



COMMUNIQUE

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NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FORMED TO WORK FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

A concerted effort has now begun to amend the Human Rights Code in New Brunswick to include discrimination protection for the provinces' lesbians and gaymen. Organized by the Human Rights Committee of FLAG, Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, this newly-formed group will be known as the *New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform/Coalition pour la réforme des droits de la personne au Nouveau-Brunswick*. Representatives of the three currently-active organizations in the province - Northern Lambda Nord, Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, and Gays and Lesbians of Moncton/*Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton* - are meeting in Moncton Saturday, February 13.

The impetus for this organization is a result of the sweeping victory in October 1987 of the Liberal Party in the provincial election; Liberals captured every seat in the Legislature. It was only after the Liberals gained control of the Ontario Legislature that that province adopted civil rights protections for gays. It is felt that there is now an 18-month "window of opportunity" for New Brunswick to become the nation's fifth province or territory to adopt a non-discrimination policy towards its gay citizens. (Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and the Yukon Territory are the other four.) After this first 18-month period, as it gets closer to election time, this issue will become more of a political "hot potato" in the province.

Behind-the-scenes lobbying has begun in Fredericton. Human Rights legislation falls under the jurisdiction of the Labour Committee, and representatives of the Coalition have already received favourable response from those quarters. Efforts will remain low-keyed, since it is felt that if it becomes generally known that the lesbians and gaymen in the province are working towards gaining civil rights protections, the right wing opposition will have time to mobilize their forces.

The Coalition is currently in need of two things: interested persons who can help with the work it will take to gain these objectives, and . . . yes, money. The Coalition has funding for about three month's work; additional funding will be necessary if this effort is to succeed. If you are interested in more information about what you can do to help, or if you can make a donation, contact Lambda's representative (Randy from Woodstock), or get in touch with the Coalition directly at P.O.Box 1556, Station A, Fredericton, E3B 5G2.

MAINE PUBLIC RADIO AND NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD -- ANOTHER CONFRONTATION

In 1984, when some Lambs travelled to Orono to help Maine Public Broadcasting Network's radio fundraising drive, we ran into a problem. MPBN's bank of telephones was staffed by gaymen and lesbians. We presented a "challenge donation": we would donate a one year's subscription to *CUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine* to anyone who was

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a member of Maine's gay-lesbian community who called in a financial pledge to MPBN Radio. When they read the challenge on the air, they noted the newspaper's name as "Our Paper" and failed to read the rest of the title, identifying exactly whose paper it was. When questioned, a member of the MPBN staff equated promoting "Our Paper" with supporting a publication from the Ku Klux Klan! Weeks later, MPBN abandoned their policy of accepting "challenge donations".

In December 1987, a donation was made to MPBN Radio in the name of "The Gay and Lesbian Phoneline of Aroostook". Due to what MPBN now explains as a "goof", the Phoneline pledge was never acknowledged on the air, even though we asked them - two evenings in a row - to do so. It would seem that they still have trouble saying the "G" word and the "L" word on the air unless it's part of a news story.

There is now available to public radio stations in the U.S. a 26-week program called "insideOUT - the international gay and lesbian radio magazine". This half-hour program is available to MPBN radio for free; there is no need to pay for the use of this feed from the National Public Satellite Radio Network. Lambda has been lobbying MPBN since the latter part of January, encouraging them to air this program. They have no locally-originating lesbian-gay radio programs. "insideOUT" is the perfect opportunity for MPBN to provide programming to our community and at the same time tap an until-now un-tapped source of important financial support.

"insideOUT" begins the week of April 4th. If you're currently an MPBN Radio member, write to them and let them know you want gay-lesbian radio on the air. If you're not a member, send in a donation of ANY amount and become part of their "family"! The person at MPBN to contact is Les Myers, Program Director, MPBN Radio, 65 Texas Avenue, Bangor 04401 (941-1010). Send your membership donation to MPBN Radio, Box 1986, Bangor 04401. If you'd like to contact "insideOUT" directly, their address is insideOUT, POB 38327, Los Angeles 90038, attention: Greg Gordon.

By the way, MPBN Radio has told Lambda that the Phoneline pledge will be acknowledged on the air during their April campaign. If you're listening to MPBN at the time and hear them announce a donation from The Gay and Lesbian Phoneline of Aroostook, please make note of the date and time and send it to Lambda (POB 990, Caribou 04736).

TO ALL THE LAMBS

"Just a quick note to wish all of you a great 8th Anniversary. Your work is of great importance to all in the State of Maine. My special thanks to Roger, Gilles, & Dick for their special love they show for their people by staying with it so long. Keep up the great work.

"Yours in Love & Brotherhood, /s/ Butch Fenton, Captain, the HarborMasters"

MR. DRUMMER/NEW ENGLAND CONTEST

The Harbor Masters, a Portland-based group, is sponsoring the 1988 Mr. Drummer New England Contest, Saturday, March 18th at the Underground, 3 Spring Street, Portland. The Harbor Masters are calling for entrants in this contest. All contestants receive a Mr. Drummer New England t-shirt plus free admission to the reception for themselves (plus sponsor, if any). Contestants will compete in three

categories: (1) street clothes, (2) jock/swimsuit, (3) leather, in that order. During the third phase of the competition, contestants will be required to act out on the stage a leather fantasy (solo or accompanied) props may be used. PRIZES are: 1st place - \$100 cash plus round-trip air fare to San Francisco and housing for the Mr. Drummer Finals, held during San Francisco's Gay Pride Weekend, and a 1st place trophy. 2nd place - \$50 cash and a trophy. 3rd place - \$25 cash and a trophy. Applicants must complete a entrant form (available at the Lambda office) plus a \$20 entrants' fee and a current photo. You must be 21 years of age to enter. For more information, contact Ralph or Butch (774-4785) or the Underground (773-3315). The Harbor Masters, Inc., POB 4044, Portland 04101.

LEATHER CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE

LIVING IN LEATHER 3 is the theme of the 1988 National Conference scheduled for October 7-10 in Seattle. The Conference is sponsored by the National Leather Association, a national political, social, and charitable organization of Gays and Lesbians of Leather. For more information, contact the NLA, POB 17463, Seattle, Washington 98107.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE TRUSTEES NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

Since their adoption of a non-discrimination clause based upon one's sexual orientation, the Trustees of the University of Maine System have been the targets of an organized right-wing campaign to get them to rescind their actions. Lead by Maine's Christian Civic League, it's reported that "the right-wing crazies have been at work and several boxes of very negative letters have arrived condemning the action. They may have enough of an effect to cause the B.O.T. to reconsider, and that would be disastrous. We have to get as much support as possible for this from as many people as possible. Call this an all-out alert. Let's hope people respond." (Ben L.)

Take a moment to write a note. It needn't say more than you support the recent action taken the the University Board of Trustees to protect lesbians and gaymen from discrimination at the University of Maine System. Send your letters to:

ROBERT WOODBURY, Chancellor, University of Maine System
107 Maine Avenue, Bangor 04401

Write a letter TODAY!!

'THE MAINE PROGRESSIVE: A Voice for the People of Maine'

There's a monthly newspaper which serves Maine's progressive community - those people working for social change (lesbians, gaymen, Native Americans, people of color, handicapped,...) - a newspaper which does not shy away from using the "L" word and the "G" word. *The Maine Progressive* is looking for more subscribers, and to this end they've asked *Communiqué* to put inserts in this issue of the newsletter. In exchange for help to publicize their publication, Lambda has been given *The Progressive's* Aroostook County mailing list. This will allow NLN to reach other progressive-minded (i.e. supportive of gay-lesbian issues) people in northern Maine. Please read the enclosed flyer; subscribe to one of our community's friends in Maine, *The Maine Progressive*.

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AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT TOURS U.S.

The Names Project quilt, also known as the AIDS Memorial Quilt, composed of over 3,000 hand-crafted panels, each dedicated to someone who has died of AIDS, is touring the U.S. The Quilt was begun in early 1987 and was exhibited on the Mall last October during the March on Washington. Now there is a New England chapter of the Names Project. Their goal is to add hundreds of panels to the national quilt before its arrival in Boston the weekend of June 18.

Specific information regarding dimensions, materials, and guidelines when creating a memorial panel for the quilt will be available at the February 28th meeting in Presque Isle.

NLN FEBRUARY MEETING

Agenda includes: Symposium 1989 - is Lambda going to do it again?: Grants - getting one to pay for the Phoneline; insideOUT - status report; New Brunswick Coalition - progress report; Names Quilt - information; calendar of activities - plan up-coming gatherings

GAY AA GROUP NOW ACTIVE IN NORTHERN MAINE

There now exists an Alcoholics Anonymous group for gaymen and lesbians. This recently-formed group meets regularly in Madawaska. All lesbians and gaymen who have a drug and/or alcohol problem are welcome to attend. Several guidelines are presented: this is not the place to meet tricks; newcomers who have never been to regular AA meetings are urged to attend them for at least three months in order to better understand how the group functions (members of the gay AA group will provide information about local AA groups and will accompany persons to these first meetings, if so desired).

Until now, the only gay AA groups have been located in Bangor and areas south. Those people in Maine and New Brunswick who are interested in this Madawaska-based group are urged to contact the Northern Maine Gay AA by getting in touch with the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline (498-2088, in Caribou), or speak with one of the Steering Committee members; you will then be put in touch with a contact person from the gay AA.

CANADA'S "LESBIAN AND GAY NEWS MAGAZINE" FOLDS

EPICINE, a Toronto-based publication which began after the monthly *The Body Politic* ceased publishing, has also folded. The magazine published four issues, characterized by fluctuations in both design and content. Reader dissatisfaction and internal difficulties are cited as reasons for the magazine's demise by publisher Charles Phillips. "It didn't sell", he noted. Michael Smith, advertising manager, said that *Epicine* failed because of "bad financial management" by everyone involved.

Phillips said that the six or seven people at the core of the magazine could not work together; "the working group broke down -- it was neither a collective nor a hierarchy. The people who made decisions weren't responsible, and the people who were responsible didn't make the decisions." He says, for example, that he's never been able to determine how the full-page vagina appeared in the magazine.

Phillips now intends to go ahead with the publication of another magazine, which he describes as "not a news magazine, not a lesbian magazine, and not necessarily Canadian."



AIDS SYMPTOMS

- Swollen Glands
- Weight Loss
- Fever
- Unexplained Bleeding
- Pink to Purple Blotch or Bump
- Night Sweats
- Cough
- Diarrhea
- Profound Fatigue

UNSAFE

anal/no condom
fisting
oral with fluids
rimming
sharing toys
w/s neck up

SAFER

anal w/condom
deep kissing
oral/no fluids
fingers w/gloves
w/s neck down

SAFEST

frottage
massage
wrestling
mutual masturbation
solo sex
verbals/visuals

AIDS information SIDA

MAINE 1/800
851-2437
N-BRUNSWICK
1/800 561-4009

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COMMENTARY: IS "OUR PAPER" OUR PAPER, TOO? by Dick Harrison

When I first moved to Maine in 1979, there was a monthly magazine called *MAINELY GAY*, an important source of information and contact for our community in the state. It was through a personals ad in one of the last issues of that monthly that I met Walter and Jack from Fort Kent and Roger T. from Madawaska. But after years of producing that publication, burn-out affected the core group, and *Mainely Gay* ceased to exist. Several years passed before a new publication took its place.

OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine has been publishing a quality monthly newspaper for over five years. A highly dedicated group of men and women form the collective of this Portland-based publication. The content has reflected their concern to be what the masthead proclaims, a voice for our community in the state. But most recently, by their own admission, they've failed to act as a voice for the lesbians and gaymen of the northernmost part of Maine.

In the spring of 1987, Northern Lambda Nord surveyed over 180 businesses in Caribou to gauge their attitudes towards both NLN as an organization and towards gay people in general. The results of the survey, which appeared in this newsletter, were reprinted in the July 1987 issue of *Our Paper*. But then, volunteers at the newspaper, while preparing the mailing of that same issue, decided that it would be a good idea to send copies of the paper to all the businesses whose names were listed in the survey results. This involved obtaining an Aroostook County telephone directory and getting the addresses of these Caribou businesses. This was done without any forethought as to whether they should contact anyone at Lambda as to the appropriateness of their actions, whether what they were doing would affect those of us who live in the County and deal with some of these businesspeople daily.

As a result of this mailing of *Our Papers*, a front page story appeared in the Caribou weekly entitled, "Gay group publishes results of anonymous survey". The tone of the article was by no means positive. After seven years of work to establish a credible reputation, after conflicts with local institutions in which we were presented by the local media as victims of discrimination, when people were now realizing that we were receiving unfair treatment because of our sexuality, we were now portrayed as an organization that could not be trusted. The reaction of a member of the *Our Paper* collective? "I guess we fucked up."

After discussion with a collective member, it was agreed that they would prepare a letter to the Caribou businesses explaining that the publication and mailing of the survey results was done without the knowledge or consultation with NLN; there was no malice intended on the part of Lambda nor *Our Paper*. The letter was to be an attempt to assuage the situation. That was in August. Now it's February and the letter never materialized. The collective's response? "We fucked up."

In the fall, the collective took a breather and reorganized. They resumed publication with the December 1987 issue. In mid-January, after no copies of that month's paper had been received, I called the

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

The biggest demonstration Washington, DC, has ever witnessed was the March on Washington for Lesbian Gay Rights on Sunday, October 11. Gay officials estimated 650,000 of us by the end of the march, larger than any of the great civil rights protests of the 1960s.



collective and left a message that Lambda had not yet received the January issue (was there one?), and that I was sending two articles for the February issue, the first concerning our efforts to get a gay radio program on Maine Public Radio, and the second a regional news item, "Aroostook Reports", a column I had written periodically in the past. This second article noted that February 20th was Lambda's 8th anniversary celebration, and it extended an invitation to join us.

When the February *Our Paper* arrived, I was surprised that not only were both articles missing, but an "Announcements" column and the Calendar of events column both failed to mention Lambda's 8th birthday. On my fourth telephone call to Portland, I finally spoke to someone other than a machine. They had not received the earlier messages that there were articles on the way for the February issue; they had received the two articles, but it was too late to put them in the paper, but they had put them in the files. When I asked why *Our Paper* had not even included mention of NLN's anniversary in the Calendar or Announcements sections, the response was what is now becoming predictable: "We fucked up." During the course of my conversation, I was told that "regional reports are a priority". But after I hung up, I still didn't understand why Aroostook's "regional report" did not seem to be a "priority". This is something which will need more discussion with members of the collective.

Some people will react to these incidents with the usual Aroostook comments, "Here we are in the northern part of the state being ignored or mistreated by southern Maine people. They think Bangor is Northern Maine. We're up here, too, you know!" I'd like to give the *Our Paper* collective the benefit of the doubt, but it's difficult. Perhaps their efforts at reorganizing are incomplete.

If they are to be the voice for our community in Maine, they need to be able to listen and respond accordingly. What works well in Portland may be totally wrong in Madawaska. They certainly must develop a better system for receiving messages by telephone. When contributions are made to the newspaper it would be nice if the receipt of these articles were acknowledged, especially when they don't intend to publish them. If regional reports are to be the priority and mainstay of the paper, it would be a good idea to establish an on-going two-way communication with regular contributors.

It's not easy putting out a newspaper month after month with volunteer labor. I trust this "Commentary" will be accepted as an attempt to make everyone in Maine feel that they can say that this is OUR paper, too.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES RESPOND TO GAY-LESBIAN SURVEY

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force surveyed all presidential candidates as to their position in these areas: Lesbian-Gay Civil Rights, Lesbian-Gay Families, and AIDS Policies. Responding Democrats (Simon, Babbitt, Jackson, Gephardt, and Dukakis) all supported federal civil rights legislation. Bush, the only Republican who responded, did not specifically address the question in his response.

The Maine Republican and Democratic caucuses to the national conventions will be held at the end of February. The Lambda office has copies of these candidates' complete responses to the questions. Interested persons are welcome to read them.

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Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégai, 207/498-2088
 - FREDERICTON: Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG), POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2, 506/457-2156
 - ORONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, 04469 - meets Thursdays, 6-9pm
Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union Building
 - BANGOR: Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition (BAGLSC - "Bagels"), c/o 87 Sunset Strip,
Brewer, 04412 - meets first Sunday and third Thursday each month, 7pm at 87 Sunset Strip;
Dances held at old Bangor Community College Student Union, first and third Saturday each month,
8pm-1am (alcohol & drug-free)
 - BANGOR: DownEast Lesbian Gay Organization (DEIGO), c/o Unitarian Church, 126 Union Street 04401
207/942-6503
 - QUEBEC CITY: Groupe Gai de l'Université Laval (GGUL), CP 2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cité Universitaire,
Sainte-Foy, G1K 7P4, 418/648-2751
 - QUEBEC CITY: Relais d'espérance, 617, rue Montmartre, G1N 1B3, 418/522-3301
 - MONCTON: Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton/Gays and Lesbiars of Moncton (GLM), CP/POB 7102, Riverview,
E1B 1V0, 506/858-1013
 - 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
 - PORTLAND: Dignity/Maine, Catholic group, POB 8113, 04104
 - PORTLAND: Lesbian/Gay Committee, Maine Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, POB 5112,
Station A, 04101
 - PORTLAND: Maine Bisexual People's Network, POB 1792, 04104, 207/780-4085 (message)
 - PORTLAND: Portland Pride Committee, POB 5112, Station A, 04112, 207/883-6934
 - BELFAST: Maine Lesbian Feminists, POB 125, 04915
 - CUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine, published monthly, \$12 for one year subscription,
POB 10744, Portland, 04104
 - MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE, statewide group, POB 108, Yarmouth, 04096
-
- AIDS information SIDA
- Maine - AIDS-line, Monday & Wednesday, 6-9pm, Saturday, 10am-1pm, 1-800/851-AIDS (-2437)
 - New/Nouveau-Brunswick - AIDS-line, 1-800/561-4009 or 459-7518 (Fredericton)

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