

COMMUNIQUE

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD
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▽ It's February. Normally by this time we would have had four or five feet of snowfall -- but what a strange winter it has been this year! Our winter seems much more like what it is normally in southern Maine or even Boston. Rain, wet snow, ice, ice, ice... There's less than one foot of snow on the ground. And the frost has gone deeeeeeep this year! Spring is certainly going to be muddy. And the farmers are going to have to wait awhile before they can get their potatoes into the ground. They say it's all because of the volcano in Mexico, this strange weather. But I know better. It's those homosexuals. They're really messing things up. You see more and more of them all the time; you hear the people on TV talk about them; there are articles in Newsweek and Time about their sicknesses, something called AIDS. And you know, last month I saw an item in the Bangor Daily News about some gay anniversary party right here in northern Maine. Next thing you know, they'll be demanding that we treat them just like everyone else. Lesbian rights! Gay rights! HA! They had some of their friends in the Maine Legislature in Augusta introduce a law the past several legislative sessions to give these people protection against being discriminated against when they rent a house or at work, and in their everyday lives. Well, the law never passed. It's been getting more votes each year, but it seems our lawmakers just don't think it's important. And maybe these homosexualists will lose out again this year. I hear that since they're so poorly organized in Maine -- why, they don't have an organization at all, I hear, at least not statewide -- they've missed out on the deadline to get legislation introduced for this session. But rumor has it, and I sometimes believe what I hear, that Reverend Doug Strong of the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Augusta, along with some other of these so-called "gay- and lesbian-supportive people" are checking out what can be done. John Martin seems to be an important key. You know him, that man from Eagle Lake; he's been the representative in the Legislature for quite some time now. And he's the Speaker of the House. Quite an important position. Well, he's also the Chair of the Legislative Council. It's this Council which may introduce legislation for this session after the deadline has passed. Well, yes. I know what I'm going to do. I think I'll write a letter to this John Martin in Eagle Lake and tell him what I think. Not many people ever write to politicians. They say that one letter is worth a lot. So if I write to him and tell him that these gays is the cause of all the mud we're going to get in the spring, and the late planting season, and the cause of the break-up of the family, and everything else Jerry Falwell says these homosexuals are, then Mr. Speaker

Martin will probably listen to me. He won't get much mail about it anyway, not from those gays. They're probably too busy recruiting our children. They can't reproduce, you know. Now let me see... To John L. Martin, Speaker of the House, Box 278, Eagle Lake, Maine 04739: Dear Representative Martin: I bet you're worried about this strange weather we're having. Well so am I... ▼

▼ PHONELINE REPORT ▼

▼ The Gay Phonenumber is working again. After a hiatus of about four weeks, the phone is plugged in. The activity has died down as far as annoying phone calls. The message on the phone answering machine has been changed and now asks people to write to NLN rather than leave a message. The novelty of the phonenumber has worn off for the public. Now we're receiving more legitimate calls from gay people and fewer calls from non-gays.

At the Third Anniversary business meeting, a sheet was passed around for people to volunteer their time to answer the phone. So far, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in February, and Wednesday evenings in March will be staffed, from around 6 until 9 p.m. This will give those people who have been calling the opportunity to talk to a live person rather than to a machine.

If you would like to help staff the phone, contact a member of the Executive Committee. It's not necessary to staff it on the same night every week. You may want to help out once or twice per month. But it's important that we have help at least several days per week. It's not a difficult task.

A request has gone out in the form of a press release to gay and lesbian publications asking for help on our phonenumber: (1) for samples of messages used on other phonenumber answering machines and (2) requests for copies of any "guide books" or training manuals for staffers of such phonelines. ▼

▼ SYMPOSIUM REPORT: MAINE LESBIAN AND GAYMEN'S SYMPOSIUM X ▼

▼ There's nothing to report this month. The planning committee meeting scheduled for January 16 was not held because of a snowstorm, and it has not yet been rescheduled (as of February 2). Since then, the Portland organizing people have not sent word as to what's happening. With the Symposium planned for May 14 and 15 at the University of Southern Maine, Portland campus, it is less than 14 weeks away, yet from where I sit in Aroostook, it sounds like only a date has been chosen - no theme, guest speakers, entertainment, workshops, plans for housing, food... This is our tenth state gathering. Earlier mailings from Portland had hoped this would be a special Symposium. I just hope that what makes it special is NOT

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it's failure to occur. Those of us in NLN and FLAG/Fredericton already experienced that last year when GAE in Halifax, having assumed responsibility for our annual Conference, and advertising the Atlantic Lesbian and Gay Conference in the gay press, cancelled it -- but never let anyone know. I hope Maine does not follow that example!

So far, with our lack of political organization in the state and poor Symposium planning to date, it seems to me that we need another Anita Bryant to help us get our shirt together as a "community." Like her or not, she was the best thing that happened to gay people since Stonewall. I hope that next month's Symposium Report will have something to report. OK, Portland?! ▼ --benj.

▼ ZI! A COURSE IN SELF DEFENSE ▼

▼ MacLaggen Hall at the University of New Brunswick campus in Fredericton roared with deep yells as approximately thirty gaymen from Fredericton and the local area were guided through a gruelling two-weekend course in self defense. This course, sponsored by Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) and conducted by two masters from the Toronto Gay Self Defense League, was organized by a FLAG member after he was hassled on the "Greens" in Fredericton this past summer.

All inclusive, the course covered the philosophy of self defense; warm-up exercises; the law and self defense; and various self defense techniques such as stance, blows, kicks, punches, vital target areas, etcetera. After each of the five sessions, a discussion group was coordinated by the instructors, Dean and Bob. The topic was generally open, and at times ranged from loud and hilarious experience to quiet and understanding heartbreak.

Everyone agreed that such a course is vital in building an awareness of our individual strengths; is a positive confidence booster, and is absolutely necessary for every gay man and woman, whether he or she ever is placed in a position to use these techniques. "We are worth defending!!"

Plans are being finalized to conduct such a course for Lambda members and our gay friends; it is tentatively scheduled for two weekends, March 5 and 12 at the Caribou Lions Community Center. The cost will be minimal. Exact details will be sent to Lambs as soon as plans are finalized. ▼

-R.D.A., Enquire

NOUVELLES ▼ NEWS ▼ NOUVELLES ▼ NEWS ▼ NOUVELLES ▼ NEWS ▼ NOUVELLES ▼ NEWS

▼ ASHLAND: Saturday, January 29 marked the third anniversary of Northern Lambda Nord. It was three years ago, in 1980 in Van Buren, that gay people gathered for an organizational meeting of this region's first 'homophile' group. The anniversary party was preceded by a short business meeting. The discussion included the phoneline and the up-coming calendar of group events and the election of a new Executive

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Committee to serve from January until June. The Executive during the next six months will be Dale, Elaine, Phil, Cliff, Dick, and Jim. It was recommended by the previous Executive, and passed by the members present, to take out a quarter-page advertisement in the Maine Lesbian Feminist Newsletter for ten issues. MLF's last newsletter stated that they were "in dire need of help," financial help to keep the newsletter going. NLN will take out advertising which will support MLF financially and publicize the existence of our group. The cost of one-quarter page is \$2.50, times 10 issues -- \$25.▼

FRENCHVILLE: This tiny Acadian community in the Saint John Valley of Maine will be the site of a series of workshops entitled, "Human Sexuality: A Christian Viewpoint". This series of six classes will be held on Mondays beginning January 31. (Began January 31.) Registration is \$2 per session or \$10 for the series. Session four, on February 21, will be part of a mini-series, "Responsible Sexuality Outside of Marriage" and will discuss "Homosexuality". The presenter of this fourth session will be Rev. Roger Chabot, associate pastor of Saint Joseph's Parish in Biddeford, Maine and "founder" of the Maine chapter of Dignity, an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics. Roger was active in the organizing stages of the Valley School of Lay Ministry, the location of this series. If you would like to be part of a gay presence at Rev. Chabot's presentation, the Valley School of Lay Ministry is at the Christian Life Center in UPPER Frenchville, between Fort Kent and Frenchville. You may register by calling the Life Center (207/543-6193), through your parish religious education coordinator, or at the class.▼

▼BANGOR: Experience has demonstrated that constant and prolonged exposure to the philosophy of feminism may result in feelings of great dissatisfaction, anger, anxiety, and an uncontrollable urge to change the world. Continued contact with feminism has been known to produce independence, competence, assertiveness, and flagrant acts of revolution! Should any of these symptoms appear, contact your local NOW chapter immediately! Maine NOW, 23 March Street, Bangor 04401.▼

PORTLAND: The Maine Civil Liberties Union is still in need of funds to help pay expenses in a case involving discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. A lesbian at the University of Maine at Orono has been kicked out of the ROTC program because of her sexuality. The MCLU has put out a request for financial help. At last word, the only response has been from Northern Lambda Nord. If gay people cannot help us, no one else is going to bother. Send what you can to: MCLU, 97a Exchange Street, Portland, 04101. Note that your donation is to be earmarked for the ROTC discrimination case. Send some money today!!!▼

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▼ SOMERVILLE, Massachusetts: A film is being produced about lesbians who decide to have children after they've come out. Although there are lesbians who have done this, the topic remains largely undiscussed and very few resources on the subject exist. The producers are looking for lesbians who: have had children since coming out; are pregnant; are seriously considering motherhood. They would like to hear from as many women as possible to aid in the preparation of this film. Once they hear from women, they will explain to the respondents the details of the project. If you can help them or know someone who can: Kim Clausner and Debra Chasnoff, 46 Bay State Avenue, No. 2, Somerville, Massachusetts 02144 ▼

▼ NEW YORK CITY: "Before Stonewall" needs your help. The first public television documentary on the history of the American lesbian and gay movement prior to the 1970's is currently being researched. Although it has been awarded \$170,000 by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the New York Council for the Humanities, the producers will not receive the money unless they can raise another \$60,000 to ensure completion of the project. The show will be directed to a wide general public and will use filmed personal recollection and archival materials to illustrate how lies and silence about homosexuality have distorted and sometimes destroyed lives. Send what contributions you can to: "Before Stonewall" 630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 908, New York City, New York State 10036. (from: MS. magazine) ▼



▼ WASHINGTON, D.C.: Both the U.S. National Gay Task Force and the Gay Rights National Lobby have been accepted into the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. Founded in 1950, the Conference has more than 150 member organizations representing the concerns of religious, racial, and ethnic minorities, women, students, labor groups, the handicapped, and others who tend to be denied full participation in American society. It is "committed to an integrated, democratic, pluralistic society in which every individual is accorded equal rights, equal opportunities, and equal justice..." NGTF first applied for membership in the Conference five years ago, but was rebuffed. More recently, GRNL applied, and both organizations were accepted. This represents the first time that any gay organizations have been admitted into the civil rights "establishment" and signifies the perceived maturation of the gay movement. (NGTF'S TASK FORCE REPORT) ▼

▼ SAN FRANCISCO: This month marks the first anniversary of the only full-time commercially operated broadcast network devoted to news about the gay and lesbian communities. Called the National Gay Network, NGN, a San Francisco-based service, is the brainchild of radio producers Bernard Lawson and Tom Post. NGN has assembled a team of reporters throughout the world, and the service has already been picked up by several radio stations. One station manager reports that not one negative response has come from the listening audience. In addition, more than 16,000 people call the network every month, listening to a four- or five-minute news program. The broadcasts are comparable to any network radio news capsules, with interviews, sports and entertainment reports, and commentaries by noted gay activists. New broadcasts are recorded every other day, and on Sundays, a news magazine is aired. To hear one of these news broadcasts, call NGN: 415/664-7010. (MS. mag.)

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 207/498-6556.

▼ MORE ABOUT AIDS ▼

▼ For the past year or so, the media have produced numerous stories on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome - AIDS. Originally called GRID, gay-related immune deficiency, the disorder turns up most frequently in gaymen who live in large cities and who have many different sex partners. Other groups affected by AIDS include straight drug addicts, Haitians, and hemophiliacs. NLN received this information sheet recently from the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City. It is reprinted here for your information. (Gay Men's Health Crisis, Box 274, 132 West 24th Street, New York City, New York 10011. Hotline: 212-685-4952)



AIDS =

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

(not "GRID" or "gay plague" or "gay cancer")

IMMUNE SYSTEM =

Your body's way to fight off disease.

THEREFORE:

When you have AIDS, your body cannot fight off disease properly.

WHICH MEANS:

You are open to such serious illnesses as:

KS =

KAPOSI'S SARCOMA CANCER

PCP =

PNEUMOCYSTIS CARINII PNEUMONIA,

OR OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES.

By September 1982 there were 634 cases of AIDS in 23 states and 9 foreign countries. Last year at this time we only knew about 123.

50% OF ALL CASES ARE REPORTED FROM NEW YORK

40% OF ALL CASES ARE NOW DEAD

WATCH OUT FOR THESE SYMPTOMS

1. SWOLLEN GLANDS:

(Enlarged Lymph Nodes): With or without pain, usually in the neck, armpits, or groin.

2. PINK TO PURPLE FLAT OR RAISED BLOTCH OR BUMP:

These are without pain, on or under the skin, inside the mouth, nose, eyelids, rectum. They have appeared recently, usually small but gradually getting bigger. They may look like a bruise that doesn't go away. Usually they are harder than the skin around them.

3. WEIGHT LOSS:

Unexpected, and greater than 10 pounds in less than 2 months.

4. FEVER:

That has persisted for more than a week.

5. NIGHT SWEAT:

Periods of waking up drenched or sweaty over several weeks.

6. COUGH:

Persistent, often a dry cough that is not from smoking and has lasted too long to be from flu.

7. DIARRHEA:

Persistent and not explained by other causes.

ONE OR MORE OF THE ABOVE MAY BE CAUSE FOR CONCERN

1. GO TO A DOCTOR WHO IS UP-TO-DATE ON GAY HEALTH

2. TELL YOUR DOCTOR YOU ARE GAY.

3. IF YOU'RE NOT SURE HE KNOWS ABOUT AIDS—ASK HIM.

4. IF HE IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH AIDS, OR NOT SYMPATHETIC—GET ANOTHER DOCTOR.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED A DOCTOR'S NAME:

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD
GAY PHONELINE: 207/498-6556

15 AIDS CONTAGIOUS?—

Not through simple social contact.

But current opinion points to something like a virus that MAY BE transmitted sexually.

THEREFORE: UNTIL WE KNOW BETTER IT MAKES SENSE THAT THE FEWER DIFFERENT PEOPLE YOU COME IN SEXUAL CONTACT WITH, THE LESS CHANCE THIS POSSIBLY CONTAGIOUS BUG HAS TO TRAVEL AROUND.

Have as much sex as you want—but with fewer people and with HEALTHY PEOPLE.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOUR PARTNER IS HEALTHY—ASK HIM DIRECTLY TO BE HONEST WITH YOU ABOUT HIS HEALTH.

PLAY FAIR YOURSELF:

IF YOU KNOW OR THINK OR SUSPECT THAT YOU HAVE ANY DISEASE YOU COULD GIVE TO SOMEONE ELSE, DON'T. RISK THE HEALTH OF OTHERS BY HAVING SEX. WAIT UNTIL YOUR DOCTOR TELLS YOU IT'S SAFE.

There is no conclusive evidence that any drug or sexual act causes AIDS. But until we know better, you might consider giving up drugs. I.V. drug is definitely a high-risk factor.

RECOMMENDATIONS—WHAT YOU CAN DO:

(This recommendation is made by New York Physicians for Human Rights—the organization of 175 gay doctors in New York, and also by the New York City Department of Health.)

We don't know yet what causes AIDS.

Until we do:

CUT DOWN THE NUMBER OF DIFFERENT MEN YOU HAVE SEX WITH, PARTICULARLY WITH THE MEN WHO ALSO HAVE MANY DIFFERENT SEXUAL PARTNERS.

HELP YOURSELF!

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