

# Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

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May 1984

## ▼ MAINE PUBLIC RADIO FUNDRAISER

Five members of Northern Lambda Nord were present on Saturday, April 28, 1984, in Orono, Maine at the studios of MPBN Radio. They were at the Orono campus of the University of Maine to help MPBN with their fundraising efforts by staffing the telephones. In exchange for their help, MPBN provided beverages (sodas and coffee), sweets (cookies and the like), and supper (McDonald's, which was delivered). Eight people sat around a long table, each with a phone before her or him. (Three people there were not Lambs, but by the end of the four hours, they were well aware of the nature of the organization we represented.) From what was reported by listeners of MPBN during the 5-9 pm stint we staffed, NLN was only mentioned once. It did, however have an effect. The very first phonecall was from a gayman from coastal Maine who, having recognized the Lambda name, phoned in to donate some money to the station. Who knows how much more money would have been raised, donated by lesbians and gaymen in the listening area, if they had known other lesbians and gaymen were answering the phones.

In addition to the phone staffing, Ben, whose painting was featured in the May issue of the MPBN Radio Guide, was interviewed during one of the breaks.

At the end of the evening, the Program Director was approached by one of the Northern Lambs and questioned about his plans for future Maine-originating gay and lesbian-oriented programming. He is new to Maine, beginning his job at MPBN in December, and was not aware of the large number of groups in the state or of the statewide paper, *Our Paper*. But now he knows; we'll see what kind of programming he plans to provide for the 100,000 or so of us in Maine.

If you've never listened to Maine Public Broadcasting Network's radio station (106.5 FM, Presque Isle, plus 4 other stations in Calais, Waterville, Orono, and Portland), they don't have any commercials, thus the thrice-yearly fundraising. There are many gay/lesbian programmings produced by the Boston and San Francisco stations. Joining costs as little as \$5 per year.



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and they ask for your input about their programming. (MPBN Radio, Box 86, Orono, 04473) Listen some time. There's a lot of classical music during the day, and varied programming at night (jazz, reading aloud stories, excellent news and public affairs). The five Lambs had a good time. The next fundraiser is in July. Hopefully, NLN can get enough volunteers to sit at all eight places around the table. ▼

▼ SPEAKERS AT AMHC OFFICE IN MADAWASKA

By the time you read this, four NLN members, sort of a "speakers bureau", will have made a presentation and answered questions about homosexuality at the Madawaska office of the Aroostook Mental Health Center. Both the professional and supportive staff are expected to be in attendance at the May 15th presentation. Lambs are planning to continue this series of presentations at the Caribou, Presque Isle, and Houlton offices of AMHC, meeting with the counselors as well as the secretaries of each office, discussing being gay and lesbian people, how they can better deal with clients who come to the AMHC offices, and answering their questions. After some preliminary discussion among some of the Lambs, one of the most important things which will be presented, something which is emphasized in Don Clark's book, *Loving Someone Gay*, is for these AMHC people to deal with their own homophobia before they can successfully relate with/to gay people. That doesn't mean that gays are immune from this "phobia". It's something we all have to deal with. Not putting ourselves down.

A report will follow in the next newsletter. ▼

▼ MORE OUTREACH ATTEMPTED

It was reported in the local paper that the Caribou Public Schools are planning a Family Life Program which will include human sexuality. Accordingly, NLN has contacted the Junior and Senior High Schools, offering our services and "expertise" in dealing with homosexuality. A suggested book listing was prepared and the schools were urged to get in touch with us for more information. Time will tell if they decide to follow through. ▼

▼ UPDATE ON THE WINTER CARNIVAL BOOKLET INCIDENT

The Maine Civil Liberties Union has notified NLN that the Caribou Chamber of Commerce acted illegally by denying us advertising space in their 1984 Winter Carnival booklet, since about one-third of the Chamber's funding is public funds (from the City of Caribou). The law firm of Grant and Linthicum in

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Presque Isle will be contacted by the MCLU to see if they will take our case. The lawyers do not get paid; both Martha Grant and Cary Linthicum expressed interest but were both too busy at this time to take on another caseload, especially one which will not pay them any money. The MCLU is going to ask this firm if they will take the case by mid-June, assuming their workload will decrease. If it is not possible for Grant and Linthicum to handle the case, the MCLU will have to continue their search for a cooperating attorney in Aroostook County. If you know of an attorney in the County that you like and that you feel would be supportive (the attorney should not be a member of the Caribou Chamber, as some Caribou attorneys are), please contact the Executive Committee. ▽

▽ MAY SARTON, MAINE POET/AUTHOR, TO BE HONORED

The Fund for Human Dignity will present their Award of Merit to May Sarton, noted Maine resident and author of 12 volumes of poetry, 17 novels, and seven books of non-fiction. This award is for her "contribution to the education of the American public about the lives of lesbians and gaymen." Her most recent work, a journal entitled *At Seventy*, has just been published by W.W.Norton. Our lending library, *Bibliothèque Lambda*, includes several of her works including *Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing*, *As We Are Now*, and *I Knew A Phoenix*. This year's dinner marks the tenth anniversary of the Fund for Human Dignity, which is the non-profit, tax-exempt educational affiliate of the National Gay Task Force. The awards dinner is May 14 at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. ▽

▽ Here's another first-hand account of one person's weekend at the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XI at the Orono campus of the University of Maine, March 23, 23, and 25, 1984.

▽ IMPRESSIONS OF SYMPOSIUM XI FROM A NEW BRUNSWICKER, by Hank W

Just to the east of the State of Maine lies the Province of New Brunswick. All Mainers know this and certainly no one better than the readers of *Communiqué*, since many are New Brunswickers. It was with a bit of apprehension, then, that I accepted the invitation to write an article on Symposium XI in Orono. After all, what could I say about the symposium to a readership that consists of both Americans and Canadians that either they don't already know or that they might dispute. It is my aim, therefore, to give my impressions from personal observations and hope that I am not called on by the Lambs to back up these impressions with fact or statistics.

There were many items which impressed me about the conference, but I shall try to limit myself to just a few. Probably the



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first would have been the organization which went into it. When first perusing the application form at the FLAG office, I was struck by the obvious care in planning as to billeting, sliding scale payment, and interpretation for hearing impaired or readers for the blind. Keeping in mind that we in Canada sometimes view things done in the States as being in some ways better, I was not surprised to see these things listed, especially the aid for disabled persons. After all, we are a minority who knows what it's like to be left out, so it's natural that we should make a concerted effort to help out any other minority. Although I did not attend all sessions, I'm under the impression that these services were neither needed nor used. Whether needed or not, it was nice to see that provisions were made to try to fill them.

The second and probably strongest impression made was by the keynote speakers. By nature a sermon timer, I don't sit through speeches well, no matter how fascinating the subject. It was a pleasure, therefore, to hear both Diane Elze and Richard Steinman. When Diane first started, I wasn't exactly sure what she meant to "get at" (and I wonder if those who heard her might not agree, especially as she seemed so nervous); however, as she progressed, I felt a bond growing among the members of the audience, a bond that I have felt far too seldom and one which I enjoy. It was a feeling of solidarity and a feeling of "self love", i.e. what I do is worthwhile, good and appreciated by those around me. This was, to me, the self love that Diane spoke of. Equally, Richard Steinman proved entertaining and informative. I felt that he spoke eloquently and to the point and (miracle of miracles) he finished exactly on time (see "sermons", above).

These speakers also pointed out one area which I had not realized existed - that is, my complete ignorance of matters American. It is one thing to have moved to Canada twelve years ago and to have kept up with the American scene, especially political. However, I was constantly both amazed and perturbed by my lack of knowledge of so many facets of gay life. I'm thinking particularly of important legal challenges or court fights from all parts of the U.S. down to services offered for gays in Maine or the social scene in Portland. Of these I know virtually nothing. (It is gratifying to have *Our Paper* to help take up some of the slack in my knowledge). The mind boggles that an arbitrary line on a map can separate us in so many ways. I came away from these speeches with a desire to educate myself in these areas and never again to be quite so devoid of knowledge of these topics.

One last impression sticks in my mind and it is for me the



most satisfying. The camaraderie that builds up between people at conferences such as these is both wonderful and greatly needed. It would be a cheap shot at gay lifestyles to ask what kind of "camaraderie" I mean. I don't, of course, refer to the inevitable pairing off of partners for sex; rather, the deep and genuine friendship that begins and grows, being nurtured by the common concern to see the gay movement continue. On a personal note, I thoroughly enjoyed meeting those Lambs attending and was very much flattered to be asked to help out in the article for *Our Paper* on rural gays. Much has been made in discussion of the work done by Dick and Phil, and it was especially rewarding to me to get to know them better. This is the camaraderie to which I refer.

And so, you see that my impressions are not yours, although they might be the same topics which excited you. Symposia such as these provide a lot of fun but even more so a chance for growth. In the closeted society in which so many rural gays exist, this growth is absolutely imperative for survival. I am glad that Symposium XI took place to help me in this growth. I hope to see you in Portland next year. ▼

## Pensées du mois

'Thoughts'  
of the  
month



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▼ DONATIONS POLICY

Everyone is probably aware that NLN survives on both memberships (which are only \$10 yearly) plus donations collected at every gathering. The majority of the money is used to pay for this newsletter -- paper, duplicating, envelopes, postage. The donation policy is simple: \$1 for members (or food donation at pot luck meals) and \$2 for non-members. The three big parties in the fall/early winter are \$2 for members, \$5 for others (at Hallowe'en, Christmas, and New Years gatherings). That's not a lot of money to ask from each person, considering that NLN parties are the only gay and lesbian events within 200 miles or more.

At the party in Presque Isle on May 5, 29 people were in attendance yet only \$11 was collected in the donation can. It seems that when people are not approached one by one to give money, very few take it upon themselves to give. So don't be upset if at the next gatherings you are asked, point blank, to pay. It has also been suggested that the non-member's "donation" be increased to \$5 for every big party -- Memorial Day, July, Fall, and other specials in addition to the three mentioned above. This will be discussed at the May 20th meeting in Frenchville. ▼

▼ L'EGLISE UNIE DECIDERA AU MOIS D'AOUT...

Dès 1985, les homosexuels reconnus comme tels pourront être ordonnés ministres de l'Eglise unie, si les recommandations d'un groupe spécial de travail sont acceptées par le General Council lors de sa réunion au Manitoba, en août prochain. Les 60 membres de la "Division of Ministry Personnel and Education" de l'église ont récemment approuvé les principales conclusions présentées par le groupe, à savoir que l'orientation sexuelle ne devrait pas être considérée comme le facteur déterminant l'éligibilité au sacerdoce. L'étude menée sur l'orientation sexuelle et l'éligibilité sacerdotale s'est poursuivie pendant un an et demi. Particulièrement affecté par le nombre de réactions homophobes manifestées par la société au cours de l'étude, le groupe insiste sur la nécessité pour tous les membres de l'église en général d'en savoir davantage sur la sexualité et l'orientation sexuelle. Il n'existe aucun argument, qu'il soit d'ordre biblique, théologique, moral, ou médical, permettant d'affirmer que les gais et les lesbiennes doivent être exclus du sacerdoce. (GO Info, Ottawa) ▼

▼ UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA TO ORDAIN GAYS?

Self-proclaimed homosexuals could be ordained as United Church ministers as early as 1985 if a special task group's recommendation is accepted by the General Council meeting

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this August in Manitoba. The church's 60-member Division of Ministry Personnel and Education recently approved the group's principal conclusion: sexual orientation should not be a factor determining ministerial eligibility. Disturbed by the amount of societal homophobia revealed in the course of its work, the task group stresses the need for United Church members at large to "engage in serious study and learning about human sexuality and sexual orientation." No biblical, theological, moral, or health arguments could be found to support the exclusion of gaymen and lesbians from the ministry. In fact, the task group discovered that the church at times has fostered society's deeply-ingrained fears and hatred of homosexuals by providing theological "justification" for acts of cruelty and discrimination. (GO Info, Ottawa) ▽

### ▽ GAYMEN FORM FIIM CIUB

Five local men have organized a gay film club. The films will be both gay male films and some Hollywood-type films, whatever is available on video. These films will be shown several times each month at locations in central and northern Aroostook. Two films will be shown each time; pay-as-you-go memberships are \$5 per viewing, or you may purchase a 6-month or one-year's membership, each at discounted prices. These memberships allow you to view the films as many times as you wish each month for no extra charge. Private showings (for individuals, couples, or small groups) may be arranged. Some of the films are: *Kansas City Trucking Company*, *Performance*, *Huge*, and *El Paso Wrecking Company*. If you are interested in being on the club's mailing list to be notified of dates, times, and films shown (two new films each month), contact Phil. PLEASE NOTE: This film club is not organized by nor is it part of Northern Lambda Nord. It is an independent club formed by men interested in gay films and Hollywood films which are not available in this area at theatres. ▽

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▼ NEW ORGANIZATION FORMED FOR MEN TO MEET MEN

Friendship Ink is a new Maine-based organization which is designed to provide men in New England an opportunity to meet one another. For a membership fee of \$10, you send in a questionnaire which tells your interests, hobbies, likes, and questions what you are looking for (penpals, nearby friends, "someone special", etcetera). You then receive the information sheets of four men matched to you in ways you requested on your sheet. You make initial contact with the men by phone or letter. Your info sheet is kept on file to be sent to other men indefinitely, if you so request. If you are interested, a sample questionnaire is on file in the Lambda office, or you may write directly to: Friendship Ink, POB 3153, Auburn, Maine 04210. Tell them you read about it in *Communiqué*. ▼

**LESBIAN-GAY GUIDE LESBIEN-GAI ▼▼▼▼▼**

- ▼ FREDERICTON: FLAG, POB 1556, Sta. A., E3B 5G2; FLAGline - 506/457-2156, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8-10 pm.
- ▼ ORONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, Univ. of Maine; meets Sundays, 7 pm, Peabody Lounge, 3rd floor, Memorial Union.
- ▼ SAINT JOHN: LAGO-SJ, POB 6494, Sta. A., E2L 4R9.
- ▼ MONCTON: GLM (Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton), CP 7102, Riverview, E1B 1V0.
- ▼ HALIFAX: GAE (Gay Alliance for Equality), Box 3611, So. Postal Sta., B3J 3K6; 902/429-6969, M,T,W, 7-9 pm & Th, F, Sat, 7-10 pm.
- ▼ WEBWORK: women's correspondence club, New England & Maritimes - Box 131-N, Calais, Maine 04619.
- ▼ MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS: POB 125, Belfast 04915.
- ▼ OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine - monthly newspaper, \$10 per year - POB 10744, Portland 04104.
- ▼ 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/Heure de l'est)

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