

New Liberation News Service:

The Alternative Media Source

On September 21, 1990, New Liberation News Service packet #1 was released to several dozen small student and community papers across the United States. For the first time in a decade progressive, alternative media outlets were offered a wire service that brought them a collection of the best writings, artwork and photos from outside the pale of the mainstream press. NLNS, from the outset, has been eminently affordable, extremely provocative and maverick in the best sense of the word. The response to the project, particularly during the Gulf War media clampdown, was fast and furious. By February of 1991, NLNS had over 200 subscriber publications and radio stations— with a combined audience of over a million people in the United States and Canada.

The credit for this success belongs to the hundreds of new media projects that have sprung up since the mid-80s. The impetus for starting NLNS came out of an organization of several dozen papers called the Network of the Alternative Student Press (NASP). NASP papers were typical of the new breed of alternative press that is using state-of-the-art desktop publishing technology and a "tell-it-like-it-is" style of journalism to challenge the monolith of corporate-controlled mainstream press. From NASP's beginnings, however, it was evident that some kind of wire service would greatly expand the amount and quality of news that member papers could provide to a public starved for some alternative views on the pressing issues of our times.

So it seemed only natural that some NASP people decided to put such a project together in 1990. And few of us were surprised at the instant demand and glowing publicity for the project. Still, building NLNS from the ground up has been difficult work. During our first year, with almost no funding, we managed to provide only a bare-bones monthly wire service. Having survived the ever-crucial first year we are now ready to begin new projects.

For those of you unfamiliar with NLNS, our basic functioning is pretty simple. Members mail us their publications, indicating what they feel is their best work, which we enter into our computer. To that basic setup we add work from a growing network of correspondents, stringers, artists and photographers from around the world.

Then we produce some work inhouse. The final packet, usually 20-30 pages' worth, is mailed out to our subscribers, and publications receive the text portion of our packets over electronic mail.

This year we are making a few changes which we hope will better serve people. First, we will be coming out regularly once a month, rather than every 2-to-6 weeks like last year. Second, we will be producing NLNS in a more user-friendly newsletter format; so that we can benefit individual subscribers as well as media outlets. Third, the Student Leader News Service, which currently serves sixty NY university papers, will begin operating as our first news bureau to improve our regional coverage. Finally, we are systematizing our subscriber rates to avoid confusion over who pays us what.

We expect this to be a great second year, and we invite you to join us. As a subscriber to NLNS you'll have access to the best of the underground press "uncensored and free." And in this age of Pentagon censorship, people need all the truth they can get. So get it from the source. Get NLNS.

How to Get NLNS

To get NLNS just call or write us. Your rate depends upon what type of service you want.

NLNS operates primarily as a news service to further alternative media. Our subscription rates are based on the needs of these papers. In order that we may continue this mission, we ask that individual subscribers and larger media groups pay a slightly higher rate so that these members may sustain us while we provide low cost services to small alternative presses. For details on these services please see the enclosed rate sheet.

Individual Subscription	\$45.00 per year
NASP Affiliates Basic Membership	\$35.00 per sem.
Basic Membership	\$200.00 per year
FaxPlus Membership	\$800.00 per year

NEW LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE
P.O. Box 41, MIT Branch • Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 253-0399