

Northern Lambda Nord

Communiqué

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This is the beginning of Northern Lambda Nord's SEVENTH year! How time flies!

AN OBSERVATION by Dick

With the beginning of 1986, about 30 "Lambs" and their guests gathered for the heralding of the new year. To make this year's celebration a bit special, door prizes were drawn and party favors were provided (the horns purchased turned out to be lacking any noisemakers!) A number of new faces were in attendance and a couple more people joined the organization. Membership rolls are growing a little faster this year. And with the growing interest in this May's NLN-hosted Maine Symposium, it looks like 1986 will be an exciting and fun year.

In one aspect, this year is beginning a bit differently from years past. There were two gay parties held December 31: one attended by women and men, the other for women only. Some of the gay women in the area (I emphasize some) appear to have reasons to fear going to any Lambda gatherings. When I asked a couple of women why this seems to be, what they had been told included: (1) "I don't want to go to anything 'that has a name'," i.e. Northern Lambda Nord; (2) "I don't want to go to anything 'organized". I assume that means a formal organization/group; (3) "I don't want to jeopardize my job." (4) "I'd prefer to be with women." (5) "I don't like men."

Of the five reasons, number 4 seems valid to me. As for #1, that's a poor excuse for some unspoken reason to not attend a Lambda party. With #2, it seems that if a party is planned less than 24-hours in advance -- a number of lesbians getting together for a spontaneous party -- it's OK. But NLN parties, which may be planned a month or more in advance, ...that's "organized". As for #3, many of us, women and men, could lose our jobs for no other reason than our sexual orientation. Does someone think they'd meet their boss or co-worker at a gay party? If so, she (or he) is probably there for the same reason you are, to be in a "safe" environment. And for #5, that's like saying, "I don't like Blacks," "I don't like Jews," "I don't like French-speaking New Brunswickers!" It's a stereotype and stereotypes stink. Sure, some men are obnoxious asses. So are some women.

What I'm getting at is that I don't think that these excuses hold much water. Separatism and divisiveness only lead to bad feelings. Sure, lesbians enjoy each other's company, just as gaymen like being with each other. But I can't understand not wanting to meet new people, especially "our own kind". I wish that more women would take a chance & get to know some of the Lambs, the women and the men who are involved in this organization. I think they'd be surprised at how nice some of us are. Maybe we can even become friends.

AND NOW WE ARE SIX

As this is written, plans are being made for Northern Lambda Nord's gayla sixth anniversary party. The theme, chosen at December's meeting, is "Leather and Lace". As with last year's party, invitations will be sent to all NLN members plus numerous others in this region. Admission will be \$2 for NLN members, \$6 for guests who live in Lambda's membership region (Aroostook County, Maine, plus Madawaska, Victoria, and Carleton Counties in New Brunswick). Guests "from away" will pay \$3. Door prizes will include a \$50 gift certificate from the Blue Room at Yusef's Restaurant in Caribou, a \$25 gift certificate from the Jade Palace Restaurant in Caribou, and a couple other smaller prizes. There will be a cash bar; hors d'oeuvres will be served. Canadian money will be accepted at par at the door, but the bar will take an exchange.

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COMMUNIQUE

JAN 1986

AIDS FORUMS HELD THROUGHOUT MAINE (Our Paper, Portland)

Eight "Open Forums on AIDS" will be held throughout the state to educate Maine citizens about the disease. The forums, a collaborative effort between state and public health officials and Maine's gay and lesbian community, was deemed "a rare program in the country" by Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance President Dale McCormick. The Alliance is co-sponsoring the series of forums along with the State of Maine Bureau of Health, the Maine Health Foundation, and the Maine Public Health Association, with the Alliance the coordinating organization. Each forum will include brief informational presentations by representatives from the medical, governmental, and at-risk communities. The emphasis will be on answering the audience's questions. The schedule to date is: Portland (Jan 9); PRESQUE ISLE, JANUARY 22, WEDNESDAY, 7:30PM (Maine), WIEDEN AUDITORIUM, U OF MAINE; Lewiston, Feb 4; Bethel, mid-February; Brunswick, March 6; Farmington, Mar 18; Kennebunk, April 3. The first forum was December 17 in Bangor.

AIDS PHONELINE NOW TOLL-FREE IN MAINE

The Portland-based AIDS-line, 207/775-1267, now has a toll-free number for callers from within the state - 1-800/851-AIDS (-2437).

VIRUS RARELY FOUND IN SALIVA (Gay Health Action Committee Newsletter)

In a study of 71 homosexual men known to be infected with the AIDS virus, the virus was found in only one man's saliva. *The New England Journal of Medicine* reported that even when the AIDS virus was found in saliva, it was in an amount "ten thousandfold lower" than in the same person's blood. "Such news should help to lessen the fears about contracting AIDS via casual social contact."

NEWSWEEK COVER STORY: "Growing Up Gay"

The January 13, 1986 cover story in *Newsweek* discusses issues relating to dealing with your parents, parents' expectations, their guilt, and more, and includes a good list of resource books and pamphlets.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS SUPPORT LEGISLATION

Eleven major religious denominations have recently joined in a letter to Members of Congress urging support and co-sponsorship of the national gay and lesbian civil rights bill, H.R.230. Among the groups signing the joint letter are: the Church of the Brethren, the United Methodist Church, the Lutheran Council in the USA, the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Unitarian-Universalist Association, the American Ethical Union, and the National Council of Churches. The letter, the first of its kind on the federal bill, is the first of several steps planned to demonstrate strong religious support for the bill.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS INCLUSION OF GAY/LESBIAN RIGHTS

The report of the Parliamentary Committee on Equality Rights to the Canadian government include: amending the Canadian Human Rights Act to add sexual orientation; asking that the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP conform their employment practises to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, asking that the federal government security clearance guidelines covering employees and contractors not discriminate; recommend that the Criminal Code be amended to ensure that the minimum age(s) at which private consensual sexual activity is lawful be made uniform; support for Bill C-225, the amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act to include the term "sexual orientation" to the list of protected categories. A copy of the text of the bill is on file in the Lambda office.

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Gay/Lesbian GUIDE Lesbienne/Gai

- ★ **NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK:** Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA. Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber/Télépai, 207/498-2088, Wednesdays/mercredi, 7-9pm (Eastern time/heure de l'est)
- **FREDERICTON:** Frederickton 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, G1K 7P4
- **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:** Télépai, 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 - 1-800/851-AIDS (-2437)
- **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.
- NLN Membership - \$13 per year, which includes Communique. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN accepts Canadian and U.S. funds at par. Advertising rates available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome. (Deadline: the first of each month).

JAN 1986