

Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

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▼ REFLECTIONS - by Norm E.

Life is a troubled isthmus between two eternities. We are faced by love, corruption, temptation, thoughtfulness, and thoughtlessness.

We want, and we cannot have. We strive to perform our best, we are shot down by our peers. We love, but we cannot be loved. Why? I ask such turmoil when there need not be. One simple solution to all man's problems -- LOVE -- a four-letter word so distorted by so many.

We were taught, as children, to love all mankind. Do unto others as ye would have them do unto you. A great motto but too soon to be forgotten. Why not try to do more for our neighbours? Neighbours, not those that live next door, but all those who live about us. Are you doing what you can for your neighbour? We are too quick to criticize and find faults but not willing to look within our hearts.

We live in a world of many mixed societies. I would like to impress upon you readers the need to accept all mankind. It is not his or her fault the way he or she is, but it is his or her chosen way of life. We must endeavour to accept those who are the so-called "straights" as well as they must be willing to accept our way of life. We must present ourselves as common as they be.

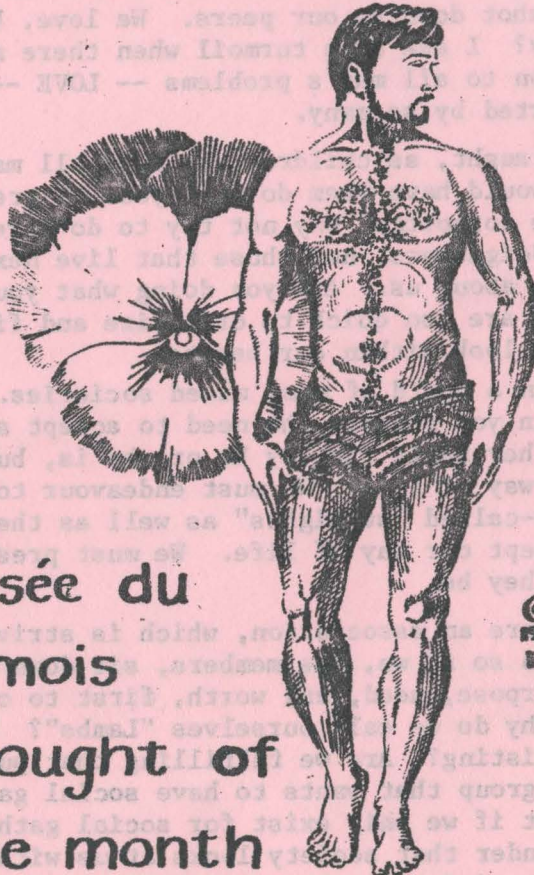
We have here an association, which is striving to exist, but can only do so if we, the members, sit down and take a good look at our purpose, need, and worth, first to ourselves; then, to society. Why do we call ourselves "Lambs"? What is our purpose for existing? Are we fulfilling that purpose? Or, are we just a group that wants to have social gatherings? Let me suggest that if we only exist for social gatherings then there is no wonder that society looks at us with a dubious eye. We must put our minds together and show society that we are not just a group of "faggots" who like to get our "rocks" off. This kind of slang and vulgar language upsets me. We have to show society that we, too, can do for society something worthwhile. Let us begin to take on a new light for 1984.

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Let us prepare some sort of projects to help the needy in society. You cannot tell me that society will not recognize a group that is willing to help our fellow men and women.

We also have to present ourselves not as gays but as people striving to accomplish a goal in life. We may not like to admit it, but we live in a world of "so-called straights." Let that be what it may. Let us accept that and not reject the predominately so-called view, and move onward.

I want to challenge each member to offer more to the association than just his or her ten dollar membership. Or, my friend, we are going to face far greater problems than we do right now. I just want to reiterate: We are only as strong an association as each member is strong. ♡



Pensée du
mois

Thought of
the month

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1981
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▼ CARIBOU WINTER CARNIVAL UPDATE

So far, here's the story. The Caribou Chamber of Commerce refused to print our ad in the 1984 Winter Carnival Booklet. A press release was sent out stating that NLN had informed the Maine Human Rights Commission that the Caribou Chamber was discriminating against us because we were a gay/lesbian group. WAGM-TV in Presque Isle reported the incident on January 17; it was the first news item on the 6 pm news that day. The report was also carried in Gay Community News, the weekly out of Boston, on the front page, and the National Gay News Radio Network broadcast a report on their February 3-5 newscast. (Tape recordings of the TV and the radio reports are on file in the Bibliothèque Lambda audio tape section; GCN is in the periodicals section). All three of these news 'bureaus' (TV, GCN, radio) contacted the Caribou Chamber, which had no comment for anyone.

The Human Rights Commission in Maine wrote us that gay people are not covered under any legal protections against discrimination in Maine. The Commission director suggested that we consult an attorney. The Executive voted to contact the Maine Civil Liberties Union to ascertain our legal position. That is where the case stands now.

My personal feeling is that we have no legal ground to stand on (we'll have to wait and see what the MCLU says). But, every time we apply for something and are refused access (to newspaper advertising, to use of the Caribou Country Club for a dance, to put a notice in the local celebration booklets) we are building up a stronger and stronger case documenting the discrimination gay people face. Eventually, the Maine Legislature will act to alleviate this unfair situation. I feel we must continue to submit ads in the local weeklies, to repeatedly request rental space in local halls for gay dances, to submit ads in the Acadian Festival booklet in Madawaska (June), the Potato Blossom Festival book in Fort Fairfield (July), and the Houlton July 4th celebration booklet.

And, as far as legal protections go, the Maine Gay/Lesbian Rights bill will be up again in 1985. The Symposium in March would be a good place to begin planning our lobbying efforts. And Governor Brennan needs some push to enact an Executive Order banning discrimination in the Executive Branch of Maine state government. Several other state governors have done just that; lobbying the Governor goes hand-in-hand with the Rights Bill effort.

▼ MORE ADVERTISING WITH LOCAL OUTREACH IN MIND

At their February meeting in Northampton, the Executive voted to spend money on small paid ads in the student newspapers

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at three University of Maine campuses: Presque Isle, Fort Kent, and Orono; plus in the *Collège Maillet* student newspaper, and the paper at the N-B Community College in Woodstock (if they have a paper). Outreach will be targeted to students during the academic year who attend school in our area plus students from our area who attend Orono. During the summer and a couple of times during the winter, advertising may be placed in local weeklies. But the emphasis now is on the college campuses.

▼ ANY MORE IDEAS HOW WE CAN SPEND MONEY?...

As noted in last month's *Communiqué*, Lambda is preparing a grant application to apply for money from the Chicago Resource Center, who is giving funds to lesbian and gay groups. At the January discussion group, a list of suggestions was compiled of things which we could use money for. Here is part of that list. It is reprinted here to get your minds working -- what else can you add to the list?

OFFICE - fire-proof file cabinets with a lock; bookcases and shelving; desk; mimeograph stencil-cutter (electronic); Canon photocopier; postage meter; typewriter; lamps; clock; telephone; paper cutter; safe; miscellaneous office supplies (scissors, paper, envelopes, etcetera).

FOR NLN AT LARGE - video cassette recorder; blank video tapes; color TV; video camera; storage cabinet for video equipment; tape recorder; 35mm camera; movie camera; slide projector; movie projector; video tapes of movies ("Word is Out", "Boys in the Band", "Naked Civil Servant", etcetera); health and p.e. equipment (footballs, softballs, bats, gloves, volleyball, badminton, etcetera); Camping equipment - tents, cooking, etcetera; Picnic and cookout equipment; winter sports supplies;

FUNDS - to send members of NLN to meetings, colloquia, etcetera

FUNDS - to bring speakers to us, pay for transportation, fees

COMMUNITY - Funds to send pamphlets on gay and lesbian lifestyles to doctors' offices (Medical, psychiatric, Mental Health Center, etcetera); Funds to purchase books to donate to local libraries such as Univ. of Maine at Presque Isle, Fort Kent, NMVTI, *Collège Maillet* in Edmundston, N-B Community College in Woodstock. (Sample gay-lesbian books for all ages) (suggested that we send "pilot" books to libraries - if they are receptive, donate more books for their collection)

Bibliothèque Lambda - funds for books for our own library.

WHAT SUGGESTIONS CAN YOU ADD TO THIS LIST? We'll be discussing it at later meetings. The grant application is due to Chicago at the end of March! Much has to be done; any suggestions which you have are greatly appreciated. *Merci.* ▼

▼ A RESPONSE TO LAST MONTH'S BACK SETTLEMENTS W/O TOWEL column

"T.M.H.C. - "Living in the Back Settlements Without a Towel" - Writing about your frustrations regarding people not participating in organizing events, etc., is a good communication tool. But how about this -- when you have volunteered to assist in organizing an activity ask a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger in the group to assist you. I'm not speaking about your partner, date, etc., but about those other individuals. Some people need to be asked directly instead of generalizing in the group. I see this as having a few possibilities: (1) getting someone different involved; (2) giving this person a feeling of caring by her/his peers; (3) you getting to know another human being; (4) help taking the load from the "good old dependables"; (5) the person you've asked may discover they are enjoying themselves and will participate more in the group. In turn the person may ask a friend, acquaintance or stranger to assist them. QUESTION: Will the above suggestion work? We will only know the answer if we give it a try." /s/ Reta ▼

▼ MAINE SYMPOSIUM XI

Plans are being finalized for our annual statewide gathering, the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XI. Scheduled for Friday through Sunday, March 23-25, 1984, it will be held at the Memorial Union on the campus of the University of Maine at Orono. Registration is a sliding scale, \$5-15, whatever you can afford. Housing is provided free of charge. Two dances are planned, one for Friday, one for Saturday. Workshops, discussion groups, a coffeehouse, sales of gay and lesbian books, art displays and sales are all planned. We will have use of the entire Memorial Union building. The building is wheelchair accessible; signing for hearing-impaired people will be provided if requested in advance; readers for sight-impaired persons will be provided if needed. Workshop topics will focus on: statewide communications, media, the International Year of Lesbian and Gay Action (UN March and Conference in September); discussion of such issues as couples, coming out, marriage and divorce, parents of gays and gay parents, health and legal issues affecting gay people; more. A registration form will be included in the March newsletter. For more information or to register, send your name, address, contact phone, request for housing (with male/female/no preference; smoking/non-smoking) request for signing or readers, how many nights you will need housing, plus money (\$5-15) to: Symposium XI, Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono, 04473. ▼

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Gordon Fairweather, président de la Commission canadienne des droits de la personne, a laissé entendre devant le Comité permanent de la justice et des questions juridiques que la Charte des droits de la Constitution canadienne, qui entrera pleinement en vigueur le 15 avril 1985, pourrait bien apporter une certaine protection aux lesbiennes et aux hommes gais.

Répondant à une question de la députée Lynn McDonald (NPD) lors d'une séance du comité portant sur l'étude du Rapport annuel de la commission le 14 décembre dernier, Fairweather a rapporté une déclaration du ministre de la Justice à l'effet que la liste des droits à l'égalité de la Section 15 de la charte ne devait pas être considérée comme exhaustive et que d'autres droits pouvaient y être reconnus, comme la préférence sexuelle, par exemple.

Il a déclaré que la Charte constituait un point tournant en matière du législaton sur les droits de la personne et il a rappelé aux membres du comité qu'il ne restait au gouvernement qu'un temps limité pour faire en sorte que la législation s'accorde avec les dispositions de la charte dans son intégralité.

Plusieurs sections du Code criminel touchent spécifiquement les personnes gaies, comme l'âge de consentement, tandis que d'autres sont utilisées presque exclusivement à l'endroit des gais, comme les dispositions sur la sodomie et la grossière indécence.▼

▼ CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS TO COVER GAYS? (G.O.Info, Ottawa)

Gordon Fairweather, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, told the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee that lesbians and gaymen may very well be protected when the Charter of Rights in the Canadian Constitution comes into full effect on April 15, 1985.

Responding to a question from MP Lynn McDonald (NDP) at a meeting of the committee held to consider the Commission's Annual Report on December 14, Fairweather stated "the Minister of Justice said the list of equality rights of Section 15 of the Charter was not meant to be all-inclusive -- there were other rights that could be asserted; for instance, sexual preference."

He stated that the Charter would be a turning point in regards to human rights legislation and reminded the members of the committee that only a limited time was left for "governments to harmonize their legislation" with the provisions of the entire Charter.

Many sections of the Criminal Code are specifically directed towards gays such as the age of consent, while other laws are used almost exclusively against gays such as the buggery and gross indecency provisions.▼

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▼ CHILD CUSTODY CASE COMES TO AN END...FINALLY

After several years and at least two court battles, a gay woman has finally won custody of the youngest of her three children. Her middle child will remain at his father's; the eldest is at university and is over 18 years of age. The presiding judge withheld his ruling until after he was confirmed to sit on the bench of a higher Maine court. Martha Grant, a Presque Isle attorney, argued the case for the mother. Assistance was provided by GLAD - Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, a legal assistance group in Boston. ▼

▼ MASQUERADE IN LEWISTON IN MAY

The Sportsman's Athletic Club is sponsoring a Gay Pride Masquerade Ball on Saturday, May 12 at the Multi-Purpose Center, 145 Birch Street in Lewiston. Tickets are \$3 and must be purchased by March 15, 1984. No tickets will be sold at the door. The gayla event will be fully licensed; there will be security for everyone's benefit. Contact and make checks payable to Roland Blais, Box 161, Sabattus, Maine 04280. The underlying purpose of this event is to bring gay people in Maine together as a unit of strength. It has been proven in other cities and states that, as a unified force, lesbians and gaymen can have a strong influence on issues before the legislature. We can have more impact on elections of candidates. The Masquerade is aimed at bringing our community closer together. They will offer \$600 in cash prizes at the Ball. ▼

▼ HOLLY NEAR WILL APPEAR - HEAR, HEAR!

Holly Near, noted lesbian-feminist singer-songwriter, will appear in concert Friday, April 13, 1984 at 8 pm in Lengyel Gymnasium at the University of Maine at Orono. Anyone who is interested in more information may contact Karen Hartnagle, Route 2, Box 918, Carmel, Maine 04419. ▼

▼ ATTENTION

Gays and young prisoners threatened with sexual exploitation, in institutions everywhere, benefit from the work of The Prometheus Foundation, which also protects gays in society from rip-offs by unscrupulous inmates. For information on the PenPal Group and other vital programs, and a copy of FIRE!, the Foundation's newsletter, send a SASE to: Prometheus, POB 12954, Pittsburgh 15241. ▼

▼ GAY SOCIAL WORKERS ORGANIZE

The Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers has formally sanctioned a Committee on Lesbian-Gay Issues. The Committee's goals include providing peer support, exchange

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of information, promoting a climate of acceptance and understanding, contributing to the development of more complete services to gay and lesbian youth, engage in social action which promotes respect for gay people's individual values, and offering educational opportunities and information on lesbian and gay potentialities and needs to service providers working with this population. For more information, write to USM Social Welfare Department, Committee on Lesbian-Gay Issues (NASW), 96 Falmouth Street, Portland 04103. ▽

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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, 418/522-2555, 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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