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Northern Lambda Nord

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Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

CP/POB990 Caribou Maine 04736 USA

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VOLUME VII: number 8

October 1986

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On Saturday, October 4, Northern Lambda Nord held our first ever "JOIN US" membership drive party. As of September 30, the end of our 1986 membership year, there were 60 Lambs; as of October 5, membership for 1987 was up to 36. If you are one of these 36, your continued support of NLN is appreciated. If you've not renewed your membership for 1987, it's not too late! You may pay by mail or at any NLN function. Remember that US and Canadian funds are accepted at par, and if you cannot afford the \$13 fee in one sum, arrangements for installment payments may be made with the treasurer, Phil. PLEASE NOTE: If you have not joined for 1987, this is the last newsletter you will receive.

SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 28th BUSINESS MEETING

Lambs gathered in Presque Isle for the monthly meeting. Items discussed and decisions agreed upon are as follows:

* Caribou Post Office incident - still continuing, still not totally resolved. A response to a letter of inquiry to the Caribou Postmaster was received in early September. NLN's letter to Postmaster Everett Cole stressed the seriousness of NLN's mail being opened, read, deemed "sexually explicit advertising" and returned to the sender, the Harvey Milk Club in San Francisco. The item returned was AIDS health information. NLN presented three concerns: (1) what disciplinary actions have been taken against those responsible, (2) why were we not notified by Caribou that our mail was returned; why did the sender (the Milk Club) have to notify us (3) can we be assured that this was an isolated incident and that other mail has not been returned, read, or names copied from the envelopes. Mr. Cole's response to this letter only addressed the third of our concerns: he stated that "I want to assure you that it is not the practice or intent of any employee of the Caribou Post Office to monitor or open first class mail...I apologize for the incorrect handling of this publication... I understand your concern and want to state categorically that this is an isolated instance which will not happen again. No other mail has been diverted from P.O.Box 990 nor have any names or addressees or lists been compiled by anyone in the Caribou Post Office."

According to the Milk Club, the Caribou Post Office has no right to return mail, to notify the San Francisco Post Office that the mail is "sexually explicit advertising", nor may the post office in Caribou deem that the mail should have been sealed with a staple or tape to "be sealed away from the eyes of children." (from Cole's letter). The Milk Club stated that the post office has no authority to make any of these judgements; their mandate is merely to deliver the mail. Any of these judgements must be made at the head region office in Boston, which was not done. The Milk Club continued that they felt the Caribou Postmaster was "covering the whole situation up, was blatantly distorting the focus of what happened, and was trying to make it look like it was nothing important." What the Caribou PO did was a "major breach of law and a major breach of postal regulations."

Taking the Cole letter (in response to NLN's questions) and the reaction of the Milk Club, the Steering Committee has voted to contact the Maine Civil Liberties Union and request that we be contacted by a cooperating attorney in Aroostook County. (Cooperating attorneys are free through the MCLU). NLN is not satisfied with the answers given by Mr. Cole to our inquiry, and that perhaps a follow-up letter written from an attorney will be more effective. It was the consensus of the members at the meeting that NLN is not "out for blood", but that we are not satisfied with the answers to our concerns.

* Phonenumber - In an attempt to broaden the availability of our Lesbian/Gay Phonenumber to area residents, the Steering Committee has voted to contact the Aroostook Mental Health Center's Helpline and see what kind of agreeable arrangements can be made to

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"link in" with their Helpline. The AMHC line operates 24 hours a day and has an 800 number, toll-free from within the entire State of Maine. It was felt that if we could maintain our Phoneline, staffed Wednesdays, 7-9pm, and have a recording instructing people to call the AMHC line at other times, if they need to talk, that would increase both our accessibility and would be good for AMHC's outreach to our community, since they have a generally homophobic reputation among many gay people. If someone called AMHC to talk to our Phoneline, AMHC would call one of the Lambs on their list who would call back the person who wanted to talk. Specifics and even the feasibility of this will be discussed at a meeting which will be arranged with the director of the AMHC Helpline.

*Outreach - It was voted to continue advertising in the student newspaper at the University of Maine/Presque Isle during this 86-87 school year.

- The Resident Assistants, who have had an annual meeting with members of NLN's Speakers Bureau for the past two years, will arrange a similar meeting during the next few months. In the past, these sessions had been during the students' fall orientation week, the end of August. The sessions focus on dealing with gay/lesbian students, issues that may arise, and just acquainting the RAs with the whole issue of homosexuality and answering their questions.

- The numerous brochures from our library are being sorted and categorized for those which would be appropriate to make available to libraries, health-giving agencies and physicians, and school guidance counselors throughout the County. A letter will be sent to each of these institutions and agencies with sample brochures included and a list of the resources held in *Bibliothèque Lambda*.

* "Executive Committee" will be referred to as "Steering Committee", which better explains the role of these six people.

* Calendar items - FILMS: Because of a mix-up with delivery of the film September 14, the movie "As Is", the highly-acclaimed Broadway play about AIDS and the relationship of the family, lover, ex-lover, and friends of a gayman with AIDS, has been rescheduled. It will be shown Saturday, October 18, in combination with the discussion group. A member of the Steering Committee of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance will be in Arcostook to discuss the up-coming election in November and the issues of greatest importance to our community, and where the various candidates stand on these issues. The discussion will be preceded by a brief NLN Business Meeting; the discussion will be followed by a pot-luck meal, then the movie, then a party. Members: see pink calendar for location and times.

PARTIES: Hallowe'en - Saturday, November 1. Prizes will be awarded for Best Costume (\$15 certificate to the Jade Palace Restaurant in Caribou), and for the Most Original Costume (\$10 gift certificate to Epstein's Clothing in Presque Isle).

Membership Drive Party: A questionnaire was discussed at the Business Meeting. If you attended the party you should have filled one out, asking your preferences for NLN activities, why you've joined the group, or why you have not. Results will be discussed at the next Business Meeting (October 18) and decisions made accordingly.

* Scheduling of activities: It was agreed that NLN-sponsored activities should be combined, whenever possible. For example, the scheduling of a business meeting/discussion group/pot-luck meal/and film for the same evening. This will make it easier for people who have to travel as much as 1½ hours to attend more events. Instead of having a meeting one weekend, a fold-and-stuff newsletter evening the next weekend, a movie the next weekend, and a discussion group the next, with a party in there someplace, we will keep the same number of activities but meet less frequently. It is hoped that this will increase participation at NLN gatherings.

* Credits System established: The Steering Committee discussed the fact that people who volunteer their time to keep Northern Lambda Nord alive and continuing do not receive any special benefits, any incentives to increase involvement of more people. There is no financial incentive (free admission to parties), and the personal satisfaction of working in Lambda is fine but more is needed. To this end, a "Credit System" will be established. This is how it will work: If any Lamb attends a business meeting, a fold-and-stuff of the newsletter, or participates in the Speakers Bureau,

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you will receive one credit for any of these activities. During the next six months, all those Lambs who have accumulated at least six credits will be entitled to a pizza party, courtesy of NLN. Lambda will pay for the pizza; you buy your beverages. This party will be held in April, 1987 for the six-month period October '86-March '87. During this six-month period, there will be at least 12 opportunities for everyone to earn credits: six business meetings (one each month) and six fold-and-stuff (again, one each month). Speakers Bureau engagements will be scheduled as required.

An additional policy was established: at NLN parties, when there is a door charge, those people who take turns staffing the door (generally Steering Committee members and other volunteers) will not have to pay the door charge for that evening. This will be in effect beginning with the Hallowe'en party November 1st.

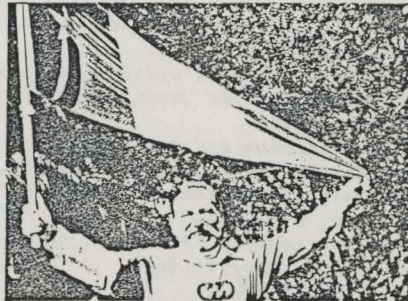
*Other items: The Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XIV will be held in Bangor over the July 4th weekend (87); it will be sponsored by the Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition (BAGLSC - pronounced "bagels") and by the Wilde-Stein Club of the University of Maine/Orono. The Symposium will coincide with Bangor's annual memorial to Charlie Howard, the gayman who was murdered in Bangor July 7, 1984.

There has been a call for a National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights during 1987. This is in reaction to the anti-gay sodomy law decision by the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Justice Department's ruling sanctioning discrimination against people with AIDS and with ARC (AIDS-related complex). A planning meeting will be held in New York City November 14-16, and a request has been received to send representatives from every gay/lesbian group in the U.S. The Steering Committee felt that NLN's money would be better spent sending Lambs to the actual March next year rather than sending only one or two people to NYC next month.

"STAMP OUT AIDS" are stamps designed to be used in the same manner as Christmas Seals. They are on sale 6/\$1. NLN will purchase some stamps and have them available for Lambs to buy. All proceeds go to AIDS support groups and AIDS research groups in the U.S. If mailed in time, we should have them available for sale at the Hallowe'en party.

ADDENDUM TO LETTER FROM THE WEST

Dateline: San Francisco - Enclosed is a photo of moi, taken at the end of the Gay Games II. As it happened, there was only one Acadian player left for the closing ceremonies, and since he had to enter the stadium with the real athletes, he asked me to march with the flag, which I very gladly did. I walked into the stadium with the rest of the Canadian flags, next to guys from Montreal and Toronto. We had a great time together and look forward to 4 years down the line when the Games will be in Vancouver. Unfortunately, the man who was in charge of organizing our Games is now critically ill with AIDS himself and probably will not be present four years hence... He also happens to be an M.D. As you understand, there is a very dark shadow over all of us. /s/ Walter



MAINE CANDIDATES ENDORSED IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance has made public their endorsements of candidates running for office in Maine next month. For Governor, Sherry Huber, an independent candidate, is the only one of four candidates to be supportive of a comprehensive gay-lesbian rights bill in Maine. Candidates in Aroostook County who have received endorsements from the MLGPA include: Senate District 2 (central Aroostook) - James Dunleavy. Maine House of Representatives: No candidates in the County received MLGPA endorsements. Endorsements were made based upon responses to questionnaires sent to the candidates. The three questions asked were:

- (1) Do you favor civil rights for gay people in Maine? What types of rights to you support or oppose?
- (2) Would you vote for an amendment to include the term "Sexual orientation" in the Maine Human Rights Act?
- (3) Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a disease spreading quickly around the world. Increasingly, public attention is focused on the disease. As a legislator, would you support funding for education, treatment, and support services?

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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 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 (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.