

COMMUNIQUE

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD
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▼ ELECTION RESULTS: MAINE ▼

Throughout the U.S., Democrats increased their numbers as representatives of the people in state legislatures and in gubernatorial mansions. Here in Maine, Democrats still hold the governor's seat, but they now control both houses of the legislature in Augusta. In the 33-seat state Senate, the Republicans, who held a 17-16 majority, now hold only 10 seats to the Democrats' 23 -- the first time the Democrats have had a majority in the Senate since 1966. In the House of Representatives, the Democrats now have a majority of 36 seats.

In Aroostook County, incumbants maintained their hold of the 3 Senate seats: two Democrats, Paul Violette from Van Buren, and Mike Carpenter from Houlton, and one Republican, James McBrearty from Caribou. In the 14 House races in the County, six incumbants ran unopposed: Republicans Anderson (Stockholm), and Matthews (Caribou); Democrats Lisnik (Presque Isle), Hilda Martin (Van Buren), Theriault (Ft. Kent), and McHenry (Madawaska). In the eight remaining contests, seats were retained by 7 incumbants - 4 Republicans, Pines (Limestone), MacBride (Presque Isle), Carl W. Smith, Jr (Mars Hill), and Ingraham (Houlton); 3 Democrats, John L. Martin (Eagle Lake), Mahany (Easton), and Carl B. Smith (Island Falls). Only one district changed hands -- Republican incumbent Philip Peterson of Caribou lost to Washburn Democrat Steve Crouse. In the 14 House seats from the County, what used to be a 7-7 split is now 8-6 in favor of the Democrats.

My reaction to the news of the sweeping victory of Democrats in the Senate, House, and gubernatorial races was this: What better time than in this next legislative session for the lesbians and gaymen in Maine to get our shit together and gain legal protections via a Maine Gay Rights Bill. The Democrats support it in their state party platform; the Democrats have a voting majority in Augusta. Senator Conley of Portland, last year's Senate sponsor of the bill, is this year's Senate President. If we all remain seated on our asses and do NOT lobby for re-introduction and PASSAGE of this important legislation, than asses we are.

Northern Lambda Nord must begin to contact our 17 legislative members BEFORE the new year. Let them know

we're watching them; let them know we want them to act on OUR behalf for a change. It's to this end that the NLN executive has agreed to send a brief questionnaire to our County representatives to determine their current thoughts on legal protections for lesbians and gaymen. And I hope we will continue our lobbying efforts throughout the coming months. Individual members are urged to query their representatives -- the more mail they receive on our side, the better for us. (The Lambda office has their full names and addresses.)

But Aroostook County is only 10% of the State of Maine. It's going to be up to those other organizations in the rest of Maine -- in Calais, Ellsworth, Belfast, Orono, Augusta, Lewiston, Portland, and all the towns in between to organize and make the effort as well.

Through the hard work of the Maine chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), a lobbying campaign was waged last year. The bill was not passed, but it garnered more votes than in previous sessions.

This year's statewide coordination is NOT going to come from the County, though I know I'll do all I can up here, as I'm sure will other Lambs. Our tenth Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium is in 1983. Symposium X can be something special. Maybe THIS year a state "community" will begin to form around this one issue: gaining protection against discrimination.

Wisconsin passed their legal protection bill last year. Let Maine NOT PASS UP this opportunity!

-- Dick ▼

▼ FAERIE REPORT - Jonesboro, Maine/October 9-11 ▼
by Jonathan

This rainsoaked, tired, bedraggled Lamb from the north was the first faerie to arrive at "Hazel's" place in Jonesboro. I had spent the whole day working my tail south on route one -- through the deep dark forests and sheets of foggy rain. There was the lantern by night that I was expecting on the fencepost, just like my travel brochure said...I really felt like Goldilocks tiptoeing in. "Anybody home," I offered. No response. Just a large, hastily scrawled note: To early arrivals -- please read. I read. I looked all around. There weren't even any mice to talk to. I spied the cords of a stereo something or

other, spilling out of an old brown armoire. It worked! Now I didn't have to talk to the mice. I started the fire. It reminded me of the frigid times that I had spent at my friend Don's house, cracking plaster lathes to the right length to fit the small box stove. Warmth at last. The last four miles that I walked in from route one had been the wettest. I was aware of the ocean being very close. I could smell it, feel the mist from her. It was dark. The twisty, turning, tarred road seemed eerie with the flat, moonlike blueberry barrens on either side. There were not many cars that passed. None of them stopped or even slowed. The faces were mean and they usually frowned as they passed. I whistled and chuckled alot, especially when they would glare.

The stove was belching heat towards my feet. The apples that I had gone back out to pick were juicy and sweet. I stripped. The floor was very cold, but it felt good to be out of all my wet clothes. I hung them gingerly by the stove pipe. Just close enough so that they wouldn't burn. I thought it was funny. Me, sitting there, naked, in front of someone's stove in their house, and they weren't even there. I didn't even know who's house it was. Only gay men would be this trusting, I thought. I felt safe and warm because of that. I smoked the last joint that I had from my meager plants. It got me very stoned. I listened to the radio until I could stay awake no longer. I got out my sleeping bag, fluffed it up, and thought how wonderful it was that it hadn't gotten wet. Instantly, I was asleep. The last thing I remember was listening to the rain on the roof.

I awoke to a car door slamming. It must be Hazel, I thought. It was. "Two thirty," he said, when I asked him what time it was. I was still asleep, sort of. He seemed very wound up, speeding. This man is from the city. We talked for almost two hours. Sleep at last. The sun woke me up the next time.

In the morning, we went for a walk to the ocean. Jon wanted to go straight back through the woods to a point that he had marked on his top map. It was very low and swampy. There were lots of deer tracks. This guy seemed real nervous in the woods. I have met lots of people like that. I pointed out trees and things as we walked deeper and deeper into the woods. We were only 40 feet above sea level. The ocean must be close -- I could smell it again. When we finally got close enough that I could feel the wind from the inlet, I could smell the mud. Low tide, I thought. There it was. We walked for about half a mile

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FILE

along the inlet to get to the point. It was windy and sunny. We sat for about half an hour, talking about why this guy was afraid of the woods. He asked me if I had ever been lost. I laughed. "Oh sure, lots of times. But I've always found my way back out."

I thought it was strange that this city person wanted to move to the boonies and tramp through the woods. We take our closeness to nature for granted. I grew up in the woods. Hunting with my Dad and brother. Fishing trips.

When we went to plant an apple tree on Jon's property in Addison, the guys freaked when I started eating bunchberries along the way. The only other man who knew what they were was the other person from Maine. I felt like a Boy Scout leader whenever we went outdoors.

Fourteen men gathered for the weekend. Some shared lots, some shared little. Everyone grew some way, saw something different. They all loved being with other gay men. I am sure that each had his own reasons for going. We made hoards of apple pies. Jon and I were the last two to leave, and I made a pie for his neighbor who had put out the lantern for me. We had a faerie circle the last day before we all departed. We sang. The circle just stayed together. No one wanting to break, leave that energy, peacefulness, brotherhood. The faerie space will always be there. Faerie brothers will always be on this earth. They have never left her, they never will. We were closer to her, and to one another, and to ourselves. Thank you all for making it so...in Faerie brotherhood, with love, Jonathan. ♥

▼ COMMENTARY: Same-sex dancing -- by benj. ▼

When people from away ask us where we go dancing in this area, the answer is usually: well, we drive east to Fredericton for the twice-monthly FLAG dances, south to Augusta or Portland to one of the gay bars, or west to Québec City to le Ballon Rouge. The only time we get a chance to dance together at home is just that -- at home in our living rooms to whatever discs are available. And it appears it will be quite some time before we have a place of our own which is both nearby and safe to dance, man with man, woman with woman. But, if you're willing to try, you can go dancing in the heart of the County.

It's always been pretty much accepted for two women

to dance together. People usually assume, oh, no one (meaning no man) asked them to dance. But as gay visibility increases, so does awareness by straights. I was one of a number of gaymen at the bar in the Northeastland Hotel in Presque Isle on the evening of November 11, 1982. (The Northeastland used to be the only northern Maine entry in the Gayellow Pages.) While sitting at the bar, I saw four women on the dance floor. I assumed they were family. At the table directly behind me, two older (straight) couples were sitting; one woman remarked that she didn't like what she saw -- the women dancing together. She must have assumed that they were lesbians. At least she was aware that women can be gay, too. It's too bad that she wasn't around later in the evening when two men were on the dance floor! It took a while, but Jonathan and I got up (when the band -- of 2 people and a backup of cassette tapes -- finally played some good numbers) and danced. I didn't feel too conspicuous, since we stayed at the front of the floor, towards the band. Noone said anything. The four women from earlier in the evening had left; a few people on the dance floor seemed to get a kick out of seeing men dancing together. Now that I've done it once, it should be easier the next time -- maybe at the Double Diamonds, the old Odyssey, which is re-opening. We'll see.

New strides in same-sex dancing in rural northern Maine are in contrast to reported reactions in Québec. L'arc-en-ciel is an urban-looking disco housed in a big, white farmhouse in Dégelis, an hour-and-a-half from Caribou, about 20 km west of Edmundston just over the Québec line. It's always been a place where I felt I could go dancing. I always made it a special occasion, because of the distance and the high-priced drinks -- \$2 for a Coke. Several times the Lambs have had an evening out at L'arc-en-ciel (see 'A Night on the Town', Vol.III:No.3, March '82 issue, COMMUNIQUE). But reports tell us we may no longer be welcome.

A substantial gay crowd is always to be found there, standing along the wall to the right of the door leading to the rest rooms. Gaymen and some women congregate there. Rarely does it seem that the men dance; if they do, it's with women. That is, unless the Lambs are there. There's usually little hesitation on our part to dance together. The atmosphere seems to accept it; the Québec government says it cannot be prohibited (they have a 'gay rights law'); and what's more, the owner is gay and a former NLN member.

So, it's surprising when it was reported at the last Lambda meeting that this same gay owner said that this past Labour Day we were there dancing and "made fools of ourselves". It was also reported that he said that we were not welcome there, that he has enough trouble with the Blacks ~~without the gays~~, too! And, it is alleged that he said that he can get someone to take care of us -- I assume meaning to beat us up.

It's disheartening that such anti-gay attitudes are reported to come from one of our family. Our money is good, but don't get carried away and DANCE with each other! Tabernack!

What kind of response does our 'brother' deserve? Should we refuse to patronize L'arc-en-ciel? Should we show up one night in full force? Should we ignore his reported comments and continue to patronize the disco?... What do you think? ▽

▼ NLN NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT ▼

▼DONATION POLICY: Members reaffirmed the existing policy whereby Lambs are requested to bring a food contribution (at the pot-luck, according to the chart, or some food contribution at parties) or else are to contribute \$1; non-members are asked for a \$2 contribution at NLN functions. A 'special parties policy' was adopted: again, members are asked for a food or \$1 contribution, non-members a \$5 contribution. This is for Hallowe'en, Christmas, and New Year's Eve parties. The rationale behind the \$5 non-member donation is to make an NLN membership worthwhile to those non-members who attend functions but never take the opportunity to join. Reminder: -Through the Atlantic Lesbian and Gay Association, (ALGA) there is a reciprocal membership agreement between NLN, FLAG, and GAE (Halifax). Lambs going to Fredericton dances are admitted as FLAG members (with valid NLN membership card) and vice-versa for FLAG people at our functions.

▼CHRISTMAS PARTY: Everyone planning to attend the NLN party on December 18 in Presque Isle is requested to bring a gift to put under the tree. Gifts will then be numbered and those present will draw numbers from a hat. Price limit, \$5-10 maximum; gifts should be appropriate for women or men.

▼NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY: A color theme has been suggested for our party in Caribou on December 31: PINK AND BLUE.

Traditionally, pink is for girls and blue is for boys. Mix these two colors together and you get lavender, the gayest color around. Everyone is requested to wear pink and blue or pink or blue to the party.

▼FOOD: The pot-luck contributions for the Christmas and New Year's parties will be 'finger food' and munchies. No main dish casseroles, please.

▼RFD: A COUNTRY JOURNAL FOR GAYMEN EVERYWHERE: They were going to write an article on NLN but what was presented to them was not very good. After some of us saw the draft, we agreed. Instead, RFD has requested us to write about us: poetry, stories, dialogues, essays, drawings, anything at all, any length. Deadline is January 15. If you can contribute anything, get it to the NLN office soon.

▼MAINE CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION: See accompanying article.

▼CARIBOU WINTER CARNIVAL: So far, we have reserved the same location for our snow sculpture, at the corner of High and Main, in front of the police station. We have also paid for a \$20 advertisement in the Winter Carnival booklet which gets distributed. The advert will be simple - NLN, name, address, phone, purpose of the group. The theme for this year is "Learn". That could be anything. If you have ideas for a snow sculpture with a gay theme, come to the meeting in January or write them down and mail them to us. ▽

CARTOON...by Crystal



"Nowadays, I just can't tell them apart!! Was that a fag with his ear pierced, a butch going to one of those NLN meetings, or just another punk rocker!?"

▼ MCLU - DEFENDING OUR RIGHTS ▼

We received a letter from the Maine Civil Liberties Union on November 19. Excerpts are printed here:

"Dear Friends:

"As you may already know, the MCLU is representing a University of Maine student who has been disenrolled from the ROTC due to her status as a homosexual. The case is pending in the U.S. District Court. The student was disenrolled after requesting time off from ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps, a U.S. campus military organization) class in order to participate in a student senate meeting on behalf of the Wilde-Stein Club, a campus gay organization.

"We are writing to ask friends of the gay community to make a contribution to the MCLU to help defray the expenses of this case. For any contribution of \$20 or more we will forward a MCLU membership to the contributor.

"We feel this is a tremendously significant case in terms of first amendment rights and the right to privacy of homosexuals. It is only the second case in the country that specifically addresses the issue of homosexual 'status' in the military. Like many significant cases we handle, it taps greatly into our resources and we are forced to solicit additional funds to insure that the litigation is paid for. We appreciate your concern and interest. Your help is urgently needed. Very truly yours,
/s/ Thomas A. Lenkiewicz, Executive Director, MCLU"

This letter was presented to the NLN members at the November 21 meeting in Madawaska. Donations totalling \$68.25 were collected. The money will be forwarded to the MCLU in Portland; NLN will now also earn membership in that organization. If you would like to make a contribution to this legal defense of our rights, send a check made out to the Maine Civil Liberties Union to: MCLU, 97a Exchange Street, Portland, 04101. Include a note that this donation is in response to the letter to NLN and the funds should be applied to the "ROTC discrimination case".

▼ GAY PHONELINE REPORT ▼

Our phonenumber has been in operation since the end of September, just over two months. During that time it's existence has been publicized only through word-of-mouth and in COMMUNIQUE. We have received 10 phonecalls from some non-Lambda members from Plaster Rock, Blaine, Caribou, Woodstock, Castle Hill, and Moncton.

An answering machine was purchased and installed on

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November 20; the new phonebooks came out November 24. One call was received, from Caribou, on the 24th; the caller saw the number in the phonebook. (It's listed under Gay Phoneline in the white pages and under Social Service Organizations in the yellow pages of the Northern Aroostook book.)

Now that the phoneline is in full operation, volunteers will be needed to staff the phoneline. The day/s per week and hours when live people will be answering rather than the 30-second tape have not yet been set. This will be determined by the availability of members to give their time. If you have time you are willing to give on a regular basis, contact one of the Executive committee.▼

▼ LESBIAN AND GAY-SUPPORTIVE CANDIDATES WIN IN US RACES ▼

The Human Rights Campaign Fund, the political action committee (PAC) working to advance individual rights for lesbians and gaymen, won 81% of the Congressional races it entered this year. Almost \$600,000 was raised by the Campaign Fund. Of the 67 members of the House and Senate who ran for re-election and who had co-sponsored the gay civil rights bills, every one was re-elected. Officials of the Fund estimated 10 to 15 additional co-sponsors in the House as a result of the elections. In addition, several anti-gay Representatives were defeated, including Albert Lee Smith, the Chief House sponsor of the so-called Family Protection Act.

Among Fund contributions to U.S. Senate candidates, \$2500 was given to George Mitchell of Maine who was elected in his own right, having been appointed to fill Edmund Muskie's seat when he became Carter's Secretary of State.▼

▼ FIRST NORTH AMERICAN GAY CHORAL FESTIVAL ▼

"Come Out and Sing Together", or COAST, is the name selected for the first gay choral festival on the continent. It is tentatively scheduled for the week following Labor Day in New York City. More than 1000 singers from the 31 predominantly gay and lesbian choruses all over Canada and the U.S. are expected -- from Atlanta, Columbus (Ohio), Denver, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and other locales.

It has been suggested that the Lambs should clear our throats and organize a singing group of our own and participate in this festival (Baa-a-a-a-a!). A leader would be needed to keep the group on key, and perhaps an accompanist. We have until September '83, so if it's going to happen, we've got to start now.▼

▼ NEWS * NOUVELLES * NEWS * NOUVELLES * NEWS * NOUVELLES

▼ SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH - This state's Republican Party has adopted a platform resolution that specifically excludes homosexuals from a guarantee of political, civil economic, and social rights. The resolution has been described as "reminiscent of Hitler's Germany. To single out any one group for denial of basic rights strikes at the core of our American Constitutional system and is a threat to everyone's rights." (Ms. Magazine, December 1982)▼

▼ VANCOUVER: This city's council has unanimously passed the strongest gay rights bylaw in Canada. The city bylaw amendment was tucked in among a long list of other characteristics such as marital status, ancestry, place of origin, and even source of income. The ordinance prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; it protects lesbians and gaymen who are employees and consumers in city-licensed businesses.▼

▼ DETROIT: The Industrial Unions Department of the U.S. labor organization, the AFL-CIO, passed a gay rights policy resolution at its annual convention. The resolution calls for an end to discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in public accommodation and employment. It was introduced by the secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. The Industrial Unions Dept. is the largest of eight AFL-CIO departments and is made up of 25 unions, including steelworkers, autoworkers, communications workers, teachers, service employees, and amalgamated clerks. The vote was termed "a victory not only in the struggle for gay and lesbian rights, but also for the American labor movement itself, in recognizing the needs of millions of its members."▼

(The Body Politic, Toronto)

▼ BIBLIOTHEQUE LAMBDA ▼

Marion has left us. She found a better paying position in Portland. So, we now have an opening for a librarian. Spend a couple of hours per month and keep our growing collection of gay, lesbian, feminist and gay-related materials in order. Now is the time of year (actually the time is past -- it was in October) when an up-dated list of our collection must be compiled. If you like books and magazines and numerous articles and bibliographies of all kinds, we could use some help. Perhaps a librarian and librarian's assistant? Don't pass up this opportunity to fool around in the stacks. We wish Marion success and a fond adieu and, sh-h-h-h-h!

- In addition to the growing collection of books in the library, Lambda receives a wide variety of gay, lesbian, feminist, and civil liberties publications. These are sent to us in exchange for COMMUNIQUE. As with the books, magazines may be borrowed by Lambs. These include:
- ▼ en français - SORTIE, Montréal; BERDACHE, Montréal; RENCONTRES GAIES, Montréal
 - ▼ bi-lingue/bi-lingual - GO INFO, Gais de l'Outaouais/Gays of Ottawa; FAROG FORUM, Univ. de Maine, bureau franco-américain; LESBIAN/LESBIENNE, Toronto
 - ▼ in English - THUNDER GAY, Thunder Bay, Ontario; BOTH SIDES NOW, Maui, Hawaii; INTERWEAVE, Maine Unitarian-Universalist Gay/Lesbian Community; MAINE STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER... and more!▼

▼ WHAT AIDS YOU? ▼

During the past several months, much has been written about the new "gay diseases". Kaposi Sarcoma and Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) are two names which have appeared in the gay and straight press. Add these to the myriad of "old" STDs - sexually transmitted diseases - and it can be confusing. But if you're concerned about your health, you should make an attempt to "straighten out" the confusion. Syphilis and gonorrhea can be cured with medication, usually taken buns-ternally; a vaccine has been developed for hepatitis-B. But KS and AIDS is another story. KS is a form of cancer. AIDS breaks down your system's ability to fight disease. Both can be fatal. Gaymen are dead as a result of it. Most all cases have occurred in urban centers - New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco. Cause and cure are not known but theories abound. THE BODY POLITIC has a series of articles about it. Copies are in Bibliothèque Lambda. Stop by and read some.▼

▼ REGIONAL GAY GUIDE ▼ ▼ ▼

- ▼ ORONO, Maine - Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine. Meets Sundays at 7 pm in the Peabody Lounge, third floor of Memorial Union.
- ▼ FREDERICTON, New Brunswick - Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG). PO Box 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2. 506/457-2156 Meets second Wednesday of the month; dances twice monthly.
- ▼ HALIFAX, Nova Scotia - Gay Alliance for Equality, Box 3611, South Postal Station, B3J 3K6. 902/429-6969, Mon-Wed 7-9 pm, Thurs-Sat 7-10 pm.
- ▼ QUÉBEC CITY - Télégai, 418/522-2555, Mon-Fri, 7-11 pm
- ▼ NORTHERN MAINE AND NEW BRUNSWICK - Gay Phoneline, 207/498-6556

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SEASON'S GREETINGS ♀♂♂♀

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