

Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

CP/POB990 Caribou Maine 04736 USA

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SUMMER NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE - The two mid-summer issues of *Communiqué* will be dated July/August (number 7) and September/October (number 8).

RESULTS OF SURVEY OF CARIBOU BUSINESSES

In early May, NLN sent a questionnaire to 182 Caribou-area businesses, members of the Caribou Chamber of Commerce, to gauge their attitudes towards gay people. The survey included a cover letter which explained the purposes and activities of this organization; the six-question survey was pre-addressed and stamped to make it as easy as possible for people to respond. Twenty-seven surveys (14.8%) were returned (as of June 3rd). The questions asked were:

- (1) Do you welcome patronage by area lesbians and gaymen?
- (2) Assuming he/she is a good worker, would you continue to employ someone if you discovered he/she were gay?
- (3) Do you support a non-discrimination policy in employment to protect gaymen and lesbians from job discrimination in the State of Maine?
- (4) Should Northern Lambda Nord's paid advertising be included in the annual Caribou Winter Carnival booklet?
- (5) Should Northern Lambda Nord be included on the list of Caribou-area clubs and organizations?
- (6) Should Northern Lambda Nord's donation for the Caribou welcome signs have been accepted?

The responses to each question (yes/no/no answer-na) are as follows (in percentages):

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 - 44% y | 2 - 56% y | 3 - 48% y | 4 - 37% y | 5 - 37% y | 6 - 41% y |
| 52% n | 34% n | 48% n | 59% n | 59% n | 56% n |
| 4% na | 10% na | 4% na | 4% na | 4% na | 3% na |

The majority of respondents (56%) would not fire someone who is gay. Support for a gay civil rights bill was split, 48-48%. The majority supported the homophobic positions of the Caribou Chamber of Commerce (questions 4-6). And as for wanting gay money, only 44% welcomed our patronage; more than half (52%) did not want our business! (listing follows).

A space for comments on the survey yielded mostly negative ones; samples:
"...Chambers actions were appropriate!...goal of the Chamber is to attract & welcome newcomers...establish this area as "Gay Capital" of Northern Maine is neither welcome nor popular...resent organized efforts to promote your lifestyle. Do your thing, but don't flaunt it to the public...not acceptable when you try to force your lifestyle on those not interested...don't want their children biasly influenced away from social norms...don't agree with teachers who share the Gay Ways, as their influence can misdirect young persons from normal social conduct." (Jay Auto Parts)

"Hope you all get AIDS" (ERA Advantage Real Estate)

"Go back to your closet or get out of town!!" (Albair Hardware)

"You go your way - we will go ours" (Betty B. Drake, Jerry's Flying Service)

"...not normal behavior, and we disagree with its being promoted as such...peverted...morally wrong...opposed to very pure law of God concerning sexual behavior. The Bible absolutely condemns it. We're sorry, but we cannot support your goals." (Miller's Discount Store)

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"Your organization promotes perversion. So furthermore should stay in the closet. Fagets (sic) do not deserve any rights!! P.S. If God would have wanted you to be queer he wouldn't have given you the same organs!" (Darrell Adams Hair Stylists)

"The AIDS epidemic is alive and well thanks to people like you. In a short while, we should be rid of the likes of you. I only regret that innocent people will succumb to your gross misconduct. You have my sympathy." (Chadwick BaRoss, construction)

The person who responded from County Optical drew a large hand with extended middle finger.

The following businesses DO NOT want patronage from lesbians and gaymen:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Jay Auto Parts | Pulmonary Support Services |
| Albair Hardware | Cyr Construction Company |
| Jerry's Flying Service | David Smith, dentist |
| Darrell Adams Hairstyle | County Optical |
| Chadwick BaRoss, construction | Paul Bates Subaru |
| Red Ball Potato Company | Aroostook County Federal Savings and Loan |
| Hugh Kirkpatrick, attorney | Ray Harmon & Sons, auto repair |

The following businesses WELCOME patronage from lesbians and gaymen:

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Eva's Bookkeeping & Secretarial Service | Ogden Small, optometrist |
| Anderson Beverage Company | King Henry Motel |
| Mahoney-Morrell construction | H. Collins, physician |
| Oriental Mart | Ennis Company, piping/culverts |
| Miller's Discount Store | Levesque Office Supply |
| | Roy Boone, dentist |

The surveys are available at the Lambda Office if anyone would like to see them.

FUN-IN-THE-SUN BEACH PARTY AND DANCE HOSTED BY FLAG

Set aside Saturday, June 27th for the Fredericton group's summer extravaganza! FLAG (Fredericton Lesbians and Gays) has planned an afternoon of fun and games at the Experimental Farm private picnic grounds near Fredericton, starting at 2pm. The day will include non-competitive activities: frisbee tossing, volleyball, badminton, catch, croquet, kite-flying, and plenty of time for sunbathing and some cruising. Bring some hot dogs, burgers, etcetera for the late-afternoon barbeque. Bring music, games, food, and beverages. This afternoon party will be followed by a "Beach Party Dance" that evening beginning at 9pm in the third floor ballroom at the Student Union Building, University of New Brunswick campus. Everyone is encouraged to wear swimwear, shorts, Hawaiian shirts, sandals, sunglasses, and the like. There will be dancing and a light show. Folks are expected from all over the province plus northern Maine as well. Admission to the dance is \$2 for members of FLAG, GIM (Moncton) and NLN - with valid (current) membership cards. Guests and non-members are \$3.

DIRECTIONS to the picnic: from Houlton/Woodstock, take the Trans-Canada, take exit number 295. Get on the Lincoln Road (it follows the river) and travel east towards the airport, Oromocto, and Saint John. Look for the Pink Flamingos (!) at the Experimental Farm's private picnic area. * ...to the DANCE in the evening, find your own way to the UNB campus, in the center of Fredericton, and the S.U.Bldg. FLAG has sent us maps which are available at the Lambda Office.

ANTI-GAY FOSTER CARE BILL, DEFEATED IN MAINE LEGISLATURE

A bill which would have prohibited lesbians and gaymen from becoming foster parents was squashed in the Maine Legislature's Human Resources Committee. The bill was a direct import from the current policy in Massachusetts, supported by Mass. Governor Michael Dukakis (a Democratic presidential candidate). An amendment to the bill, specifically excluding gay people from becoming either foster parents or adoptive parents, was also dismissed by the Committee. The bill's

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For the fifth time in as many legislative sessions, the Maine lesbian-gay civil rights bill was defeated. But this year's vote garnered the best showing yet; every freshman Democratic House member voted in favor. The vote in the House was 88-45; in the Senate the vote was 24-12. The Senate had passed the measure in the last session. After a day-long Judiciary Committee hearing, the Committee recommended "ought not to pass" by a vote of 7-6. The bill will surely be re-introduced in the next legislative session which will meet during 1989-1990 (sessions are two years in length in Maine).

SYMPOSIUM XIV - REGISTER NOW!

"Coming Out for Freedom" is the theme of the 14th Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium, hosted by the Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition. Symposium XIV will be held on the University of Maine/Orono campus, July 3-5. This year's conference will be in conjunction with the 3rd annual Charlie Howard Memorial Day. As with last year's conference, sponsored by NLN at the UM/Presque Isle campus, registration will be \$15 (includes all scheduled events and a Saturday night dinner); housing is available in a UMO dormitory for \$7 per night (double occupancy) or \$14/night (single room). A schedule, as of June 3 -

FRIDAY, July 3 - Registration begins at noon, UMO campus

Workshops, 4-6pm - Lesbian sex/Gaymen's sex

Dinner break - 4-8pm

Contra Dance - 8-11pm

SATURDAY, July 4 - Low Impact Gayrobics - 8-9am

Welcome and announcements - 9:30am

Keynote Speaker, 9:45-10:45am- Lois Reckitt, from the
National Organization for Women, and the Lesbian-Gay
Human Rights Campaign Fund

Workshops - 11am-5pm (lunch break from noon-1pm)

DINNER - 6:30-8:30pm

Fireworks in Bangor (optional) - around 8:30pm

Dance in the Damn Yankee Room - 10pm-1am

SUNDAY, July 5 - Charlie Howard Memorial Day

Memorial service at the Bangor Unitarian Universalist Church - 10:30am

March through downtown Bangor - noon

Memorial Speaker - 1pm - Darrel Yates Rist

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SYMPOSIUM XIV PRE-REGISTRATION FORM - YES! ☐ Pre-register me for Symposium XIV (\$15)

NAME

ADDRESS TELEPHONE

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

Dormitory accommodations - \$7 (double) - \$14 (single) - rates per night

If requesting, NAME OF ROOMMATE

Roommates will be assigned unless selection is indicated above.

Please check preferences: Non-alcohol dorm space ☐

Non-smoking roommate ☐

Handicap access ☐

Child care ☐

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (payable to BAGLSC) for \$ (US funds, please)

I need housing for ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

Amount enclosed includes \$ for registration

\$ for housing (number of nights:)

SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR MONEY TO:

BAGLSC, Post Office Box 1805, Bangor 04401

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RFD

A COUNTRY JOURNAL FOR GAY MEN EVERYWHERE

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\$4.25 SAMPLE COPY LATEST ISSUE
12.00 REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION (1YR)
18.00 WITH FIRST CLASS MAILING

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, G1K 7P4
- **MONCTON:** Gais et Lesbiennes 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
- **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.