

# COMMUNIQUE

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD  
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Volume IV: numéro 7

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August/September 1983

▼ Several new things have been added since the last newsletter. Two are very noticeable -- the first is the mailing label on your envelope; it's printed by a computer. Now, instead of typing each label for every envelope every month, we have the use of a computer which prints the labels in no time flat! For those of you who have helped address envelopes in the past, you can appreciate all the time it saves. But please be assured, now that Lambda Nord has gone with the technological revolution, all mailings lists and files remain confidential and, as Gay Community News says, "lists are never sold or traded." Your privacy is assured.

You're looking at the deuxième change -- the typing element for French finally arrived. But they've moved things around to allow for accents; if the makers of the element had stopped with just putting in the necessary accents and left everything else alone, all would be fine. But they've moved the numbers and ALL the punctuation! So, rather than look at the chart above the typewriter to find out where the apostrophe and the period are, I will go back to the "element anglais." (But please note: all submissions for articles in English et en français are welcome!)

The biggest change is the Lambda office. Now that it's moved from the Grimes Road in Caribou, where it had the use of one wall of a bedroom, to a larger house in New Sweden, it has a room of its own. Granted, it is not large, but it holds the library, all the files, and the equipment for typing and duplicating the *Communiqué*. So, you're all welcome to stop by and see what changes have taken place. The room desperately needs a new coat of paint, so if you've got the time, we've got the beer!?

▼ And, speaking of the Gestetner mimeograph machine, which is on loan to Lambda, (along with this typewriter and the use of the computer) the mimeo needed repairs and general cleaning and overhaul. So, to help pay for the \$135.00 (US) bill for the repair, a fund-raising party is planned for the second weekend in August. (Members received notice of this in the Summer Calendar #3 last month.) Plans include inviting members of FLAG from Fredericton; a Saturday afternoon barbeque (hopefully we'll have good weather) and a dance in the evening. The door charge



for the dance will be \$2 for NLN members (and FLAG people) and \$4 for guests. There is plenty of room in the house, so everyone is welcome to bring a sleeping bag and, rather than drive home if you choose to drink, plan to stay overnight.

▼ Look for a copy of ATLANTIC INSIGHT magazine this fall. It is published in Atlantic Canada. Chris Wood, a free-lance journalist and broadcaster (you may have heard him on CBC radio in New Brunswick) is doing an article about our community in the Maritimes. He has been in touch with NLN and has interviewed at least 2 Lambda people plus lesbians and gaymen from Halifax and Fredericton. It is not sold in Aroostook, so if you live in the County, you may want to pick up a copy next time you're 'across'.

▼ Speaking of magazines, there is a new publication in Maine: OUR PAPER: The Voice of Gay and Lesbian Maine. A collective has been organized to publish this monthly, statewide newspaper with a projected circulation of 3000. The 15" tabloid will be mailed to subscribers and distributed free through organizations, bars, bookstores, and other businesses. "Our intention is to exist as a source of information, support and affirmation, and a vehicle for celebration...we hope the paper will serve as a bridge between Lesbians and Gay Men through furthering our understanding of each other...As a Portland-based collective, we are keenly aware of the potential for the paper to have a Portland focus. We are committed to not having this happen." To help reflect statewide interests and concerns, they request: articles, graphics, essays, humor/cartoons, etcetera. OUR PAPER is seen as being in addition to the current newsletters published by the various groups in Maine. They're aiming for September 1st for the first issue; they are soliciting material which should be sent to them by August 10. (POB 10744, Portland, 04104). It has been too long since MAINELY GAY folded; we wish OUR PAPER best of luck to fulfill a need in Maine.

▼ Politics makes strange bedfellows, they say. And Washington seems to be a hot-bed! FINALLY, a member of the US Congress has stood up and said "I'm Gay. So there!" Representative Gerry Studds, Democrat of Massachusetts, stood on the floor of the House of Representatives and declared, "All Members of Congress must cope with the challenge of initiating and maintaining a career in public office without destroying entirely the ability to lead a meaningful and emotionally fulfilling private life. It is not a simple task for any of us to meet adequately the obligations of either public or private life, let alone both. But these challenges are made substantially more complex when one is, as

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am I, both an elected public official and gay." BRAVO, GERRY!  
His statement, in response to charges by an ethics committee that  
he had sex with a male House page, comes as a breath of fresh  
air from the public closets of the nation. Hopefully, this may  
serve as an example to some of our more local gay public  
officials; it may not inspire them to come out, but it should  
surely make them sit up and take notice. The test is Gerry's  
constituents' reactions come re-election time. If more public  
figures - politicians, entertainers, movie stars - came out,  
it would make things easier for all of us. If more gay people  
period came out things would change faster for the better.

▼ It was noted in a past *Communiqué* that a new group has  
organized in Saint John. LAGO S.J. (Lesbian and Gay Organization  
of Saint John) held their first dance June 4; that event  
provided them with capital to set up an office and purchase  
supplies. Their second dance was July 16 at the Lily Lake  
Pavilion in S-J. LAGO S.J. has extended an invitation to NLN  
members, when and if in that part of the province, to join them  
at their functions. You may write them (see Guide in this  
newsletter) or call John at 693-9307. Four years ago there was  
only one organized lesbian-gay group in New Brunswick (FLAG);  
now there are 4. Our continued growth is encouraging.

▼ Dancing and music are happening in Maine as well. The Susan B.  
Anthony Club (I think a part of Maine Lesbian Feminists) is  
holding dances the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month: August 13  
and 17, September 10 and 24, on the 3rd floor above the Grasshopper  
Shop in Belfast. Dances are at 8 pm and a \$3 donation is requested.  
Lambda women are invited...The New England Women's Musical  
Retreat is scheduled for September 2-5 at Camp Lake of Isles in  
North Stonington, Connecticut. MC's are Kate Clinton and Alix  
Dobkin; entertainers include Ferron, Nancy Vogl & Suzanne  
Shaubaum, Deidre McCalla & Band, Edwina Lee Tyler & a Piece of  
the World, Alison Farrell & Jacqueline Pickett, Linda Tillery &  
Band, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Suni Paz with Martha Siegel &  
Wendy Blackstone, and Alive!. This all-female, women-identified  
retreat will be filled with "workshops, poetry, politics, jam  
session, and MUSIC." Facilities are wheel-chair accessible; inter-  
preters for hearing-impaired are provided. For details on the  
camping facilities, food, ticket prices, etcetera, check with  
*Bibliothèque Lambda*; an information flyer is on file. (Childcare  
is also available.)

▼ The day was warm, the sky very blue and clear, and the water  
warm and refreshing when the *Lambettes du Nord* went picnicking at  
North Lake Provincial Park near Fosterville, N-B, just 8 miles from

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Orient, Maine. This was the latest in a series of NLN-FLAG gatherings; unfortunately, only one Flag-man was there. But I think I can safely say that "a good time was had by all." One repeated complaint, though: "So, where are the rest of the women!?", voiced by the two women who did show up. That's the same exact comment voiced May 29 at the last NLN-FLAG picnic at Mactaquac Park, this time by the two FLAG women in attendance. Do the women reading this have a reply? Though North Lake is a little further than our usual outings (about 1 hour 45 minutes drive from Fredericton, closer to 2 hours from Caribou) it is a very beautiful spot. If the weather is good on the weekend of August 27-28, perhaps another NLN-FLAG picnic? (NLN has nothing planned on our summer calendar for that weekend.)

▲ NLN has just received a list of those members of the Maine Senate and House who supported LD 679, the Gay Rights Bill. Of the 14 House members from Aroostook County, not one voted in favor of the bill (defeated 101 to 37 in that chamber.) Edward McHenry (Democrat, District 16 - Madawaska and St-Agat') said during floor debate, "Homosexuality is a sickness. These people need help. Give them the right to be treated...The Board of Psychiatrists (board unknown) has proven that homosexuality can be cured." Nineteen Senators supported the bill (which passed the Senate). Among supporters from the County are Paul Violette (Democrat from Van Buren, Senate District #32, comprising most of northern Aroostook) and, surprise, surprise, James A. McBreairty (Republican from Caribou, District #31, central Aroostook). McBreairty was the one Senator who, at the strategy meeting several months ago in Augusta, was noted as being against the bill and the comment was made at the time, "Don't bother to lobby him." Well, may such advice be that wrong more often! So, in the Senate at least, the County voted 2 for us and 1 (Mike Carpenter of Houlton, District #33, southern Aroostook) against. (Please note that Violette has been a consistent supporter). Any and all of our representatives could use a phonecall or letter from us. If you don't know who your 2 legislators are in Augusta, that information is on file in the Lambda office. (Legislative information courtesy Maine NOW)

▲ Guess who's coming to Maine? Jerry Falwell!! He'll be in Farmington, sponsored by a small fundamentalist group, and will speak at the Dearborn Gym on the UMF Campus Tuesday, August 23 at 7 pm. A "peaceful, positive march in front of the Gym is planned by Maine NOW to stress the diversity of family life as we interpret it...to counter Falwell's notion of THE family -- offering validity to the many different lifestyles that people choose. We are PRO-FAMILY, too." Meet at 6 pm in front of the Gym. For more info: Pam Prodan, Greater Farmington NOW, Star Route, Dryden, Maine 04225 or call Marilyn Kirby in Portland, 773-3333. "Please join us and pass the word." (From the Maine NOW Times, July 1983)



▼ According to the Maine NOW Times, there have now been TWO reported cases of AIDS deaths in Maine. As a result of meetings and workshops at the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium X last May in Portland, the GAY HEALTH ACTION COMMITTEE has formed. It is a grassroots action group associated with a Medical Task Force and the Maine Health Foundation, Inc. The following are the Action Committee's major projects: (1) getting information out to high-risk groups, especially gaymen, on the risks of AIDS and how to lower them, the symptoms of AIDS and how to know them and when to get help, some answers to questions, what is known about AIDS to date, and medical help, where to find it (2) providing a support system for AIDS victims and potential victims and their friends and family. No one should have to face AIDS alone or uninformed. (3) establish a Speaker's Bureau to develop presentations for hospitals, health care professionals, and other groups or organizations -- so that they are better equipped to deal with AIDS and with the gay community. (4) provide information to the public through the media and through direct outreach activities. For a pamphlet called "Guidelines for AIDS Risk Reduction" send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: GAY HEALTH ACTION COMMITTEE OF MAINE, POB 10723, Portland 04104.

▼ An observation: Interesting to note that Maine NOW's listing of chapters include those in Farmington, Brunswick, Kennebec Valley, York County, Lewiston/Auburn, Washington County, Bangor, Mt. Desert Island, and Portland, but none in Aroostook County.

▼ Lesbian Job Rights: Contributions are needed to finance a lawsuit against the Christian Science Monitor for firing Christine Madsen, writer for the newspaper for 7 years, after forcing her to admit to being Lesbian. Contributions of any size may be sent to: Madsen Legal Fund, Box 314, New Town Branch, Boston 02258.

▼ MORE ABOUT AIDS: *Bibliothèque Lambda* has received a copy of "Gays and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, a Bibliography" published by the Canadian Gay Archives. This second edition replaces the original bibliography which was sold out in three months. The Archives has published this bibliography to (1) inform the general public about what has been written on AIDS and (2) to record what the Archives contains in its collection to encourage interested people to use this material and supply what is missing. An updated bibliography is planned; money and access to smaller gay and lesbian periodicals is needed. If you can help in any way, including financially, write: Canadian Gay Archives for Lesbians and Gay Men, Box 639, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1G2.

▼ NLN'S Gay Phoneline/Télégai has moved to the new Lambda office; it naturally has a new number: 207/896-5888. The message on the tape has been changed (with a little Paul Simon in the background)

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and is staffed every Wednesday evening, 7-9 pm (Maine time). If you can help answering the phone, get in touch.

▼ Last month's newsletter advised readers to watch WACM-TV in Presque Isle for an interview with two Lambda members. That interview, part of a series on "alternate lifestyles" in northern Maine, should air sometime during early (?) August. Susan Kimball, the reporter doing the series, is compiling a 4- or 5-segment <sup>SERIES</sup> for the 6 o'clock local news.

▼ The Maine Chapter is a newly-formed group, billed as a "gaymen's outdoor and social organization in the Mount Desert area." They're listed under Maine in the back of the weekly Gay Community News and have advertised in the Maine Times. The Maine Chapter, POBox 1255, Ellsworth 04605.

▼ It was reported earlier (Vol. III: no. 10, December 1982) that the Maine Civil Liberties Union was defending a woman who had been dismissed from the ROTC program because she was gay. Well, that case has gone to court in Portland. Diane Jean Matthews, a student at the University of Maine at Orono, was dismissed from the ROTC program there after she requested time to go to a Student Senate meeting at which they were discussing gay rights. When asked why she was interested in that subject, she told her superiors that she was a lesbian. The MCLU, according to the Bangor Daily News, has stated that the Pentagon is worried about the case. Diane, who served for 4 years in the army before attending UMO, has received the army's Good Conduct Medal plus exemplary recommendations during her military service. She is suing on the basis of the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of association and expression and the Constitutional privacy issue. ROTC people are civilians, not military; they have civil rights under the US Constitution, unlike the military, who relinquish their civil rights when they join the service. Diane is suing for reinstatement and lost pay. The case went before the court on July 18. It was not noted in the papers when they felt a decision would be reached. A second BDN article noted that in 1981, the last year of statistics, 521,276 people were in the military; 278 were discharged for being gay, 38 of those women. There have been a number of women thrown out of the Air Force here at Loring AFB because they were lesbians. Nothing has been written about those incidents here, only for lack of information and reliable details. Several of our members are in the military at Loring and the phoneline receives inquiries weekly from Air Force personnel. According to some, there is always the risk of being 'discovered'; yet it is interesting to note how different gay people, women and men, deal with the conflict of their sexuality and their employer -- the US Air Force. I welcome any written or oral (to be transcribed) accounts of gays stationed at Loring, past or present.

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▼ "Born Again Gay" was the headline on a short "News Note" in the August 6th Gay Community News. It's an item about more "political bed-fellows"! "Robert E. Bauman, former Republican Member of Congress from Maryland, was an outspoken opponent of a gay rights bill while in Congress. His vehement opposition to gay rights looked odd, though, when he was arrested for solicitation of sex from a teenaged male. (Remember that?!) After his arrest, Bauman claimed that he had been indulging too much in drink and that alcoholism was to blame for his sexual 'indiscretion.' Bauman lost his 1980 re-election bid and dropped out of sight. Now, according to the New York Times, he has separated from his wife and 'seeks to begin a new life as a homosexual and political activist.' (Can you believe that!) Bauman, born again (to borrow a phrase), is thinking of moving to the gay heaven of San Francisco. Bauman has so thoroughly repudiated his conservatism that on August 2 he is scheduled to appear before the American Bar Association to endorse -- guess what-- a gay rights bill."!!!! Well, Bravo Bobby Bauman!

▼ "Hi, my name is Leon, I am Gay, very lonely and starving for love and friendship. I am seeking correspondence with individuals of a truly caring and honest nature, with whom I could grow to love, respect, and share a long and beautiful relationship. If you care, please write. Sincerely in Gay Pride, LEONARD LEON WILSON, JR., SOCF #143-701, POB 45699, Lucasville, Ohio 45699-0001"

▼ COME OUT AND SING TOGETHER! is the First National Gay Choral Festival, Lincoln Center, New York City, September 8-11, 1983. New commissioned works by Ned Rorem and Libby Larsen will be premiered. Guest conductor is internationally-acclaimed choral director Gregg Smith. More than 800 singers from 12 predominantly gay and lesbian choruses from the USA will perform. TICKETS: prices are from \$8-\$30 with discounts available for purchases of two or more performances. Performing choruses are from Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Madison (Wisconsin), New Orleans, New York City, Anaheim (California), Seattle, and Washington, D.C. RESERVATIONS: call Center Charge, 212/874-6770.

▼ Last month, Gay Alliance for Equality in Halifax hosted a regional conference which dealt with Gay-Lesbian phonelines. As of press time, a report about this gathering has not been received. Unfortunately, NLN was unable to send any representatives to Halifax. Another phoneline conference is scheduled for October 22 in New York City. This meeting is calling on all gay-lesbian switchboards/phonelines in New England and the mid-Atlantic region to meet and discuss operating a phoneline.

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NLN (9/19/11/1983)



Private accommodations in people's homes in New York City are available. Four workshops only are planned, two in the morning, two in the afternoon on Saturday. This will include "volunteers", "morale" (building spirit and commitment), "paperwork" (the nuts-and-bolts of running a switchboard; policy-making, information gathering...) "fundraising", and "tax exemption". This conference is sponsored by the Lesbian Switchboard of NY and the Gay Switchboard of NY. If anyone is interested in attending, contact the Lambda office.

And finally, the format and style of this newsletter has changed a bit. This one is pretty much ramblings, like in some previous editions. But headings have been eliminated; all the "news items" are not in one place. I'd like some feedback on how you like this format. And, again, INPUT IS REQUESTED in the form of letters, articles, poetry, art work, or even just your ramblings. PLEASE NOTE: the next issue of the newsletter will be Volume IV: number 8, October 1983. This will be the membership drive and renewal mailing. (Memberships expire Sept.30).. All submissions of articles, etcetera, must be to the Lambda office by September 15, 1983. Hope the rest of the summer is as good as it's been so far. And hoping that the potato harvest this year is a good one -- both N-B and Maine spuds! *Benj.*

- FREDERICTON: FLAG, POB 1556, Sta.A., E3B 5G2; FLAGline - 506/457-2156
- ORONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, Univ. of Maine; meets on Sundays, 7 pm, Peabody Lounge, 3rd floor, Memorial Union
- SAINT JOHN: LAGO-SJ, POB 6494, Sta.A, E2L 4R9
- MONCTON: Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton, CP 7102, Riverview, N-B, E1B 1V0
- HALIFAX: Gay Alliance for Equality, Box 3611, So.Postal Sta., B3J 3K6; 902/429-6969, Mon, Tues, Wed, 7-9 pm; Thurs, Fri, Sat, 7-10 pm
- QUÉBEC CITY: Télégai, 418/522-2555, lun-ven, 1900-2300 hrs.
- WEBWORK, women's correspondence club, New England and the Maritimes - Box 131-N, Calais, Maine 04619
- MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS: POB 125, Belfast 04915
- NORTHERN MAINE AND NEW BRUNSWICK: NLN, CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736  
Télégai/Gay Phoneline: 207/896-5888, Wed/mer: 7-9 pm (Eastern time)

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