Northern Lambda Nord Communique, Vol.5, No.9 (November 1984)

Northern Lambda Nord

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This issue of Communiqué is devoted to the November 6th elections in Aroostook County. There are also reports on Northern Lambda Nord's fiscal status, a summary of the last general business meeting, a schedule of the Maine non-violence weekend, news about our grant and the Caribou Winter Carnival case, and some short items, Nouvelles en bref.

A reminder one last time: memberships expired October 1, 1984. As of October 30, 36 of last year's 59 members renewed. Thank you. If you have not sent in your 1985 membership, there's a renewal form enclosed (the last one you'll receive). If you renewed early and sent $10, please don't forget to send $3 more for the increased rate. NLN accepts Canadian and U.S. funds at par, and if you're short on funds, get in touch with the office; arrangements for installment payments are no problem.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Society has always regarded marital love as a sacred expression of the bond between a man and a woman. It is the means by which families are created and society itself is extended into the future. In the Judeo-Christian tradition it is the means by which a husband and wife participate with God in the creation of a new human life. It is for these reasons, among others, that our society has always sought to protect this unique relationship. In part, the erosion of these values has given way to celebration of forms of expression most reject. We will resist the efforts of some to obtain government endorsement of homosexuality." statement of President Ronald Reagan, clarifying his earlier news conference pronouncement, "...I am opposed to discrimination period."

WE'RE A LARGE BLOCK OF VOTES

According to a recent issue of U.S. News and World Report, gay men and lesbians form the seventh largest voting bloc in the United States. The list is: (1) women with 91 million, (2) evangelical Christians, 40 million, (3) people age 18-24, 29 million, (4) elderly, over 65 years of age, 28.2 million, (5) blacks, 19 million, (6) union members, 18 million, and (7) lesbians and gay men, 17 million. The magazine arrived at the calculation based on 10% of the voting age population.

POLITICS AT TEA DANCE

The Central Maine Gay/Lesbian Awareness Coalition of Lewiston (POB 7917) is sponsoring a "Your Vote Counts Tea Dance" Sunday, November 4, 4-8 pm, at the Sportsman (2 Bates Street, Lewiston - 784-2251). There is a $3 donation; a DJ will play the music. People are asked to wear combinations of red, white, and blue "so the place looks like someone's campaign headquarters. Come and party and celebrate OUR unalienable right for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. If you can't join us, please don't forget to vote!"

CANDIDATES QUERIED ON STAND ON 'GAY RIGHTS' LEGISLATION by Dick

From October 9-23, a telephone survey was made of all the candidates for the Maine Legislature who wish to represent Aroostook County in Augusta. This past year, redistricting has reduced the number of House districts in the County from 14 to 12; there remain three Senate districts in Aroostook. The question each candidate was asked was: "The Maine Human Rights Commission will have the so-called 'Gay Rights Bill' re-introduced in the
legislature this next session. If you are elected, do you feel you will support this bill?" Some candidates asked questions, many did not. Here are their responses. I leave it to you to decide if the candidate in your district deserves your support.

IN THE SENATE: (* indicates the incumbent) See map for your district
District 1 (northern Aroostook) - PAUL VIOLETTE from Van Buren (Democrat) running unopposed. I was unable to reach him by phone (phone number not listed in directory). His record has been consistently supportive each time the bill was in the legislature, and has been the only County Senator to support the bill every year (the only County legislator for that matter). He's running unopposed.

District 2 (central Aroostook) - HOLLIS SMITH (Democrat, Presque Isle): "Don't ask me to vote for gay rights. Man was made to love a woman, not another man."
- JAMES McBREARTY (Republican, Perham): "Decide from my past record." His past record? -- He voted IN FAVOR of the bill last year.

District 3 (southern Aroostook) - MIKE CARPENTER (Democrat, Houlton): "I can't support it for personal reasons." Last year, when Senator Conley sponsored the bill, that was the closed Mike said he came to supporting it, but won't this year.
- RAY BIRD (Fort Fairfield, Republican): "I stand against discrimination, regardless of the reason. I cannot say yes or no about supporting the bill."

IN THE HOUSE See accompanying map to find out your new district. (* indicated incumbent)
140 - JOHN ROGERS (Rep., Hodgdon): "I don't feel we need any more laws on discrimination. We have all we need."
- CARL B. SMITH (Dem., Island Falls): "I don't believe you people have any more problems. Many people 'flaunt it'. I feel the same way about Blacks -- give them an inch, they take a mile."

141 - GENNETTE INGRAHAM (Rep., Houlton): "I don't feel this is a subject for legislation. I don't think a person's sex life should be legislated."
- WILLIAM B. SWALES (Dem., Houlton): "I don't know as I could (support the bill). I must confess a certain amount of ignorance." He requested, and was sent, literature about gay people, things Lambda has handed out at several speaking engagements, dealing with religion, coming out, myths, general questions.

142 - MARY McBRIDE (Rep., Presque Isle): "Whenever any of us deviate from the norm, we must pay the price for it. There are established codes of conduct in America." She said she would "probably not" support the bill.
- JAMES TWEDE, SR. (Dem., Blaine): "No, I couldn't" support the bill.

143 - LINWOOD RAYMOND (Rep., Mapleton): He had mixed feelings about the bill; was generally negative.
- JOHN LISNIK (Dem., Presque Isle): "I have a lot of sympathy and understand the difficulties of gays." He didn't say yes or no about supporting the bill.

144 - CARL W. SMITH (Rep., Mars Hill): "I can't see my way clear this year" to support it.
- CAROLINE MAHANY (Dem., Easton): (Try as I may, I was unable to reach her on the phone.)

145 - SUE PINES (Rep., Limestone): "I'm very doubtful" that I'll support the bill. "I didn't support it last time. When I see the bill, I could give you an answer."
- no Democratic candidate in District 145

146 - KENNETH MATTHEWS (Rep., Caribou): "I do not believe in the gay rights bill."
- no Democratic candidate in District 146

147 - This race puts two incumbents against each other, a result of the redistricting.
- PHILIP PETERSON (Rep., Caribou): "I would do nothing to hurt that group (he means us), but I couldn't support the legislation. I look at it in the same way as I look at the ERA. If they made the ERA law, my daughter would have to be in the army." (I couldn't believe he said that about the state ERA, which is on the ballot!!)
- STEVEN CROUSE (Dem., Caribou): "This is a most difficult issue. I've my own personal feelings versus my constituents'. I voted against it the last time with difficulty. My constituents are overwhelmingly against it. I'll probably vote against it."

148 - DIANA ADAMSON (Rep., New Sweden): "I can't say if I would or wouldn't" support the bill.
- HILDA MARTIN (Dem. Van Buren): "I'm going to have to hear more about it. I can't
say now. It depends upon the population in my district. I'm not prepared to make a commitment now."

149 -*EDWARD MCHENRY (Dem. Madawaska): "NEVER!"
- no Republican candidate in District 149

150 -*RAYNOLD THERIAULT (Dem., Fort Kent): "I haven't supported it so far. I'd give it serious consideration. I'm not giving a pat 'no'."
- no Republican candidate in District 150

151 -*JOHN MARTIN (Dem., Eagle Lake)- He is the Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, and does not vote unless there is a tie. Yet he has enormous power to influence legislation. I was unable to reach him by phone.
- no Republican candidate in District 151

The Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, the Maine Human Rights Commission, the Maine chapter of the National Organization of Women, and countless individuals will be working for passage of the 1985 "gay rights bill". Many people feel this is "our year" in Maine, the best time to date to pass this legislation. But each person has to make an effort to influence her or his representative. BEFORE this election, Tuesday, Nov.6, is a good time to start. CALL BOTH CANDIDATES IN YOUR DISTRICT! Ask them if they would support the bill. Let them know that you live in their district (you needn't tell them your name, only that you live in District X.) The simple act of calling and asking them about gay and lesbian rights legislation will send them the message that there ARE people in their district who want and need this bill passed. Here are their phone numbers:

Senate races:  Dist. 1 - Paul Violette (Can anyone find out his number?)
Dist. 2 - Hollis Smith - 769-8391  
  James McBreairty - 496-2541
Dist. 3 - Mike Carpenter - 532-2491  
  Ray Bird - 476-5951

House races: 140 - John Rogers - 532-2411  
  Carl B. Smith - 463-2192
141 - Gennette Ingraham - 532-2415  
  William Swales - 532-3140
142 - Mary MacBride - 769-0421  
  James Tweedie Sr. - 425-2231
143 - Linwood Raymond - 764-4205  
  John Lisnik - 764-0827
144 - Carl W. Smith - 425-6181  
  Caroline Mahany - 488-2741
145 - Sue Pines - 325-4821
146 - Kenneth Matthews - 498-3317
147 - Philip Peterson - 496-6001  
  Steven Crouse - 496-2451
148 - Diana Adamson - 896-5200  
  Hilda Martin - 868-2802
149 - Edward McHenry - 728-4365
150 - Raynold Theriault - 834-3082
151 - John Martin - 444-5560/5556

PLEASE NOTE: If you are not a registered voter, it is not too late! The State of Maine allows you to register at the polls on election day. THERE IS NO REASON WHY YOU CANNOT REGISTER AND VOTE! (Well, if you're a Canadian citizen, that's a pretty good reason).

Vote Tuesday, November 6!!!

STATE-WIDE ELECTIONS PIT GAY-SUPPORTIVE AND ANTI-GAY CANDIDATES

The following is reprinted from a flyer prepared by the Maine Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club:
"Maybe you think you're better off than you were four years ago.
"Maybe you don't.
"But if you're a Gay or Lesbian voter, think about this before you vote on November 6:
MONDALE/FERRARO
*Has promised to issue an executive order prohibiting discrimination against lesbians

MONDALE/FERRARO
*Has promised to issue an executive order prohibiting discrimination against lesbians and gaymen in Federal employment and the military.
*Is running on a platform which calls for an end to discrimination based on sexual preference (sic) in employment, immigration and the military; pledges to redouble government efforts to seek the cause and cure of AIDS; and work vigorously to address, document and end violence and bigotry against 'gay men and lesbians.'

*Has called for passage of the ERA and S430, the bill which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in all employment.

REAGAN/BUSH

*Reagan's Justice Department has directed the Assistant Secretary for Health to resume classifying foreign Gay people as psychopaths.

*Reagan's Department of Defense has increased the discharges of gaymen and lesbians from the military by 35%.

*A Reagan-appointed federal judge has just upheld the Defense Department's discharge of Gays, in a decision that attacks the right to privacy of Gay people. This judge, Robert Bork, is being prominently mentioned as Reagan's next appointment to the Supreme Court.

*Reagan told the "Biblical Scoreboard" in July, "In part, the erosion of (Judeo-Christian) values has given way to forms of sexual expression most reject. We will resist the efforts of some to obtain government endorsement of homosexuality."

...AND IN THE RACE FOR U.S. SENATE FROM MAINE: (another excerpt from flyer)

LIBBY MITCHELL

*Supports the Senate Gay Rights Bill (S241)

*I will oppose a move to test persons for HTLV-III antibodies to evaluate employees, or 'register' any group of persons." (HTLV-III is the virus thought to cause AIDS)

BILL COHEN

*Not a co-sponsor of S241. Doesn't believe anyone should be discriminated against, but "is not convinced that sexual preference (sic) should be treated as a Civil Right that warrants specific protection under Federal Law."

"VOTE IN YOUR OWN INTEREST ON NOVEMBER 6."

There was no mention of the Maine District 2 House of Representative race between Olympia Snowe, the incumbent Republican, and Chipman Bull, Democrat. Representative Snowe's position is clear: She does not feel that we need any special legislative protections and does not support the gay rights bill. Chip Bull's phone number is not listed in the Aroostook directory, so I couldn't reach him for comment.

DECIDE FOR YOURSELF WHO YOU WILL SUPPORT ON NOVEMBER 6 IN THE STATE AND FEDERAL RACES. But whatever you decide, VOTE! ▼

MAINE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT - AN ISSUE AFFECTING GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLES by Dick

You've probably seen some of the ads on TV, saying that the ERA will give gays the right to marry, will force physicians and nurses to perform abortions, will mandate unisex bathrooms... All false, all scare tactics used by the "Radical Right" to keep Maine people from enshrining equality of rights under the law for ALL people in our state. There has been tons of money poured into this race by the anti-ERA, anti-gay forces. They've been using us as scapegoats in this campaign.

The Maine ERA is the only issue this year that Libby Mitchell, Bill Cohen, Olympia Snowe, and Chip Bull support; Governor Brennan supports it, both the Maine Republican and Democratic State Committees support it. I urge you to support it. VOTE YES on Question 6. ▼

---THIS IS THE END OF THE POLITICS SECTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER. Aren't you relieved!?---
MAINE HOUSE DISTRICTS:

- Aroostook County
  - District 142: includes part of Presque Isle plus Westfield, E Plantation, Blaine, Bridgewater, and Monticello
  - District 143: Part of P.I., part of Monticello
  - District 145: Limestone plus part of Loring Air Force Base
  - District 146: north part of Caribou
  - District 147: south part of Caribou, part of Mapleton, all of Washburn and Woodland

[Map of Maine House of Representatives Districts]
Carletta S. Bassano, an attorney in Machias, investigated the legal issues in regard to our right to advertise in the Caribou Winter Carnival booklet. Our advertising was accepted in 1983; it was refused in 1984. The precedent she referred to was the case *Alaska Gay Coalition v. Sullivan (1978)*. In this case, the Gay Coalition was deleted from the Anchorage "Blue Book", a guide to services and organizations in the area, published by the Municipality of Anchorage. The court found that the group's listing was deleted "solely on the basis of content. As a result, the Coalition had been denied its First Amendment rights and was entitled to redress. The reasoning behind the Court's decision is of primary importance to the evaluation of your case." She goes on to discuss the "public forum", which provides that "once a governmentally controlled forum exists for the dissemination of information and the expression of ideas, the government cannot deny equal access to that forum based on content alone. The requirement of equal access is predicated on the existence of a public forum." The court found that the Blue Book was a public forum; is served as a guide to public services and resources; it also solicited and contained information about many private organizations. She said that there are significant differences between the Alaska case and NLN/Caribou Winter Carnival case. The question is: is the Caribou Carnival booklet a "public forum"?

Ms. Bassano concludes: "As with most situations which arise in any area of the law, there is no definite answer. Certainly your Association has been the victim of discrimination, but it is far less clear that there has been any violation of your constitutional rights. It is my legal opinion that this is a borderline case with the balance tipping, if at all, to the publication."

This case needs further discussion by the members of Lambda Nord. A decision has to be made on whether we are going to pursue the case or not.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING IN PRESQUE ISLE**

Thirteen people present. * Menu for Christmas food baskets prepared: ham, stuffing, potatoes, beans, corn, pineapple, and, of course, fruit cocktail. Carl is checking on purchasing the foods wholesale in Presque Isle. Names of people in need will be obtained from town offices and churches in Aroostook, Madawaska, Victoria, and Carleton counties. It was voted to use $400 from the grant and estimated that we'd prepare at least 20 baskets, distributed in all four counties (1 or 2 baskets in 10 towns on both sides of the border).

* Money approved ($85) for advertisement in Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce directory. Found out, however, that they accept only business ads, so the money won't be spent. (This would have been grant money)

* It was approved to establish a fund to help Lambda members in need. $200 will be set aside from the grant for one year. The fund may or may not be re-established next year. The Executive Committee will accept requests and recommendations for moneys. Suggested moneys be used to help low income or unemployed Lambs with their membership dues; other special cases decided individually.

**CALENDAR:**

* Oct 27 - Hallowe'en party in Caribou
* Nov 2 - FLAG dance at Kinsmen Centre, Fredericton
* Nov 16 - FLAG's 5th anniversary party, Fredericton
* Nov 18 - NLN general business meeting and pot luck (Preceded by Exec meeting in South Northampton, New Brunswick - noon (Maine), 1 pm (N-B))
* Dec 1 - (tentative) discussion group: Charlie Howard - our reactions to events surrounding his murder, trial, sentences of 3 youths...
* Dec 16 - Monthly NLN business meeting and pot luck, in either Littleton or Linneus, 1 pm (Maine), 2 pm (N-B), preceded by Exec Meeting
* Dec 21 - FLAG dance, Fredericton
* Dec 22 - NLN Christmas party in Presque Isle
* Dec 31 - NLN New Year's Eve party - location needed
The following is from a flyer circulating in Portland:

"On August 22, the Ramada Inn of Portland, Maine cancelled the confirmed Gay Political Dinner reservation sponsored by the Gay People's Alliance and Harbor Masters, Inc., just three weeks before the event was to be held because the Ramada Inn did not want to be involved in an event, that in the Inn's own words, might be "controversial and result in unfavorable press publicity for them." WE AS MEMBERS OF PORTLAND'S GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY FIND THIS ACT OF CLEAR DISCRIMINATION INTOLERABLE. Leaders of Maine's gay/lesbian organizations are encouraging all gays and lesbians to refuse to do business with the Ramada Inn and exert any influence they might have in encouraging their friends and organizations to also boycott the Ramada Inn."

Since this incident, the Ramada Inn/Portland has been in the news when they refused to allow a honeymoon couple from Portland to stay in the hotel. Their reasons amounted to the fact that local people had local friends who may cause rowdiness and excessive noise at the Ramada Inn. They do not want local honeymooners staying in their establishment. Out-of-towners are ok.

UPDATE ON THE GRANT

To date, we've received $4000 of the $7500 grant from the Chicago Resource Center. Money has been earmarked for several things; money has been spent on the following:

- Photocopy machine .................. $1400
- Transportation for Dale McCormick's August visit ... $30
- Listing of NLN in Gay Community News .............. $10
- Ten copies of Our Paper each month .............. $20 (for one year)
- Display space at AUTUMNFEST, donated to Maine Health Action Committee for AIDS $10
- Four-drawer letter-size fireproof file cabinet: $900
- Christmas food baskets ....................... $400
- Fund for Lambdas in need ................ $200
- One more item of money spent: 5 adverts in UM/Presque Isle student newspaper............ $40

ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT SPONSORS WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

On Thursday through Sunday, November 8-11, the Maine Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project (MLGAP) is coordinating a weekend of events celebrating our community and making a statement against violence directed against us. The central focus of the weekend will be a march in Lewiston/Auburn. The following is the schedule of activities:

THURSDAY, Nov 8 - FILM, "Outrageous", at Kresge Auditorium, Bowdoin College in Brunswick-7:30 pm

FRIDAY, Nov 9 - 8 pm - Kevin Berrill, Director of the National Gay Task Force's Anti-Violence Project, will speak on "Anti-Gay/Lesbian Violence: causes, responses, and consequences"

SATURDAY, Nov 10 - Workshop with Kevin Berrill (Dealing with anti-gay/lesbian violence: we're all targets) at Chase Hall, Bates College in Lewiston, 10 am noon - Rally and march, beginning in Auburn, marching across the bridge into Lewiston. Meet at the Great Falls Plaza, Hampshire and Center Streets, Auburn

3 pm - Reception at Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston

8 pm - CONCERT - Elliot Pilshaw, gay singer-songwriter, at Bowdoin College Moulton Union, in the Main Lounge, free admission (in Brunswick)

9:30 pm - RECEPTION - in Brunswick, at Bowdoin College, Lancaster Lounge in the Moulton Union

SUNDAY, Nov 11 - 11 am - meeting of Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance, in
room 523, Luther Bonney Hall, University of Maine/Portland - EVERYONE IS WELCOME. (Meeting is followed by the Legislative Workshop in the same room.)

3 pm - Legislative WORKSHOP: "Passing the 'Gay/Lesbian Rights Bill' in Maine in 1985", with Dale McCormick and Diane Elze. EVERYONE IS WELCOME

9:30 pm - LESBIAN/GAY PROM - at the Underground in Portland. $4 cover charge, and money will benefit MLGAP. Tickets available at New Leaf Books (Rockland), at Our Books (Portland), or at the Underground.

Free housing is available for the weekend. Contact Steve Houldsworth at Bowdoin College: 729-8591.

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Here is Northern Lambda Nord's financial statement. Amounts are as of September 30, 1984, the end of our fiscal year. Canadian funds will be listed in next month's newsletter.

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Selon le Solliciteur général Robert Kaplan, dans une lettre qu'il a adressée au député néo-démocrate Svend Robinson, la GRC a finalement détruit tous les dossiers qu'elle conservait sur certaines personnes uniquement en raison de leur orientation sexuelle. Kaplan a également affirmé que la GRC avait cessé d'établir ce type de dossiers. Le député Robinson avait, à l'instigation de GO INFO, insisté auprès de Kaplan pour qu'il fasse une déclaration au sujet des dossiers que la GRC possédait sur les lesbiennes et les hommes gais.

Kaplan soutient que tous les dossiers sur papier ont été brûlés ou déchiquetés, et que les dossiers sur support informatisé ou autre ont été affacés. Le Solliciteur général a déclaré qu'en tout plus de 200 000 dossiers ont été détruits suite à la levée du moratoire sur la destruction de routine des dossiers du Service de sécurité de la GRC. Ce moratoire avait été imposé lors des audiences de la commission McDonald sur les "pratiques douteuses" de la GRC. On avait appris, lors de ces audiences, que la GRC détenait des dossiers sur plus d'un million de Canadiens.

Le Solliciteur général a également affirmé que la GRC n'avait plus de "bureau s'occupant spécifiquement des homosexuels".

According to Solicitor General Robert Kaplan, the RCMP have now destroyed all files that were kept solely on the basis of sexual orientation. Kaplan also maintains that the RCMP have discontinued this category of file. He made the statements in a letter to New Democrat MP Svend Robinson. Prompted by GO INFO, Robinson had been pressuring Kaplan for a statement regarding RCMP files on lesbians and gaymen.

All paper files, Kaplan claims, were burned or pulped, while computerized or automated copies were erased. The Solicitor General says that in total more than two hundred thousand files on individuals have now been destroyed following the partial lifting of the moratorium on the routine destruction of RCMP Security Service files. The moratorium was first imposed at the time of the McDonald Commission hearings into RCMP wrongdoings. It was revealed at the time that the RCMP had files on upwards of a million Canadians.

The Solicitor General also states that the RCMP does not have a "homosexual desk".
LESBIAN-GAY Guide LESBIENNE-GAI

FREDERICTON: FLAG, POB 1556, Sta. A., E3B 5G2; FLAGline - 506/457-2156, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8-10 pm.

CRONO: 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: GIM (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.

NEWFOUNDLAND: GAIN, Box 1364, Sta. C., St.John's, A1C 5N5

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 & NEW BRUNSWICK: NIN, CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 - Télégai/Gay Phoneline: 207/896-5888, Wed/mer, 7-9pm (Eastern time/heure de l'Est)

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