

# Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

CP/POB990 Caribou Maine 04736 USA 207/498-2088

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## 7th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

A standing-room crowd filled the Caribou Country Club Valentine's evening to celebrate Northern Lambda Nord's seventh anniversary and to usher in the beginning of our eighth year. Sixty percent of the revellers were not members of Lambda; some travelled from as far as Bangor, Fredericton, and *Rivière-du-Loup*. "Red Hearts/Pink Triangles", the theme of the evening, was reflected by the two 6-foot red hearts, one embellished with a large number seven, the other with a giant pink triangle formed by small pink triangles. Fourteen door prizes were distributed, from the table centerpieces, dinner certificates, gift certificates from a gay-lesbian bookstore, up to \$50 cash. A "service award" was presented to Dick and Phil "in honor and with deep appreciation of the faithful, devoted and valuable service given to N.L.N. members."

Though the door fee collected covered only a percentage of the costs of the evening, the rental of the Caribou Country Club re-established NLN's right to equal access to that locale. Our 5th anniversary party was held there; they denied us use for our 6th and we filed a discrimination complaint with the Maine Human Rights Commission and publicized the fact. There was no problem renting it this year.

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## POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

A federal "gay rights" bill in the U.S. Congress may have its day in the hearing rooms. That is the goal of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, our community's national political action and education committee. National gay & lesbian civil rights legislation has been its major focus for the past six years. In this, the 100th Congress, there is a record number of co-sponsors: 50 in the House, 6 in the Senate. The bill is an amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to include the term "affectional or sexual orientation". Among the House sponsors is Gerry Studds of Massachusetts, the only gay member of the U.S. Congress to be out. Senate sponsors include Cranston (California), Kennedy and Kerry (Massachusetts), Moynihan (New York), Weicker (Connecticut), and Inouye (Hawaii). Both Senators Mitchell and Cohen of Maine are absent from that list; House sponsors do not include Olympia Snowe.

Human Rights Campaign Fund, 1012 14th St, NW, 6th floor, Wash DC 20005

Sen. George Mitchell, Church Street, Presque Isle 04769 - 764-5601

Sen. William Cohen, Main Street, Presque Isle 04769 - 764-3266

M.C. Olympia Snowe, State Street, Presque Isle 04769 - 764-5124

Senate bill - S.464; House bill - H.R. 709

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## 'THE BODY POLITIC' FOLDS - NEW PUBLICATION PLANNED

After 15 years of publication, Canada's leading "Magazine for Lesbian/ Gay Liberation" has folded. *The Body Politic*, based in Toronto, was this nation's leading news and features publication for English Canada. Despite several attempts at censorship by the government, TBP continued to publish, month after month, providing a high-quality magazine which

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informed, questioned, and provided a national -- and international -- forum for communication among the diverse members of our community. The sudden, abrupt end of TBP has left a void; but a group of people known on their letterhead as "lambda resources" believes that "it is vitally important that the Canadian gay community have a national forum for communication, and that Canada should not be without a national gay magazine. Therefore we have decided to start a new gay news magazine." This new magazine will be "heavy with political content, but...will include gay culture and erotic photographs." This new magazine will be primarily oriented towards gaymen; there are plans to launch a second, lesbian periodical based in Toronto to fill the special need for this type of publication.

This new magazine needs a name, so there's a contest. The person who makes the winning suggestion gets a free subscription plus one for a friend and/or his/her parents. They also need subscribers (\$30/year). Community organizations and low-income people may subscribe at half-price. They also need editorial contributions from writers and photographers; between \$25-200 will be paid for articles and photographs accepted for publication. *lambda resources, Box 460, Station A, Toronto M5W 2S9 416/698-0024*

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#### JULY SYMPOSIUM HOSTED BY BAGELS

The Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition, BAGLSC, pronounced *bagels*, will host Symposium XIV, Maine's annual conference and celebration weekend for our community. Slated for July 3-4-5, 1987, it will be held on the campus of the University of Maine at Orono. As with Symposium XIII in Presque Isle last May, on-campus housing will be available.

BAGLSC applied for a Haymarket Fund grant to help finance the weekend. Because the Bangor group does not have non-profit organization status (501c3), Northern Lambda Nord is acting as "sponsor" on the grant application; NLN has 501c3 status.

Sunday of Symposium weekend is Charlie Howard Memorial Day, the anniversary - July 7th - when Charlie was thrown over the bridge into Bangor's Kenduskeag Stream and drowned.

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#### HIV TESTING/US GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT - MILITARY

Q. What happens to the careers of military or foreign service personnel who are found to be positive to the HIV antibody test, the marker for exposure to the AIDS virus?

A. If you are antibody-positive but show no sign of disease, you will not be discharged. However, your career will be severely restricted because you will not be eligible for certain overseas assignments. If you show initial signs of disease, you will be further restricted. Those with full-blown AIDS will be discharged.

If you are antibody-positive and remain in the service, this will have a serious impact on your career. because your future is affected by your willingness or ability to take a range of overseas assignments. While less harsh than immediate dismissal or discharge, at a certain point this policy will clearly prevent reenlistment or promotion for individuals who may never become ill.

*Information from National Gay & Lesbian Task Force list of 'Questions and Answers on HIV Testing and Government Employment and Programs' - January 1987. NGLTF, 1517 U Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 202/332-6483*

MARS - MARCH 1987

COMMUNIQUE



# Chamber refuses money sparks protest

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"Some of the people on the chamber just seem to have a homophobic attitude," said Dick Harrison of Northern Lampda Nord, Inc Monday. "They are afraid of gay people."

He was discussing the gay organization's attempt to donate money to the Caribou Chamber of Commerce's fund for welcome to Caribou signs. The \$75 donation was returned.

Lucindi J. Hebert, executive director of the chamber, said, "There is no issue here. The money was donated a month after the deadline and it was returned."

The deadline for contributions for three welcome signs set by Hebert in a column she writes for the *Aroostook Republican* was Oct. 31.

However, Harrison pointed out that in that Oct. 15 column it also said "contributions for additional signs will be taken at any time."

Harrison, who is the director of the organization's steering committee, asked why Northern Lambda Nord, Inc's donation could not be kept for those additional signs.

He said that his organization has had an ongoing problem with the chamber. "They seem to think that if they ignore us, we will go away."

The chamber had refused to accept a paid advertisement from the group to be included in the chamber's winter carnival booklet of 1984. The group had advertised in the booklet of 1983.

Harrison said the group had filed a complaint with the Maine Human Rights Commission charging discrimination in the chamber's refusal.

No verification of the complaint could be made at the human rights commission. A spokesperson there said that the commission usually deals with complaints concerning employment or education.

Harrison said that the complaint

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was not acted on because Maine has no gay rights law.

Lampda has also asked to be included on the chamber's list of local civic organizations, but the chamber has refused to do so.

The gay organization celebrated its fifth anniversary in January 1985 at the Caribou Country Club. When members tried to reserve the club for January 1986, they were refused.

Harrison said that again a complaint was filed, and that situation has been resolved satisfactorily.

Harrison said that he had requested a meeting with representatives of the chamber so differences could be

resolved. He said that request has been denied.

A Dec. 10 column by Hebert indicated that the chamber had raised \$3,825 of the \$4,000 needed for the initial three welcome signs.

Harrison said it was at that time that his organization made the donation. Hebert said that between the writing of that article and its appearing in print she was informed of the amount of the Kiwanis contribution to the project, and that \$250 closed the project off.

Harrison said his organization like the other groups who contributed to the project would have wanted their emblem attached to the bottom of the sign. He said the emblem would have just been the organization's logo and not included any words.

Lampda was organized seven years ago and takes its membership from all of Aroostook County. It is the only gay organization north of Bangor. Harrison would not say how many people belonged to the group, but said they had a mailing list of 250.

The group operates a counseling telephone line service for gays. It has made contributions to the Aroostook Mental Health Center of books on alcoholism and drug abuse. It donated a new stereo to a local home for battered women.

This letter appeared February 11th:

## *Sexual preference and money*

To the editor:

If the men and women who belong to Northern Lampda Nord, Inc. live in this community, earn and spend their money here, and pay taxes here, then they have an obligation to support the activities of this community, and should be encouraged to do so. Money and social conscience have no sexual preference.

Caribou

Catherine Welch

COMMUNIQUE





# RFD

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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 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 - meets in Thursdays, 6-9pm in Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union Building
  - **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
  - **MONCTON:** Gais et Lesbienes de Moncton/Gays and Lesbians of Moncton (GLM), 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
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- 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 by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization★★ serving the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick. Subscriptions - \$10 per year. NLN Membership - \$13 per year, which includes Communiqué. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN accepts Canadian and U.S. funds at par. NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are U.S. tax deductible. Advertising rates in Communiqué are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.