Northern Lambda Nord Communique, Vol.11, No.6 (July/August 1990)

Northern Lambda Nord

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PHONELINE RECEIVES GRANT

Northern Lambda Nord's eight-year-old Gay & Lesbian Phoneline has been awarded a grant for one year's operating expenses from the Haymarket People's Fund of New England/Maine Funding Board. This is the second grant awarded to the Phoneline; the first was from RESIST, a Somerville Massachusetts-based organization. NLN asked for just under $800 from Haymarket, enough for the phone bills for one year plus the purchase of a TDD, a telecommunications device for the deaf. The TDD will make the Phoneline accessible to hearing-impaired persons. Dennis, a Phoneline volunteer, represented Lambda at the Haymarket meeting May 23 near Waterville. He explained the function of the Phoneline as an organizing tool and answered the grueling questions from the members of the Haymarket Board in Maine. The Maine Board voted to give the Phoneline not the $800 requested but $850. Below is Dennis' report of his trip. He and Dick made the trip. Dick is a member of the Maine Haymarket Board; as such, because of his conflict of interest with NLN, he refrained from any discussion with the Board about the Phoneline grant and abstained from voting.

HAYMARKET REVISITED by Dennis

Dick and I left Friday so we'd be bright and cheery for the 9am Saturday meeting at Kennebec Valley Technical College near Waterville. We spent Friday evening bar-hopping. First we checked out the new bar in Bangor. It's called the Riverfront Bar and it's not hard to find. It's in a fairly open place. Jimmy's, a well-known establishment, is upstairs from the Riverfront. This means that it's hard to miss the new Gay Bar. The parking lot for both places is big enough and there are a lot of cars so that it leaves a safe space for those who are afraid of being seen; no one would know which place you went to eat and relax.

The Riverfront's owners were there, behind the bar. They were friendly, and it was a warm, comfortable place. The club is not large, but seems big enough. The decor is tastefully done. There's a good selection of drinks; they sure mix a mean White Russian. I know I'll go back there in the future.

That was our first stop for the evening. Then we went to Chip &
Dal e's in Waterville, where I checked about getting dance music tapes for our parties. Our last stop was Papa Joe's in Augusta. The owner, Dick, recently purchased the building which houses Papa Joe's, and is doing some extensive renovations, including a piano bar and western bar, in addition to the present dance bar.

So much for the night before; on to the morning after. The Haymarket meeting really started for me on the previous Wednesday evening at the Phoneline. Fred Stocking, Haymarket Maine Board member, called Lambda on a conference call to do what they call the "site interview". He did this instead of coming up to Aroostook and talk with Phoneline people in person. Phil, NLN's treasurer, Roger, the Phoneline Director, and I were on the call that night. Fred's main concerns were that the grant was written more as a request for continued funding for the Phoneline as a service and not really in keeping with Haymarket's focus, organizing for social change. His other concern was about the budget and the way it was presented in the grant application.

I can tell you that I was nervous. I had to represent Lambda, and I did not want to blow it. I had notes and reviewed the various issues of how to put the Phoneline to better use in the future. I had it set, and with Phil's help I understood the budget and the concerns that Fred had raised on Wednesday.

There are three parts to the Haymarket meeting. PART ONE - The members of the Maine Board meet and discuss the grants and the reports of the site visits. PART TWO - All the groups who have requested grants have at least one person representing their interests and answering their questions. We all introduced ourselves and what group we represented. Then we were told that we would each have five minutes to present our grant proposal and a brief bit about our respective groups. I liked this aspect because it gave me a chance to know about other groups that Haymarket funds, to hear about them and their goals and dreams. They're no longer strangers around a table.

I had forgotten how quickly time flies when you're as nervous as hell. I wouldn't believe how quickly the first four minutes went; I had to put it into overdrive to cover most of the points of why we should have the monies. I feel I was OK, perhaps fair on this part of the process. The second part of my presentation concerned questions from everyone in the room, not just the board members. This is where my knowledge of Lambda and information acquired from Symposium was helpful in answering questions about MLGPA and how NLN was connected. And boy, my thanks and my nerves are grateful to Phil for his explanation of the budget. I was questioned hard about his aspect of the grant. I feel that I was more at ease in this second part of the questioning, and I was more
After each group presentation we had lunch and did some networking with the various groups. During this time the topic of NLN's distance from the rest of the state was raised, and I talked about how we operated on a bare-bones budget.

PART THREE: All group representatives are asked to fill out a form on the meeting process, then give the form to one of the groups' members to mail back to Haymarket in Boston. Guess who got that job; yours truly. The group representatives then leave and the board meets to review and decide who and how much each group will receive (if anything).

I was glad we received what we had asked for and that I was a benefit to the group. I was nervous because I was representing Northern Lambda Nord in an open meeting. It felt good to be there in public, speaking for NLN and for myself as a gayman. If asked to do it again, I would; I'll be better prepared to speak. The Haymarket was good experience, and in it's own way so was the bar-hopping!

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HOMOPHOBIA ON THE "HAIR" by Dick

Driving home the other day from the Lambda meeting I heard a radio commercial on "Power 96" which almost made me pull over to the side of the road. It features an effeminate-sounding man who just happens to be a hairdresser, talking about cutting someone's hair, and "taking care of that cowlick". Then the announcer says, "do you want someone like that cutting your hair?" and suggests you go to Visible Changes in Presque Isle (at the Northeastland Hotel). I found it really offensive and intend to call the folks at Visible Changes (764-6436) or stop by and tell them what I think. I hope other people will listen for that commercial and do the same.

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HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE MAINE LEGISLATIVE RACES

It started in the Republican primary in early June. Robin Lambert, candidate for the Maine Senate and member of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance, was the target of an anti-gay pre-election mailing to Portland Republicans; the flyer was not signed and the action was criticized by some Republicans. Robin has requested the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to investigate the source of the mailing. He lost the primary.

Dale McCormick, former president of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance and successful Democratic primary candidate for the Maine Senate from the Kennebec County area, has been the target of her Republican opponent, incumbent Norman Weymouth of Gardner. In a letter to what he called past supporters "who are concerned about homosexuality, Weymouth wrote, "Dear Conservative Friend..."
throughout the state have targeted me for defeat this year. Their champion, Dale McCormick of Monmouth, has announced her candidacy for my state Senate seat. Dale is a longtime leader of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance. They are determined to elect a gay leader to the Legislature. They think they've got a good chance to defeat me. Please send a substantial donation. Show the Maine Lesbian-Gay Alliance that we conservatives will not stand on the sidelines and give them a seat in the Maine state Senate."

Both leading Republicans and Democrats have criticized the Weymouth letter, saying it's focusing on a candidate's personal sexuality and not on the issues of the campaign. Jasper Wyman, Executive Director of the Maine Christian Civic League, supported Weymouth's position.

- SUMMARY OF JULY 1 MEETING -

* Phoneline grant discussed
* Building fund—a survey will be prepared for an August mailing to determine how people would want to raise money to eventually establish a community center.
* Election of officers—nominations will be solicited with the survey in August; elections will be at the October 6th Renewal Party.
* United Way of Aroostook County—NIN reviewed the guidelines for participation; we're going to apply to be included as a member agency
* Events calendar—details enclosed in members' newsletter
* We ordered out for pizza

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PRAGUE GAYE

Le changement de gouvernement en Tchécoslovaquie a entraîné de nombreux gais à sortir du placard. Les réunions hebdomadaires de l'association gaye de Prague, PRAHA LAMBDa, attirent de plus en plus de gais. GaiPied Hebdo (Paris) rapportait récemment qu'un autre groupe s'est formé en Moravie du sud. Encorollaire, les mouvements gais internationaux écrivent et s'informent auprès de Praha Lambda, a/s Jan Lany, Pod Kotlarkou 14, 150 00 Praha 5-Smichov, Tchécoslovaquie. (magazine RG, Montréal)
AFTER MEECH LAKE...

The Alliance for the Preservation of English in Canada is selling a video which promotes both homophobia and anti-French sentiments. The video includes a speech by a man who, amidst audience applause, says, "English speaking Canada needs French speaking Canada about as much as anyone needs the AIDS virus. Think about it. They are both being transmitted the same way and the end result is just about equal." from GO INFO, Ottawa

GRANTS TO LESBIANS

Three openly-lesbian writers have received $20,000 grants from an American arts funding organization. The three writers are Audre Lourde, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and Chrystos. from THE WASHINGTON BLADE

NLN's SIX-MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Covers the period October 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990

INCOME

Advertisements $16.00
Memberships 390.50
Subscriptions 10.00
General donations 324.25
Funds exchanged (CDN to US$) 234.66
Funds returned (Limelite advert) 48.00
Interest, money market account 147.36
Dividend, checking account 7.98
Miscellaneous 2.00

TOTAL INCOME $1180.75

EXPENSES

Advertisements $176.60
Fundraising activities 123.08
Cost of goods donated 45.24
Grants 650.00
Bank charges 58.53
Depreciation 1555.24
Office supplies 206.60
Newsletter production 190.46
Postage 190.50
Telephone 263.51
Repair of equipment 109.76
Symposium XVI expenses 447.17

TOTAL EXPENSES $4016.69

NET LOSS $2835.94

THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER!

CONSIDERED SAFE:
- Mutual masturbation
- Hugging, body rubbing
- Massage
- Social (dry) kissing
- Fantasy
- Light S/M (without bleeding or bruising)
- Sex toys (when used only on yourself)

CONSIDERED POSSIBLY SAFE:
- Anal or vaginal intercourse with a condom
- French (wet) kissing
- Sucking (but stopping before climax)
- Watersports (external only)
- Cunnilingus

CONSIDERED UNSAFE:
- Swallowed semen
- Anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom
- Watersports in mouth or on skin with sores or cuts
- Sharing IV needles
- Fisting or rimming
- Sharing enema equipment, douching equipment or sex toys
"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?

The WESTMAN HOUSE
A BED AND BREAKFAST
in the heart of Aroostook County

P.O. Box 1231, Caribou, Maine 04736
207-896-5726

Your Hosts: Phil & Dick

COMMUNIQUE is published ten times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the Lesbian-Gay-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 COMMUNIQUE are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.

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