

# COMMUNIQUE

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD  
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CARIBOU • MAINE • 04736 • USA  
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Winter begins this week. According to the rotation of the planets, that is. I think it started around here about the middle of November. There sure is plenty of snow and ice and cold temperatures for just the beginning of the season. Weather seems to be a popular topic of conversation. People talk about it all the time. But there isn't much you can do about it. I wonder sometimes why I live so far north where the extremes of temperature and conditions are so great - 20 below zero (Fahrenheit) and then six months later the thermometer registers 100 degrees higher, or more. Just the amount of clothing needed for the long winter season can cost a lot of money. So wouldn't it be nice to live in the south (I don't mean Portland, either). Gay life would be so much more -- more clubs, more activities, more people. It's not easy living in rural, northern New Brunswick and Maine and being lesbians and gaymen. It's difficult enough living here and just living here! Add to that being outside the mainstream of local society, in our social lives in the least, plus always being on guard (in varying degrees, depending upon who and where) not to let people know in what way we are different, and the weather is a cinch to deal with. We each handle our in-and-out-of-the-closet in different ways. Each of us is out in different degrees. Most gay people in our region aren't out at all; they may be a little out to themselves, but not to anyone else - not to their husbands, their wives, their families and friends, not at work; they're deep among the hangers. Rita Mae Brown wrote, "She was so far in the closet, she was in danger of becoming a garment bag." Most of us have been back in there, in the dark so no one can see us. Where we don't see ourselves. Hiding. But just the fact that you're reading this newsletter is important. Each of us is out enough to become part of a slowly growing community. It's a community of outcasts, in a sense, either because we let society put us there or we place ourselves there, rejecting the 'standard model.' It's a community of women and men who are true to themselves, who have accepted themselves, ourselves, as we are. Different. This difference is the main binding tie of the community. In all other ways we are different from each other. But it's our common trait,



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our minority status, which causes us to seek out our own. What does each of us want from the community? Support is the least of it. A place to go where we won't feel different. Meeting new people, some of them becoming our friends. Social activities. Next month marks the fourth anniversary of our local support group, Northern Lambda Nord. Since 1980 it has provided our community with places to go to be with our own. Women and men have opened their homes to us to meet, to party, just to talk. Unfortunately, the community has been depending upon the same few people to host a gathering. The same few people attend, always with some new faces, but too few new ones. The activities are repeating themselves regularly - meeting, discussion, party; meeting, discussion, party. This sameness of activities does not always recognizes our differences. We each have different interests. But those interests need to be voiced. What do you want to see offered? Someone likes to play bridge but hasn't found three more people. Another person likes roller skating, but doesn't like to skate alone. A day-long hike on snowshoes sounds good, but not by yourself. How can NLN plan activities? It needs to know what you want from the community. What do you want to see Lambda doing. Voices cry, "more members," "dances and parties," "a regular Sunday brunch." It has been suggested that a questionnaire be prepared to poll the interests of Lambs. It has also been suggested that we meet more frequently. Suggestions are fine, but action needs to be taken. A consensus of the members will get things going. NLN needs to be more than just a monthly newsletter. It IS more than that. But each person must give some input. Ideas. Needs. Attend a monthly meeting and tell your cohorts what you don't like and what you'd like to see.

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The Executive met and has planned a new activity. Games night, planned for Sunday afternoons. If you are interested, show up and play bingo! If you're not interested, what DO you want?

At the next meeting at the end of January (a location has yet to be found) nominations will be accepted for the next Executive, which serves for six months. Elections will be held at the February meeting. These meetings are the times to talk. Let the executive know what you'd like Lambda Nord to do for you. Locations of activities rotate. If you live too far or don't drive, call the Phoneline and a ride can probably be arranged. If you live way up north and the gathering is in the south, that may be a problem - 3 hours traveling time. But next month the meeting will be near you. ATTEND.



The potential of Northern Lambda Nord is limited only by the efforts of the community. Let's hear from you!

▼ CARIBOU CARNIVAL: "KEEP OUT OF OUR BOOK!"

The Caribou Chamber of Commerce Winter Carnival Committee has refused to accept a \$40 advertisement from NLN for the 1984 Winter Carnival booklet. NLN placed a one-eighth page ad last year; we received some response in the form of phonecalls from travelers who found the '83 booklet in their motel rooms. According to Cindy Hebert, Chamber Assistant Director, our ad last year sparked numerous complaints from local businesses who also advertised in the booklet.

They threatened to withhold their advertising this year if Lambda's ad appeared again. This is according to Ms. Hebert. Yet, according to the letter received returning our check and photo-ready copy, Bill Johnson, Chamber Executive Director, advertising space is available "only to Caribou business firms and to sponsors of the Winter Carnival." HA! Some excuse. That was the same reason he gave last year when inquiries were made about advertising in a County-wide Chamber of Commerce tourist booklet: businesses only. But the booklet appeared containing advertising from the Houlton Rotary. (a business?!) It appears that Mr. Johnson's response is merely to keep us out of the booklet.

The Executive Committee meets January 1, at which time this will be discussed and a course of action planned. If you have any ideas, you are invited to give input at the meeting. (See calendar.)

▼ LAMBS TALK SEX-TALK

Three men from Lambda spoke before and with Dr. Roger Richard's Human Sexuality class at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. The informal discussion did not just focus on homosexuality but on sexualities: bi-, a-, hetero-, and, my favorite, homo-. The one-and-one-half hour class was just getting relaxed when it was time to stop. As a result of the talk, NLN received a second request to appear in the Social Deviance class at UMPI the following week. The invitation was received the day before the class, so with such short notice, was not accepted. Perhaps next semester. If anyone is interested in becoming part of this "speakers bureau", speak up! Women, especially, are encouraged.

▼ GAY ENTERTAINERS -- DISAPPOINTING

Romanofsky and Phillips, two gaymen from San Francisco who write and perform their own music, did not appear in Bangor as scheduled. At least two cars of Lambs drove the three-to-four hours to end up standing outside the

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Bangor Unitarian Church in 5 degree (F) weather and found a sign on the locked door, "cancelled." Evidently, R & P had a minor traffic accident and were not up to performing. It brought up an interesting fact. Bangor is a pit. Dull. Dead. No gay night life to speak of. It is the only major city in Maine that has no listing in any gay guide. There's got to be more than just the Bangor Mail to attract me to go back to that town. Queen City? All the queens must leave for the south of Maine to find anything close to gay socializing.

#### ▼ OUR PAPER CAN BE YOUR PAPER

This is the third month in succession that the *Communiqué* mailing has included a copy of OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gay Men in Maine. Hopefully, you've all enjoyed receiving it and finding out what's happening in Maine. The monthly article, "Aroostook Report: News and Views from the Top of Maine," has become a regular feature, reporting on NLN happenings in Aroostook and New Brunswick. But a free copy will not be sent to you any more. The extra postage is costly. If you would like to continue to receive OUR PAPER, now is your opportunity to subscribe. It's just \$10 US per year for 12 monthly issues. Keep abreast of Maine events -- send your subscription to OUR PAPER, POB 10744, Portland, 04104. Copies are mailed in a plain envelope. Support the local gay press. Subscribe to OUR PAPER. If you don't, you won't know what you're missing!

#### ▼ THERE'S A NEW GAME IN TOWN!

At the Executive Committee meeting December 4, Lambda activities were discussed and a new monthly gathering is now in the offing: "Game Night." In spite of its name, Game Night will be held Sunday afternoon. A variety of games were suggested: card games (bridge, 500 rummy, Michigan rummy), board games (Monopoly, in both French and English editions plus the new "Gay Monopoly", and Scrabble), and bingo. The Executive decided that for the first two times, bingo would be the choice. It is a game that any number can play and everyone knows how. So, check your Lambda calendars (enclosed) for the January and February dates, times, and locations. The bingo games will be limited to two hours in length, after which a pot luck meal will be held (see food schedule, also). The rules of the game are on the calendar.

NEWS ° NOUVELLES ° NEWS ° NOUVELLES ° NEWS ° NOUVELLES °

▼ Leningrad, USSR - A fledgling underground gay organization,

the first in this nation, has been established here and there are hopes of establishing a network of similar groups across the USSR. The group has about 30 members who held study sessions throughout October on different aspects of gay identity and the liberation movement. Homosexual conduct is punished by five years in prison under the Penal Code. The new group hopes to find international support to have such laws repealed or reformed. (*The Body Politic, Toronto*)

▼ *DJAKARTA, Indonesia* - Lambda Indonesia, this nation's first gay liberation organization, reports growing national recognition of the existence of the gay movement in this country and a major breakthrough in its outreach to Indonesian lesbians. Three national newsmagazines have given the group positive coverage and letters have been pouring into the group's headquarters. An article in a women's magazine sparked dozens of letters from isolated lesbians who contacted the organization for the first time. (*The Body Politic, Toronto*)

▼ *NEW YORK CITY* - Senator John Glenn, Democratic candidate for his party's nomination for President, does not support lesbian and gay rights. "(I would not) do anything as President that could be interpreted as advocacy or promotion of homosexuality" and "I will not sponsor or support legislation to extend Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act to include sexual preference." The National Gay Task Force has challenged his remarks. As a result of Glenn's anti-gay statements, New York State Senator Manfred Ohrenstein, a Glenn campaigner, withdrew his support of the Presidential candidate. Ohrenstein, who represents part of Manhattan with one of the country's largest gay constituencies, is the New York State minority leader and was crucial to Glenn's plan to win the majority of NY's 285 delegates to the Democratic Convention. Ohrenstein stated that Glenn's remarks "eroded his credibility on civil rights issues, while alienating the liberal as well as the gay community, and thereby endangering his capability of beating Reagan." (*Gay Community News, Boston*)

▼ *PORTLAND, Maine* - The Maine Civil Liberties Union is currently involved in two lesbian-rights cases in this state. *Marjorie Arber v. Maine Children's Home* - Ms. Arber was approved as an adopting parent after one and a half years of observation and testing. The Home revoked approval when they became aware of the fact that Ms. Arber was gay, although she had been told from the start that sexual

Season's Greetings  
Merry Christmas  
Joyeux Noël

Happy 1984

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preference was not a material factor. A private suit against the adoption agency may be filed; the MCLU may also bring further legal action.

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*Diane Matthews v. Marsh* - Ms. Matthews was dismissed from the ROTC program at UMO because she is gay. The Army presented no claim of any overt action by her and maintained that because of national security, it had the right to make such a judgment. Ms. Matthews is challenging the Army's policy of discriminating against homosexuals as a violation of Constitutional rights of freedom of association and privacy. Trial has been held in US District Court in Portland and a decision is expected soon. (*Maine Civil Liberties Newsletter*) IF YOU CAN, it benefits us all to JOIN THE MAINE CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION. Yearly membership costs as little as \$5. They support us; let's support them. MCW, 97A Exchange Street, Portland 04101.

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▼ *NEW YORK CITY* - Through the Freedom of Information Act, gay activist and political scientist Dan Simonoski has discovered the extent of FBI surveillance of the lesbian and gay movement, 1950-1980. Documents reveal the existence of FBI surveillance files (as of April 1, 1983) on the following gay and lesbian groups: Daughters of Bilitis, East Coast Homophile Organization, Gay Academic Union, Gay Activist Alliance, Gay Liberation Front, Gay Rights National Lobby, Lesbian Feminist Liberation, Mattachine/New York, Mattachine Society, National Gay Task Force, One, Inc., Radical/Lesbians, and the Society for Individual Rights. (*Task Force Report, NGTF*)

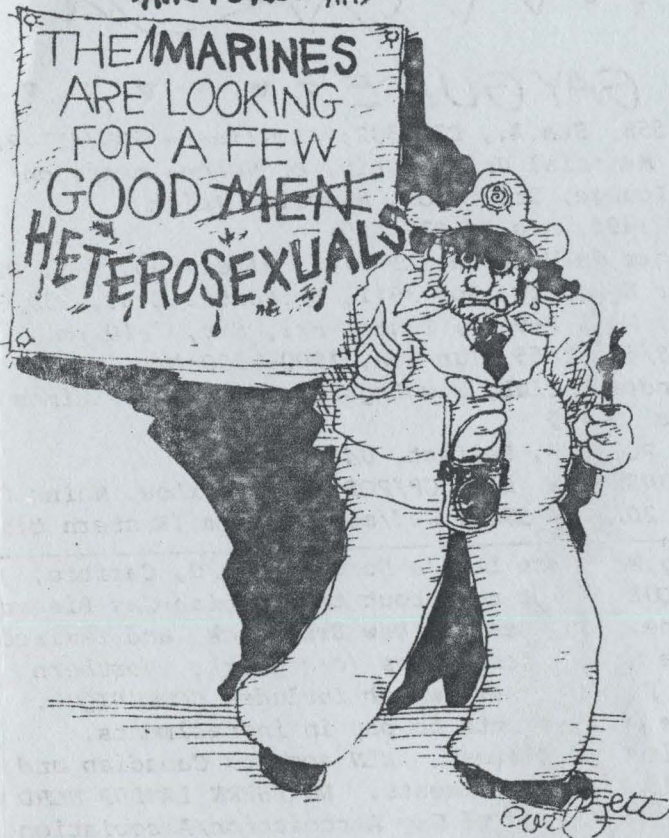
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▼ *WASHINGTON, DC* - The US Air Force has launched a major investigation of enlisted men in this area, with at least 45 men being questioned about homosexuality, according to the Gay Rights National Lobby. GRNL has received reports of some men asked to identify other gaymen and lesbians in the AF in exchange for better treatment for themselves. One man said that his room had been searched and personal items were confiscated. DC's Gay Activist Alliance staged a two-hour picket in front of the main gate to Bolling Air Force Base to protest AF policy to identify and discharge personnel suspected of being gay. About 40 lesbians and gaymen participated. During the picket, a brief press conference was held at which time organizers of the demonstration challenged the AF position of discharging gay people. It was pointed out that investigation into people's sexuality could only succeed if someone talked. If people did not admit to anything, no evidence could be obtained to implicate a service member under investigation. (*Gay Community News, Boston*)



# BIBLIOTHEQUE LAMBDA

Reports from the stacks reveal that slow progress is being made to compile a new cataloging of our library. New file cards have been completed for 98% of the books. Current total volumes is 148. This does not include guidebooks: Spartacus Club, New England Directory, Gayellow Pages (northeast US, New York/New Jersey, and national - US & Canada - editions, 1983). The newest addition to the guides is *Le Guide Gai du Québec, 1983*. We currently receive 31 periodicals, including newsletters from other groups as well as editions of *Gay Community News* (Boston), *The Body Politic* (Toronto), *Sortie* (Montréal), *Fine Print* (Edmonton, Alberta), *The Advocate* (Los Angeles), *Rencontres Gai* (Montréal), and *RFD, a Country Journal for Gay Men Everywhere* (North Carolina). Magazines and books may be borrowed by NLN members. Just stop by the Lambda office; Wednesday nights is open house, 6:30-9 pm, Maine time.

## AIR FORCE AND



"There!..."

## A COUNTRY JOURNAL FOR GAY MEN EVERYWHERE



**RFD**

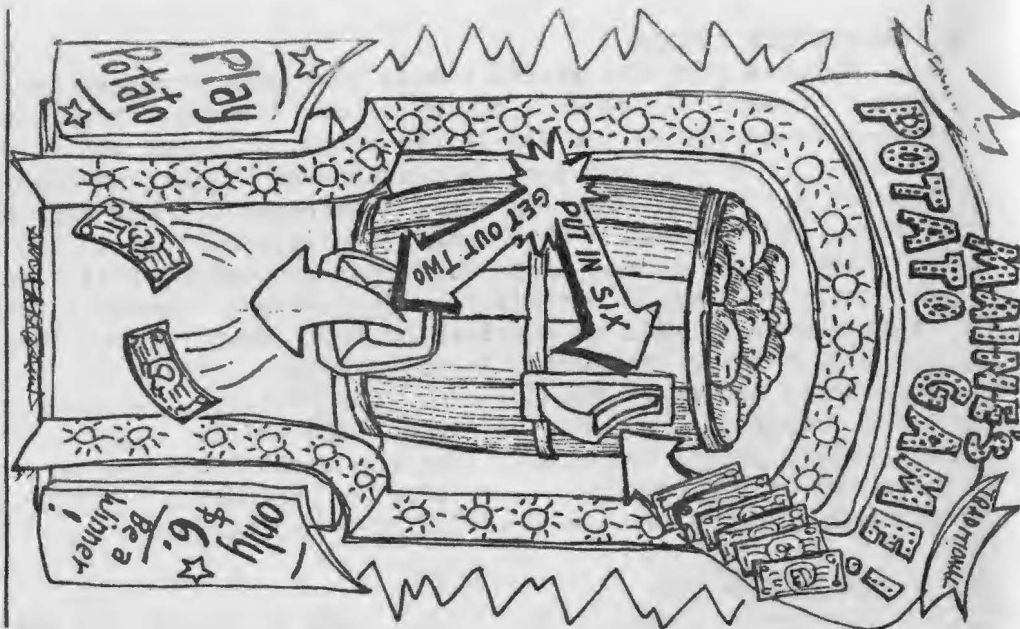
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- FREDERICTON: FLAG, POB 1556, Sta.A., E3B 5G2; FLAGline - 506/457-2156
- ORONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, Univ. of Maine; meets on Sundays, 7 pm, Peabody Lounge, 3rd floor, Memorial Union
- SAINT JOHN: LAGO-SJ, POB 6494, Sta.A., E2L 4R9
- 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, 418/521-2555, lun-ven, 1900-2300 hrs.
- WEBWORK, women's correspondence club, New England and the Maritimes - Box 131-N, Calais, Maine 04919
- MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS: POB 1556, Belfast 04915
- NORTHERN MAINE AND NEW BRUNSWICK: NLN, CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736  
Télégai/Gay Phoneline: 207/588-5888, Wed/mer: 7-9 pm (Eastern time)

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