

COMMUNIQUE

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD
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Volume IV: No. 5

mai/May 1983

RAMBLINGS - benj *benj*

After a relatively mild winter, spring is here. Even the snow in the woods is gone; pretty early, this year, but no complaints from here. Things everywhere seem to be getting busy. Here's what's been happening lately.

The INTERWEAVE newsletter comes out of Augusta and is from the Unitarian Universalist Lesbian and Gay Community in Maine. Here's their first-hand report of the hearings in Augusta before the Judiciary Committee re: LD 679, the bill to include 'sexual or affectional orientation' in the Maine Human Rights Act: "There were over 100 people who came to the April 20 hearing of the total rights bill. Testimony from over 20 people in favor of the bill gave the Judiciary Committee ample reason to support the bill. Powerfully personal statements given by women and men who have been discriminated against along with testimony from psychologists, ministers, the AFL-CIO, the Maine Teachers Association, all were well-received. The usual bible-thumping conservatives were there also, but not nearly as many as last go-around with the bill. An informal gathering afterwards of many who were there confirmed the feeling things may well go in our favor."

As of May 4th, the rights legislation is still in committee for their discussion. Five of the 17 Aroostook County legislators are still undecided according to reports from Augusta. In their district, CALL THEM and urged them to vote IN FAVOR of LD679. You needn't give your name, but state that you are one of their constituents and you want them to support this legislation.

Dist. 7: - Sue Pines, 22 Long Rd, Limestone, 325-4821 (dist.: Limestone, excluding Loring AFB):

Dist. 8 - Fred Anderson, Box 38, Stockholm, 896-5236 (dist.: Connors, Sweden, Perham, Stockholm, Wade, Westmanland, and part of Limestone)

Dist. 9 - Steve Crouse, Box 411, Crouseville, 455-8361 (dist.: Washburn, Woodland, west side of Caribou)

Dist. 13 - Hilda Martin, 20 Poplar St. Van Buren, 868-2802 (dist.: Van Buren, Grand Isle, Hamlin plt., Cyr plt., Caswell plt.)

Senate Dist. 33 - Mike Carpenter, 1 South St., Houlton, 532-3180 (dist.: Ashland, Blaine, Bridgewater, Castle Hill, Chapman, Crystal, Dyer Brook, Easton, FtFairfield, Hersey, Hodgdon, Houlton, Linneus, Littleton, Ludlow, Mapleton,

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Mars Hill, Masardis, Merrill, Monticello, New Limerick, Oakfield, Portage Lake, Smyrna, Westfield, Cary plt., E.Garfield plt., Hammond plt., Moro plt., Nashville plt., Oxbow plt.)

The MAINE LESBIAN AND GAYMEN'S SYMPOSIUM X is very soon, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 13, 14, and 15 at the University of Southern Maine, Portland Campus. A registration form is enclosed in this newsletter. You may mail it in or register at the door.

Transportation is still available for the 6-7 hour drive south to Portland. Call the phoneline (498-6556) and leave a message after the beep if no one answers. There is still room for at least 2 people in someone's car.

Gay people continue to organize. Word from Fredericton is that there is a new group in formation in New Brunswick, known as Lesbians and Gays of Saint John. Further down the coast (up west?) in midcoastal Maine a re-emergence has occurred. MGM, or Midcoast Gay Men, which used to be based in Rockland but folded a few years ago, has risen -- POB 496, Camden, Maine 04843.

AIDS has spread to the straight press. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which has killed people for almost two years now and has been a hot topic among gays, especially men, and especially those from the urban areas, is now being recognized by Newsweek, on their cover; by Ms. (a not completely straight publication) with an article about the politics surrounding AIDS; Public TV's Washington Week in Review (!); CBC Radio's Quirks and Quarks, Saturday a.m. science program; plus many other sources which I never see or hear. The Newsweek and Ms. articles are in Bibliothèque Lambda. I recommend the Ms. piece.

GBM, "looking for love! I am 20 years old, 5'11", 150 lbs, black hair, brown eyes. I am in prison but will be released soon. Won't you please take a minute and write me?" Otis Chandler, #17630, POB 41, Michigan City, Indiana.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF GAYS continues to offer support, guidance, and information to anyone seeking better understanding of lesbian/gay life. Write: Box 215, Augusta, Maine 04330.

YALE GAY/LESBIAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. If you are a Yale living in Maine, contact John at Box 1064, Rockland 04841.

MEN COOPERATING FOR A CHANGE, "New Roles, Responsibilities, and Rewards; New Images and Ideals." A conference of men supporting

men who are exploring their options as human beings in solidarity with women's, gay, and other progressive liberation movements. A time of comfort and challenge, of renewal of our direction and affirmation of our work. This is the 8th National Conference on Men and Masculinity and the 1st National Conference of the National Men's Organization. August 11-15, 1983, University of Michigan. Information: POB 8113, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107 phone 313/665-4926.

Co-sponsorship of the US House of Representatives' GAY AND LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS BILL, HR 427, has reached a record level of 63. Every co-sponsor from last year who ran for re-election was re-elected. The death of Rep. Phil Burton, an influential rights supporter from San Francisco, is a loss. It will take several sessions to pass this bill prohibiting discrimination against lesbians and gaymen in employment, housing, etcetera. Progress is being made each year.

Social Alternative for Men, SAM, a gay support group in Vermont, is sponsoring a "spring fling", May 20-22 in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Accommodations at Attitash Condos in Bartlett, NH. Facilities available: indoor pool, sauna, restaurant; most units 2-bedroom with accommodations for six men; color tv and complete kitchen. Activities: reception get-together, dinner, dancing, free time for hiking, canoeing, fishing, sightseeing, shopping. Get-together with Tom Chorlton, national chairman of the Gay and Lesbian Democrats. Per person, \$35; send money by May 15. Send your name, phone number and address with money to SAM, POB 479, Norwich, Vermont 05055. (Cheques payable to SAM) (Info: Ed Robichaud - 802/649-1304)

One incident of harrassment. It was a Sunday night, around 11 pm when some people threw a couple of eggs at the house where the phoneline is. First incident for some time - not since early winter.

"Health Pioneering in the 80's" is the theme of the Fifth National Lesbian/Gay Health Conference in Denver, June 9-12. Papers will be submitted and workshops and panel presentations will be offered by healthworkers concerned with services by and for lesbians and gaymen.

The Wire Service Guild, the union which represents workers at both the Associated Press (AP) and United Press International (UPI), recently reached an agreement with UPI to include a clause

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in their new contract which would ban discrimination based upon sexual preference. AP rejected such a clause. Wire Service Guild president Morrissey said, "For the AP to refuse to end discrimination was bad enough, but for the company then to go out and tell newspapers and radio stations that UPI was not a good company because it did not discriminate is absolutely absurd."

The producers of BEFORE STONEWALL, a public television-funded documentary on the history of America's (sic) lesbian and gay community prior to the 1970's, are looking for materials--photographs, home movies, tape recordings, artwork, diaries and letters--for possible inclusion in the film. Before Stonewall needs to hear from individuals who saved photos of their friends and lovers, or who can talk about life in their hometown before the birth of "gay liberation". If you have or know of visual or audio materials that would be of interest to the filmmakers, please write and tell them what you have, but DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL MATERIAL. All responses are strictly confidential. "BEFORE STONEWALL", 630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 908, New York City 10036.

GWM, age 22, blond hair, hazel eyes, 6'1", 180 lbs. I am in prison but get out soon. Won't you please write and help me make these last few weeks pass quickly? CLAUDE OSBORNE, #19911, I.S.P., Box 41, Michigan City, Indiana 46360

Resources for Feminist Research/Documentation sur la recherche feministe presents THE LESBIAN ISSUE -- an extensive collection of discussion articles, research, guides to lesbian organizations and international periodicals, book reviews, film, video, and slide-show listings, and annotated bibliographies. It is devoted to an examination of the lesbian experience in Canada and explores areas which have previously received little attention from researchers. Participants include Jane Rule, Nicole Brossard, and Mary Meigs. \$5 each (prepaid) from: RFR/DRF, Dept. of Sociology, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto M5S 1V6.

COME OUT AND SING TOGETHER! (COAST) will be held at Lincoln Center in New York City, September 8-11, 1983. This is the first North American gay choral festival with more than 1000 singers from the US and Canada expected to attend. Three concerts in Alice Tully Hall will spotlight individual choruses. All participants will join one of the massed mixed or men's choruses at the final evening's performances in Avery Fisher Hall. The final concert will premiere some works specially commissioned for the festival. There are now more than 35 gay, lesbian, and mixed choruses in the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses.

Participants expected will be from Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, Seattle, Washington DC, Atlanta, Boston, Columbus (Ohio), Detroit, Madison (Wisconsin), Portland (Oregon), Vancouver, and San Francisco. For information: COAST, 450 Broome Street, #4W, New York City 10013.

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Look at page 17 of the MAY 1983 BODY POLITIC. There is an item entitled, "Rural Phonenumber Takes Off," a report about the NLN Gay Phonenumber. A copy is on file in Bibliothèque Lambda.

JUNE 19-26 is LESBIAN-GAY PRIDE TIME: events are planned for Boston, New York, and most other major cities in North America. The Boston Pride Parade is Sunday, June 19; the parade in New York City is June 26. Bibliothèque Lambda has information about dates and activities happening in those two cities.

▼ Atlantic Canada is producing two new publications according to the Body Politic (Toronto). GAE/Halifax has been publishing a monthly since October '82 entitled DR BARRY'S ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NON-MEDICAL USES OF LOVE, SEX AND POLITICS under the editorship of Lynn Murphy. The newsletter's name is derived from the exploits of James Barry who "was a British Army surgeon of the early 19th Century. After serving in South Africa, where he was notorious for his flirtations with pretty women, he became Surgeon General of Canada. Only when he died in Ontario was it discovered that James was a woman -- Miranda Barry. Dr. Barry's is full of local political, community, cultural, and GAE news -- not to mention some thoughtful reflections, national news, and Ms. Murphy's irrepressible wit."

▼ Newfoundland's group, based in Saint John's, is GAIN -- Gay Association in Newfoundland. Their first newsletter appeared in March '83 and is entitled GAIN FORESIGHT. The first issue explains GAIN's aims and aspirations, up-to-date membership information, and their calendar of events. GAIN, Box 1364, St-John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5N5. GAIN FORESIGHT is \$5 per year.

▼ Even though NLN and GAE/Halifax are both members of the ALGA (Atlantic Lesbian and Gay Assn./Assn des lesbiennes et des Gais de l'Atlantique), whose primary purpose is to facilitate communication and a united front within Atlantic Canada, it's too bad NLN hears about what's been happening in Halifax from an article in a Toronto newspaper. As the largest organized lesbian/gay community in the Maritimes, one which has its own disco club and separate offices, one with more resources in terms of money and people than any other ALGA member, GAE seems to be doing the least in terms of maintaining communication within the region. I hope this will change soon; the last issue of the previous GAE newsletter that NLN received was dated June 1981.▼

▼ A calendar of summer activities was made at the April meeting in Woodstock. Exact dates have now ~~not~~ been set; ~~here~~ here is a list of the activities for the next few months:

▼ Party in Woodland at private home; overnight camping in Castle Hill, just west of Presque Isle; picnic at Arnold Brook Lake Park, near Presque Isle; picnic in Grand Isle; day hike at Quoggy Joe Mt.; day hike at Fort Kent Falls; overnight camping in the North Maine Woods; picnic back of the Lambda house in Caribou; two more parties in private homes; weekend to Prince Edward Island (July 1-4); camping (tentative, pending arrangements by Boyd and Randy); dances in Fredericton, usually twice per month; picnics with FLAG people at Mactaquac Park, between Fredericton and Woodstock. Exact dates, times, and locations are in members' calendars of events. As with last summers events, something will be scheduled for each weekend so that if one event is rained out, there will be something for the following weekend.

CALENDAR FOR MAY: 13-15, Symposium X in Portland
20-23, Fundy Park Lark, sponsored by FLAG
28, FLAG Dance in Fredericton
29, picnic, NLN with FLAG people

There will be no discussion group in May; the next group will be in September; a guest speaker will be lined up for that time.

CALENDAR FOR JUNE: 3, party in Presque Isle
5, combined May-June monthly meeting in Caribou
11, barbeque in Presque Isle
18, day hike, picnic, and swim at Aroostook State Park
25, picnic in Grand Isle

JULY: all dates and events this month are tentative
? 1-4, 2nd Aroostook Faerie Frolic, four days of camping in central Aroostook
17, picnic at N-B provincial park
23, party
30, party/bbq in Woodland

FLASH * FLASH * FLASH * FLASH * FLASH * FLASH * FLASH * FLASH !!!!!

MAY 24 As we go to press, news from Augusta is that the Legislative Judiciary Committee voted 8-5 to recommend that the Rights Bill, L.D.679, "OUGHT TO PASS"! NOW IS THE TIME TO CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND TELL THEM YOU WANT THEM TO VOTE FOR LD 679. The Senate votes first, then the House. Contact your town hall to find out who your Senator and Representative is and their home phone number. Call them on the weekend, at a reasonable hour. You needn't tell them your name, just that you live in

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their district and you are one of their constituents. This legislation has received more publicity this year than in years past...those who are working to defeat this bill are calling their representatives; don't let them hear only from those who are opposed to including us in the Maine Human Rights Act!!!!!!!

▼
DANCES IN FREDERICTON: Please note! If you are hesitant about attending a FLAG dance because you do not know where you can stay overnight, FLAG people have assured us that there would be no problem. When you go to the dance, please let the person at the door know that you are from NLN (with your blue card you get in for reduced door charge), and that you are in need of housing. FLAG will take care to find you a place to stay, be it on a couch, floor, or perhaps your own arrangements to share a bed. So, please don't hesitate ^{ABOUT} going to Fredericton! Their dances draw up to 200 people! Check with the Lambda office for directions and location to the FLAG dances; locations change with each dance; they alternate between 2 places, one in Fredericton proper, one in North Fredericton.

▼
"I've seen a lot of people in our group go through many different things. But I think that our whole purpose is to bring people together, and to make them a part of us. I know we're all looking for that special person who will make us feel total, but it's very hard to find that person. I guess we all care how people feel about us, but we always need reassurance that we can still be attractive to other people. How we dress and how we act makes a difference. Our attitude towards other people shows others just what kind of person we really are, or can be. Myself, people are very important, and I find that what you do for people isn't always appreciated. They feel that there's a reason behind your kindness, but usually it's because they want to show you that they're a friend. Often times we need a person who we can trust to tell our troubles to. Like when we meet someone we care about, it's nice to know there is someone we can turn to in time of need, even if it's just to listen. Most of the time when we meet someone, it becomes a guessing game within a relationship so it's important to have a close friend to talk to when you're unhappy, happy, upset, and confused about yourself. Sometimes we often work too hard to make people like us. In turn we push them away. Can we ever be sure of how another person feels or what they're going through. I don't think we can, for the simple reason we're not that person, but we can listen and try to advise them or give them some solutions to their problems. Be a friend, not an enemy, and don't tell someone else what that person has confided to you. They normally don't tell you unless they can trust you. So don't throw that trust out the window."

▼ -- Jim ▼

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**A COUNTRY JOURNAL
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REGIONAL GAY GUIDE

- ORONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, Univ. of Maine; meets Sundays, 7 pm, in the Peabody Lounge, 3rd-floor, Memorial Union
- FREDERICTON: FLAG, POB 1556, Sta. A, E3B 5G2; FLAGline - 506/457-2156; meets 2nd Wed. each month; dances twice per month
- MONCTON: Gals et Lesbiennes de Moncton, CP 7102, Riverview, N-B, E1B 1V0
- HALIFAX: Gay Alliance for Equality, Box 3611, So. Postal Sta., B3J 3K6; 902/429-6969, Mon, Tues, Wed, 7-9 pm; Thurs, Fri, Sat, 7-10pm
- QUÉBEC CITY: Télégal, 418/522-2555, 1un-ven, 7-11pm
- NORTHERN MAINE/NEW BRUNSWICK: NLN, CP/POB 990, Caribou 04736; GAY PHONELINE: 207/498-6556

DEAR ABBY: A couple of women moved in across the hall from me. One is a middle-aged gym teacher and the other is a social worker in her mid-twenties. These two women go everywhere together and I've never seen a man go into their apartment or come out. Do you think they could be Lebanese?

Curious.



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. Subscriptions to COMMUNIQUE are \$7 for ten issues (one year). Northern Lambda Nord membership is \$10 per year, which includes COMMUNIQUE. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. Advertising rates are available upon request. NLN accepts Canadian and U.S. funds at par. We welcome your comments. NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD is a member of the Atlantic Lesbian and Gay Association, an umbrella group of homophile organizations in Atlantic Canada.