

COMMUNIQUE

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD

CP/POB 990

CARIBOU, MAINE 04736 USA

Vol. IV: No. 1

janvier/January 1983

✕ This month is Northern Lambda Nord's THIRD ANNIVERSARY, and this issue of COMMUNIQUE marks the beginning of our fourth year as an organization. Best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy, and gay 1983 -- and sincere hopes that Lambda grows and prospers in the coming year.

We're beginning the new year with the loan of a brand new electric typewriter. Now we can put away that 20-year-old portable manual. It has served us well these three years but is ready for retirement.▼

▼ GAY PHONELINE REPORT ▼

Coming out is a process which we are all going through and which never ends. It's a process over which we have control -- we each decide when to tell people that we're gay, lesbian, or bisexual people, and we choose carefully those people to whom we come out. There seems to be an unwritten rule among us that one does not come out for someone else, that you don't tell people that someone you know is gay. But this has happened, and in a grand scale.

When NLN had the phonenumber installed in Phil and Dick's home, it was to be publicized as "Gay Phonenumber" and just a phone number. However, when the new phonebooks came out (!) in November, we were distressed to find listed, "Gay Phonenumber, GRIMES ROAD, Caribou...498-6556." The phone company did specifically what we had requested them not to do -- locate the phonenumber to the public.

The Grimes Road in Caribou runs from the Access Highway, Route 89, to the Fort Fairfield town line. There are only 25 houses on this five-mile road. Anyone familiar with the area residents can determine, by process of elimination, where the gay phonenumber is housed. And it didn't take them long.

It began on December 11. NLN's monthly discussion group was meeting at Dick and Phil's. A Camaro stopped in front, yelled "faggots" and drove away. The car returned several times that evening, just sitting in front of the house for a moment, then leaving. This car has been seen since, slowing down or pausing in

front of the house when it passes.

Saturday, December 18, the night of the NLN Christmas party in Presque Isle. Before Phil and Dick left their house for the party, someone had thrown a half-filled milkshake glass at the house. It hit the back of their car and left chocolate streaks across the surface. Since that time, McDonald's garbage has been found in the driveway.

The phonenumber itself has been ringing off the hook, with over 250 calls in a 24-hour period. Many of the calls are people who listen to the recording and hang up. Some call and leave their friend's name and phone number, alleging them to be gay. A few people read the bible. And then there's the occasional threat: "We'll find out where you are on the Grimes Road and burn you out!" Empty threats perhaps, but scary none the less.

The combination of the phone threats, garbage, and the drive-bys of the Camaro led Phil and Dick to take the phone off the hook for a while, to let things cool off. This was December 11, 1982. Since that time, when someone calls, they merely hear a phone ringing but get no answer. The Executive Committee will decide how to proceed. The consensus is NOT to give in to harassment and take the phone out. But people's safety must be kept in mind. We'll keep you posted. ▼

▼ A LETTER FROM OUR UNCLE ▼

Since I have become a member of Lambda, nearly two years now, I feel so good about myself. Being a Gay man in my community you just can't know the peacefulness and relaxation that you will feel when you are socializing with your own kind, at meetings, parties, and functions, and how your fears will be all gone with the wind.

I've had, and still have, this wonderful feeling, and it's so good for me, because, you see, I am a man who has been Gay for about 56 years in my town, and will be 70 my next birthday. All members of Lambda are much younger than I am, but I am treated so equal and with respect. This really keeps me happy.

My first relationship with my own sex was a neighbor, a few years my senior and truly a beautiful man, as you would rarely see. I knew then and there, the Gay life was for me. I also knew that the life ahead of me would be a hard one to live, but on I went, and did not seem to have any trouble.

PAGE 2

JAN. 1983

HLN COMMUNIQUE

PAGE 3

JAN. 1983

HLN COMMUNIQUE

Finished grammar school and still seeing my man now and then. Entered high school in 1928, and here was a real challenge, but I still had no problems with my Gay life or my family life. Graduated high school in 1932 and I missed by friends of four years. But as I said before, on I went.

Then I went to work to help support our family of seven boys and two girls; I was in the middle, and as far as I know now, the only Gay in the family and the only one who did not marry.

In 1928 I lost my dad, and my mother, God rest her soul, stayed with us and brought us all up by the boot straps.

During my working years from 1928 on, I have had some extremely wonderful relationships, and also in the military during the Second World War. Yes, Gays were around even back that far.

Then I came home from the service in 1946 and went back to my job. I entered civil service in 1958 and again I found relationships that were wonderful. Then in 1976 I retired from civil service and am still enjoying my Gay life very much, and truly enjoying my Lambda friends.

So, this is my true confession and hope it will help someone who doesn't dare to come out.

-- Uncle Carl ▼

▼ GAY PRISONERS ▼

Being gay on the 'outside' is something we all experience; but being gay and on the 'inside' is a trying existence. Something as simple as a letter can brighten up a lonely day. We receive requests from our gay brothers who are incarcerated. You're encouraged to write to one, be a penpal, brighten up someone's day.

▼ Jimmy LeRoy Sharp, No. 149-696; POB 511, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Jimmy saw our advertisement in RFD magazine. He's 32 years old, 5'5", and weighs 125 pounds of "sweet loving gayness." He's in jail for having sex with a 17-year old gay man at a party.

▼ Eddie L. Johnson, PMB #93269, Camp C Tiger 4R12, Angola, Louisiana 70712. Eddie is 30, 6 feet tall and bisexual. Hobbies: guitar playing, camping, horseback riding. He spends 23 hours per day in a 6' x 8' cell.

▼ Russell Buckly, #15160; Box 607, c/o NSP, Carson City, Nevada 89701. He's 23 years old. We have a picture at the Lambda office, but no other information.

The following men have been receiving COMMUNIQUE and would also love to hear from someone:

- ▼ Ralph Baldwin, H9009, Box A, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
- ▼ John C. Cole, No.14658, POB 41, Michigan City, Indiana 46360
- ▼ Mario Gauthier (3970) 160 Montée St-François, Ville de Laval, Québec H7C 1S6
- ▼ David Johnson, 84970, MAG-3, Angola, Louisiana 70712
- ▼ Emmette Mitchell, Folsom Prison, #C22649, Repressa, California 95671 ▼

▼ NOTRE CHARTE ▼

Most Lambs have not known that Northern Lambda Nord has a constitution. It was adopted during our first year, 1980. Copies are in both French and English. If you did not receive one at December's discussion group, a copy should be enclosed in this newsletter.

Please note: On page 2, under 'procedures', paragraph 4. has been amended to read that Organization (Executive) Committee members will be chosen every six months, in January and June, and all six will be selected at the same time.

One other change: The constitution has been amended so that it can be amended. There was no means for amending it when it was originally written. Amendments are approved by a majority of members who vote. Ballots are sent to all members. Ballots returned are counted.

The rest of the Charte is valid as written. ▼

▼ GAY/LESBIAN CRISISLINE ESTABLISHED ▼

The National Gay Task Force (NGTF) has opened a toll-free 'crisisline', a national telephone number which will be used to compile nationwide statistics on homophobic violence, and to provide callers with access to local hotlines and support services.

The NGTF project coordinator has noted that "anti-gay violence is increasing. Until now, there has been no way to show the dramatic rise as a national figure. NGTF is using its resources and its recognizability factor in the gay/lesbian community to provide a national hotline to put the overall picture of homophobic violence into focus." The Crisisline also gives information about groups/projects/hotlines in various communities

PAGE 4

JAN. 1983

NLN COMMUNIQUE

in some instances, it will provide limited referral information about AIDS hotlines and clinics.

The NGTF Crisisline operates Monday through Friday from noon until 6 pm (Eastern time) and is staffed by volunteers who have undergone rigorous 'hotline training'. The toll-free number in the U.S. is 1-800-221-7044. You may make a toll call to 212/807-6016. Pocket-size cards are enclosed in this newsletter. ▼

▼ SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES ▼

During the end of 1982, members of Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, FLAG, arranged for a gay self-defense instructor to travel from Toronto to Fredericton and teach those interested the techniques of self-defense. One of the Lambs, Randy, took that course and highly recommends it.

NLN, through Randy and people in Fredericton, will make arrangements to offer Lambs a similar course in self-defense. It will be on two consecutive weekends, three to four hours each day, on both Saturday and Sunday. The Lions Community Center in Caribou is a large carpeted room and is available for a \$10 rental fee for each day -- \$40 total. Specifics on times, dates, and cost per person have not yet been set. The course will probably be offered during the next three months. If you have questions about the class and its worth to you as an individual, talk to Randy the next time you see him. ▼

NOUVELLES * NEWS * NOUVELLES * NEWS * NOUVELLES * NEWS * NOUVELLES * NEWS

▼ MONCTON: The hospital in this city recently reversed its decision governing the use of its facilities to offer abortions. Therapeutic abortions will now be offered after a hiatus of several months. The Right To Life organization in Moncton gathered 30,000 signatures from people opposed to the hospital providing women with the availability of safe abortions. Hospital officials, however, decided to reopen their therapeutic abortion clinic noting that a recent poll found that 72% of Canadians favored the right of a woman to choose whether to have an abortion or to carry her pregnancy to full term. ▼

▼ OGUNQUIT, Maine: This southern Maine coastal resort town has received much publicity in the past year with regards to its tourist industry and gay people. Much of it has been unfavorable to gays. Now the town council of the "Provincetown of Maine" has passed an ordinance which closes the Ogunquit beach at 11 p.m. from May until October. Persons found on the beach are subject to a \$500 fine. It's easy to see at whom this new rule is aimed. Several other ordinances are alleged to have been passed which deal with music in establishments which sell liquor. Details, if available, next month. ▼

▼ PORTLAND: The Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium X is scheduled for

PAGE 5

JAN. 1983

NLN COMMUNIQUE

PAGE 6

JAN. 1983

NLN COMMUNIQUE

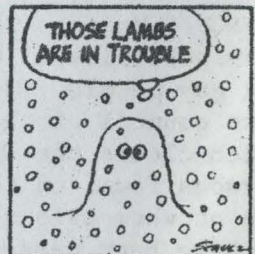
the weekend of May 14. and 15 on the Portland campus of the University of Southern Maine. Two planning meetings were held in Portland in December; the next meeting is at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 11 King Street, Augusta, on Sunday, January 16 at 1 p.m. Representatives from all Maine organizations are urged to attend. ▽

▽ CARIBOU: The Winter Carnival is scheduled for February, but as of January 9, we only have 3 inches of snow on the ground. That will make it difficult for much of a snow sculpture. No one attended the meeting on January 8 re: our entry in the snow sculpture contest. The meeting has been re-scheduled for February 5. Unless there is interest, and a good deal of snow, we won't have an entry this year. ▽

CALENDRIER * NLN * CALENDAR * NLN * CALENDRIER * NLN * CALENDAR

- ▽ Sunday, January 16, Caribou: NLN fundraising supper; \$7.50 per person; lasagna, salad, linguini with clam sauce, garlic bread, dessert, beverages
- ▽ Sunday, January 16, Augusta: Planning meeting for Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium X, at 1 pm, Unitarian Church, 11 King Street
- ▽ Saturday, January 22, Caribou: NLN Executive meeting
- ▽ Saturday, January 22, Caribou: NLN Discussion group; topic: Fear.
- ▽ Saturday, January 29, Ashland: NLN's Third Anniversary Business Meeting. Agenda includes election of new Executive Committee
- ▽ Saturday, January 29, Ashland: NLN's Third Birthday Party!!! and Pot Luck Meal!!!
- ▽ Saturday, February 5, Caribou: Meeting to discuss NLN's snow sculpture in the 1983 Caribou Winter Carnival.
- ▽ Saturday, February 12, Caribou: NLN Discussion group
- ▽ Friday, February 18, Caribou: Office party
- ▽ Sunday, February 27, (location needed): Monthly meeting and potluck
- ▽ Saturday, March 12, Caribou: NLN Discussion group
- ▽ Friday, March 18, Caribou: Office party
- ▽ Sunday, March 27 (location needed): Monthly meeting and potluck

PEANUTS



~ Happy Third Anniversary, Lamb! ~

▼ MERCI À... ▼

At the beginning of our 4th year together, it seems a good time to thank those people who have kept Lambda going:

- ...to those people who have volunteered to do something -- and do it!
- ...to those who have allowed us to meet in their homes -- the Lambs in (from north to south): Fort Kent, Madawaska, Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska, Lille-sur-Saint-Jean, Saint-Léonard, Van Buren, Caribou, Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle, Castle Hill, Ashland, Houlton, and Woodstock.
- ...to those people who donated food, money, and their time to NLN.
- ...à nos consocieurs et confrères whom we know are there but never see.
- ...to those who have felt it important to renew your membership yearly.
- ...to those Lambs who spread the word and bring new faces to gatherings.
- ...to the women of NLN who, though out-numbered, continue their support.
- ...to those people who have donated materials to Bibliothèque Lambda.
- ...to those people who make use of Bibliothèque Lambda.
- ...to those people who return their books ON TIME!
- ...to our friends from FLAG who made our phoneline a reality.
- ...to Paul from Brooklyn, NY, who donated funds for an answering machine.
- ...to Mike, formerly of Presque Isle, now of Rockland, who loaned us the mimeograph machine which prints this newsletter.
- ...to Phil, who provided a wonderful electric typewriter.
- ...to those men who fought back the queer bashers at the Rest Area.
- ...to those people to whom Lambda means more than just the parties and who do the extra little things necessary.
- ...to those Lambs who have moved away yet still have their memberships.

Happy New Year, and a Happy Birthday, Lambs, one and all!!! Baa-a-a-a!!!!▼

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 the Memorial Union.
- ▼ FREDERICTON, New Brunswick - Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG),
POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2. 506/457-2156.
Meets second Wednesday of the month; dances twice monthly.
- ▼ MONCTON, Nouveau-Brunswick - Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton (G.L.M.),
CP 7102, Riverview, N-B, E1B 1V0
- ▼ HALIFAX, Nova Scotia - Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE), Box 3611,
South Postal Station, B3J 3K6. 902/429-6969, Mon, Tues, Wed from
7-9 pm, Thurs, Fri, Sat from 7-10 pm.
- ▼ QUÉBEC CITY - Télégai, 418/522-2555, Mon-Fri, 7-11 pm.
- ▼ NORTHERN MAINE AND NEW BRUNSWICK - Northern Lambda Nord, CP/POB 990,
Caribou, Maine 04736 USA; Gay Phoneline 207// 98-6556.

PAGE 1

NLN COMMUNIQUE

PAGE 8
NLN COMMUNIQUE
JANVIER 1983
JANUARY 1983

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