



COMMUNIQUE

CAISSE POSTALE/POST OFFICE BOX 990 CARIBOU MAINE 04736 USA
GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE/TÉLÉGAÏ - 207 498-2088

Volume IX: numéro 10

décembre 1988

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December 1988

ANDRÉ PICARD

André died November 1, 1988 from injuries suffered in an automobile accident on the Trans-Canada Highway near Sainte-Anne. André was a well-known and respected Crown Attorney in New Brunswick. His was a familiar face at numerous Lambda functions, and he was a member of this organization since 1986. He will be sorely missed.

LAMBDA MEMBERS MEET TO CHART COURSE

A small but dedicated group of Lambs met Sunday, November 27 in a member's apartment in Maine's northernmost town, Madawaska, to discuss the current state of the organization and make plans for the future. The brainstorming session focused on several fronts; all centered on encouraging growth in membership. At the end of Northern Lambda Nord's last fiscal year (September 30, 1988), there were more members than ever before in the group's nearly nine year history; yet it was noted that many of the members were rarely, if ever, seen, and it was left to a small core to run the organization. During the early years of Lambda, the core group of active people was larger. Over the years, as people have left the area and some have died from the effects of AIDS, these activists have not all been replaced, so the current core is smaller than ever, though the membership is larger than ever.

It was felt that emphasis should continue to be placed on social activities, which reflects the desires of the majority of members. The focus will not be placed as much on the parties and dances sponsored by Lambda, but will expand to include more special-interest activities which may attract a smaller crowd but which will offer the opportunity for closer interaction and conversation, thereby encouraging more personal involvement in the activities of Lambda. To this end, a number of events have been planned for the next few months. These will include dinner parties with a nominal fee charged to cover the costs of the food, and regularly-scheduled monthly screenings of films (something which has been tried in the past and will now be revived). The monthly Sunday afternoon meetings and pot-luck meals will continue. This should offer activities for three weekends each month.

With the recent opening of a gay-lesbian bar in the area, the effects of the existence of Club Equality on the scope and activities of Northern Lambda Nord were addressed. The consensus was that Lambda should not attempt to compete in any way with the Club. On the contrary, NLN's existence can only benefit the Club, and the Club can benefit this organization. It was felt that a discussion should be held with Club management as to how Northern Lambda Nord

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and Club Equality can work for the mutual growth, well-being, and continued existence of each. Reflecting this consensus, an apparent conflict between Lambda and the Club would be simultaneous New Year's Eve parties. It was felt that in lieu of the regular Lambda New Year's Eve party, we would have a pot luck New Year's Eve dinner party in the early evening, after which people would be encouraged to carpool to Club Equality to celebrate the beginning of 1989 (12 midnight N-B/11pm Maine) (!!?).

Further discussion centered on making Lambda members more aware of where their \$15 annual dues are spent. It was pointed out that the cost of the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline and this newsletter total nearly \$1500 annually. This means that 100 memberships would cover these basic expenses; that is why it is so necessary to continue to raise funds throughout the year with the minimal door charges at events. After the first of the year, another "Join NLN" mailing will be sent out and will include this type of financial information. Regular financial reports will appear more often in *Communique*.

Advertising in local media, with the goal of making more people aware of the resources in this area in terms of gay-lesbian organizations and activities, was also discussed. It was suggested that joint advertising be placed in the New Brunswick weeklies publicizing not only Northern Lambda Nord, but the New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform, Dance Trax in Fredericton, and even including Club Equality. Similar advertising for Lambda and the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline would be undertaken in the Aroostook County weeklies.

The meeting was followed by a chicken-with-all-the-trimmings dinner, plus strawberry cheesecake and mud pie for dessert.

"ALTERNATE LIFESTYLE" OR "LESBIANS, GAYMEN"?

For the past three years NLN has been placing a small informational advertisement in the campus newspaper at the University of Maine/Presque Isle - *The University Times*. The ad appears to the right.

In September of this year, the same ad was submitted for publication in the fall semester's issues of *The Times*. The initial request missed the deadline for the first issue, and Lambda received a letter noting that, signed by the newspaper's advisor, Ronald H. Dow. The second paragraph of the letter read,

We do have some difficulty placing your ad. We wonder if you would consider redesigning your ad around the idea of Alternative Life Style, rather than Lesbians, Gay Men. I'm sure it would help us if you could.

In reply, a redesigned Lambda advertisement was submitted with the following note:

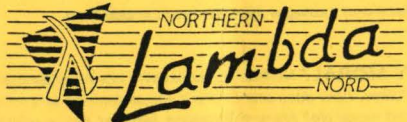
You note in your September 8 letter that "We do have some difficulty placing your ad". However you do not explain if this difficulty is on the part of the TIMES staff, who may feel uncomfortable "placing (our) ad" in the paper, or whether other advertisers do not want our advert next to theirs, or on the same page, or even in the newspaper at all!

L · E · S · B · I · A · N · S
WE MEET TO SOCIALIZE, TO DISCUSS, TO GIVE EACH OTHER SUPPORT. WE HAVE A NEWSLETTER, A LENDING LIBRARY, A PHONELINE. WE ARE NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD POB 990*CARIBOU*498-2088
G · A · Y · M · E · N

Whether this homophobic feeling stems from the TIMES staff or from advertisers, or both is irrelevant; Homophobia in all its forms is something Lambda's constitution mandates us to work to counteract. By unashamedly using what we jokingly refer to as "the L word and the G word", we bring people's homophobia to the surface, where it may be addressed. By using a phrase such as "alternative lifestyle", as you suggest we do, we would be acknowledging that perhaps there is something wrong with the L word and the G word. We would be accepting the negative attitudes about us, and we reject that. We refuse to succumb to the homophobia which is so prevalent in society today. Rather than being ashamed of being lesbian and gay we are proud.

Below is the redesigned ad which was submitted:

LESBIAN-GAY-BISEXUAL PEOPLE



A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SERVING THE COMMUNITY IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY AND WESTERN NEW BRUNSWICK SINCE 1980.

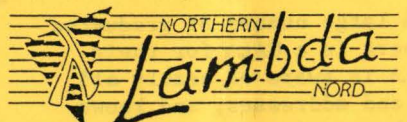
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, LENDING LIBRARY, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, NEWSLETTER, SPEAKERS BUREAU, MUTUAL SUPPORT.

PO BOX 990 . CARIBOU . MAINE . 04736 GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE . 207/498-2088

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And some subsequent ads:

LESBIAN-GAY-BISEXUAL PEOPLE



WHO ARE HOMOSEXUALS? Gay men and gay women (or lesbians) are individuals with natural feelings of love, emotional attachment, and/or sexual attraction towards people of their own gender (homo-same). We comprise one-tenth of the world's population, and number about 10,000 in Aroostook County. Gay people are among your friends, neighbors, co-workers; some of us are your brothers and sisters, your children, your parents. Our sexuality is a normal, natural part of the full range of humanity.

This is one of a series of educational messages from Northern Lambda Nord.

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THE CENTER INSERT IS CHANGED IN EACH ADVERTISEMENT

IS HOMOSEXUALITY "UNNATURAL"? Not if one is a homosexual! There are gay people in every society on earth; in a majority of cultures, bisexuality is the norm. People who say that homosexuality is "unnatural" are stating their belief that the "purpose" of human sexuality is procreation. But human sexuality serves a number of purposes, for both heterosexuals as well as gay people. Sexuality is a "natural" part of the total fabric of our lives, especially valued as a celebration of our love.

This is one of a series of educational messages from Northern Lambda Nord.

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ARE GAY PEOPLE EASY TO IDENTIFY? No. You cannot pick out lesbians and gaymen by appearance and behavior alone. It wasn't too long ago that "real" women would never wear pants and "real" men would never think of wearing an earring! Personal appearance is not an indication of one's sexual orientation, but only of one's choice of clothing and jewelry. Transvestites, those people who consciously assume the clothing and mannerisms of the opposite sex, are - more often than not - heterosexuals. Most gay people do not fit a stereotyped image. We proudly acknowledge our orientation and are comfortable being ourselves, no matter what our appearance. *This is one of a series of educational messages from Northern Lambda Nord.*



ARE GAY PEOPLE HEALTHY? Yes, most of us are. Homosexuality is not a mental disorder, "nothing to be ashamed of, no vice, no degradation; it cannot be classified as an illness." (Sigmund Freud, 1935) The individual who actually DOES need treatment is the one suffering from homophobia, an irrational reaction of fear or hatred towards lesbians and gaymen. Verbal abuse or physical attacks on gay people are often engaged in by those suffering from homophobia, those who may be insecure about their own sexuality. But homophobia can be cured! Education is the key to understanding. *This is one of a series of educational messages from Northern Lambda Nord.*



IS HOMOSEXUALITY MORAL? Neither homosexuality nor heterosexuality is, in and of itself, moral or immoral. Rather, how does one fit one's sexual feelings and relational needs into the context of a responsible and moral life? Many theologians feel that sexual relationships must be appraised in terms of love, mutual support, and responsibility, rather than the gender of the individuals. Biblical passages have been used to denounce gaymen and lesbians, to support slavery, to maintain inferior status for women, and to persecute Jews, Blacks, and other minorities. Jesus said absolutely nothing about homosexuality in the Gospels. He DID say much about love, truth, and justice. Is it moral to oppress people because of whom they love? Education is the key to understanding. *This is one of a series of educational messages from Northern Lambda Nord.*

GAY - LESBIAN ALUMNI/AE ASSOCIATIONS

The Network of Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae Associations, NetGALA, a national association of gay and lesbian alumni/ae groups, has announced its new referral service to help individual graduates wishing to make contact with their college or university GALA.

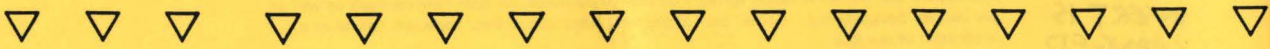
NetGALA has found that a large number of graduates do not know whether or not there is a GALA for their college or university; NetGALA is aware of nearly all the GALAs with contact names and addresses, and knows of contacts for individuals who are interested in starting a GALA.

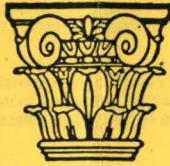
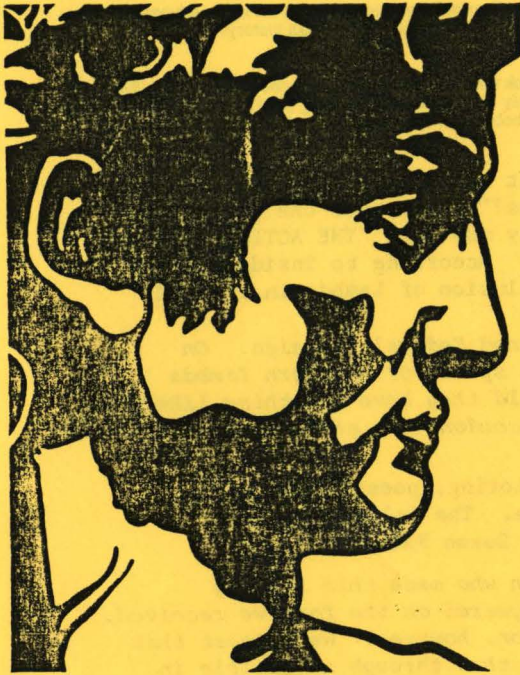


Alumni/ae who wish to make contact with their college or university GALA, or who wish to start one, can send a stamped, self-addressed envelope along with their college/university affiliation and year of graduation to: NetGALA, POB 15141, Washington, D.C. 20003.

AND IN RELATED NEWS...

The Alumni Council of Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine has formally recognized the Bowdoin Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae (BGALA) as a "bona fide alumni/ae organization". For more information about BGALA: M. REBIC, 1641 Third Avenue, New York City 10128.





Cultures are known not only by their art and architecture but also by the way they respond in a time of crisis. History will define gaymen's response to AIDS as nothing less than extraordinary.

We are showing the world how to successfully stop the spread of AIDS. On every level we are leading the fight. And we can pride ourselves in the way we freely give our time, our money, and our love.

Tragically, we did not know about AIDS until the virus had already infected many of us. In the years ahead we will continue to suffer the pain and loss caused by this devastating disease. If we are to survive we must draw upon our inner strength and the knowledge that we are doing all that we can.

While we take pride in our accomplishments, we must make sure that not one more gayman becomes infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

Reprinted from the introduction to an educational brochure distributed as an insert in a California gay newspaper.

LAMBDA'S INCLUSION IN AIR FORCE "UNITED WAY" SPARKS COMPLAINT

Every fall at Loring Air Force Base, they hold a charity fundraising drive, similar to the United Way campaign. Known as the CFC - Combined Federal Campaign, around 300 different organizations - national, regional, and local - may receive payroll-deducted donations. For the first time, Northern Lambda Nord qualified for inclusion in the published listing of CFC organizations and was included in the booklet under the heading, "Local Unaffiliated Voluntary Agencies":

LOCAL UNAFFILIATED VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

900. Loring Youth Activities Program. A program of professionally planned and expertly directed youth-oriented activities specifically geared to the Loring community. (MWR)

901. Whispering Pines Recreation Center. As a hub of Loring's recreation programs, it is one of morale, welfare and recreation's most important assets designed to provide recreation services to the entire community. (MWR)

902. Civil Air Patrol, Caribou Composite Squadron. Trains cadets in citizenship, character development, leadership, and aerospace education. Performs disaster relief and search and rescue operations involving missing aircraft and lost persons. (CAP)

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903. Air Force Sergeants Association, Airmen Memorial Foundation. Provides college scholarships, referral services, educational loans and courses for enlisteds, spouses and dependents, the National Research Center and museum for Airman history. (800-638-0594) (24.8%)

904. Northern Lambda Nord. Serves lesbian-gay-bisexual community in Aroostook County with peer support, social activities, educational services; operates Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber, speakers bureau, publishes monthly newsletter, has lending library; serves heterosexual community by acting as resource for factual information to help dispel homophobia. 498-2088 (13.5%)

At Loring, any time someone has a complaint or criticism on base ("Why can't we park on the lawn in front of our houses?"; "Why does the pool charge 50¢ for open swim - shouldn't it be free?") they may call "THE ACTION LINE" and state their comments on the tape recording. According to inside sources, an Action Line complaint was made about the inclusion of Lambda in the CFC campaign:

Yes. My question has to do with the Combined Federal Campaign. On page 16 of the booklet there is a donation space for Northern Lambda Nord which is a homosexual group. Why would they have something like that in the booklet when the Air Force doesn't condone gay activities? Thank you.

Colonel Terry Burke, Wing Inspector General at Loring, passed this on to Major Scott McLauthlin, the Staff Judge Advocate. The following reply (excerpts printed here) was prepared by Captain Susan Fall:

This office was unable to contact the person who made this inquiry directly, as no name or telephone number appeared on the form we received. We are willing to respond...A note of caution, however. We suggest that the inquiry be answered individually rather than through an article in the Limelite (the weekly Loring AFB newspaper, where Action Line responses normally appear). Publicizing the inclusion of Northern Lambda Nord in the CFC may cause more of a problem than answering individual questions as they come in. Our suggested response, whether by telephone or in the Limelite, is as follows:

Eligibility for inclusion in the CFC is determined by a specific set of criteria... (a) Tax-exempt... (b) accounts for funds in accordance with accepted accounting principles... (c) directed by an active and responsible governing body... (d) has a "substantial presence" in the geographical area covered by the local campaign... (e) It is a health and welfare organization that delivers substantive benefits to people.

Northern Lambda Nord met each requirement or its name would not appear on the CFC list.

Even more importantly, federal rules prohibit discrimination against any group that has met the prescribed requirements simply because that group "is organized by, on behalf of, or to serve persons of a particular race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap." Although the Air Force doesn't condone homosexual activity among its active duty personnel, men and women in the federal work force have the right to contribute to a group which has met the scrutiny necessary to be added to the CFC list.

Remember that it is always in your power to designate specific organizations to receive your CFC contribution. If you wish to be sure your contribution is not used by groups you do not wish to support, simply designate another group or groups to receive your contribution. In this way, all organizations which can honestly meet the requirements... can be represented.

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SIDAIDS

NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK • NEW BRUNSWICK

AIDS Safer Sex Guide

Unsafe

- * Anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom
- * Inserting hands (fisting) or tongue (rimming) into the anus
- * Avoid the exchange of body fluids
- * Sharing sex toys or needles
- * Semen or urine in the mouth
- * Blood contact
- Risk increases with multiple partners.*

Safe

- * Massage, Hugging
- * Masturbation -
 - Solitary and mutual
- * Body to body rubbing
- * Unshared sex toys
- * Reading, viewing and talking erotica
- * Abstinence
- * Dry kissing

Possibly Safe

- * Deep wet kissing
- * Anal, oral or vaginal sex using a latex condom properly
- * Oral vaginal contact - except during menstruation

QUESTIONS and CONCERNS? call 1-800/561-4009 (N-B)
1-800/851-2437 (Maine)

WORLD NEWS (from PERCEPTIONS magazine, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

DUBLIN, IRELAND Twenty gay Irishmen staged a "kiss-in" outside parliament to protest Ireland's anti-homosexuality laws. They waved banners reading, "Should My Lips Be Sealed With An Illegal Kiss?" A spokesperson for the National Gay Federation of Ireland noted that "Ireland is the only remaining state in Western Europe which criminalizes male homosexuality." Irish Senator David Norris is challenging the rarely-applied law in the European Court of Human Rights.

WARSAW, POLAND Sixty Eastern European lesbians and gaymen met in Warsaw to talk about issues ranging from AIDS to the pros and cons of working with groups in the West. Activists from Poland, Hungary, and East Germany represented nine different organizations. Though the meeting was not sanctioned by the Polish government, this second annual conference took place in the District Headquarters of the Polish Communist Party.

BHOPAL, INDIA Two women police officers here were discharged from their jobs after they married each other. They were married in a ceremony that consisted of a ritual exchange of garlands, conducted by a brahman in a Hindu temple. It was also reported that they were kept in isolation by their employer and deprived of food for 48 hours.

MOSCOW, USSR Open male homosexuality may soon be legal in the Soviet Union, according to a Moscow television newscast. The surprise message came on the program, "Good Evening, Moscow", which brought up the taboo subject of homosexuality for the first time. Many Moscow citizens as well as Western Europeans receiving Soviet television on cable systems were shocked to see Russian gays on the broadcast. Current Soviet law makes gay male sex punishable by a maximum five-year jail term; a proposed amendment to the country's criminal code would drop the sanctions.

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NLN Communiqué



**"I gave my lover everything,
including AIDS."**

If the gay community is to survive this epidemic, we must give up Unsafe Sex. Most of us already have.
And you?

SIDAIDS

QUESTIONS?

1-800/851-2437 (Maine)
1-800/561-4009 (N-B)

The French Connection

**MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN
QUÉBEC AND MONTRÉAL**

VIA MAGAZINE **RG** THE LEADING
FRENCH GAY MONTHLY MAGAZINE

FREE SAMPLE

RG BOX 5245, STATION C
MONTRÉAL H2X 3M4
[514] 523-9463

The WESTMAN HOUSE

A BED AND BREAKFAST
in the heart of Aroostook County



POB 1231 . Caribou . Maine . 04736
207 . 896-5726

Your Hosts: Phil & Dick

Gay/Lesbian GUIDE Lesbienne/Gai

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN) CP/POB 990,
Caribou, Maine 04736 USA, Gay-Lesbian
Phoneline/Telegai - 207/498-2088

AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP meets
weekly in Madawaska; contact Northern Lambda Nord
for information

BANGOR AREA GAY-LESBIAN-STRAIGHT COALITION
(BAGLSC - "Bagels") c/o 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer
04412

CLUB EQUALITY private membership club/membre
privé, located downstairs from the Capricorn Club/au-
dessous du Club Capricorn, rear entrance/entrée arrière,
Main Street/rue Principale, Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska,
New/Nouveau-Brunswick; open Friday-Saturday-
Sunday, 9pm-2am (N-B time)/ouvert vendredi-samedi-
dimanche, 21h00-2h00 (heure N-B)

DOWNEAST LESBIAN GAY ORGANIZATION (DELGO)
c/o Unitarian Church, 126 Union Street, Bangor 04401,
207/942-6503

DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland
04104

FREDERICTON LESBIANS AND GAYS (FLAG) POB
1556, Station A, Fredericton E3B 5G2, 506/467-2156

**GAIS ET LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/GAYS AND
LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM)** CP/POB 7102,
Riverview E1B 1V0, 506/858-1013

GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern
Maine, 92 Bedford Street, Portland 04102, 207/780-4085

GROUPE GAIE DE L'UNIVERSITE LAVAL (GGUL) CP
2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cite Universitaire, Sainte-Foy,
Quebec G1K 7P4, 418/648-2751

HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-lew. group, POB
4044, Portland 04104

**LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS**
POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04101

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 1792,
Portland 04104, 207/780-4085 (leave message)

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS POB 125, Belfast 04915
MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB
232, Hallowell 04347

**NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA REFORME DES
DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU NOUVEAU-
BRUNSWICK** POB/CP 1556, Station Succursale A,
Fredericton E3B 5G2

**OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in
Maine** published monthly, \$12 for one-year subscription,
POB 10744, Portland 04104

OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth
POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04101

WILDE-STEIN CLUB Memorial Union, University of
Maine, Orono 04469

WOMLAND TRUST Womn Owning Maine Land Trust,
POB 55, Troy 04987

AIDS information SIDA

MAINE AIDS-line 1-800/851-AIDS (1-2437) (Portland -
775-1267), Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Monday &
Wednesday 6-9pm, Saturday 10am-1pm

**NEW BRUNSWICK AIDS-line/La ligne SIDA
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK** 1-800/561-4009 (Fredericton -
459-7518)

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Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual community of northern Maine and
northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska-
Victoria-Carleton Counties). **SUBSCRIPTIONS** - \$10 per
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subscription. U.S. and Canadian funds are accepted at
par. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay
in installments. NLN is a non-profit organization; all
donations are U.S. tax-deductible. Advertising rates in
COMMUNIQUE are available upon request. Your
comments and contributions are welcome.

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lesbienne-gaie-bisexuelle au nord-ouest du Nouveau-
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Victoria-Carleton-Aroostook). **ABONNEMENTS** - \$10 par
année. **COTISATION NLN** - \$15 par année, dans lequel
inclus la subscription. Les fonds E-U et canadiennes
sont acceptés au par. Ceux qui ont de la difficulté
financièrement, des paiements à terme peut être
organisée. NLN est une organisation à but non-lucratif,
toutes donations sont taxe deductible aux E-U
seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le **COMMUNIQUE**
sont disponible. Vos commentaires et contributions sont
les bienvenue.

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