

# COMMUNIQUE

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼  
CP/BOX 990 ▼ CARIBOU ▼ MAINE ▼ 04736 ▼ USA

JULY 1981 JUILLET

VOLUME II: N°6

## ▼ "I'M COMIN' OUT..." ▼

by Scott Ohlman

"A funny thing happened to me a couple years ago. I realized for the first time that I was happy with myself...because I had finally come to grips with the fact that I was gay..."

That's how I began a speech that I delivered in front of my speech class on June 2. It had to be an informative speech on a deep personal concern. How much deeper could I get!? On the evaluation that the teacher gave me, she wrote, "took a lot of guts"; but for me, the more often I come out to people, the less guts it takes. After the defeat of the Lesbian-Gay Rights Bill in Maine and on reading the account of the debate in the State House of Representatives, in which we were referred to as "animals" and "young bulls", I have decided that I'm not helping our cause by just sitting back and hiding behind a cloak of heterosexuality. To get ahead at most anything you have to be aggressive and take risks. If that's what it takes, I'm learning.

As I told the class to whom I gave the speech, there are many misconceptions people have about us gays, and only by dispelling these misconceptions would I be better understood and better accepted by my contemporaries. I explained five of the myths that I read about in a leaflet that NLN obtained<sup>1</sup>, and after I was finished, I was asked question after question about homosexuality by a group as mixed as any -- by a group that just as well as accepting me, could have begun yelling "faggot". I appealed to their sense of compassion and to their want for more knowledge. It worked. I have made a positive impression on 9 people (might be one or 2 gays among them, but they didn't say so!) and hope to convince more in the future as well. One hitchhiker I picked up by Sleeper's in Caribou on the way



to Presque Isle told me as we passed the Prestile Hill Rest Area that it was called Queer's Hill. As I dropped him off about a mile later, I said, "it's also called the Country Store. I go there often myself." He now knows that faggots are capable of giving rides to people without attacking them. A quote I'll take from Benj.: "Education is the key to understanding". The point is -- we have to get out of our closets and take risks. That's easy for me to say -- I don't have to worry about losing a job (since I'm self-employed and a student), and I don't think my landlord would kick me out either -- my money is green, too. But some of us are so worried that our friends would disown us if they found out. I've found just the opposite. My approach has been to tell them something like what I told my friend Ivan: "Ivan, I have to tell you something because I'd rather you heard it from me now, than have someone else come up to you and tell you. (Pause) I'm gay. (in a weak voice)" He had no idea, but knew me as a friend before he knew I was gay. We talked about it (he had no idea) and then took off to a secluded place and got high. He's very straight, but we're still friends. No, it's not going to work with everyone. But unless more people are exposed to gays and see that we aren't terrible, their misconceptions will live on in their minds and will be passed on to their offspring.

I guess the word I use for it is militancy. We have to be more militant -- that is, combative or aggressive -- if we're going to get anywhere. To this end, I've already obtained lists of how our Maine Senators and Representatives voted on the Lesbian-Gay Rights Bill and will get transcripts of their debates when they are available, to find out how narrow-minded a group we're working with, and who we should target our efforts against the most.<sup>2</sup>

Most of all, we can't be afraid to be militant. This doesn't mean that we should get together and beat up a bunch of straights. The pen is mightier than the sword. We have to get out and write our representatives, get out and get gay news included on the airwaves, and get out and be respected as human beings who just happen to be gaymen and lesbians.

When I gave my speech, I was really scared that I would be rejected. I was nervous as hell. But I had conviction in my voice while my knees were shaking. I



was sure of what I was saying. I was convinced that what I was saying had to be said -- and I got an 'A'. ▼

1 "Project Straight Talk on Human Sexuality presents Ten Myths and Facts on Homosexuality" -- ten myths and facts that even surprised me. Copies are available for 50¢ each (write to NLN). Extra donations are gratefully appreciated.

2 Anyone interested in assisting or getting involved in this effort, please write me at: 30-4 Summit Avenue, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA. ▼

▼ NLN EXECUTIVE MEETS ▼

At the June 30th Executive Committee meeting in Caribou, a summer activity calendar was adopted (enclosed).

The Executive also adopted the following 2 resolutions:

RESOLUTION 1:

"RFD magazine is a quarterly journal for 'Country Gaymen Everywhere.' The Mother Earth News (TMEN) is a homesteading/back-to-the-land publication with a very wide general circulation.

"According to the recent issue of RFD, TMEN has a policy of refusing RFD advertising. A phone call to TMEN in North Carolina has confirmed their policy of refusing all lesbian-gay advertising. They stated that their readers had complained about seeing gay or lesbian items in TMEN.

"The Executive Committee of Northern Lambda Word has adopted the following resolution:

"WHEREAS The Mother Earth News (TMEN) professes to be a publication for back-to-the-land and rural peoples, and

"WHEREAS lesbians and gaymen live not only in urban areas but in rural communities as well, and

"WHEREAS there are gaymen and lesbians who are back-to-the-land people, homesteaders, and small farmers, and

"WHEREAS TMEN magazine has a publicly stated discriminatory policy towards lesbians and gaymen by their rejection of all gay- and lesbian-oriented advertising,

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of Northern Lambda Word, the lesbian-gay male organization in rural northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick, calls on all lesbians, gaymen and our friends to boycott The Mother Earth News magazine by: (1) cancelling any current subscriptions and notifying TMEN of the reason



for the cancellation, (2) refusing to purchase THEM on the newsstand and notifying THEM of the reason for refusal to purchase their publication, and (3) sending letters to Ms. Beverly Roots, Advertising Services, THEM, P.O. Box 70, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28791 USA, demanding an immediate end to their blatantly homophobic and discriminatory policy towards gaymen and lesbians.

"This boycott shall be terminated when THEM alters their discriminatory practices."

RESOLUTION 2:

"WHEREAS Northern Lambda Nord (NLN) is an international organization of lesbians and gaymen from both Canada and the United States, and

"WHEREAS current US Immigration policy calls for the exclusion of foreign gaymen and lesbians from the US, and

"WHEREAS this McCarthy ~~is~~ legislation directly affects our Canadian sisters and brothers of NLN,

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of Northern Lambda Nord calls upon the Congress of the United States and specifically our members in Congress (Senators Cohen and Mitchell and Representative Snowe) to repeal US immigration laws that discriminate against foreign lesbians and gaymen."

NLN members will be asked to vote their approval of these resolutions at our July 19th meeting (see calendar).

It was noted at the Executive Committee meeting that a bath raid took place in Edmonton, Alberta. As with previous raids in Toronto, NLN responded by sending telegrams of protest to both the Mayor of Edmonton and the Attorney General of Alberta. A copy of the reply from the Attorney General's office will be available at the July 19th meeting.

NLN is currently organizing a lending library. The collection (which so far numbers close to 25 books and 15 periodicals) includes literature by gay and lesbian authors, books about lesbian and gay people, selections on homosexuality, and several pieces of fiction. The periodicals are those which we receive in exchange for sending our newsletter, Communiqué. A complete listing of the library selections will be available once cataloging is completed. Donations to "Bibliothèque NLN" (in the form of cash or books to expand our collection) are greatly appreciated. ▼



## ▼ SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PARENTS/FAMILIES OF HOMOSEXUALS ▼

Contrary to statements made by some legislators that Homosexuals are "animalistic", Dignity/Maine believes they are "created in the image and likeness of God." They have a "duty to live the Sacramental Life of the Church" so as to become "instruments of God's Love working among all people."

Dignity/Maine is an organization of Gay/Lesbian Catholics and their friends. It has ministered to over 100 persons during the first 10 months of its existence. It has done so through worship and prayer, education, counseling and fellowship. Its monthly Newsletter is mailed out to over 200 individuals and organizations.

Parents and families of Homosexuals are probably the most affected and the least helped. Dignity/Maine is now ready to initiate Support Groups for Parents/Families of Homosexuals to help them understand what their children, brother or sister are going through and to continue to love them as they are.

If interested, write to us. WE ARE PREPARED TO GO ANYWHERE IN THE STATE. Confidentiality is assured. Dignity/Maine, PO Box 7021, Lewiston, Maine 04240. ▼

\*\*\*\*\* Lettres à NLN \*\*\*\*\* Letters to NLN \*\*\*\*\*

Hi, Friends! I'm Mario, I am gay and incarcerated. I found your article in one of our Montrealer magazines, and was wondering if you could hang my note somewhere in order that people could read it, and take my address, I'd be very pleased. I'd like to exchange with you a friendly correspondence, and also share our experiences. I'm 25 years of age, brown hair, green eyes, weight 160 pounds, 5 foot 10 inches tall. I like to read and especially to write; I have no family nor friends, and if you people couldn't write English, I also speak, read and write fluently French, German, and Italian. I'm French-Canadian (Montrealer), so if you believe in friendship, write me a few lines. I shall answer you right away, without exceptions, until then I stay, Friendly yours, /s/ MARIO GAUTHIER (3970), 160 Montée St-François, Ville de Laval, P.Québec, H7C 1S6. ▼



\*\*\*\*\* NLN MILESTONES \*\*\*\*\*

▼ The members of Northern Lambda Nord extend our condolences to our brother Carroll at the loss of his mother at age 92.

▼ On the evening of Friday, July 3rd, fire totally destroyed the home of one of our brothers. Built in 1870, it was his family homestead -- and his pride. Fortunately, no one was hurt in the fire -- but he lost everything. The women and men of NLN want Burt to know that though there is nothing we can do to help him replace his loss, we offer our physical labor, and our moral support at this difficult time.

▼ A surprise party was held June 30th for Carl on the occasion of his 68th birthday. We all say "Happy Birthday" and wish him many more!

▼ And...Happy 39th Birthday to Mel!

▼ We've also found out that Charles will soon be leaving the County for Boston. He'll be taking his piano tools and memories of Lambda to Bean-town. We hope he'll visit us soon! Best of luck, Chuckie-boy!

\*\*\*\*\* NOUVELLES \*\*\*\*\* NEWS \*\*\*\*\* NOUVELLES \*\*\*\*\* NEWS \*\*\*\*\*

▼ HALIFAX: The Alternate Bookstore has successfully appealed the seizure by Canada Customs officials of shipments of two gay magazines.

Halifax Customs officers had held back samples of BLUEBOY, HONCHO, VIDEO X, and HOTLINE on separate occasions earlier this year and last fall. Store owner Emerlad Gibson appealed the seizures to the Customs and Excise Branch of Revenue Canada. The department ruled in favour of BLUEBOY and HONCHO, but denied the appeals on the others.

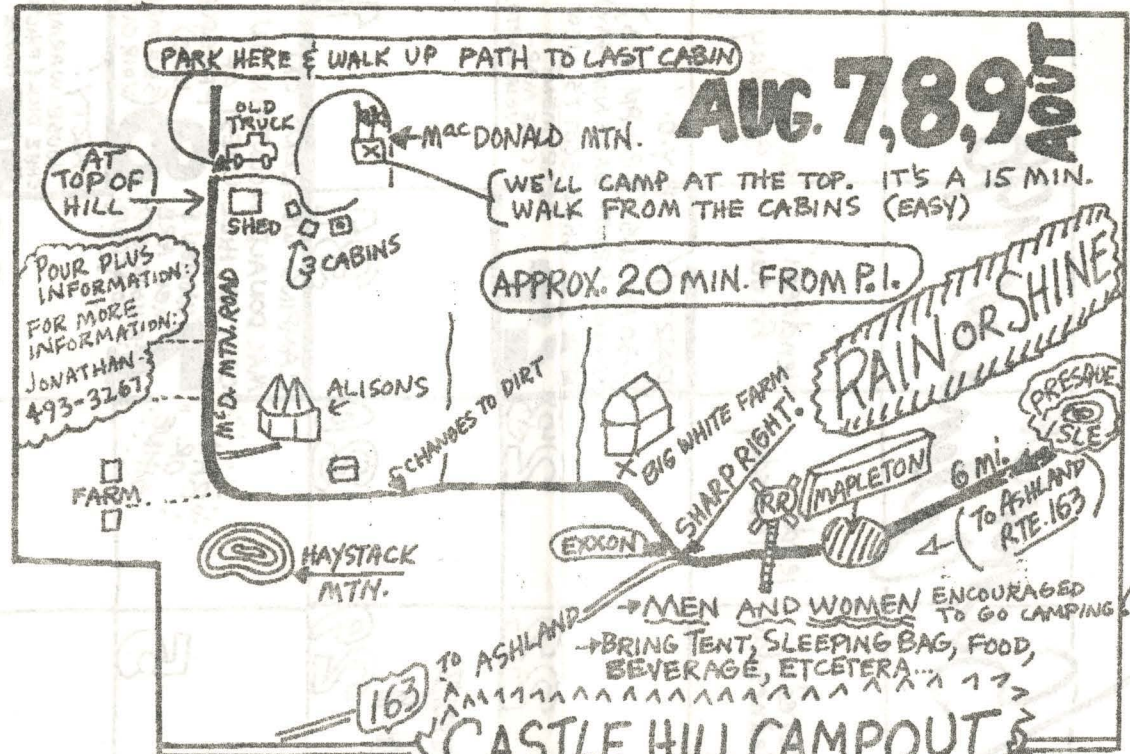
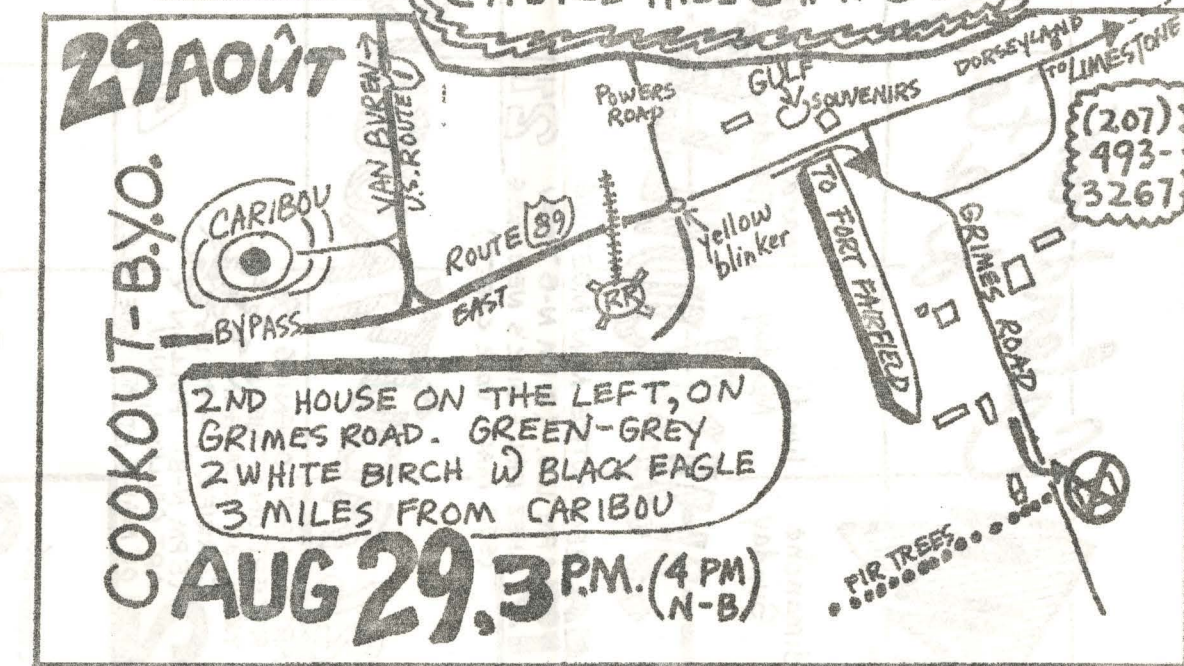
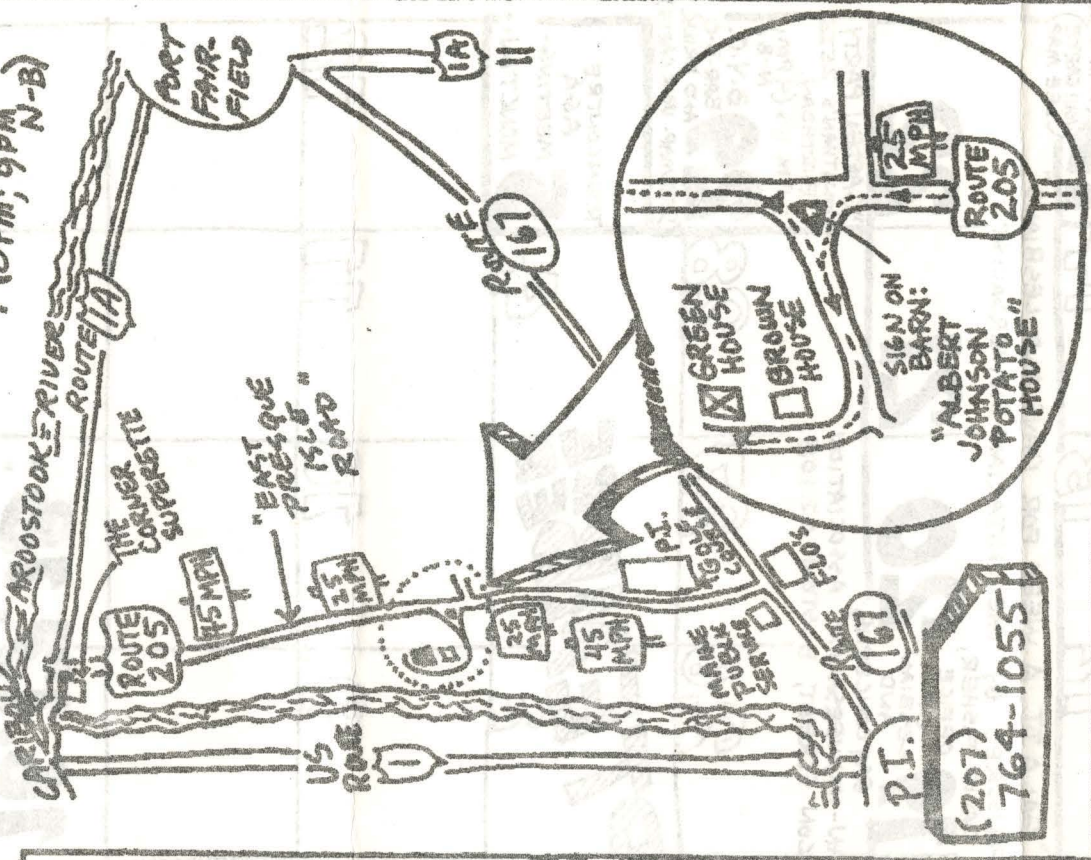
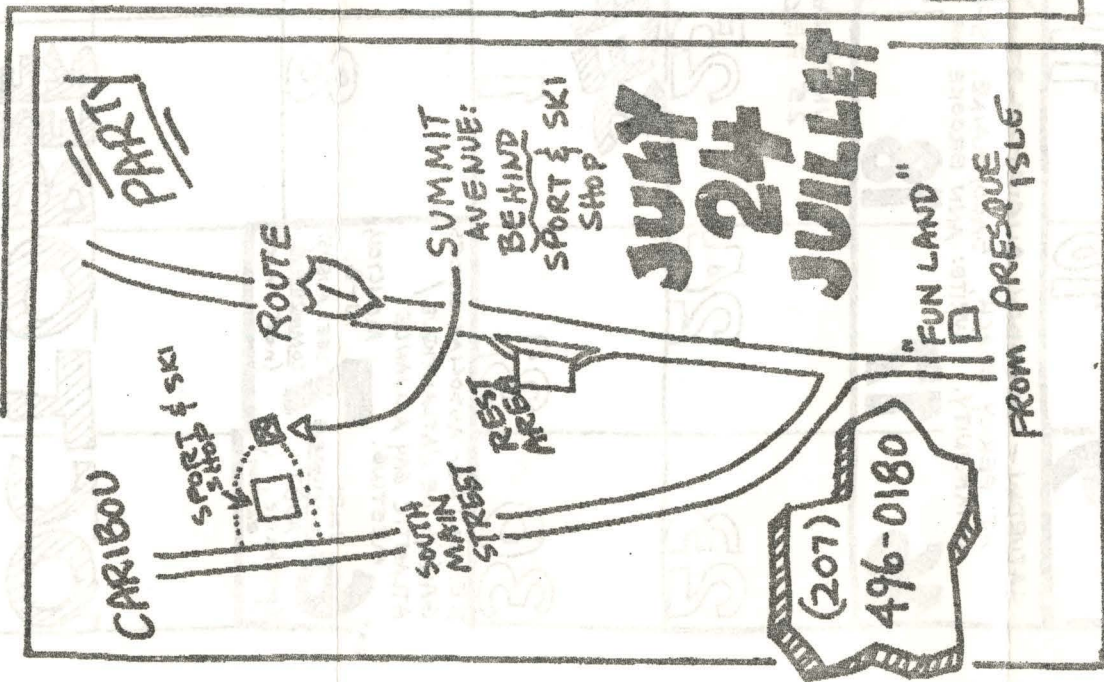
Emerald plans no further action, since appeals of Customs Branch decisions can only be made through the courts, involving considerable time and expense.

▼ OTTAWA: The Atlantic Gay Association (AGA) has charged the Irving Newspaper interests, which owns all 5 English-language dailies in New Brunswick with systematically refusing to publish ads placed by gay organizations. In a brief submitted to the Kent Royal Commission on Newspapers, the AGA said the Irving policy prevents gay/lesbian rights organizations from reaching isolated members of the lesbian and gay community and their families and friends.



SAME LOCATION,  
BOTH DATES  
MÈME LIÉU,  
MÈME DATE

→ JULY 19 JULIET RENCONTRE  
NLN MEETING  
(1 PM; 2 PM N-B)  
→ AUG. 15 AOÛT PARTY (8 PM; 9 PM N-B)





# Calendrier d'été / Summer Calendar 1981

dimanche Sunday    lundi Monday    mardi Tuesday    mercredi Wednesday    jeudi Thursday    vendredi Friday    samedi Saturday

## JULY/JUILLET

**19** RENCONTRE NLN MEETING 1PM U.S. (2 PM N-B TIME) CHEZ PHIL & DICK'S NEW HOUSE (SEE MAP- VOIR CARTE)    **21**    **22**    **23**    **24** PARTY! "B.Y.O." 7:30 PM U.S. (8:30 PM N-B) (MIXED GROUP- GAY & NON-GAY) CHEZ SCOTT'S NEW APARTMENT (SEE MAP- VOIR CARTE)

## 26 AOÛT/AUGUST

**2** ART EXHIBIT- OPENING RECEPTION: "NEW WORK BY JONATHAN CURRIER". 4 PM U.S. (5 PM N-B). PULLEN ART GALLERY, UNIV. OF MAINE AT PRESQUE ISLE.    **4**    **5**    **7** "RAIN OR SHINE" CAMPING WEEKEND ON MAC DONALD MOUNTAIN IN CASTLE HILL (WEST OF PRESQUE ISLE) WOMEN & MEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.    **8** (SEE MAP VOIR CARTE)

CAMPING    **9**    **10**    **11**    **12**    **13**    **14**    **15** PARTY! "HOUSE-WARMING" CHEZ DICK & PHIL'S HOUSE 8PM US (9 PM N-B) (SEE MAP)

SATURDAY - SATURDAY, AUGUST 15-22: "GALA III, A WEEK FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS" AT FERRY BEACH, SACO, MAINE. SPONSORED BY THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY. WRITE: ANN BROOKE OR DAVID FISHER, OFFICE OF LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS, UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION 25 BEACON STREET, BOSTON. 02108.

**16**    **17**    **18**    **19**    **20**    **21**    **22**    "GARDEN PARTY" JONATHAN'S 25TH BIRTHDAY. 3 PM US (4 PM N-B)

**23**    **24**    **25**    **26**    **27**    **28**    **29** B.Y.O. BAR-B-Q AND DRINK (SEE MAP- VOIR CARTE)

## SEPTEMBER

**30**    **31**    **1**    **2**    **4**    **5** RENCONTRE AGA MEETING- MONCTON..

RENCONTRE- ASSOCIATION DES GAI(E)S DE L'ATLANTIQUE / ATLANTIC GAY ALLIANCE MEETING.

**6** VOIR: COMMUNIQUÉ AOÛT (prochaine édition)    **7** MONCTON, N-B. SEE: AUGUST COMMUNIQUÉ (next issue)

**8**    **9**    **10**    **11**    **12**

## OCTOBER 16, 17, 18:

4<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Community Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men  
 4<sup>e</sup> Conférence des lesbiennes et des Gais de la Communauté de l'Atlantique  
 sponsored by A.G.A. - in Fredericton



Non-Irving publications in New Brunswick have printed stories describing local gay organizations. The Woodstock Bugle and the Victoria County Record have both accepted ads from NLN. The AGA also urged the commission to recommend the establishment of an independent press council in the province to hear complaints.

(news items taken from The Body Politic, Toronto)

\*\*\*\*\* PETITES ANNONCES \*\*\*\*\* WANT ADS \*\*\*\*\*

▼WANTED: NLN needs a filing cabinet, with at least 2 drawers! Our files are overflowing! PLEASE contact us if you have one or know where we can get one.

▼Parlez-vous français? Ecrivez-vous français? Avez-vous quelquechose dire?...As you can see, mon français, ce n'est pas très bien, mais, I try. Why don't YOU try. WRITE FOR COMMUNIQUÉ! C'est un journal bilingue!

▼Avez-vous quelquechose à vendre, à acheter, à louer, à échanger...? Placez une petite annonce dans Communiqué. 10¢ le mot. Cheque à l'ordre de: N.L.N. CP 990, Caribou, Maine 04736

▼Do you have something to sell, to buy, to rent, to exchange...? Place an advertisement in Communiqué. 10¢ per word. Checks payable to: N.L.N. POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736

\*\*\*\*\*IN NEXT MONTH'S COMMUNIQUÉ... 3 NLN members went to the New England Lesbian-Gay Conference in Boston. Read their report -- here -- in the August issue of Communiqué. On sale where fine periodicals are sold.

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MARS HILL, MAINE  
POTATO FIELDS



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An Atlantic quarterly  
for Lesbians & Gay men

Making Waves is published by an independent, non-profit collective of lesbians and gaymen. It is the first publication to be directed towards the entire Atlantic lesbian/gay community. We need your support to make it work. At \$4 a year, it is not expensive, and you can help to finance a journal that serves all of us.

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▼ READ! ▼



COMMUNIQUE est publié par Northern Lambda Nord, C.P. 990, Caribou, Maine, 04736, USA. Tous nos lecteurs sont invités de nous faire parvenir des articles pour le COMMUNIQUE. Vos articles doivent nous parvenir au début de chaque mois. Nos cotisations sont les suivantes: \$7.00 souscription au COMMUNIQUE; \$10.00 cotisation de membre et souscription au COMMUNIQUE; \$6.00 pour personne à faible revenu (membre et COMMUNIQUE). Northern Lambda Nord est membre de l'Association des Gai(e)s de l'Atlantique.

THE ADVENTURES OF LETTERMAN

COMING SOON.....

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