

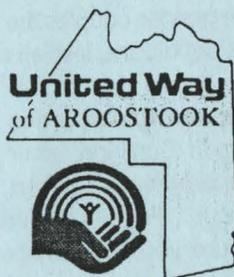
Communiqué

Volume XIII: no. 3 mars/March 1992

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

UNITED WAY SAYS 'NO' TO PHONELINE APPLICATION

The Board of Directors of the United Way of Aroostook voted January 16 not to include Northern Lambda Nord's Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber as a participating agency for 1992. According to a January 27th letter from Susanne Sandusky, Executive Director of the County fundraising agency, "During a challenging economic year, some difficult decisions had to be made by our



Allocating Committee. Decisions were made with priority given to programs demonstrating the most need and meeting the most critical human needs." The Phonenumber request of \$515 for the year represents just over three-tenths of one percent (0.32%) of the \$160,000 in direct support to Aroostook United Way agencies and programs allocated for 1992. Members of the Admissions and Allocations Committee include

Juanita Hallet, Norm Johnson, Bill Cyr and Dave Zullo (Presque Isle), Lester Bartley (Mars Hill), Chris Fitzpatrick and Joyce Fitzpatrick (Houlton) and Bruce Sandstrom, president of the United Way of Aroostook.

At NLN'S February 23rd meeting in Caribou, the members present agreed to reapply to the United Way for 1993 funding of the Phonenumber.

In a related matter, the admissions policies for agencies of the Aroostook United Way refer to various characteristics of recipients of their funding, noting that monies will be given to agencies which make their services available to persons without regard to race, color, religion, "or any such basis." Roger Murphy, Phonenumber Director, had written Ms. Sandusky for clarification of the phrase, "or any such basis", asking if "sexual orientation" were included in that terminology. In her letter Ms. Sandusky noted that the "inquiry has been referred to our Board for consideration and study." There was no mention as to how long that study would take.

If the local Boy Scouts follow the policies of the national organization, at least one Aroostook County recipient of United Way funding, the Katahdin Area Boy Scouts, excludes gays from participation in their programs. If the Aroostook United Way views their "any such basis" phrase as prohibiting discrimination in their funding based upon sexual orientation they would not be able to continue funding the Boy Scouts. Phonenumber staff is continuing to press the Aroostook United Way for clarification of their non-discrimination policy. ▼

TWO SUPPORTIVE CANDIDATES VIE FOR OFFICE

In two of northern Maine's three State Senate races in November, candidates supportive of gay-lesbian issues will be on the ballot. In Senate district 1, which includes much of northern Aroostook County, incumbent Reynold Theriault of Fort Kent (formerly a Democrat and now a Republican) has never supported civil rights for gay people. He will be opposed by Democrat Judy Paradis of Frenchville, who currently represents the Madawaska-Frenchville area in the Maine House of Representatives. Paradis is a longtime supporter of gay and lesbian issues and is a former recipient of a recognition award from the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) for her work on behalf of our community.

In Senate district #3, which includes a vast area from Fort Fairfield in the north to Vanceboro in the south and Mattawamkeag in the west, Northern Lambda Nord member Dick Dickinson of Orient is running to represent that part of The County. Dickinson is currently the MLGPA Board member from Board district 1, Aroostook County.

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BUILDING FUND



The NLN Building Fund is designed to raise money for a community center for this region. The center would house the phonenumber, library, office, meeting space, and party space. Since NLN is a 501(c)3 group, all donations are tax-deductible on federal U.S. income tax; merely ask for a receipt. Donations of any amount - U.S. or Canadian funds - are appreciated. ▼

DID YOU KNOW

☞ Bangor celebrates Gay-Lesbian Pride with a parade through the city on June 20, 1992

☞ "We Won't Go Back: March for Women's Lives" demonstration in Washington, DC April 5, 1992, to demand an end to attacks on reproductive rights and to call for reproductive freedom and civil rights for all people (details from 617.782-1056)

☞ Violence and victimization against gaymen & lesbians is up 42% in major urban areas 1990-1991

☞ The northwestern New Brunswick group, Gais.es Nor Gays, will have a dance Saturday, March 21 at the Chalet Sportif on Golf Street, Bathurst, 8pm

☞ For the first time, all 5 U.S. Democratic presidential candidates sent representatives to the MLGPA banquet in February, asking for our votes

☞ There are 91 million families in the U.S.; only 27% are "traditional" husband-wife-kids; 7% of those are husband (breadwinner), wife (stays at home), kids

☞ The 2nd Pan-Canadian Conference on Lesbian & Gay Rights will be in Vancouver in the early fall, 1992 (call 604.683-4176 for details) ▼

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Further details about these two races as well as information about the candidates from Senate district 2 and the other House races in Aroostook County will be detailed in future issues of *Communiqué*. ▼

Communiqué

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COMMUNIQUÉ is published ten times yearly by *NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD*, an organization serving the lesbian-gay-bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton counties). *SUBSCRIPTIONS* - \$10 per year. *NLN MEMBERSHIP* - \$15 per year, which includes a subscription. U.S. and Canadian funds are accepted at par. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. 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.

NEW BRUNSWICK REPORT

COALITION CONTINUES WORK FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

☞ The New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform/*La coalition pour la réforme des droits de la personne au Nouveau-Brunswick*, continues its efforts to amend the provincial Human Rights Act to include the term "sexual orientation" in categories protected from discrimination. As the Legislature reconvenes, the Standing Committee on Law Amendments will continue its work reviewing the Ferris Report, which recommended inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the Act, and then make recommendations to the government.

The focus of the Coalition over the next few months will be to ensure that the process to enact legislation not be needlessly lengthy. They will also focus on making the legislation comprehensive, whereby it includes listing of sexual orientation as a grounds of prohibitive discrimination, and that both same-gender and opposite-gender couples receive equal protection under the Act. In provinces where only sexual orientation is listed and same-gender couples are excluded from marital status with regards to family status definitions, lesbians and gaymen continue to be discriminated against.

The N.B. Liberal Party, which controls the Legislature, is on record supporting the protections sought by the Coalition. In response to a Coalition letter requesting clarification on the government's support for protection under "marital status", Premier Frank McKenna responded, "I can assure you that when protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is extended in the Human Rights Act, we will ensure that the right is not compromised by the limited definition of another proscribed ground." Similarly, Vaughn Blaney, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour (under which the Human Rights Commission falls), wrote, "I can confirm my support for the position that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation cannot be prohibited under part of an ACT, while allowed under other sections because of omissions."

The time frame of passage is unsure. Dennis Cochrane, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, has stated his support for amending the Human Rights Act and will talk to his caucus about making it their official position. Support from the New Democratic Party (NDP) is already a matter of record, as is the opposition of CoR (Congress of Regions party). When adopted, New Brunswick will join Québec, The Yukon, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia who have already adopted legislation to protect their lesbian and gay citizens from discrimination. ▼

SUMMER '91 ASSAULT

GAYBASHERS RECEIVE JAIL SENTENCES

Three area men convicted of assault have been sentenced to prison. The three, Clayton Violette, Ed Wilson and Steve Cormier, were convicted of the assault at the Caribou rest area (the "R.A.") of a Van Buren man. Violette and Wilson,

both of New Sweden, were sentenced to 10 years each with all but 4 years suspended and 3 years probation. Cormier received a 10 year sentence with all but 4 1/2 years suspended. In their reported investigations, State Police classified the

assault as a "gay bashing", since the R.A. is known to be frequented by gaymen. The fact that the Van Buren man was married with children was said to be irrelevant, since the assailants perceived anyone at the R.A. to be queer. ▼

Do more
than belong.
Participate.

