

Northern Lambda Nord Communique

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August/September 1986

This is the second of two summertime issues; monthly publication resumes in October.

The last issue of this newsletter described the "refocusing" of Northern Lambda Nord's direction as an organization. To this end, a calendar of activities has been planned for October through February:

★ PARTIES - (NLN-sponsored)

* October 4 - "Membership enrollment/renewal party" - admission: buy a Lambda membership for 1987 (\$13) and get in for free, or if you choose not to join the group, it's \$6 (local) or \$3 (from away). Invitations to this party will be sent to everyone in the region who is a potential member (and whose mailing address we have), so there will be a big "fold-and-stuff" in early September (see member's calendar). Since the computer which printed the mailing labels was stolen, all envelopes will need to be addressed by hand.

* November 1 - Hallowe'en costume party

* December 27 - Christmas party, with gift exchange

* December 31 - New Year's Eve party

* February 14 - NLN's 7th anniversary party

★ OTHER PARTIES (Individuals who wish may have their parties listed in the NLN calendar - everyone would be invited to attend)

* September 20 - "Welcome party" - to meet a woman who has just moved to Maine from Florida and to welcome her to our community

★ FILMS (NLN-sponsored)

Lambda has planned for film screenings every other month, beginning in September. All films will be shown on a Sunday afternoon, 2:30pm (Maine), 3:30pm (N-B) in Presque Isle. If NLN has to pay to rent the film, the hat will be passed to help defray the cost, otherwise admission will be free. Discussion will follow the film.

* September 14 - "As Is" - Made-for-TV version of the highly-acclaimed 1985 Broadway play about the relationship between Rich, a New York City writer with AIDS, and his ex-lover, Saul. Starring Robert Carradine and Jonathan Hadary, with Colleen Dewhurst.

Films are scheduled for: *November 9 and *January 11. Lambda will try to obtain: "Pink Triangles", an historical discussion of the gay/lesbian movement; includes explanation of historical use of the pink triangle to identify homosexuals in Nazi Germany.

"Choosing Children" - women discuss their choice to be a parent, and their children discuss being the son/daughter of a lesbian.

"Before Stonewall" - When drag queens clashed with police at the Stonewall Bar in New York City, June 1969, the modern gay/lesbian rights movement was born. But what was life like for gay people before Stonewall?

★ FILMS (continued)

A member of Lambda who has a very large private collection of films, will be hosting a monthly screening, open to anyone who is interested. Films will be shown on the third Friday evening of each month, and the exact films may be determined by those people present. Two films will be shown each evening.

★ DISCUSSIONS

* October 18 - Election day in Maine is November 4. Where do the candidates stand on those issue important to our community? Dale McCormick, President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance will tell us.

- * December - Exact date and subject pending.

★ PLEASE NOTE: YOUR NLN MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1986!! Renewals may be paid by mail, using the form attached to the members' calendar (to: POB 990, Caribou 04736) or you may pay at the October 4th party. Membership: \$13.00 U.S. and Canadian funds are accepted at par, Membership fee may be paid in regular installments; arrange for this method of payment with the treasurer, Phil.

2

about - sept. 86
Communique

AN OBSERVATION by Roger T.

Seven years ago a group of men got together to form a gay organization in Aroostook County. It took a great effort on the part of a few people that had the guts to start such a group in such a very narrow-minded environment, but that didn't prevent them from going ahead with organizing Northern Lambda Nord. As one of the original members of Lambda, I see the group sort of falling apart. The reasons are quite clear and easy to understand.

As a member, I got quite involved in making the organization a success, to have something for the gay people in Aroostook County. But after much effort it seems the gays in the area don't feel they need such an outlet -- a place to go to be themselves for one or two evenings a month. They have sort of chosen their friends -- to quote, "WHO THEY WANT". That is very sad because being in a small community everyone should be friends, or at least accept the other person for being different from themselves. Friends are very special, because as one gets older you need friends to go to, because you then get too old for bars, or even cruising. You then become labeled or categorized as an "OLD TROLL". I personally dislike the phrase. We don't always stay young and gorgeous; age creeps up fast on you and someday you could also be called an "OLD TROLL": how would you like it!? Think about this!!

In the last four years of the group I've come to understand that people were coming to functions not to support Lambda but to find out who was there in order to start their little gay group of friends: that is exactly what is happening now! Especially with the Loring Air Force Base personnel. They are all young and free spirits; of course anyone over 30 years old is much too old for them to associate with. But they should be thankful to have such an organization as Lambda in this isolated part of northern Maine. Without a gay bar, at least they have a group to go to, but yet they just don't seem to care. Of course not, they are only here for a short period of duty, and then off they go. We have to live here. I'm not labeling all the Loring personnel the same; there are only a few, and of course they certainly can do a lot of harm to the group we tried so hard to form.

Local gays are not much help also because they have now started their personal gatherings of so-called "friends only". This is fine -- I don't object to that. You have your freedom to do as you please, but at least you should use a little more tact in doing so.

At one time I used to enjoy the NLN functions because throughout the years I have made a lot of friends, good friends. I have been very grateful to have a gay group to go to and be myself. Now you can't even do that anymore without being laughed at or ridiculed.

Being on the Symposium Committee was an eye-opener for me, I'm sure, and I know that I made a lot of enemies from the Symposium. When the idea of the Symposium was first talked about, a lot of NLN members showed interest and were glad to see that it was going to be held in Aroostook County for the first time ever, a plus for the gays in the area. Also a lot were not in favor, but they never had the guts to come and express their feelings; they bitched in the background.

Fortunately, we didn't get any problems from the so-called "straights"; we didn't have any problems with the outsiders coming to the Symposium; the problems we got were from our own NLN members who thought the Symposium was a free-for-all party! Some of them never did a stitch of work and they were the biggest complainers. Some of them committed themselves for the Symposium to do some work and never stood up to their commitments. At the last minute everyone was afraid of the four letter word "WORK".

I attended the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance outing August 2 in New Sweden. I got there Saturday, expecting to try again to start anew and not feel so negative about the group of people and forget the past. I wasn't there for more than one hour when this lesbian got mad at me for taking her place on the couch when she got up. She said, I quote, "Who the hell are you?!", in a very butch way. We all gathered outside for the meeting. I sat in a chair, then was told to get out of the chair; it was hers and she had a lot of problems fitting the chair in her car; she didn't use too good diplomacy. I then said to myself, who the hell are they trying to impress, in being so masculine, yet they hate the men who are feminine. After being there two hours or more, I decided to leave; I wasn't interested in listening to lesbians argue, or some of their views.

This article is not meant for anyone or directed to anyone. Those that don't know me yet, I am sure you will have me labeled after reading this article, but I am not a two-faced person; I tell it as it is, and hopefully not hurt anyone's feelings but just make them realize what has been happening with the organization in the last couple of years.

Moreover, don't any of you forget, without Dick & Phil's outstanding devotion and effort in keeping this group together it would have fallen apart a long time ago. They have suffered a lot of pains for all of us in order to get something for the gay people in Aroostook County; we should be proud to have two gentlemen so devoted to gays in the area.

Your comments and reactions to this and all articles in Communiqué are encouraged.

LETTER FROM THE WEST by Walter/Raoul

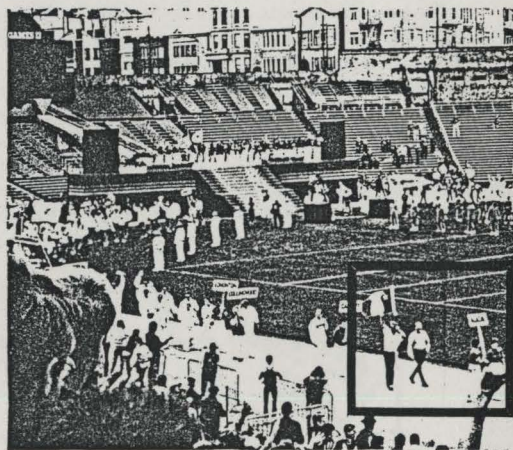
(San Francisco, August 10, 1986) Gay Games II opened yesterday with a four-hour production, about 10,000 spectators and over 3,000 athletes. With the mayor of San Francisco giving a welcome, gay pride was intense. For me, the emotional high came when the various Canadian teams entered, carrying their identifying flags. I fully expected to see the Quebec flag, which was the only provincial one present, but I was especially moved when the Acadian flag came into the stadium. My friends tried to tell me that it was "just" the French flag, but when I explained the special meaning of the *maris stella*, they realized the uniqueness of the Acadian people and shared my enthusiasm. By the way, one of the few U.S. states that was not represented was Maine. Get your jockstraps on, folks, and start practicing. You have four years till the next Games.

Gay humor was evident throughout the festivities. For example, the Minnesota Marching Band used the theme song from "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" to musically represent their home state.

We feel very close to the Games because, with extra room in our flat, we are hosting an athlete and are getting a detailed report of the inside story. He's from New York and plays volleyball, which is taken very seriously. They have a tightly-organized team, which is part of one of several leagues.

Elsewhere on the local lesbian/gay scene, my friend, Wayne, and I have taken a training course from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation so that we are now telephone volunteers on the AIDS Hotline. After three hours on the phone, you're really tired. There are lots of calls from people who are truly ill and need medical attention, other calls from the "worried well" who just want more information, and of course, calls from people with vivid imaginations who create the most outrageous scenarios: What if an ant goes from one person's toothbrush to mine?

Basically what we tell people is that AIDS is not a contagious disease, like the flu.



3 Communiqué Aug. Sept 86

4
Rather, the medical research shows that it is transmitted through exchange of blood or semen. The virus itself is relatively fragile and, although it can be kept alive for 10 days in ideal laboratory environments, it quickly dies in the real world. We also point out that the skin is an ideal barrier which it cannot penetrate, that taking a shower before and after sex is not only fun, but a good idea, and that you can eroticize condoms (try putting a drop of lube inside the tip before slipping it on, for example). NLN now has more information about this topic.

Be well and happy. Enjoy the beautiful weather of late summer and early fall in the northland. I think about good times we've had together with NLN and speak of our group often.

Editor's note: Walt has sent a copy of a publication called THE HOT 'N HEALTHY TIMES which features articles such as "Hot Sex with Condoms", "Dating Dilemma: How to tell him you want to use a condom", "Condom Sense - how to choose 'em, how to use 'em" (this one is photo-illustrated), and "A Consumers' Guide to Condoms". A copy is available at the Lambda Office or for \$2.00 from THE HOT 'N HEALTHY TIMES, 333 Valencia Street, Suite 400, San Francisco 94103. (Please mention Northern Lambda Nord when ordering)

COMMENTARY by Carl T.

I'll be brief. I am writing this in response to a conversation I had with Phil last night at the Phoneline. We talked about people criticizing others who do things for Lambda. Some people are always critical but never contribute positively to this group. We've asked for volunteers for help with the Phoneline since last September, but now there are just two of us. To get to the point, I'd like to say that if you don't like the way something is run, GET INVOLVED! Rumors and back-biting is something we can do without. The bottom line being this organization belongs to all of us, so it's only what we make of it. If there's something you want to see changed, speak up and give us some feedback and ideas about Lambda. "Either shit or get off the pot!"

MAINE BISEXUAL NETWORK BORN

A small group of men and women from various parts of Maine has been meeting in the Portland area since last March's Third Annual Conference on Bisexuality. They range in age from 20's to 40's, couples and single people, feminists, artists, conservatives, computer programmers, parents, health care workers, homemakers. They're ready to give more structure to their group. There will be a retreat September 12-14 in the Belfast area. They will discuss goals, activities, regional networking, coordinating regional contacts, and the purpose of the group: social, support, and/or informational. They have created a safe, confidential place where anyone, regardless of their sexual identity, can come and discuss their needs and desires as a sexual human being. Interested? Call Arlene (207/338-1037) for information about the retreat, or Ginny (207/780-4083) for details about the Maine Bisexual Network.

ELECTION TIME IN THE U.S. IS NEAR



The logo at left is the symbol of the National Visibility Campaign for the Gay & Lesbian Vote '86. The logo provides a decorative reminder to REGISTER AND VOTE. In Maine, you may register any time, including on election day when you arrive at the voting booths. Lesbians and gaymen can be a united, organized voting bloc. Whatever our political, social, professional, religious, or economic background and interest, we all have one thing in common: we are viewed as second-class citizens. The recent Supreme Court ruling on the LACK of rights of adults to engage in consensual sexual activity in the privacy of their homes is a glaring

example. Our strength is in the ballot box. The upcoming election will be discussed October 18 when the President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance comes to Aroostook County to give us the facts we need to be intelligent voters. Don't miss this meeting.

5
NOVA SCOTIA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS 'NO' TO GAY COPS

In what has become an embarrassing incident to Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan's government, Attorney General Ron Giffin said that he would "opt out" of the Charter of Rights to allow Nova Scotia police chiefs to refuse to hire gays. The Halifax lesbian-gay group, Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE) responded: "We call on Premier Buchanan to disassociate himself from Mr. Giffin's comments, to confirm the government's commitment to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and to give assurances that the government will not opt out of the Charter. We call on Attorney General Giffin to resign, on the basis that we have no confidence in his willingness to defend minority rights. Finally, we call on the provincial government to pass legislation which would add 'sexual orientation' to the prohibited grounds of discrimination in the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act." The GAE Civil Rights Committee has agreed to join the Charter Defence Committee, which brings a wide range of Nova Scotians together, those people concerned with protecting minority and other human rights. Representatives to the committee include women's groups, organized labour, the disabled, blacks, native peoples, and other visible minority groups.

ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR OCTOBER

Gays and Lesbians of Moncton/Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton will be hosting the Atlantic region's Gay/Lesbian Conference October 10-12, 1986 (Thanksgiving weekend in Canada, Columbus Day weekend in the U.S.). The conference will be held in the *Pavillon Jacqueline Bouchard* (the nursing building) on the campus of *l'Université de Moncton*. The conference theme, "Homosexuality and You", will be reflected in the workshops, which include: * AIDS, Health and Promiscuity, * Homosexuality and the Bible, * Coming out to family and friends, * Gay parents and parenting * Aging gays, * Substance abuse - drugs and alcohol, * Legal problems, rights, and pitfalls, * Loving relationships, * Women in the workforce, * Lesbian culture. There will be two dances, Friday and Saturday evenings, a variety show with local talent, and a wine and cheese party, free for participants. Billeting is available for out-of-town guests. Registration is \$10 before October 1, \$15 after October 1. The keynote speaker will be Hal Hinds of Fredericton; Hal was one of the two keynotes at the Maine Symposium XIII in Presque Isle in May. Caribou to Moncton is about the same distance as Caribou to Augusta (4½ hours). Registration and information: GLM, POB 7102, Riverview, N-B E1B 1V0 or call 506/858-1013.

AIDSLINE MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

The AIDS-line of Maine marked their first anniversary August 18 and have received over 400 calls during this time. Seventeen volunteer operators handle the calls. The AIDS-line provides Assistance, Information, Direction, and Support. Call 1-800/851-AIDS or 207/775-1267. As of July 24, there have been 24 cases of AIDS in Maine, 11 of whom have died. Ages of AIDS cases range from 13 to 50 years. The AIDS Project publishes a newsletter, a copy of which is on file in the Lambda Office. Subscriptions are 12 issues per year, and the cost is what you can afford - the more the better. Send to: The AIDS Project News, c/o Gay Health Action Committee of Maine, POB 10723, Portland 04104.

CALL FOR MARCH ON WASHINGTON IN 1987

The March on Washington Committee, Inc., formed at a meeting of representatives of national groups and individuals in New York City in July, has issued a call for a march on the U.S. capitol in 1987. This call and subsequent organizing effort are a direct result of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision denying the right of consenting adults to privacy in their bedrooms, and the U.S. Justice Department's sanction of discrimination against people with AIDS, ARC, and those suspected of being exposed to the disease. In addition to raising gay/lesbian issues, a march on Washington will strengthen our movement. To this end, the March Committee is holding an organizing conference in New York City November 14-16. Representatives of every gay/lesbian organization are urged to attend. For details: March on Washington Committee, Inc., POB 1876, Old Chelsea Station, NYC 10011.

GAY GAMES ORGANIZERS APPEAL USE OF WORD 'OLYMPIC'

Organizers of Gay Games II will appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court for their right to use the word "olympic". This appeal stems from the first games in 1982, which organizers had called the "Gay Olympic Games." Three weeks prior to the start of the games, the U.S. Olympic Committee obtained an injunction in federal court prohibiting use of the term "olympic". Games organizers contend their right to use the word "olympic" is an exercise of free speech and association. They also claim the USOC is denying them equal protection

Communicative
Aug - Sept 86

6

under the law since it allows groups as diverse as the "Police Olympics", the "Dog Olympics", and the "Special Olympics" to use the word. The USOC claims it has the exclusive copyright to the word "olympic" as granted by Congress and that the gay group's use would "confuse the public and dilute the value of the term." The Gay Games II attracted nearly 3500 participants from 17 nations, 2 U.S. territories, and 37 states. There were 1300 participants at the first games in 1982.

Communique

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VOICE
FOR
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GAY MEN
IN MAINE

août - sept 86

SPOUSE BENEFITS EXTENDED TO GAY PROFESSORS' PARTNERS (GAIN Newsletter, Newfoundland)

Acadia University will become the second in Canada to extend spouse benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian professors. The faculty at Acadia receive a three-part benefits package: a 50% tuition discount for spouses and children, pension, and medical insurance. York University was the first Canadian university to extend benefits to lesbian and gay faculty members' spouses in 1979.

In a related story, two gay professors at Acadia are launching a grievance against the administration because of the Board of Governor's refusal to foot the bill for medical benefits for their lovers. Matt Hughes, music professor for over 15 years, and Bert Verstrate, classics professor for eight years, are taking the actions. "Our collective agreement states there shall be no discrimination based on an individual's sexual orientation and/or discrimination of benefits," says Hughes. "We have fought to have benefits in our collective agreement and now we have to fight for them again." Letters of support may be sent to the two professors; letters of objection may be sent to Ronald MacDonald, Vice President, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia BOP 1X0.

CALL FOR ESSAYS

Two opportunities for lesbian writers are from sources in Ontario and Massachusetts. (1) Call for essays for an anthology relating to lesbian's coupling experience, writing that expresses the important aspects of the love relationship. Query with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Lynn Scott and Pam White, Box 56, Millers Falls, Massachusetts 01349. (2) Submission of up to 5000 words requested for an anthology of lesbian personal writing -- diaries, journals, letters, thoughts. Material on any fact of the writer's life is welcome. May be published anonymously; confidentiality strictly observed. Include year of writing and age of writer at that time. TO: Frances Rooney, POB 868, Station P. Toronto, Ontario M5S 2Z2.

7
Communique
Aug. - Sept. 86

BEING GAY AND ELDERLY (from MS. magazine)

Marilyn and Ellen have lived together as lovers for 37 years. Although they are now both in their late sixties and retired from professional jobs, they have yet to disclose their lesbian lifestyle and fear a future in which illness could separate them, or where death will push one of them into the exile of silent, secret grief. To help ease such fears, Marilyn and Ellen joined New York City's SAGE - Senior Action in a Gay Environment. Founded in 1977, SAGE is this nation's first comprehensive social service agency serving the special problems of aging gays and lesbians.

In hospitals and nursing homes, medical personnel can be insensitive when a gay partner is ill or dying. Hospital rules limit visits to family and a partner may be barred from visiting when she or he is most needed. The organizers of SAGE seek to serve a variety of their constituency's needs, offering workshops on coping with these situations as well as classes, social activities, and programs for the homebound. In group discussions, participants confront their fears with the help of those who have decided to be open about their chosen lifestyles. "People come to SAGE to share the good memories and the difficult experiences," says Chris Almvig, a social worker and founder of SAGE. For her pioneering work, Almvig received the 1984 Susan B. Anthony Award from the National Organization for Women. "At SAGE, everyone is out (of the closet), and we feel safe," she explains. "I feel joyous in belonging and being with so many people of the same ilk. At long last, we have a place to find ourselves."

Eighteen such resource centers have now been established across the country. For more information, write SAGE, 208 West 13th Street, New York City 10011.

GOING TO MOSCOW?

The Soviet capital boasts this nation's only gay bar, sitting inconspicuously on a side street near the Kremlin. The *Washington Post* reports that about 60-70 men plus a few women, aged from late teens to early 50s, sit in twos or fours at simple tables lit by large wrought-iron lamps. There is a clubhouse atmosphere, with patrons table-hopping and chatting freely with the all-woman staff. After warming up to an American guest, the customers talk in cryptic terms about their "free life" and regular meetings in the bar, which, they say, has been open for several years. They don't often use the word "gay". Other Soviets refer to gays as *golugoi*, Russian for "light blue".



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.


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- ★ **NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK:** Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA. Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber/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, Inc., POB 8008, 04401 - Meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 8pm at University College Center, Texas Avenue, Bangor - Dance and coffee house every Saturday, 9pm-1am at University College Center - \$3.00 - Information: 884-7079
 - **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 (GIM), CP/POB 7102, Riverview E1B 1V0
 - **PORTLAND:** Gay/Lesbian 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 - 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

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