station C, St. John's, A1C 5N5
- **MONTREAL:** Télégai, 514/933-2395
- **ARCHIVES FOR THE PROTECTION OF GAY HISTORY AND LITERATURE:** Box 6368, Station A, Saint John, New Brunswick E2L 4R8
- **OUR PAPER:** A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine - monthly newspaper; \$12 for one year subscription, POB 10744, Portland 04104
- **MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE:** POB 108, Yarmouth 04096

#### AIDS information SIDA

- **AIDS-Line,** information and referral service, 207/775-1267 - 1-800/851-AIDS (-2437)
- **GAY HEALTH ACTION COMMITTEE,** POB 10723, Portland 04104
- **MacAIDS,** the Metro Area Committee on AIDS, POB 1013, Halifax, B3J 2X1

★★★★ **COMMUNIQUE** is published ten times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick. Subscriptions - \$10 per year. NLN Membership - \$13 per year, which includes Communiqué. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN accepts Canadian and U.S. funds at par. NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are U.S. tax deductible. Advertising rates in Communiqué are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.