

Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

CP/POB990 Caribou Maine 04736 USA 207/896-5888

VOLUME V: NUMBER 10
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DECEMBER/DÉCEMBRE 1984

▽ If you've been receiving this newsletter since it started, this is your 50th -- that's 10 every year for 5 years, since Vol. I: no. 1, January 1980. That's when Northern Lambda Nord was called Aroostook Lambda and *Communiqué* was just "the newsletter", run off on a spirit duplicator, one of those blue stencil machines in schools where the paper smells. Copies of these first 50 issues are on file in the office. Anyone is welcome to look at them -- the earliest ones make interesting reading.

When visiting Portland, I hear people react with surprise when told that there's anything happening in the northern Maine/New Brunswick area -- "anything" in terms of "gay life". Reflecting an apparent ignorance of geography, someone remarked once, "Well sure, I've been to northern Maine. I was in Bangor once." An hour's drive to Augusta is too far for some in Portland, though Augustonians travel to Portland without much problem.

I see this attitude happening here. Gatherings in central Aroostook draw people from Woodstock/Houlton and Madawaska/Edmundston. But when we gather in either of those areas, so the people living in that region won't have to drive for once, the turnout is small. Those of us who live on the outskirts always seem to attend meetings and parties wherever they're held; Caribou's not too far to drive from Woodstock, but the distance doubles for some when asked to return the visit. Northern Lambda Nord's December business meeting/pot luck meal is in southern Aroostook. The agenda includes:

- * nominations for Executive Committee (elections will be at January meeting in central Aroostook)
- * proposal to join Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (see article following)
- * plans for NLN's 5th anniversary party in January
- * Symposium XIII - suggested for Presque Isle in 1986, hosted by NLN.

Members: see enclosed calendar for maps and food suggestions ▼

JANUARY 1985 Communiqué - SPECIAL 5th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Next month's *Communiqué*, Volume SIX, number 1, marks the beginning of NLN's 6th year serving the lesbian-gay community of Madawaska, Victoria, Carleton and Aroostook counties. Many of you reading this have been involved with NLN since 1980; others are new members this year. This is a request for articles. Whether you're recently-enrolled or a "charter" member, you have feelings and reactions to the group, to life in this rural area, to the people you've met, to people you'd like to meet. Anyone who is so inclined, please take a few minutes now and write down some of your thoughts about NLN and being a member - what you like, what you don't like, what you'd like to see happen. Anything at all. Rather than the next *Communiqué* being the product of only one Lamb, how about some contributions from several others. Any length article is fine: one sentence, one page, whatever. The only requirement is that the article must be submitted by January first. Thanks. (NLN 1985 membership cards should be ready from the printers and included in the January mailing. Sorry for the delay.) ▼

GAY/LESBIAN PHONELINE REPORT

At the suggesting of Reverend Doug Strong of the Augusta Unitarian-Universalist Church (UU), the Caribou UU Church has been approached concerning the Phoneline. Space has been requested in the church to place the Phoneline, where it can be staffed for two hours every Wednesday night, and so the answering

PAGE 2

machine can be checked once per day. We're awaiting their decision. The Caribou UU board meets in early December. A decision should be known by the December NLN meeting (December 16). The UU national organization is traditionally very supportive of gay and lesbian people; they have a special Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns in their national headquarters in Boston; the UU churches are now performing unions ("marriages") of same-sex couples. NLN's past experience with the Caribou UU church has been less than supportive. Much less. They refused to let us meet in the church when asked several years ago. This is the first time we've approached them since then. The Houlton UU Church is said to be even more homophobic than the Caribou one. We were advised to not even bother to approach the Houlton Church for support. Let's hope the Caribou UU Church is more agreeable to helping us than they were in the past.▼

Have you seen the 1985 Aroostook County telephone books? Check out the front listings under "Maine Helplines" -- Family Services & Counseling. In addition to our Gay Phoneline and the Maine Right to Life Committee is the National Gay Task Force's 800 number! Maybe next year they'll include a Lesbian Mother's Defense Committee helpline!? ▼

== OUR NON-PROFIT STATUS -- WILL WE MAKE THE DEADLINE? ==

The Internal Revenue Service in Washington DC has been processing our application for non-profit status (501-c-3) for months now. They sent it to the office in Boston which asked NLN for more information; then the Syracuse office requested even more. Now, they've given us a December 11th final deadline to make some minor changes in our Maine State Non-Profit Incorporation papers, changes which must be approved by Augusta. We wait Augusta's word, urged on with a little help from Ben. Let's hope Augusta approves the changes in time or else we'll have to start all over again applying for 501-c-3. (We need 501-c-3 in order to qualify for the grant we received from Chicago. They sent us the money already, even before we received the IRS status.)▼

== SUMMARY OF MINUTES -- NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING ==

The meeting was held in South Northampton, N-B November 18.

* Four members in need have been helped with membership fees, from the fund set aside at the October meeting

* NLN ads are now appearing in the Univ/of Maine/Presque Isle, /Fort Kent, and /Orono papers

* FOOD BASKETS - Much discussion - The October meeting proposed spending \$400 from the grant to prepare 20 food baskets for families in 10 communities in the four county area. Reactions came from different people that we should use the money for helping gay/lesbian people in need, not local families. This was discussed at the November meeting. All but one of the NLN members present at the November meeting were also at the October meeting where the money was approved. It was voted to NOT prepare food baskets but to give monies to needy, keeping it as local as possible. Suggestions for donations were requested. So far, the local battered women's shelter was suggested. This will be discussed again at the December meeting. If you know of any child abuse shelter in the area or any other type facility, that was another suggestion. More suggestions were requested.

* NLN's subscription to The Body Politic expires in one month. It is the only magazine we pay to receive (all other publications are sent to us in exchange for *Communiqué*). It is one of a handful of Canadian publications we get. Whether to renew or not was tabled until the December meeting. (It costs \$27.70 per year).

*NLN will purchase some assorted pamphlets from the National Gay Task Force (subjects include gays and the media, parents of gay children, lesbian mothers and gay fathers - a "support packet", a "military/security clearance packet" for gays in the military, gay/lesbian youth, student organizations, discussion group topics)

* A newly published Lesbian-Gay Guide to Canada will be purchased

* The feasibility of NLN hosting Symposium XIII, (Maine L-G annual state gathering) in 1986 at the Univ of Maine/Presque Isle was discussed. There is

DEC. 84

NLN COMMUNIQUE

PAGE 3

no problem with us getting use of the campus over Memorial Day weekend, the end of May 1986. A series of discussion/planning meetings will be scheduled for those people interested in working on it. More discussion at the December meeting.

* Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance, newly formed statewide group, whose primary purpose is passage of the 1985 Maine Gay Rights Bill, which will be introduced into the Maine Legislature in January. It was suggested that NLN support the efforts of the Political Alliance through individual memberships. Alliance membership is \$5-15 per person. Suggested to use grant money, \$5 for each of 40 U.S. members, and pay for memberships in the Alliance, asking each of the members to match the \$5 -- or more. Tabled until December meeting. ▼

DISCUSSION GROUP RESUMES IN DECEMBER

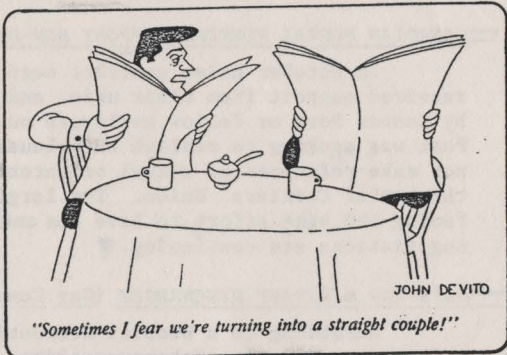
On Saturday, December 8, two men from Bangor will be our guests at this year's first discussion group. They will be talking with us about the Charlie Howard murder, the trial, reactions of the lesbian-gay community, and our reactions. Specifics in the enclosed members' calendar.

For the next discussion group, ^(Jan or Feb.) we're going to try to obtain a film. If you have any suggestions, bring them to the December meeting. ▼

DID YOU SEE?...

...the December 1984 issue of National Geographic? There's an article entitled, "A Journey Down Old U.S. Route 1." Their map of Route 1 locates Fort Kent, Van Buren, and Caribou; photos include one of Van Buren motorcycle cop Sam Michaud (1930's photo? - date not indicated), and another photo of the Caribou-Van Buren section of Route 1 in Cyr Plantation, just north of the woods -- a winter and summer photo comparison. "This stretch of highway between Van Buren and Caribou can get very nasty during a storm but is usually kept open by snowplows. The little picture below shows the same hill, with the home at its foot, in summer." ▼

...the new line of toys available? This was in a piece of junk mail from a local chain store. ▼



"Sometimes I fear we're turning into a straight couple!"

FROM BAY WINDOWS (BOSTON) 11/8/84

ELECTION UP-DATE

Most everyone by now is aware that Reagan was re-elected, both Maine Senator William Cohen and Representative Olympia Snowe retained their seats, and the Maine Equal Rights Amendment was defeated.

The winners in the state races for Legislature from Aroostook County are as follows:

Senate: all incumbents were re-elected: District 1, Paul Violette; District 2, James McBreairty; District 3, Mike Carpenter.

House of Representatives: All incumbents re-elected:

- 140 - Carl B. Smith; 141 - Gennette Ingraham; 142 - Mary MacBride; 143 - John Lisnik; 144 - Carl W. Smith; 145 - Sue Pines; 146 - Ken Matthews; 147 - Steve Crouse; 148 - Hilda Martin; 149 Edward McHenry; 150 - Raynold Theriault; 151 - John Martin (Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives)

DEC. 84 NLN COMMUNIQUE

The following is the text of a letter sent November 16 to these 15 Aroostook County representatives:

"We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the Maine Legislature. We hope we can work with you on issues in the upcoming session, issues of concern to us as gaymen and lesbians from throughout Aroostook County. We hope to meet with each of you in the coming months to discuss your views and concerns as well as our views and concerns dealing with important civil rights legislation now pending. Again, congratulations. Sincerely, /s/ the Women and Men of Northern Lambda Nord."

The reference to "important civil rights legislation now pending" is the Gay Rights Bill in this next session of the legislature. With the help of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance, a meeting will be organized within the next few months, a meeting with all 15 representatives (or as many of them who show up) and as many Lambs willing to talk personally with their legislators, urging them to vote for passage of the Gay Rights Bill. Past records show two of our three senators supporting us while every state representative has voted against the bill. Some of them may change their minds this year with the right lobbying efforts.

NATIONAL ELECTIONS: According to Bay Windows (Boston), three openly-gay public officials won re-election November 6th in the U.S. Representative Gerry Studds of Massachusetts was re-elected with 56% of the vote. He had been censured by Congress for having sex with a male page. In California, San Francisco City Supervisor Harry Britt was re-elected. In Minnesota, State Representative Karen Clark received nearly 70% of the vote in her district. Clark's Republican challenger made Clark's lesbianism a campaign issue.

Massachusetts is the first state to elect openly gay public officials at the local, state and federal levels. Gerry Studds (U.S. Congress), Elaine Noble (elected to Massachusetts legislature in '74 as openly lesbian candidate), and David Scondras, member of Boston City Council. ▼

CANADIAN POSTAL WORKERS SUPPORT NON-DISCRIMINATION (The Body Politic, Toronto)

In October union contract negotiations, gay letter carriers in Canada received support from their union and retained a contract clause barring discrimination by Canada Post or fellow employees on the basis of sexual orientation. Canada Post was seeking to replace the clause with the Canada Labour Code which does not make reference to sexual orientation discrimination. This contract involved the Letter Carriers' Union. The larger Canadian Union of Postal Workers is facing the same effort to have the anti-discrimination clause removed. Their negotiations are continuing. ▼

GAYS AND MILITARY DISCHARGES (Gay Community News, Boston)

According to a General Accounting Office study, discharges from the military on grounds of homosexuality are in the upswing. In the last ten years, 14,311 Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine military members were kicked out because they were or suspected of being gay. In 1974, the number was 875, but by 1983 it was more than double: 1796. The Navy led the way with more than half the total (851). The U.S. Armed Forces spent \$373,000 investigating 1619 charges of homosexuality in 1983. During this ten year period, of the 14,311 discharges, only 191 were officers. ▼

SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED IN CHARLIE HOWARD'S MEMORY

The Gay People's Alliance (GPA) of the University of Southern Maine/Portland, has announced the approval by the University of the establishment of the Charles O. Howard Memorial Scholarship. This \$300 scholarship will be awarded to the writer of the best essay on "the importance of human rights".

The GPA at USM is also trying to help a gayman who was forced to resign his position as a resident assistant at the USM/Gorham campus dorms because of his

PAGE 4

DÈC. 84

NLN COMMUNIQUÉ

sexual orientation. According to Rick Bouchard, GPA Peer Counselor, "These involvements are in part due to increased awareness, interest, and concern of people gay, lesbian, and straight alike in our area. We hope you have been as fortunate in having this interest sparked."

The GPA may be contacted at 92 Bedford Street, Portland 04103/ 780-4085.▼

WILDE-STEIN CLUB PUBLISHING A NEWSLETTER

The lesbian-gay organization at the University of Maine/Orono, the Wilde-Stein Club, has begun a monthly newsletter, *Stein-Vine*. The first issue, dated November 1984, contains news, an events calendar, and poetry. (Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono, 04469) ▼

PART 2 OF NIN'S FINANCIAL REPORT - CANADIAN FUNDS - 30 SEPT 84

INCOME		EXPENSES	
MEMBERSHIPS	139.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS	23.45
SUBSCRIPTIONS	5.00	BANK CHARGES	8.00
DONATIONS-GENERAL	52.16	AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCES	13.20
TOTAL INCOME	196.16	TOTAL EXPENSES	44.65

NET PROFIT (LOSS) 151.51

ASSETS	
CASH	
CASH ON HAND	27.06
CHECKING ACCT. 117-380-6	257.93
TOTAL CASH	284.99
TOTAL ASSETS	284.93

LIABILITIES	
BANK CHARGES	8.00
TOTAL ACCRUED LIABILITIES	8.00
MEMBER'S EQUITY	
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT	36.45
RETAINED EARNINGS	240.54
TOTAL MEMBER'S EQUITY	276.99
TOTAL LIABILTY & EQUITY	284.93 ▼

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PAGE 5

DÉC. 84

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PAGE 6

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LESBIAN-GAY Guide LESBIENNE-GAI

- ▼ FREDERICTON: FLAG, POB 1556, Sta. A., E3B 5G2; FLAGline - 506/457-2156, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8-10 pm.
- ▼ CRONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, Univ. of Maine; meets Sundays, 7 pm, Peabody Lounge, 3rd floor, Memorial Union.
- ▼ SAINT JOHN: LAGO-SJ, POB 6494, Sta. A., E2L 4R9
- ▼ MONCTON: GIM (Gais et lesbiennes de Moncton), CP 7102, Riverview, E1B 1V0
- ▼ HALIFAX: GAE (Gay Alliance for Equality), Box 3611, So. Postal Sta., B3J 3K6; 902/429-6969, M,T,W, 7-9 pm & Th, F, Sat, 7-10 pm.
- ▼ NEWFOUNDLAND: GAIN, Box 1364, Sta. C., St. John's, A1C 5N5
- ▼ WEBWORK: women's correspondence club, New England & Maritimes - Box 131-N, Calais, Maine 04619
- ▼ MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS: POB 125, Belfast 04915
- ▼ OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine - monthly newspaper, \$10 per year - POB 10744, Portland 04104
- ▼ NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK: NLN, CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 - Télégai/Gay Phoneline: 207/896-5888, Wed/mer, 7-9pm (Eastern time/heure de l'est).

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DEC. 84

NLN COMMUNIQUE