

Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

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FROM CABBAGETOWN TO P'TOWN - Reflections of Summer '85 - Part I

by Randy, NLN 'Foreign Correspondent'

As we sped towards our ultimate destination of Toronto, the CN Tower thrust its rotating head out of a hazy horizon. At that moment, my thoughts returned to a day late in November, four years ago, when on a cool, sunny afternoon (filled with more apprehension than determination) I made my way to a Northern Lambda Nord meeting in Madawaska, Maine. That meeting was to be the first of many events and activities that would influence my thoughts and behaviour, perhaps forever. Little did I realize then that I would represent NLN at the 7th annual International Gay Association Conference in Toronto (held June 30-July 7, 1985).

Within hours of our arrival, we were hustled off to a dance at the Metropolitan Community Church. It was one of the best attended events of the week - not one, but two huge levels filled with hundreds (perhaps thousands) of "church-going" gaymen and gay women. If ever I was a victim of culture shock this was it! We burned candles until the wee hours of Sunday morning...

And Sunday morning dawned bright and beautiful in Cawatha Park. After brunch with friends of Paul (my Cabbagetown host and Toronto's best) we sauntered on down to participate in the city's premiere gay event -- the Pride Day Celebrations. Approximately 5000 participants marched through Metro Toronto. It was party time and oh, what a noise we made!

Still reeling from Pride Day hype, I awoke Monday morning with the realization that there was business to attend to -- IGA business. It was late morning before the IGA opening session got underway at the University of Toronto. (I was NLN's Canadian male delegate, Laura was our American female delegate). After presenting a brief oral history of Northern Lambda Nord to the IGA Executive and delegates, we took advantage of breaks between sessions to meet and mingle with gay people from around the world and from around the Maritimes, too. Representatives of gay groups on the east coast included: Gay Association in Newfoundland (GAIN), St. John's; Lesbian and Gay Organization (LAGO), Saint John; NB; and Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE), Halifax, Nova Scotia.

A mini history conference, "Sex and the State - their laws, our lives", began on Wednesday. Organized by Canadians (with international participation) the "history event of the year" overwhelmed conference participants to such a degree that the IGA Conference had little choice but to play second fiddle. (See July-August 1985 issues of *Our Paper* and *The Body Politic*.)

As delegates, we were guests at many receptions including the IGA reception, hosted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; Glad Day Bookshop; AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT); *The Body Politic*; and the Canadian Gay Archives.

Just as eight fun-filled days were about to end, Toronto had another treat in store for us -- "Celebrasian '85". Sponsored by the IGA and Gay Asians of Toronto (GAT), it included an evening of song, dance, and a one-act play. The Saturday night event played before a full house at the Ontario College of Art. What a grand finale to a splendid week!

It was Sunday morning-- time to pack the car for the long trip east and home. After becoming a living, breathing part of this city for eight days, I honestly did not want to leave. I would miss dearly its huge gay sub-culture -- so

vibrant and meaningful!

Oh, well, perhaps a "restful" vacation to Provincetown would heal the wounds of separation from Toronto!

Part II, Randy in P'town, will appear in next month's Communiqué.

LETTER FROM THE WEST, by Walter, NLN's San Francisco Correspondent

Now that the Castro and Folsom Street Fairs are over, gay San Francisco is getting into full swing with the start of the social and cultural calendar. We look forward to the first highlight: a combined musical extravaganza offered by the S.F. Symphony, the S.F. Opera, and the S.F. Ballet. It will be top quality talent. Marilyn Horne and Renata Scotta will lend their voices to this "Arts for Life" benefit for people with AIDS. Since black tie is optional, many of us will appear not only in black tie, but also in black leather.

Elsewhere on the culture circuit, Charles Pierce, the grandfather of female impersonators, is back in town. One reaction was, "This time he has new material, and both lines are very funny."

In sports, you'll be glad to know that the Grand Central Bar's bowling team took the annual trophy, but you'll be distraught to learn that the L.A. wrestling team ripped the pants off S.F. We look forward to the Cops vs Fags baseball game around the time of the World Series.

This week, we celebrate "Fleet Week", since there are 13,000 sailors on leave in town...

On the University of California/Berkeley campus, there turns out to be two lesbian/gay groups. I am working with the Multicultural Lesbian and Gay Studies Program, which means we provide a resource center for students and faculty who are researching lesbian and gay topics. We also offer one student-taught course per semester. In the spring, the title will be "A Survey of Lesbian and Gay Contemporary Literature." The other group functions as, shall we say, "a social clearinghouse." They organize dances and movies. During November, the two groups are combining forces and sponsoring a Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week. We never know if the reception will be positive or homophobic. Yes, even at UC/Berkeley, that symbol of liberal tolerance, this mind-set still appears. Our posters and announcements are regularly defaced or ripped down.

What's a letter without a weather report? The days are perfectly predictable. When I leave in the morning, The City is covered with fog, but by 9:30am it has cleared away to sparkling-blue skys which last until 5pm or so, when the fog -- and a touch of chill -- again covers the peninsula. The regular highs are in the low 70's, and the lows dip down to 55°. One quickly becomes acclimated to this temperate of all climates.

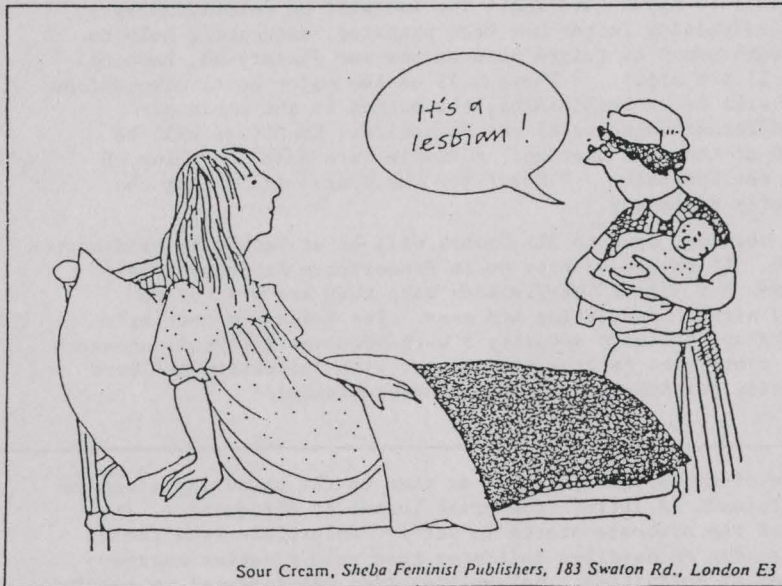
Wishing you all a happy Halloween. In my next letter, I'll let you know how it's really celebrated in the City by the Bay.

SAINT JOHN GROUP REGROUPS

"By your lack of interest in the running of the organization you have indicated your non-concern for its future." This statement from the chairperson of the Lesbian and Gay Organization/Saint John (LAGO/SJ) describes the group's status in the "Loyalist City". The LAGO/SJ Executive Committee has reached the following decisions: the LAGO/SJ business office and library will close; the *Lighthouse*, their monthly newsletter, will cease regular publication and will appear quarterly; business meetings will be held only when required; the Gayline (506/633-1256) will continue; the Dance Committee will plan less frequent dances, perhaps one every two or three months rather than monthly; their PO Box (6494, Station A, E2L 4R9) will remain open. "LAGOSJ INC. celebrated its 2nd anniversary on October 11th rather silently and almost unnoticed. Growing pains are always difficult and while we have been wounded in battle many times, we are by no means dead."

Sometime between December 1983 and January 1984, Canada Customs banned *The Joy of Gay Sex*. Customs simply decided that this book should join hundreds of other books and magazines filling a secret list running to 112 typed pages -- the list of publications deemed unacceptable for importation into Canada. Jerald Moldenhauer of Glad Day Books, which has stores in Toronto and Boston, said he sells about 150 copies per year. "It has a standard place in the repertoire of any gay man coming out. It's an important symbol" that "goes beyond its actual contents." *The Joy of Gay Sex* has been on sale in Canada since 1977. *The Joy of Sex* and *More Joy of Sex*, both heterosexual guides, and *The Joy of Lesbian Sex* do not appear on the Customs list of banned materials. *Bibliothèque Lambda*, NLN's lending library, has copies of both the Gay and Lesbian Joys.

Canadians are urged to write their MP as well as The Hon. John C Crosbie, MP; Minister of Justice, 220 LeMarchant Road, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 2H7. Ask why this book has been banned; express your feelings concerning the banning and the entire issue of censorship in a "free" country.



Sour Cream, Sheba Feminist Publishers, 183 Swaton Rd., London E3

Reprinted by *Le F.A.R.O.G. Forum*, the newspaper of the Franco-American Office at the University of Maine/Orono

— MONCTON GROUP DISCUSSES THEIR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE —

A new chapter in the development of the gay-lesbian community in Moncton began October 5. Les Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton/Gays and Lesbians of Moncton (GLM) held a day-long session with members and a professional animator, Rhéal Drisdelle, a Moncton native living in Montreal. The purpose of the session was to determine what GLM is, what its members want, and how to resolve problems identified within the organization. Three sessions were conducted throughout the day. The first, broken into three small groups, described GLM through metaphors: having the head of a mouse, meaning timid leadership; the legs of a horse, taking careful, sure steps; a shrub in need of pruning and care in order to survive; a car which many want to ride in but noone wants to drive.

The day's second session defined GLM's most important problems: * lack of information to and from the Executive; *lack of committee structure; *lack of activities provided; * lack of volunteers for activities; *lack of office space or meeting place. The third and final session formed two groups to devise solutions: * find office space for resource materials, library, and eventually a gay-lesbian

phonenumber and archives; * general meeting every month or two, beginning before the first of the year; * provisional committees formed - (1) office-space finding committee, (2) communications (3)newsletter (4) education (5) volunteer (6)phonenumber. By the end of the day, nearly all of those in attendance had volunteered to serve on one or more of the committees.

SYMPOSIUM XIII PLANNING MEETING REPORT

Lambda members met November 3 to continue the planning process of the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XIII, scheduled for May in Presque Isle. * The menu for the Dinner-Theatre was decided (Chinese stir-fry vegetables, and stir-fry chicken, rice, noodles, soup, dessert); the breakfast menu for Sunday was also planned - scrambled eggs, muffins, Aroostook homefries, bacon and sausage, juices. * The work exchange program was discussed; specific needs will be finalized at the next meeting. * People will be needed as security teams and to help serve at the Dinner-Theatre. * The contract with the University was reviewed, some changes and additions made, and will be sent on for final draft and approval. * The deadline for housing reservations is April 21; all requests for housing after that date will be required to pay a late fee. The fee will be determined by the cost of rooms. A fundraising letter has been prepared, requesting help to "Buy the Dorm". If enough money is raised between now and January 15, housing will cost as little as \$1 per night. * There will be two major panel discussions during Symposium. One will be on health/AIDS, the second on the topic of relationship between different segments of our community. Specifics will be discussed in more depth at the next meeting. * People were asked to think of specific workshops for the Symposium. * Music for the dances and during the Dinner-Theatre was briefly discussed.

The next planning meeting, open to ALL Lambs, will be at Hank's in Fredericton on Sunday, December 1st. If people wish to go to Fredericton Saturday, visit the city and perhaps even our "local" gay/lesbian bar, they are welcome to stay at Hank's Saturday night. Just bring bed gear. The Symposium meeting's agenda includes: *workshops *films * security * work exchange * keynote speakers * reports on status of committees *status of contract with University and Food Service *grant application for Symposium *entertainment planned.

GAY GIRAFFES, PART 2

Last month's issue of *Communiqué* included an item on the three gay giraffes at the zoo in Taipai, Taiwan. A letter from Brian Lanter of Albuquerque, in the September 3 issue of *The Advocate* states in part: "an article from the *Zoological Society of London Proceedings* indicates that male giraffes engage predominantly in homosexual activities. Unless they turn heterosexual in captivity, getting a new female will not help the zoo, nor, surely, is this the first time that zookeepers have noticed that giraffes are gay."

BLOOD DONATIONS AT LORING AIR FORCE BASE

All active-duty military personnel, please note: The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs has notified the Red Cross that if your blood is found to have indications of the presence of hepatitis B, syphilis, or the HTLV-III antibody (indicative of exposure to AIDS), this "must be reported to the local military medical authority." The implications of this new policy should be obvious to gay military members. They are also reminded that gay men are requested to NOT give blood, since we are in the high risk group for AIDS.

EARRINGS ARE NOT 35-10 (Gay Community News, Boston)

The European headquarters of the US Air Force has forbidden men from wearing earrings on base, even when they are in civilian clothing. "The wearing of earrings is not consistent with a military image," said Lt.Col. William Johnson. "It's not a really a big problem," he insisted.

The new Body Politic

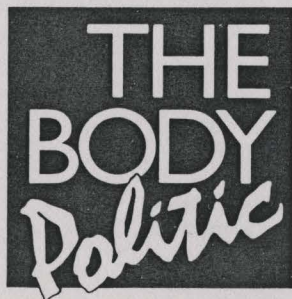
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The AIDS-Line (207/775-1267) is a service sponsored by the Maine Health Foundation and the Gay Health Action Committee of Maine, based in Portland. There are people there and resources available to help provide referrals in the following areas: * medical (referrals to physicians, etcetera) * legal (referrals to attorneys, etcetera) * financial (help with Social Security and other benefits) * counseling (spiritual, peer counseling, support groups). Information about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is available by calling the AIDS-Line. They are staffed Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 7-9pm and will accept collect calls during those hours.

AIDS EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE FORMED

Due to the response to the AIDS information loans, the Archives for the Protection of Gay History and Literature (APGHL) has branched off and now includes an AIDS Educational Committee. The committee will be provincial in scope and will provide educational information to the community in New Brunswick. They will also act as a liason to the New Brunswick Department of Health. For information, contact APGHL/AIDS Educational Committee, Box 6368, Station A, Saint John E2L 4R8, Attention: James DuPlessis.

Our Paper

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A
VOICE
FOR
LESBIANS
AND
GAY MEN
IN MAINE

NEWS BRIEFS - NOUVELLES EN BREF (from RFD - a country journal for gay men everywhere)

LAMBDA FINANCIAL ADVISOR - monthly publication offering financial advice for gays and lesbians; \$18 per year. LFA, POB 3560, Jersey City, New Jersey 07303.

LESBIAN AND GAY MILITARY ISSUES - "Fighting Back" is a comprehensive counseling manual with analysis of pertinent regulations on homosexuals and step-by-step guidance for draft, military, and veteran's cases. Designed for counselors, attorneys, and it is also of value to military personnel, veterans, draft-age men, and all those concerned with the military policy towards lesbians and gaymen. "Fighting Back", \$16.25 (postpaid) from: Midwest Committee for Military Counseling, 241 Wabash, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

VETERANS CARE - Council for American Rights and Equality - an organization for gay and lesbian vets, "for the purpose of demonstrating the historical contribution of lesbians and gaymen to the American Way of Life, through their duty and sacrifices in the armed services." Membership includes monthly newsletter. Veterans CARE, POB 69961, Los Angeles 90069.

NEEDLEPOINT, KNITTING... - Barry Wood of Portland is interested in finding other men who are into the stitching arts: needlepoint, knitting, crewel, quilting, weaving,... for a possible New England gathering during the fall, and just for contact with others. Barry Wood, 125 Vaughn Street, Portland 04102.

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- ★ **NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK:** Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA: Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégai, 207/498-2088, Wednesdays/mercredi, 7-9pm (Eastern time/heure de l'est)
 - **FREDERICTON:** Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG), POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2 - FLAGline, 506/457-2156
 - **ORONO:** Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine 04469 - they meet Sundays, 7pm, South Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union
 - **BANGOR:** Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition (BAGLS), POB 1805, 04401 - meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7pm, at 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer - 989-3306
 - **BANGOR:** INTERWEAVE, POB 8008, 04401 - Pot-luck suppers on the first & third Saturdays, 6pm, 126 Union Street (Unitarian Church)
 - **QUEBEC:** Centre homophile d'aide et de libération (CHAL), 175, Prince-Edouard, G1K 2M2, 418/523-4997
 - **QUEBEC:** Groupe gai de l'Université Laval (GGUL) et Groupe des femmes gaies de l'Université Laval (GFGUL), CP 2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cité Universitaire, Ste-Foy, G1K7P4
 - **SAINT JOHN:** Lesbian and Gay Organization in Saint John (LAGO/SJ), POB 6496, Station A, E2L 4R9 - Gayline, 506/633-1256
 - **MONCTON:** Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton/Gays and Lesbians of Moncton (GLM), CP/POB 7102, Riverview E1B 1V0
 - **LEWISTON:** Central Maine Gay/Lesbian Awareness Coalition, POB 7917, 04240
 - **PORTLAND:** Gay People's Alliance, University of Southern Maine, 92 Bedford Street, 04102, 207/780-4085
 - **PORTLAND:** Harbor Masters, Inc., leather-levi group, POB 4044, 04104
 - **HALIFAX:** Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE), Box 3611, South Postal Station, B3J 3K6, 902/429-6969
 - **NEWFOUNDLAND:** Gay Association in Newfoundland (GAIN), Box 1364, Station C, St. John's, A1C 5N5
 - **MONTREAL:** Télégai, 514/933-2395
 - **ARCHIVES FOR THE PROTECTION OF GAY HISTORY AND LITERATURE:** Box 6368, Station A, Saint John, New Brunswick E2L 4R8
 - **OUR PAPER:** A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine - monthly newspaper; \$12 for one year subscription, POB 10744, Portland 04104
 - **MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE:** POB 108, Yarmouth 04096
-
- AIDS information SIDA**
- **AIDS-Line,** information and referral service, 207/775-1267
 - **GAY HEALTH ACTION COMMITTEE,** POB 10723, Portland 04104
 - **MacAIDS,** the Metro Area Committee on AIDS, POB 1013, Halifax, B3J 2X1

★ **COMMUNIQUE** is published ten times yearly (monthly except June/July & August/September) by, for, and about the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick. Subscriptions - \$10 per year.
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RHODE ISLAND PROTECTS STATE WORKERS

According to *Gaudeamus*, the newsletter of Dignity/Providence, the Catholic organization for gay and lesbian people, the Governor of Rhode Island, Edward D. DiPrete, has issued an Executive Order protecting gaymen and women from discrimination in state employment. The order refers both to hiring and promotion and may also include any agency which has a contract with the state. Perhaps Governor Brennan of Maine will follow this example!

ON THE BOOB TUBE

If this newsletter arrives in time, there are two programs on American television this coming week which are worth watching. The first is on the NBC network - "An Early Frost" - at 9pm (Maine). (If you have cable, it's on the Bangor station; channel 8 in Presque Isle is not carrying it). It's the story of a young attorney who returns home to visit his parents on the occasion of their 30th wedding anniversary. He's gay; he also has AIDS. The program deals with the lawyer, Michael's, relationship with his lover, his parents, and his grandmother. The program is on Monday, November 11th - Veterans & Remembrance Day.

The second program is being broadcast by Public Television; at press time, it's not known whether Maine Public Broadcasting will be carrying it, but check on Wednesday, November 13 at 9pm (?) - Maine time. It's the Academy Award winning film "The Times of Harvey Milk", the gay San Francisco City Counsellor who was assassinated by Dan White, who also assassinated the city's mayor, George Moscone. Watch for both of these programs.

AIDSMAINE WORKING GROUP ON AIDS FORMED (Our Paper, Portland)

A lesbian and a gayman are among those people appointed to the Maine State Working Group on AIDS, a broad group bringing in people from outside state government who have an interest in the issue. This Working Group augments the Governor's Interdepartmental Committee on AIDS, a policymaking group composed of eight people from within state government. The two members of our community on the Working Group are Gary Anderson of the Gay Health Action Committee and the Coordinator of the AIDS-Line, and Dale McCormick, President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. As part of the Working Group, they will have input into state policy on AIDS. McCormick said, "No one knows more about AIDS than gay people. Having been reminded of this fact by ML/GPA, state officials immediately realized to their credit that the group would be more effective with gay people participating."

**PROTECT YOURSELF! - Practice Safe and Sensible Sex!**SAFE

Massage
Hugging
Mutual masturbation
Social kissing (dry)
Body-to-body rubbing
(frottage)
Light S&M (no bruising
or bleeding)

POSSIBLY SAFE

French kissing (wet)
Anal sex with a condom
Sucking - stop before climax
Watersports - external only
RISK INCREASES WITH MULTIPLE
PARTNERS!!!

UNSAFE - Rimming, Fisting, Blood contact, Sharing sex toys, Semen or urine in the mouth, Anal sex without a condom. RISK INCREASES WITH MULTIPLE PARTNERS!!!

AIDS symptoms may include: Persistent fevers or nights sweats - Unexplained weight loss - Enlarged, hardened, or painful lymph nodes - Recently appearing new growths on top of or beneath the skin or on the mucous membranes (inside mouth, anus, nasal passages, or underneath eyelids) - Dry cough not related to cold or flu - Persistent diarrhea - Thrush, a whitish, thick, persistent coating on tongue or in throat - Easy bruisability or unexplained bleeding. CHECK WITH THE LAMBDA LIBRARY FOR LITERATURE ON AIDS AND STAYING HEALTHY.