

Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

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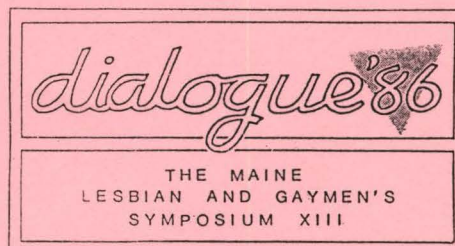
May 1986

Pre-Symposium Edition

In less than two weeks, about 125 women and men from Maine, the Maritimes, and Québec will converge on Presque Isle to attend Maine's 13th annual statewide conference, the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XIII. This is the first time it's being held at a location other than in Portland or Bangor-Orono.

For the past few years, NLN has been well-represented at Symposium, with anywhere from 8-15 Lambs travelling downstate to attend the conference. One year, at UMO, Lambda's presence was very noticeable when we all wore matching corsages!

But it's ironic that this year, when Symposium is in our backyard, when we needn't travel 3-6 hours to attend, registrations from NLN members, the "host" group, is no greater than in years past. Are people not interested in meeting new people? (Maybe Mr. or Ms. "Right") Maybe we don't want to talk with and hear others discuss their experiences "coming out", or how they deal with their parents, or being a divorced gay person. Maybe we don't want to hear what older gays feel when they reach 40, or 50, or 60. Maybe we don't want to hear what gay teachers have to say about their jobs -- and about keeping them. Maybe we don't want to know which candidates for Maine governor are supportive of gay people. Maybe we're tired of hearing about AIDS and don't want to know about "creative" ways to have sex, safely, or what progress is being made in AIDS research. And we don't want to hear people talk about S&M sex. Maybe we don't want to hear gay clergy talk about how religion affects our thinking and others' attitudes towards us. Maybe we don't want to see movies with gay people in them. Maybe we don't want to be in a supportive environment where over 100 other gay men and women make us feel like we belong. Maybe we don't want to dance the night away at the biggest gay party northern Maine has ever seen! Maybe we'll just stay home. It's safer that way. Why rock the boat? Why take a chance that we may learn something about ourselves, that we may grow, that we may have a good time. We've never gone to Symposium before, why start now? Maybe we'll go next year. Or the one after that.



NLN CALENDAR FOR MAY

- ★ Sunday, May 18 mai dimanche - Combined NLN monthly business meeting/pot luck meal and final Symposium XIII planning meeting, at 1pm (Maine), 2pm (N-B) at Carl T's in Caribou (map in last month's mailing). If you've ever wanted to help out, this is the meeting to attend. Agenda includes: * Nominations for Executive Committee for next six months
- * Plan NLN calendar of summer activities
- * Discuss proposed building fund
- * Finalization of plans for the following weekend's Symposium activities - reports on status of: Registration, Housing, Workshops, Booklet, Dinner-theatre, Dances, Music. POT LUCK MEAL - Food or \$2 - A-G, main dish, hot or cold; H-M, salad, appetizer, or bread; N-Z, dessert. BYOBeverage; guests welcome.
- ★ FRIDAY-MONDAY/VENDREDI-LUNDI, May 23-26 mai - SYMPOSIUM XIII - PLEASE DO NOT WAIT TO REGISTER AT THE DOOR! Food must be purchased for Saturday supper and Sunday brunch and numbers of people attending are important. DANCES (both Saturday and Sunday evening) are included in your registration fee (\$15, or \$10 for students and seniors). If you want to attend the dance only, admission is \$3 per person per night. This will be a "bottle club" arrangement (similar to the 6th anniversary party). Sodas, juices, and mixes will be available at the bar, but if you want alcohol, you must bring your own.
- ★ Sunday, June 29 juin dimanche - NLN monthly meeting - location needed.

END OF NEWSLETTER.