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Northern Lambda Nord
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Aroostook County well-represented in Brunswick

by Dick Harrison, New Sweden

The seventh annual Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance Awards Banquet and Dance drew over 350 people from throughout Maine to the Atrium in Brunswick, Saturday, March 5. At the table marked “Aroostook County friends” were a dozen women and men sporting colorful boutonnieres noting their membership in a distinct group, those who travelled from the “far north” and from New Brunswick to join with many other gays, lesbians, and our friends at this distinguished gathering.

Noteworthy among the awards, presentations, and speeches during the evening was the presence of people currently holding political office and those aspiring to office. When requested to step up to the podium and introduce themselves, there were about two dozen politicians, including at least five of the six Democratic candidates for Maine governor (Tom Allen, Dick Barringer, Joe Brennan, James Howaniec, and Bob Woodbury), independent candidate Angus King, and Green Party candidate Jonathan Carter. One Republican candidate, Sumner Lipman, sent a representative. At least one Congressional candidate was present. There were also candidates for many of the state Senate and House seats, including Senator Dale McCormick who received a standing ovation. Representative Susan Farnsworth, who was similarly honored, announced that she would not be seeking re-election this year. This lead to a “Susan Farnsworth Night” at the banquet with several speakers complimenting Susan for her work and effectiveness, and noting the loss for the state by her absence from the legislature in Augusta. The presence of so many people running for office dramatically demonstrates the maturity of the candidates and the stature which our community has developed over the years. People are now coming to our gatherings to seek support.

Next to Symposium, this is the best statewide lesbian-gay event in Maine, a must-attend which you should include on your calendar for 1995. Perhaps next year Aroostook County can fill two tables!

NLN Building Fund

No Money This Time

Northern Lambda Nord was one of 11 Maine groups vying for a single $20,000 grant from the Haymarket People’s Fund of New England, which is marking its 20th anniversary this year. The money was requested in support of our community center building fund.

Of the eleven groups, four were lesbian-gay organizations. There was a gay & lesbian teachers’ group; the Maine Lesbian-Political Alliance who, with the Maine Civil Liberties Union was requesting funding; AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power - ACT-UP/Portland was asking for money; and Northern Lambda Nord.

Unfortunately, NLN did not receive the money. ACT-UP/Portland was awarded the grant for an AIDS education program designed for schools.

Another $20,000 grant request from the OUTfund of The Funding Exchange is also in the works, designed to help us establish Maine’s first lesbian-gay-bisexual community services center. We will be notified sometime in May.

Community Spirit Phone Company

How’s Your Long Distance?

In early 1993, Northern Lambda Nord signed on with the Chicago-based Overlooked Opinions’ telephone marketing group, Community Spirit. The idea was that anyone who used Community Spirit as their long distance carrier could designate a gay or lesbian organization which would receive a donation equal to 2% of their long distance phone charges. NLN became a recipient organization of Community Spirit.
Donations. Anyone who signed up for their service would find NLN on the list of groups which could receive the 2%. Lambda promoted this program at the 1993 Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance Banquet. We would allocate all money received from Community Spirit to help with our Gay-Lesbian Phoneline: 75% would go towards the establishment of an 800 number; and 25% would help pay our current phone costs.

Well, Community Spirit has never paid any organization any money. It seems that Trans-National, the company which sells time on their long distance lines to Community Spirit, has severed its ties with Community Spirit; the two companies are in litigation, and the customer is in the middle. Here’s where it stands now: If you signed up for Community Spirit, Trans-National remains your long distance carrier. The marketing company, Community Spirit, is no longer providing you service because of the break between them and Trans-National. Therefore Community Spirit is attempting to rebuild their network of customers by sending forms requesting verification of address and phone, and your signature. The small print is that by signing the form and returning it to Community Spirit, you are re-enlisting with that marketing firm. At the same time, Trans-National has set up a marketing unit called Pride to do what Community Spirit had promised to do: donate 2% of your phone charges to different gay & lesbian groups. Trans-National already has similar special-interest marketing groups set up for others, and they want to serve our community the way Community Spirit had promised to do. Trans-National will pay the donations to groups every quarter.

If you have Community Spirit and do not sign and return their form, you will remain with Trans-National and become part of their Pride network. Confused?

Is There a Symposium in 1994?

It’s already the end of March and there has been no word in any of the gay-lesbian newspapers in Maine as to plans for our annual statewide conference, the Maine Lesbian & Gaymen’s Symposium. In what has become an annual rotation throughout the state, it is the Portland-area’s turn to host the event. At the Atlantic Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual Conference last October in Halifax, word was that a group of people were planning to host Symposium at the University of New England in Biddeford. But that’s the last we’ve heard.

Nineteen-ninety four would be Symposium XX. It seems that this may be the first time in 20 years that Maine will miss our statewide gathering. Has southern Maine dropped the ball? Well, have no fear, all is not lost because at NLN’s March 13th meeting, Northern Lambda Nord members agreed to host Symposium ’95 from May 26-29, 1995 at the University of Maine campus in Presque isle. The first planning meeting will be a brainstorming session. We’re looking for suggestions for keynote speakers (one man, one woman), entertainment, ideas for workshop topics and workshop facilitators, and any other suggestions to make Symposium ’95 the best one yet. This first planning meeting is set for Saturday, April 2 at 3pm in Presque Isle.

Progress Report

Aroostook County for the American Way

A new organization with a new name has formed in northern Maine. Called “Aroostook County for the American Way,” it is designed to be a broad-based coalition of people who “support a woman’s choice; who work for a clean environment, for workers’ rights, for health care reform; who oppose censorship of what we read, see, and hear; who support civil rights protections for...
gays, lesbians, and bisexuals; who feel that separation of church and state must be maintained.” In addition to five general goals of the organization, five specific goals for 1994 were adopted: (1) To defeat the Concerned Maine Families’ anti-gay referendum (2) To build coalitions with other area individuals and groups (3) To work to have “sexual orientation” added to the Maine Human Rights Act (4) To establish a speakers bureau (5) To do fundraising.

As with any group, initial organizing efforts are slow and time-consuming. After adoption of a mission statement and goals, efforts and now underway to build a strong membership base consisting of a wide cross-section of people from throughout the County: people from the business, religious, civic, political, and activist communities, as well as those who are concerned with the growing strength of the extreme right wing and their attempts to advance their agenda in Maine.

Aroostook County for the American Way may be reached at POB 853, Caribou 04736-0853. The next meeting is Saturday, March 26 at 4pm at the Caribou Lions Center, on High Street across from Shop & Save. A pot luck meal will follow. ▼

In NLN’s Lending Library

New Books

Northern Lambda Nord’s lending library, Bibliothèque Lambda, continues to receive books from publishing companies who send us their new books at no charge. Here are three of the recent additions to our collection. Thin Fire by Nanci Little Nord won the American Library Association’s Gay & Lesbian Book Award. Nanci Little, Presque Isle native and past-Northern Lambda member, introduces us to “Elen McNally, a proud, intelligent, and beautiful woman who signed up for three years in the Army as her one-way ticket out of Aroostook County, Maine. Within the confines of the military, Elen comes to terms with her own sexuality.”

Coffee Will Make You Black by April Sinclair, “a fresh new novel about coming of age in the 60s on Chicago’s Southside.” The author writes frankly about a young black woman’s sexuality, and about the confusion [she] faces when she realizes she’s more attracted to the school nurse than [to] her teenage boyfriend.”

A Class Apart: The Private Pictures of Montague Glover, by James Gardiner. Glover was a WWI architect, decorated army officer, amateur photographer, and homosexual. This is a collection “of photographs and letters documenting the life-long lover Ralph Hall.” ▼

Building Fund

Win a $100 Shopping Spree!

Northern Lambda Nord has undertaken another fundraising effort to add to our Building Fund for Maine’s first lesbian-gay-bisexual community services center. This time it’s a RAFFLE! The prize is a $100 shopping spree at the store of your choice. If you’re the winner, you tell us which store you want to patronize and we’ll purchase a $100 gift certificate for you. Tickets are available at all NLN events and cost $2 each or 3 for $5; US and international memberships welcome.

S I D A

LES NIVEAUX DE RISQUE

LE BAISER avec échange de salive (french-kiss) ne comportent aucun risque. LES CARESSES ET LA MASTURBATION ne constituent aucun risque de transmission du VIH. LE SEXE ORAL il est peu probable que cette pratique sexuelle puisse transmettre le VIH. LA PENÉTRATION ANAL ET VAGINALE: non protégée par un condom constitue un haut risque de transmission du VIH, ou il y ait ejaculation ou non. LES JOUETS SEXUELS (ex: vibulateur, godemiché) non partagés ne constituent aucun risque de transmission du virus. LÉCHER L’ANUS ne constitue pas un mode de transmission du VIH. Cependant, elle ne vous protège aucunement de l’hépatite B ou des autres MTS. ACTIVITÉS SADO-MASOCHISTES qui ne causent pas de saignements et qui n’incluent aucune autre activité à risque ne favorisent pas la transmission du VIH.

A I D S

THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER

CONSIDERED SAFE: Mutual masturbation, Hugging/body rubbing, Massage, Social (day) 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...
Canadian money are accepted at par (if you win, and you purchased your ticket with US funds, you win $100 US; purchase with Canadian money and you win $100 Canadian). The winning ticket will be drawn at the October 1, 1994 NLN Membership Drive party, you need not be present to win.

What's Going On?

Calendar!

For more information on these and other NLN events, call the Gay Lesbian Phoneline, 207-498-2088, Wednesdays 7-9 pm (Maine time).

- Sat, Mar 26, 7 pm - Night Out - Pool at Wizard's, Main Street, Presque Isle
- Sat, Apr 2, 3 pm - Symposium '95 Meeting brainstorming session #1, Presque Isle
- Wed, Apr 6, 6 pm - Policy Meeting job descriptions, policy for NLN secretary, treasurer, & members-at-large, at the Phoneline, Caribou
- Sun, Apr 10, 1 pm - NLN Meeting Lions Community Center, High Street, Caribou, across from Shop & Save
- Tues, Apr 12 - Safe Youth Conference in Lewiston, co-sponsored by NLN

Meeting note: summertime Calendar:

COMMUNIQUÉ publié dix fois par an par NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD, une organisation pour la communauté gay-lesbienne-bisexuelle au nord-ouest du Nouveau Brunswick et au nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton-Aroostook). ABONNEMENTS - 103 par année. VOTATION NLN - 155 par année. Les fonds E-U et canadiens sont acceptés par les comités. Les dons qui ont de la difficulté financièrement, des paiements à terme peuvent être organisés. NLN est une organisation à but non-lucratif; toutes les donations sont taxe déductible aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le COMMUNIQUÉ sont disponibles. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenus.

COMMUNIQUÉ is published ten times yearly by NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD, an organization serving the gay-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.

Gay/Lesbian Guide

Lesbienne/Gai

COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER: The newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine, published monthly, 142 High St, Suite E34, Portland 04101, 207-873-1342

DUAL KIDS, 774-TALK for the gay, bisexual & unsure youth under 19

DIGNITY/MAINÉ Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland 04104

EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 207-990-EMAN

FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG) POB 1556, Station A E8B 5G2, 506.657.2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)

FRUITS OF OUR LABORS Lesbian-Gay Bi events calendar published monthly, POB 125, Belfast ME 04915

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 207-772-4741 (Frank)

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

INTEGRITY Episcopalian group, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 207-822-6531

LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102

GAYS & LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/ GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (SLM) CP/POB 1072, Riverview E18

GAYS FOR GAYS (GNG) CP/POB 933, Bathurst 22R 4H8

GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern Maine, 85 Winlow Street, Portland 04103, 207.874-6596

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK POB 212, Bangor 04401, 207-862-5907/941-2189

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 207-772-4741 (Frank)

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 10818, Portland 04104

MAINE LESBIAN & GAY LAW ASSOCIATION (Telac) POB 443, Portland 04112, 207.829-3379

MAINE LESBIAN-GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB 232, Hallowell 04347

NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA RÉFORME DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK POB/CP 1556, Station Succursale A, Fredericton E8B 5G2, 506.657-2156

NO BORDERS/SANS FRONTIÈRES POB/CP 461, Campbellton, NB E3N 164

OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, age 22 and under, POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04102, 207.339-4042

OUTRIGHT CENTRAL MAINE for age 22 & younger, every Fri, 7:30pm 1st

Unkarian Church, Pleasant St, Auburn;
POB 802, Auburn 04212, 800.339-4042

OUTRIGHT TOB Bangor area Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual youth group, c/o POB 212, Bangor 04401

PWA (People With AIDS) COALITION OF MAINE 371 Cumberland Avenue, Portland 04101, 207.773-6500

SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick 800.561-4009

10%: Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men, POB 10536, Portland 04104

TIME OUT outdoor activities, monthly calendar, POB 11502, Portland, ME 04104

WOMEN'S GROUP POB 20082, Fredericton E8B 6Y8, 506.657-2156

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