
Northern Lambda Nord

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A NEW YEAR BEGINS

With the busy holiday season behind us, it's time to look ahead at the new year. For Northern Lambda Nord, January marks the end of our 9th year and beginning of our 10th. The year 1989 is also the 20th anniversary of the "Stonewall Rebellion" when, for three nights in June at the Stonewall Bar in Greenwich Village, New York City, homosexuals fought back against the unwarranted police harassment they had become victims of on a regular basis. Many patrons of the bar were drag queens, and their resistance to the oppression of the police marks the beginning of the modern Gay-Lesbian Liberation Movement.

In times of a common threat, people find a common bond. Anita Bryant, noted Florida Orange Juice Queen, created a focus around which gay people could organize during her much-publicized attack on the rights of gaymen and lesbians in Dade County. The murder of Charlie Howard in Bangor became another catalyst around which the Maine community rallied to demand our civil rights, our liberation from second-class status.

From May 26-29, 1989, we'll mark the 20th anniversary of Stonewall as Northern Lambda Nord plays host for the second time as we gather for the state's 16th annual conference, the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XVI. As with the Lambda-sponsored Symposium XIII, we'll be meeting on the Presque Isle campus of the University of Maine. The Organizing Committee has been meeting regularly, and we've arranged for on-campus housing in the dormitories, a meal-package to include all your nourishment needs for the long weekend, and a wide variety of activities to include films, dances, games, socializing, and a variety of discussion sessions focusing not only on the historical nature of the weekend, but on a number of issues which affect lesbians, gaymen, and bisexual people in North America today. We're estimating close to 200 people attending Symposium, XVI, nearly half of them from New Brunswick.

Much of the early planning has been accomplished; since NLN hosted Symposium three years ago, we're following the formula this time to offer what we hope to be the best Maine Symposium yet. But it's not an easy task. We're going to need more people to help. If you've never been to Symposium, or if you have and have some ideas about what you'd like to see happen at Presque Isle over Memorial Day weekend, we need you. If you're not sure you can be of any help, attend the next Symposium planning session January 14th (it's followed by a Yankee Pot Roast Dinner). Just listen to what goes in to putting the conference together. You may just want to get involved in planning this 20th anniversary celebration. It doesn't require being public or having your name listed anywhere in order to be on the Organizing Committee. Our strength is numbers. Become part of our celebration of Stonewall.
ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Two events are scheduled for Saturday, January 14th; the first is the Symposium planning meeting, starting at 2pm (Maine)/3pm (N-B), followed by a Yankee Pot Roast Dinner ($2 donation requested) at 6pm/7pm.

Since we've had snow on the ground since the third week of November, it's time for a Toboggan Party. Three have been scheduled, each on a Sunday afternoon: January 22, February 19, and March 12. Snow conditions should be good, but in case they're not, there will be three chances. The party starts at noon/1pm, and there will be hot chocolate served.

The Monthly NLN Meeting for January is Sunday, January 29th, 1pm/2pm. The Newsletter Fold'n'Stuff is Wednesday, February 1 at the Phoneline Office, beginning at 7pm/8pm. And Lambda's Ninth Anniversary Party is Saturday, February 11th. March 18th is a Spring-St. Patrick's Day Barbeque and Party. Members' pink calendar inserts include specifics as to locations.

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)
1-800/651-2437 (Maine)

NAMES QUILT TO TOUR NORTH AMERICA

The Names Project's AIDS Memorial Quilt will tour North America in the spring and is scheduled to be in Halifax during the first weekend of June (the weekend following the Maine Symposium XVI in Presque Isle). According to a "fact sheet" released by The Names Project, the Quilt's more than 8200 panels, each 3x6', weighs 16 tons. The panels represent all 50 United States, plus Canada, Germany, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, and Sweden. The 8200 panels represent approximately 22% of the deaths from AIDS or ARC (AIDS-related complex) in the United States; for each panel in the Quilt, 4.5 other people have died.

INTERNATIONAL RADIO CLUB ORGANIZING

The Lambda Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an international service organization of amateur radio operators, "hams", serving the gay-lesbian community since 1975. Their advertisements seeking members have been refused by the mainstream amateur radio press, and therefore are promoting their organization throughout the gay media. An informational brochure about becoming a ham radio operator, "Amateur Radio: A National Resource", is available from the American Radio
GUIDE TO GAY CANADA/USA

A national directory and travel guide for men and women, Gay Canada '88, is a pocket sized book containing over 2000 listings from 200 communities coast to coast. It costs $10 plus $1 postage and handling, from Stubblejumper Press, Box 1203, Station F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2V8. Bibliothèque Lambda, NLN's lending library, has received the 1989 edition of the Gayellow Pages, national edition, no. 17, a comprehensive listing of most every resource you can imagine available to our community in North America. It is available for your reference use at the library; the book does not circulate, but photocopies of desired pages may be made at the library (5¢ per copy).

NEWS IN BRIEF

COPENHAGEN - A bill is working its way through the Danish parliament that would make Denmark the first country to give legal status to homosexual marriages. Observers predict passage despite minority government opposition. However, an amendment to the bill maintains second-class status of gay and lesbian marriages: no adoption of children. Increased rights, though, include the areas of inheritance, taxes, social service, and alimony. Supporters argue that these marriages will help cut the spread of AIDS, something heard in the debates in several North American churches which are discussing the merits of same-sex marriages. It appears that one of the motivations for promoting these marriages is simply to cut down on the "evil of promiscuity".

DALLAS - "I put prostitutes and gays at about the same level. If these boys had picked up two prostitutes and taken them to the woods and killed them, I'd consider that a similar case. And I'd be hard put to give somebody life for killing a prostitute." Texas judge Jack Hampton, explaining why he decreased the sentence of a man convicted of murdering two gaymen.

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“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?

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

COMMUNIQUÉ is published ten times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the Lesbian-Bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton Counties). SUBSCRIPTIONS - $10 per year. NLN MEMBERSHIP - $15 per year, which includes a 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 COMMUNIQUÉ are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.


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