

COMMUNIQUÉ

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A MESSAGE FROM THE NLN DIRECTOR

Hate Crime in Presque Isle

by Jim Fotter, Director

About a week ago, I received a call from Bill who told me of a news story he heard on Maine Public Radio. The report described a gay man at Northern Maine Technical College in Presque Isle who was the victim of a hate crime. This man was verbally and physically assaulted because he was gay. This report haunted me for the past week as I wondered how this man, reported only as "John Doe," was doing. Does he have a partner or friends who will support him? How is NMTC prepared to assist him in coping with this incident? Finally, I called the college and offered our services to a guidance counselor so "John" would at least know that

NLN exists.

I can think of a few positive issues attached to this incident. It does appear that Maine's Assistant Attorney General is actively pursuing this issue as a hate crime. Secondly, I rather cynically expected local newspaper coverage to – at best – bury the issue, if they printed it at all. Instead, I was surprised to find the story with a front page headline in the weekly Presque Isle *Star-Herald*. Despite all of Carolyn Cosby's attempts to dismiss gay-related hate crimes with her reckless rhetoric, we know that our fears are reality-based. Perhaps more people in The County and throughout Maine will have increased awareness as well.

As a systematic component of our goal-setting

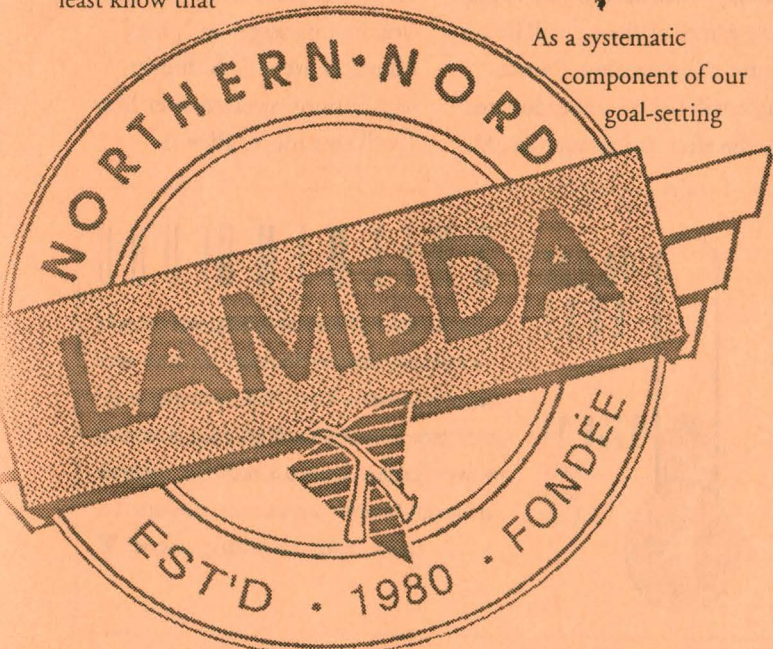
process, your elected Steering Committee has actively reviewed the activities and services offered by Northern Lambda Nord. We have explored the reasons why individuals choose to join or not join NLN. One reason that was listed for not joining was that NLN was perceived to be "too political" and, therefore, as a condition of membership, one might be expected to be a "militant homosexual." Another fear about joining is that perhaps some members might look down on those who were not "out" at their workplace or with their family and friends. Some individuals may worry about being accidentally or intentionally outed as a means of promoting "the gay agenda." Still others might simply wonder what politics has to do with being gay.

We often find ourselves in a difficult dilemma. Whether we like it or not, as lesbians, gays, bisexuals, or trans-gendered individuals, everyday life carries the burden of implied or direct political statements. Just recently I thought of the issues that I have faced in Maine and elsewhere: Do I call Jim my partner or my roommate? (It depends.) Should we have a joint checking account with both of our names printed on

the checks? (We do.) What do we tell our landlord? (Let her figure it out.) Should I come out to my potential employer during the interview? (I did.) Do I dare hold Jim's hand or display affection for him in public? (I haven't.) For the 12 years that I was married, I wouldn't have given any of these questions a moment of thought. Now I find myself making a political statement.

Whether we like it or not, others are attempting to make political statements about us. Many try to disguise their political agenda as some religious mandate. Some are trying to throw us back into the closet or to make us remain there. Others dismiss our anti-discrimination concerns as special rights. Some would even go so far as to suggest that we are deserving recipients of hate crimes and of AIDS.

But there are many who aren't buying the negative message. The group Maine Won't Discriminate has formed to fight November's anti-gay referendum question which was placed on the ballot by Carolyn Cosby and her group, Concerned Maine Families. Maine Won't Discriminate has thousands of supporting members, many of whom are not gay. Northern Lambda



Nord will be forming coalitions with Maine Won't Discriminate and others because we know that education is the only way to attack hate. Meanwhile, I'm asking you to do whatever you can to support our efforts. If you are able, talk to friends, family, and public policy-makers. Take pride in yourself, and know that NLN is here for you. Choose to make your political statement any way that you can. No effort is insignificant. Together, we will make a positive difference for the "John and Jane Doe"s and for each other.

Be well! /s/ Jim ▼

MAINE SYMPOSIUM XXI UPDATE

90 days and counting!

by Dick Harrison, editor

Planning continues for the Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium XXI. This is the fourth time since 1986 that Northern Lambda Nord has hosted Symposium, the state's conference for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities of Maine. The dates are Friday through Monday, May 26-29, 1995 (Memorial Day weekend) on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

Symposium XXI's volunteer organizers have been meeting since May of '94 to plan the details involved in hosting 150 people for the long weekend. Here's a recap of some of the details from last month's *Communiqué*: **(new information is bold)**

✓ *Housing* will be on campus. Dorm rooms are doubles and triples. The UMPI Conferences Office sets up the rooms with motel-like accommodations and provides all sheets, blanket, pillow, towels, and soap; there are shared baths on each floor.

✓ *Meals* will be served in Kelly Commons (Saturday breakfast and lunch, Sunday brunch, and Monday breakfast). The Saturday evening **Italian buffet** will be in the "great room" in the new Campus Center, and the Sunday BBQ will be on the Campus Center balcony, weather permitting. Both meat and meatless choices will be available.

✓ *Entertainment* on Saturday evening will be in Weiden Auditorium featuring "The Maritones", 12 members of the 55-voice Maine Gay Men's Chorus from Portland, and lesbian comic Karen Williams. A dance in the Campus Center will follow the concert.

✓ *Keynote Speakers* The tradition of Symposium when held in Presque Isle is two keynote speakers, one Canadian and one American (attendance in Presque Isle is historically 30-35% Canadian). **Keynotes:** *Mary Bonauto*, legal counsel from Boston's GLAD - Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. She is working with the Maine Civil Liberties Union to challenge the constitutionality of the anti-gay Carolyn Cosby referendum in an attempt to keep it off the ballot. *Tuma Young* is a MicMac from Nova Scotia, active with the Atlantic

First Nations AIDS Task Force in Halifax.

✓ *Workshops* About 15 workshops will be held covering a wide range of topics. **Workshops are the key to the weekend!** We need your suggestions for workshop discussions as well as people to lead these discussions. Tentatively scheduled are workshops on *gays & lesbians adopting children; being gay/lesbian and a self-employed; and organizing a P-FLAG group - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.*

✓ *Panel Discussion/Town Meeting* With an anti-gay referendum question on the November '95 Maine ballot, this is an opportunity for people to find out more about the "Maine Won't Discriminate" campaign to defeat this Colorado-type initiative.

✓ *Films* A variety of gay- and lesbian-themed films are screened throughout the weekend.

✓ *Casino Night* will be Sunday when several Las Vegas-type games of chance will be set up for a fun evening. Participants will bid on items donated for the after-casino auction. All


resulting **proceeds** will be **donated to the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine**, operated by Northern Lambda Nord.

✓ *Books & more* The Gulf of Maine Bookstore of Brunswick will again this year provide a wide selection of books for sale during the weekend. We are also soliciting vendors and organizations to set up tables for sale and distribution of items of interest to Symposium participants.

✓ *Other special events* we hope to offer include our second mixed doubles tennis tournament, an art exhibit by lesbian and gay artists, and an early Sunday morning nature walk.

✓ *Registration* includes admission to all events - workshops, films, panel discussion/town meeting, opening and closing sessions, the Saturday night dance and concert, and all other special activities during Symposium weekend.

✓ *Costs to attend* You have the choice from among several weekend packages or "plans". All prices are in U.S. funds; registrations received after May 1 will cost more. *Plan A*



\$10,000
GOAL

\$3356.34

U.S. funds
as of
02.12.95

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 - in either U.S. or Canadian funds - are greatly appreciated. ▼

includes three nights lodging, six meals and registration for \$109. *Plan B* is two nights lodging, five meals and registration for \$95. *Plan C* is one night lodging, four meals and registration for \$80. *Plan D* is for people who do not want to stay on campus and includes only the meals and registration for \$65. *Plan E* is just the registration for \$25. *Plan X* gets you into the Saturday night banquet, concert and dance only, and costs \$20. *Plan Z* is admission to the dance for \$5. *Pre-registration is required* if you want on-campus housing and/or meals (Plans A, B, C or D).

The Symposium organizing committee is still small – too small. Volunteers are needed to help select and order films, help with mailings and phonecalls, and other vital parts of the conference. Planning meetings are held every two or three weeks at the Community Center in Caribou. Check the calendar and join in! ▼

MAINE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL
Have You Experienced Discrimination?

by Dick Harrison, editor

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance is working to amend the Maine Human Rights Act to include “sexual orientation” and protect citizens from discrimination based upon one’s sexuality. MLGPA is looking for people who have experienced discrimination and who are willing to testify at the Judiciary Committee hearings, which will be held during the first week of March. If you will tell the Committee your story call 1-800-55-MLGPA today! ▼

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BODYBUILDER

Help Anne Go To Moncton!

by Dick Harrison, editor

Anne Maure, whom some of

you have met at Lambda events, is an award-winning competitive bodybuilder. In 1990 she took both first place (light-weight) and first overall in the Atlantic competition; third place in 1991 in New Brunswick; first place in 1993 in Edmundston; second place in 1994 in Ville Dégelis. She will be entering the next regional competition in Moncton on April 29th. Her girlfriend, Monique Ringuette, is spear-

heading a fundraising drive to help send Anne to Moncton! (This is a surprise; Anne doesn’t know that Monique is doing this.) The money will help defray the costs of getting to Moncton, the motel, and other competition expenses. Any help is appreciated. Send donations to Monique or contact her for more info: Monique Ringuette, RR#1, Rang 5, #360, St-Basile N-B E0L 1H0; 506/263-5315. ▼

FACTS & TALKING POINTS about the Radical Right and anti-lesbian/gay ballot initiatives

FACT: Gay and lesbian Americans are NOT covered under any federal non-discrimination law. We are fired from jobs, denied promotions, or never hired for reasons not related to job performance – and we have no legal recourse under federal law.

FACT: Americans are slightly opposed to extending civil rights to gays & lesbians (40% yes, 47% no), but when they learn that there are no such laws, over half support our civil rights (57% yes, 34% no).

FACT: More Americans (42%) favor anti-gay initiatives than oppose them (33%), yet voters overwhelmingly agree (76%) that we should not be discriminated against in terms of job opportunities.

FACT: Your choice of words makes a difference. On a “feeling thermometer” from 0-100, voters gave a 62% rating – a warm and positive response – to the term “religious right”. Using the term “radical right”, which received a 25% “cold” rating, has a much stronger impact in depicting the extreme nature of our opposition.

Information from the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Washington DC 202/628-4160

SIDA LES NIVEAUX DE RISQUE

LE BAISER avec échange de salive (french-kiss) ne comportent aucun risque. **LES CARESSES ET LA MASTURBATION** ne constituent aucun risque de transmission du VIH. **LE SEXE ORAL** Il est peu probable que cette pratique sexuelle puisse transmettre le VIH. **LA PÉNÉTRATION ANALE ET VAGINALE** non protégée par un condom constitue un haut risque de transmission du VIH, qu’il y ait éjaculation ou non. **LES JOUETS SEXUELS** (ex.: vibreur, godemiché) non partagés ne constituent aucun risque de transmission du virus. **LÉCHER L’ANUS** ne constitue pas un mode de transmission du VIH. Cependant, elle ne vous protège aucunement de l’hépatite B ou des autres MTS. **ACTIVITÉS SADO-MASOCHISTES** qui ne causent pas de saignements et qui n’incluent aucune autre activité à risque ne favorisent pas la transmission du VIH.

AIDS THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER

CONSIDERED SAFE: Mutual masturbation, Hugging/body rubbing, Massage, Social (dry) kissing, Fantasy, Light S/M (without bleeding or bruising), Sex toys (when used only on yourself)

CONSIDERED POSSIBLY SAFE: Anal or vaginal intercourse with a condom, French (wet) kissing, Sucking (but stopping before climax), Watersports (external only), Cunnilingus

CONSIDERED UNSAFE: Swallowed semen, Anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom, Watersports in mouth or on skin with sores or cuts, Sharing IV needles, Fisting or rimming, Sharing enema equipment, douching equipment, or sex toys

Calendrier Northern Lambda Nord Calendar

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE HELD AT THE **GAY-LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER OF NORTHERN MAINE**, 398 SOUTH MAIN ST., CARIBOU, ACROSS FROM THE NYLANDER MUSEUM, 207.498-2088 (M=MAINE TIME, N=NEW BRUNSWICK TIME)

- **SECOND SUNDAY of the month: NLN Meetings - Mar 12** 1-3pm(M) 2-4pm(N); the summer schedule starts **Apr 9** when meetings are 3-5pm(M) 4-6pm(N)
- **EVERY TUESDAY: Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting** 7:30-8:30pm

- (M) 8:30-9:30pm(N)
- **EVERY WEDNESDAY: Community Center Drop-In & Open House** 7-9pm(M) 8-10pm(N)
- **FIRST FRIDAY of the month: Open House & Film Night** 8-11pm(M) 9pm-midnight (N)

- Mar 3: Two gay men play a deadly game in Alfred Hitchcock's "Rope"; Apr 7: Woopie Goldberg's first lesbian role in "The Color Purple"**
- **THIRD FRIDAY of the month: Women's Night** 7pm(M) 8pm(N) - Mar 17, Apr 21

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE HELD AT OTHER LOCATIONS

- **1st Day of Spring BBQ & St Patrick's Day Dance** Sat, March 18, 6pm(M) 7pm (N) at a private home in New Sweden - BYO food for the grill, a cold dish to share & a beverage; members free,

- guests \$2 (\$us=cdn\$)
- **April Fool's Day Video Dance** Sat, Apr 1, 8pm(M) 9pm(N) at a private home in Van Buren BYO beverage; members free, guests \$2 (\$us=cdn\$)
- **Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium XXI** May 26-29, 1995

Lesbian-Gay GUIDE Lesbienne-Gai

NEW BRUNSWICK • MAINE • NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA 207.498-2088 TTY/V
GAY-LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER of Northern Maine 398 South Main Street, Caribou; mailing address: POB 990, Caribou 04736-0990; 207.498-2088 TTY/Voice
GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE of Maine 207.498-2088 TTY/Voice - staffed Wed, 7-9pm (Maine), 8-10pm (N-B)
GAY/LESBIAN AA meets Tuesdays, 7:30pm (Maine)/ 8:30pm (N-B) at Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 South Main Street, Caribou; Call 207.498-2088 to make contact

- **REGIONAL GROUPS/GROUPES REGIONALS**
- FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG)** POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)
- GAIS & LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM)** CP/POB 1072, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.855-8064
- GAIS.ES. NOR GAYS (GNG)** CP/POB 983, Bathurst E2A 4H8
- GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK** POB 212, Bangor 04401, 207.862-5907, 207.941-2189
- HARBOR MASTERS, INC.** leather-levi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104
- NO BORDERS/SANS FRONTIÈRES** CP/POB 461, Campbellton E3N 3G4
- TIME OUT** outdoor activities, monthly calendar, POB 11502, Portland 04104
- WOMYN'S GROUP** POB 20082, Fredericton E3B 6Y8, 506.457-2156
- **HEALTH/SANTÉ**
- AIDS New Brunswick** 800.561-4009
- AIDSLine/Maine** 800.851-AIDS - Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm

- ATLANTIC FIRST NATIONS AIDS TASK FORCE** POB 47049, Halifax B3K 2B0 800.565-4255, 506.492-4255
- EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK** POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 207.990-EMAN
- PWA (People living with AIDS) COALITION OF MAINE** 377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland 04101, 207.773-8500
- SIDA/AIDS MONCTON** 100 Arden Street, Suite 427, E1C 8R3, 506.859-9616
- SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick** 800.561-4009
- **MEDIA/MEDIAS**
- APEX: A Point of Departure**, published monthly by Phoenix Press, POB 4743, Portland 04112
- COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER: The newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine**, published monthly, 142 High St, Suite 634, Portland 04101, 207.879-1342
- FRUITS OF OUR LABORS** monthly Lesbian-Gay-Bi events calendar, POB 125, Belfast 04915
- GAEZETTE for Lesbians & Gay Men in Atlantic Canada**, 10 issues/year, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax NS B3J 3S1
- 10%: Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men**, POB 10536, Portland 04104
- **YOUTH/JEUNESSE**
- DIAL KIDS**, 774-TALK for lesbian, gay, bisexual & unsure youth under 19
- OUTRIGHT/Central Maine** age 22 and younger, 1.800.339-4042
- OUTRIGHT/Portland** POB 5077, 04101, 207.774-TALK or 207.774-HELP
- OUTRIGHT TOO** Bangor area, ages 16-22, 207.285-7180
- **UNIVERSITY/UNIVERSITÉ**
- GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE** University of New Brunswick, c/o Help Centre, UNB SUB, POB 4400, Fredericton E3B 5A3, 506.457-2156

- GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE** University of Southern Maine, 88 Winslow Street, Portland 04103, 207.874-6596
- WILDE-STEIN CLUB** University of Maine, Orono, every Thursday, 6:30pm, Sutton Lounge in Memorial Union
- **SUPPORT GROUPS/GROUPES SOUTIENS**
- GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP** Portland, 207.772-4741 (Frank)
- MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK** POB 10818, Portland 04104
- PARENTS & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS & GAYS (P-FLAG)**, Bangor/Brewer area 207.989-5180
- **RELIGION**
- AM CHOFSHI** Jewish, meets monthly, c/o Horowitz & Kass, RR#1 Box 686, South Harpswell 04079, 207.874-2970 (Rheatha)
- DIGNITY/MAINE** Catholic, POB 8113, Portland 04104
- INTEGRITY** Episcopalian, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 207.622-6631
- NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH** c/o Unitarian House, 749 Charlotte Street, Fredericton, 506.457-4675
- **PROFESSIONAL/PROFESSIONNEL**
- LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS** POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102
- MAINE GAY VISUAL ARTIST'S LEAGUE** 207.775-3420
- MAINE LESBIAN & GAY LAW ASSOCIATION (LeGal)** POB 443, Portland 04112, 207.829-3379
- **POLITICAL ACTION/ACTION DE SOUTIEN**
- MAINE LESBIAN-GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE** POB 232, Hallowell 04347 800.55-MLGPA (556-5472)
- NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA RÉFORME DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK** POB/CP 1556, Station/ Succursale A, Fredericton E3B 5G2 506.457-2156

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Rédacteur en chef: Dick Harrison
 Editor: Dick Harrison