

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD COMMUNIQUE

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▼ This month's newsletter is a brief edition. The Maine Symposium last month and the effects of burn-out of the editor's energies are taking their toll. Plus, Lambda's office is in an uproar in anticipation of a move (as of April 24, we've not found a new home.)

▼ Thirty-nine percent of our membership attended the Maine Symposium of Lesbians and Gaymen IX last month in Orono. We had the largest representation of any organization; our presence there was very obvious. All the "lambs" had corsages, and our displays in the exhibit room were all well done. Most of the NLN people took advantage of the numerous workshops during the Symposium.

▼ Last Saturday (April 17) the meeting of our monthly discussion group focused upon the film "Making Love". Four men present relayed their experiences as gaymen who were previously married. The May discussion group, scheduled for Saturday, May 15 at 7pm (Maine), 8pm (N-B), will be in the same location as usual. The topic will be: gaymen and lesbians on-the-job -- "What if they find out I'm gay?..." The discussion evenings are B.Y.O.B. The discussions are open to all NLN members and our guests.

▼ NLN is in the news again. In the December, 1981 issue of CHRISTOPHER STREET magazine (Issue #59), John Preston of Portland writes of a divisive issue in the combined lesbian and gaymen's movement: pornography, and how men and women differ in their views. John discusses the Portland gay scene and the movement in Maine. On page 22, he discusses the groups in the state; Gay People's Alliance in Portland is "the only active, year-round gay group in the state" (maybe he thinks we hibernate in the winter -- or else we all fly to Ogunquit in the short summer months); "...a primarily social organization exists in the bilingual northern extreme of the state, Northern Lambda Nord." We must assume that John is unaware of our political activism (not a primary activity, but an important part of NLN), our library, our newsletter, our involvement in the Symposium planning, our integration in the movement in both the U.S. and in Canada, through our affiliation with the Maritime groups and the A.L.G.A....

▼ In the March 19, 1982 issue of the MAINE TIMES, a story entitled "Making the Waves -- Gays in Aroostook" was a direct result of an article submitted by the Executive which documented our problems with access to both the airwaves, via public service announcements, and with the refusal of five of the County's weeklies to accept anything from NLN -- which makes it extremely difficult to let people in this region to know of NLN's existence. It was a very positive article; we hope it has some affect upon our access to the media.

▼ And finally, The BODY POLITIC of Toronto mentions NLN in one of their articles. We haven't seen it yet (NLN recently sent in our money for a subscription to TBP) -- so we'll see what they have to say.

▼ Because of the eminent move of NLN's office, things are in limbo now; at the last Executive meeting, we decided to start another round of publicity in the area. Because we have Canadian funds which are not used for postage or other expenses, as in the past (35c for 1st class mail vs. 20c in the U.S!), we are going to begin advertising in the weeklies in the three-county New Brunswick area: LE MADAWASKA, LA RÉPUBLIQUE, LE CATARACT, the VICTORIA COUNTY RECORD, the HARTLAND OBSERVER, and the WOODSTOCK BUGLE. Unlike their Aroostook County counterparts, we've not had any problems with access to their pages.

▼ NEWS FROM FREDERICTON: Plan to spend May 21, 22, & 23 in the "city of stately elms". Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) is hosting the spring meeting of the ALGA - the Atlantic Lesbian and Gay Association, a loose confederation of homophile groups in Atlantic Canada (NLN and FLAG, plus Gay Alliance for Equality - GAE - and MAKING WAVES, both from Halifax). People from Moncton and Saint John are also expected to attend. An ALGA meeting, open to everyone, will take place Saturday, and there will be a FLAG-sponsored dance on Saturday night.

▼ Canada's constitution came home this past weekend. It's Charter of Rights fails to protect our rights through its omission of the term "sexual orientation". FIN