

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD COMMUNIQUE

Volume III, Number 1, January, 1982. This is the beginning of Northern Lambda Nord's third year.

This issue of COMMUNIQUE is devoted to mail we received during the last months of 1981. The letters pretty much speak for themselves.

Happy New Year to everyone! ▼

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Dear Sir,

Happy New Years and Merry Christmas.

I am writing to you to ask a favor of you because I'm lonely here in prison.

When I was a kid my parents use to take off all of my clothes and would whip me with rose bush switches on my back, buttocks and legs until they would bleed. I would run away from home alot and would steal food and clothes to survive.

When I came to prison I was stabbed 4 times by 3 inmates who wanted to make a whore out of me and I wouldn't let them. I treasure my body.

I come to ask you if you could find it in your heart to find someone that I could write to by placing an ad for me in your paper. I have no family, no friends, no one visits me. Please sir won't you help. Thanks. Here is a description of me. I was born in New Orleans, LA. I have hazel eyes, dirty blonde hair and fair complexion. I am 5'10½", 155 lbs. I am 30. Date of birth 11-14-51. I love weight lifting, all kinds of sports, horses, running. I am gay. Will write to anyone who wants to write we and hopefully become very close, honest, and trusting friends. Please write. Thank you sir for your time and consideration. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely, David Johnson, #84970, MAG-3, Angola, Louisiana 70712

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Dear Women and Men of NLN,

I'd like to share with you my own experiences in the gay life. When I discovered that I was gay, I hated myself. To begin with, I felt less than an animal that walks the yard. I couldn't find the answers I needed to free myself of such large sense of guilt within my elf.

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I could not accept myself, let alone want other people around me. I found it was easier to deny what I was and play pretense with myself and others. Then I found if I could find acceptance in myself, then other people could do the same.

So at the age of fourteen I got myself out of the rut I was in and started living in a honest life within myself. I realized there was nothing I could do about myself or others, so I lived the way I felt I was happier. Oh!, don't get me wrong, I was still ridiculed and made fun of, but I made my mind up that I wasn't going to let society tell me how to live my life. And with the help of other gays, I made a life for myself and I'm much happier now. And I'm no longer pretending I'm someone I'm not.

So you see, we can all go through a bad time, but with the group and acceptance of ourselves, we can get what we want.

And always remember, we've been there and we know what it's like coming out, and we're there if you need us.

/s/ Jim

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Dear Friends,

I am seeking new avenues for life and joy to share my love with a young lover in freedom as much as possible! In these days of so unbalanced spirits and feelings that create uncertainty and fear! All gay people need to find strength and refuge in each others love!

I am seriously looking at your gay community as a place of joy, freedom and refuge. To be able to love my young lover with more complete joy and happiness!

Please provide me with more information about you and your newsletter! Please let me hear from you soon!

Yours with Love, Bruce Miller, #103431, Box 548,
Lexington, Oklahoma 73051
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Monday, December 27, 1981, 3:10 P.M.

Puttering around the apartment doing some work, just listened to "The Way We Were" while it played on the radio. It brought some tears to my eyes. The Christmas Holidays were especially hard for me this year for some reason. My emotions ran high. These "misty, water-color memories" just kept popping up. They weren't "too painful to remember." On the contrary, they were so painful that I can't forget them. Maybe it's that way for a lot of gays and lesbians who came out later in life, fighting to maintain a heterosexual existence in the face of mounting evidence to the contrary.

On March 29, 1980 I met Dick and Phil who must be given the bulk of the credit for the founding of Northern Lambda Nord, its continued existence, and its success. When I approached them on the street in Van Buren I still classified myself as a bisexual. They helped me realize (without coercion) that I was only fooling myself. The memory of that initial meeting is amusing but its significance is greater. After that day I began, slowly at first, to realize that homosexuality need not be painful. Instead, realization that I am indeed predominantly (if not exclusively) gay -- and not straight or bisexual -- has been a blessing. I am at peace with myself and I feel like a whole person. Because of friends I have met through NLN, and those that I have not yet met, I no longer feel like I'm alone in a hostile world. After all, we're everywhere.

Yes, March 29, 1980 began a new life for me. Thank you Dick and Phil and all the others who helped me find the real me. Thank you, my friends, who helped me make it through the Holidays and made me feel the warmth of your friendship. Life would mean nothing without you.

/s/ Scott Ohlman

Dear National Organization of Lesbians and Gaymen! (editor's note: NOLAG has a chapter-in-formation in Maine; their address is POB 1117, Caribou 04736. Write them for more information, or ask at an NLN meeting)

Hello, my name is Emmette Mitchell. I am a 25

year old, gay activist prisoner in Folsom Prison. I was raped by 4 men in June of 1981. They were charged for rape, and put in a lock-up unit, here at Folsom Prison. The staff here put me in another lock-up unit, where I am in a cell 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! The staff will not take me out of the lock-up unit because they fear for my safety. I have no one writing to me, and I have no funds. I must listen to anti-homosexual talk, like faggot and queer all day long, from other men in lock-up. I would

I would like to ask the National Organization of Lesbians and Gaymen for a little bit of charity. I would very much like to get a subscription to the ADVOCATE. If you could help a poor gay activist prisoner with a subscription to this fine gay publication, it would truly be appreciated. I am so down right now, there are days when I have to stop myself from crying!

So, if the National Organization of Lesbians and Gaymen could help a poor gay activist prisoner, this would really be a blessing.

Yours truly, Emmette Mitchell, Folsom Prison,
#C-22649, Represa, California 95671

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NOUVELLES ▼ NEWS ▼ NOUVELLES ▼ NEWS ▼ NOUVELLES ▼ NEWS

▼ HALIFAX: A Canadian film currently being made in this Maritime city features a raid on a gay bar by a gang of thugs -- but the Turret, the city's gay community centre, turned down the film company's request to shoot the scene on its premises.

The Turret executive cited "excessive violence" in the film as the reason for the refusal. One of the bar patrons is apparently killed during the raid.

A representative of Surfacing Films told the Gay Alliance for Equality's Emerald Gibson that "we don't want to offend anyone in this film. It's not meant to be anti-gay or pro-gay. It's meant to be anti-fascist."

Entitled SIEGE and directed by Michael Donovan, the film is loosely based on events during the Halifax police

strike in the summer of 1981. It will be distributed by an American company and may not be released in Canada for some time. ▼

▼TORONTO: Using the Vancouver National Lesbian Conference of this past spring as a focus for reorganization and new inspiration, a three-woman collective has revived the once dormant LESBIAN/LESBIENNE newsmagazine. The first issue grew out of discussions at the 1979 Bi-national Lesbian Conference in Toronto. The second issue, which reported on the Vancouver conference, was not produced until October 1981.

The third issue is in production now and is scheduled for distribution this month. The women have chosen as their first priority regularizing the frequency of their publication at ten times a year.

While she admits there is some fear they might become a Toronto newsletter, a collective member said, "We're set up to be a national communications network. Right now, what we really need is information, contacts in other cities across the country and, of course, money." Subscriptions are \$5 per year from Box 70, Station F, Toronto, M4Y 2L4. ▼

▼HOUSTON: The first woman mayor of this Texas city, the fifth largest in the U.S., was elected in November with the strong backing of racial minorities and the Gay Political Caucus.

Kathryn Whitmire won in a landslide victory over run-off opponent Sherill Jack Heard.

During the campaign, Heard had charged that Whitmire would force the Houston Police Department to hire lesbians and gaymen. His candidacy was endorsed by the Ku Klux Klan. ▼

▼CHAMPAIGN, Illinois: MEN AND WIFE NEWSLETTER deals with the circumstances of being married while living and feeling homosexuality. The publication focuses on the lives of men who have wives and children and who also engage in same-sex encounters.

The newsletter is available through confidential mailings at \$9 per year (5 issues). Write: P. Gregory Springer, 208 W. John, Champaign, Illinois 61820. ▼

▼NEWPORT, Maine: For the past two years, a group known as

INVERT, the Institution for Non-Violence Education, Research, and Training, has been publishing the MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER. Under the guidance of Larry Dansinger, the Newsletter, whose by-word is "A Majority of Minorities", has been serving the interest of a diversity of people in Maine: women, the elderly, low-income people, those interested in alternatives (energy, lifestyles, gardening, etcetera), and lesbians and gaymen. Published monthly, it is a truly worthwhile investment: subscriptions are only \$4 per year from INVERT, RFD 1, Newport 04953. ▼

▼AUGUSTA: A support group for liberal lesbians and gaymen has formed. Called INTERWEAVE, they provide support for those struggling with the problems of sexual orientation. The group has no specific affiliation but seeks to serve those with a liberal personal, political, and/or religious perspective. The January 16th meeting is at the Portland Unitarian-Universalist church. For details: INTERWEAVE, POB 215, Augusta 04330.

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GAY OLYMPIC GAMES



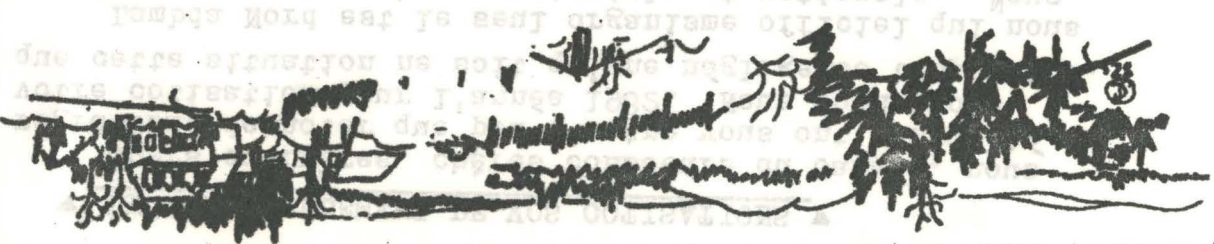
GAY OLYMPIC GAMES
P.O. BOX 14874
SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
94114
415/861-8282

San Francisco will be the site of the 1982 Gay Olympic Games. Scheduled for August 28-September 5, more than 27 countries will be represented by over 4,000 gay male and lesbian athletes; 18 different sports are listed for competition: (corresponding events for women and men unless noted) basketball, billiards, bowling, boxing (men), cycling, golf, marathon, physique, powerlifting (women), rugby (women), soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, volleyball, weightlifting, and wrestling (men). The Gay Olympic Committee will sponsor a simultaneous week of cultural activities, "The International Festival of Gay Artists", a city-wide festival of singing, music, dance, theatre, art and film. For more information about the Olympics or the Arts

Festival, write to the address at left.

News reports this month were culled from the following publications: THE BODY POLITIC (Toronto), BOTH SIDES NOW (Maui, Hawaii Gay/Bi/Lesbian Community Organization's newsletter), LA REVUE SOCIÉGAÏ (Québec), MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER (Newport).

COMMUNIQUE is published by Northern Lambda Nord, Box 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA. COMMUNIQUE solicits articles of interest to lesbians and gaymen; we serve the rural region of Northern Maine, Northwestern New Brunswick, and Témiscouata, Québec. Subscriptions to COMMUNIQUE are \$7 for ten issues; Northern Lambda Nord membership is \$10 per year, which includes COMMUNIQUE. Northern Lambda Nord is a member of the Atlantic Lesbian and Gay Association.



COMMUNIQUE est publié par Northern Lambda Nord, CP 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA. Nous servons la région rurale des comtés Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton (Nouveau-Brunswick), Témiscouata (Québec), et Arcoosook (Maine). Nos cotisations sont les suivantes: \$7 souscription au COMMUNIQUE; \$10 cotisation de membre et souscription au COMMUNIQUE. Northern Lambda Nord est membre de l'Association des lesbiennes et des gays de l'Atlantique.

Lesbiennes et homosexuels de Toronto et il propose des mesures concrètes afin d'améliorer le climat entre la population gay et la police de cette ville. Entre autres le rapport recommande que l'on recrute des agents policiers gays. Il reste maintenant à voir si le conseil de ville de Toronto appliquera ces recommandations. Souhaitons pour le mieux. ▲

COMMUNIQUE

NORTHERN LAMBDA 1982



Volume III: Numéro 1 Janvier 1982

EGALITE PARTOUT!

Afin de respecter un important principe de notre

constitution qui reconnaît officiellement le caractère

bi-national de notre association il a été décidé lors

d'une réunion du comité exécutif du 27 décembre 1981 de

repréendre une décision antérieure à l'égard des taux de

cotisations des membres de Lambda Nord. Aussi, dorénavant

le coût de cotisation ne tiendra pas compte des taux

d'échanges monétaires en cours. Par conséquent, il

devient membre de Lambda et \$10 canadien pour la cotisation

cotisation d'un résident canadien. Nous souhaitons que

ce nouvel arrangement saurs accommoder tous et chacun.

LE RENOUELEMENT DE VOS COTISATIONS

chers confrères, chères consœurs du Canada, nous

regrettons de noter que peu d'entre vous ont renouvelé

vos cotisations pour l'année 1982. Nous souhaitons

que cette situation ne soit qu'une négligence temporaire.

Lambda Nord est le seul organisme officiel qui nous

représente sur la scène provinciale et nationale. Nous

ne pouvons nous permettre de lui faire la sourde oreille.

Le comité exécutif de Lambda est à votre écoute et il

souhaite ardemment recevoir votre support moral et

financier afin de mieux vous représenter et mieux vous

servir. La cotisation de membre pour cette nouvelle

année n'est que de \$10. Au plaisir de recevoir de vos

nouvelles très bientôt.

LES GAIS DE TORONTO

En septembre 1981, la communauté Gai de Toronto

a officiellement été reconnue dans un rapport d'enquête

soumis au conseil municipal de cette ville. En effet, la

conclusion du rapport Bruner affirme que par leurs intérêts

communs, les gais de Toronto constituent "une communauté

de fait" et méritent qu'on reconnaisse leur légitimité

en tant que groupe social minoritaire.

De rapport détaillé les conditions de vie des