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Northern Lambda Nord

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Northern Lambda Nord completes eighth year

The first meeting of AROCSTOCK LAMBDA was called to order at 1:20 PM (EST) on Sunday, 27 January 1980 in Van Buren. Thirteen people were in attendance.

This is how the minutes of NLN's first meeting begin. Half of those in attendance at this organizing meeting were bilingual Canadians from Madawaska County. At the second meeting in Fort Fairfield in February, the name Northern Lambda Nord was adopted to better reflect the geographic location of and languages spoken by the membership. Many of the original thirteen members have left the area; three - Roger T., Gilles R., and Dick H. - are still active members.

Northern Lambda Nord will celebrate it's eighth anniversary with a party Saturday, February 20th. Members and guests are invited. Details are on the "pink sheet" enclosed in members' newsletters.

Gay-lesbian phoneline marks 5th year, changes location

NLN's Gay-Lesbian Phoneline was five years old this past October. A project begun with financial assistance from Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG), the Phoneline provides a link between individuals in the region and the organized lesbian-gay community. As has been the case since its inception in October, 1982, the Phoneline is staffed by local volunteers who answer the phone two hours every week (Wednesday evenings, 7-9pm Maine time). Training manuals from similar telephone services in North America are used when new volunteers work the Phoneline. NLN's Phoneline provides peer counseling to gays and lesbians who are just "coming out"; information to gay people - both local residents and out-of-town visitors - as to the "gay life" in this part of Maine and New Brunswick; referrals to other gay-positive organizations with respect to legal, medical, and counseling issues. The Gay-Lesbian Phoneline is the only one of its kind in the State of Maine and receives calls from throughout the state.

The Gay Lesbian Phoneline just made its third move in its five-year life. It was first set up in Caribou (498-6556), was relocated for a short time in New Sweden (896-5888), and then moved back to Caribou (498-2088) where it has a wide local calling area to receive calls; New Sweden's local area is limited to New Sweden and Caribou only. For the past two years a Lambda member donated space in a storefront where NLN's phoneline operated; NLN was never asked for rent, heat, or utilities. Because of the expanded use of this storefront, the Phoneline had to move to a new location. It is now in a private home.

NLN would like to thank Laura for donation of space for the Phoneline. She is also being presented with a $25 gift certificate in appreciation for her generosity.

Persons interested in volunteering for work on the Phoneline should contact Roger M. More volunteers are needed; any women who are interested
are especially encouraged.

GAY COP FEATURED IN TV SERIES

It's San Francisco, 1980s. The scene is a police precinct. The characters in this comedy/drama include a WASP straight man, a racist bigot, a woman police officer, a captain of the precinct - also a woman, and a gay man - another police officer. The television program is called HOOPERMAN starring John Ritter, who played the not-gay man in THREE'S COMPANY.

In one episode, the bigot - who also prides himself on being very macho - has killed a hold-up suspect and is in the locker room. John Ritter and the bigot are talking about the incident; the bigot begins to cry. The gay cop enters, sees the man crying, and remarks, "It's nice to see you getting in touch with your feminine side." HOOPERMAN - Tuesdays, CBC/New Brunswick (CHSJ), 7:30pm (N-B), 6:30pm (Maine)

DO YOU WANT TO USE YOUR VISA CARD?

The following is an excerpt from a letter which appeared in Gay Community News (Boston) in the November 15-21, 1987 issue:

...I will not be able to use your Visa card until further notice. The reason for this is because the Visa organization has decided to donate 5c to the U.S. Olympic Committee every time the Visa card is used between July 1-December 31, 1987 and April 1-September 30, 1988.

As you may or may not be aware, the U.S. Olympic Committee brought a homophobic law suit against the organization that sponsors the Gay Games. Originally, the Gay Games were called the Gay Olympics. However, the U.S. Olympic Committee sued, stating that they had an exclusive copyright to the name "Olympic." This suit has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The word "Olympic", as we all know, is used constantly: the Handicapped Olympics, the Children's Olympics, the Clambake Olympics, etcetera. The U.S. Olympic Committee has never tried to stop any other group from using that word. It is only because of homophobia, pure and simple, that they brought suit against the Gay Olympics.

As a gay (person) I cannot, in good conscience, use the Visa card while Visa is making these donations. I (may) cut it in half and return it. You can make cardholders aware of what Visa is doing and encourage them to write letters of protest to:

JAN SODERSTRÖM, Visa Marketing Department, Olympic Program
PO Box 8999, San Francisco, California 94218

and send a copy to:

JOHN KRIEMSKY, Deputy Secretary General of Development
United States Olympic Committee, Olympic House
1750 East Boulder Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

/s/ Robert Kaplan, New York City

LOPING AFB AND U.S. MILITARY SPEND MILLIONS IN GAY WITCH HUNTS

According to their own records, all branches of the U.S. military spend well in excess of $22,000,000 every year to search out and identify lesbian and gay military members. Over $375,000 is spent annually to process discharges of otherwise honorably-serving members of the U.S. military. There are nearly 2,000 discharges in all branches of the U.S. military every year, discharges of soldiers who are doing their job but who happen to be lesbians and gay men.

ON BEING BISEXUAL - reprinted from BOTH SIDES NOW, Hawaii

The myths and half-truths about bisexual people abound. We are struggling for our own identity in a sex-negative, homophobic, and bi-phobic society. We support lesbian and gay rights; however, the support back, though growing, is still infrequent. We are simply being who we are, not of denial or confusion, but out of pride in our conscious lesbian, gay, and heterosexual feelings.
AIDS SYMPTOMS

- Swollen Glands
- Weight Loss
- Fever
- Unexplained Bleeding
- Pink to Purple Blotch or Bump
- Night Sweats
- Cough
- Diarrhea
- Profound Fatigue

**MYTHS about bisexuality**
* it doesn't exist
* it is a transition from straight to gay, or vice versa
* it is denial of feelings
* it is experimentation at the exploit of others
* it is spreading disease from gays to straights
* we just want sex with anyone
* we will always go back to heterosexual privilege
* we are incapable of loyalty
* we are confused about our identity
* we can't be trusted in the lesbian/gay community
* we are not feminists
* we are not political

**TRUTHS about bisexuality**
* it is a sexual orientation unto its own
* it is not concerned just about sex, but about the total life experience
* we have erotic, affectionate, and friendship feelings for both women and men
* we choose our partners consciously
* we make choices and agreements which are kept
* we are of every age, race, economy, and gender
* we may be celibate, monogamous, or polygamous

Being bisexual can be a double oppression, since we are seen as not okay by non-bisexual people, whether they are lesbian, gay, or straight. We want to give and receive support to and from lesbians and gays. Being bisexual is just where we are -- validating our same- and other-sex feelings.

**CALIFORNIANS TO INVADE BANGOR?**

This article in reprinted from HOMEOWNERS magazine:

Concerned about overcrowding in our most populous state, the California Depopulation Commission (a.k.a. "Caldepop"), an unofficial organization of about 2,000, wants Californians to move to Bangor, Maine, population: 35,000. In a letter to the Bangor Daily News, Caldepop asked for information about the city.

Reaction was mixed. Of the dozen replies, eight begged the Californians to stay put. The local Chamber of Commerce invited all Golden-Staters -- as visitors. But Bangor's mayor likes the idea, saying the city can easily accommodate another 20,000. "I think they'll like the weather," he said.