Northern Lambda Nord Communique, Vol.11, No.1 (January 1990)

Northern Lambda Nord

Dick Harrison

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/nln_communique

Part of the American Studies Commons, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/nln_communique/9

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Periodicals at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Northern Lambda Nord Communique by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.
COMMENTARY by Dick H.

The Gay 90s have arrived. Perhaps this decade will see a vaccine and cure for AIDS; passage of civil rights legislation protecting gay people in both Maine and New Brunswick; and greater growth and success of Northern Lambda Nord.

NLN marks its 10th anniversary this year. Over 250 different people have been members of Lambda since January 1980. We have a phoneline, library, newsletter, and regular social activities. But there's an area which needs to be more fully addressed: education and awareness about issues which affect us as gaymen and lesbians.

At a recent Wednesday night Phoneline session I was talking with a Lambda member from Maine who's been seeing a man from New Brunswick, crossing back and forth on visits. On one of their crossings they were asked the usual questions by the U.S. Customs. But this time the Customs official pointed at the Canadian and said to the American, "How do you know him?" The American told me he was tempted to be blunt and say, "we're lovers", but didn't. When several of us heard him relate this story we jumped on him. "NO! NO! Don't EVER tell the U.S. Customs you're gay. Didn't you know that there's a 1950s law on the books which keeps 'sexual deviants' who are not U.S. citizens from entering this country?!

The other evening in Presque Isle at a Friday night discussion with a few friends, the topic of AIDS came up. Certain comments were made and questions asked that showed that there are still gay people who are unsure exactly what "safe sex" is and the options we have in terms of sexual activity which avoids transmission of the virus.

Earlier this month the eldest member of Lambda was admitted to hospital. It happened during a Saturday evening get-together at his home, which has been a "drop-in" place for years. His door is always open, and the coffee's always on. "Uncle Carl's" is a central community center, a meeting place for us. As we sat around his kitchen table waiting for word from the hospital
We know what people in power are saying. We’re on our side or against us. We can make the Gay 90s OUR decade.

A co-chair of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Chuck Forester, wrote, "whether we like it or not, gaymen and lesbians are hot news today. After years of effort and struggle, the issues of importance to the lesbian and gay community are now on the national agenda. Decisions that affect our future are going to be made in the next several years. If we want those decisions to be positive, we have to tell the world about ourselves. We have to provide the evidence that gays and lesbians are everywhere." We need to be an educated community. We need to know what people in power are saying about us, whether they’re on our side or against us. We can make the Gay 90s OUR decade if we’re an informed community.

***TWO FOOTNOTES: (1) Uncle Carl is recovering at home. He’s doing fine. (2) The next NLN meeting (February) will discuss the possible establishment of a "building fund" for a community center and the issues surrounding such an effort.

The guidelines divide sexual activities into three levels of risk of HIV transmission: no possibility, minimal risk, and low possibility and very high possibility.

No possibility of HIV transmission

None of the sexual practices in this category has ever been alleged to be a possible route for transmission of HIV nor is there any theoretical risk of transmission.

Low risk

Safeguarding against HIV transmission requires the use of knowledge and responsible decision making. The guidelines also stress several positive and negative "co-factors" which must be taken into account when considering the risk of transmission of HIV infection:

- Infection by other sexually transmitted diseases, which can create more favourable conditions for HIV to be transmitted and to flourish in the immune system;
- Exposure to multiple partners, without practising safer sex;
- Alcohol and drugs, which can affect decisions whether to participate in high-risk behaviour;
- Use of condoms, spermicides, viricides, and other protective measures.

The guidelines are intended as a resource document for educators and counsellors. But copies, in French or English, are available to anyone for $12.00 by writing to Canadian AIDS Society Distribution, P.O. Box 55, Suite F, Toronto, Ontario M4T 2L4. Cheques should be made payable to Canadian AIDS Society.

Safer Sex: What You Should Know

A letter from OTTAWA, ASSOCIATION DES LESBIENNES ET DES GAIS DE L'OUTAUL.

THE FOLLOWING IS REPRINTED FROM THE DEC-JAN ISSUE OF GEO INFO, THE PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LESBIANS AND GAYS OF OTTAWA, ASSOCIATION DES LESBIENNES ET DES GAIS DE L'OUTAUL.

HIV, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, is believed to be the cause of AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

The following information is taken from the new Safer Sex Guidelines of the Canadian AIDS Society.

The guidelines divide sexual activities into three levels of risk of HIV transmission: no possibility, minimal risk, low possibility and very high possibility.

No possibility of HIV transmission

None of the sexual practices in this category has ever been alleged to be a possible route for transmission of HIV nor is there any theoretical risk of transmission.

Minimal risk

- Wet kissing
- Swallowing urine or feces
- Rimming or getting rimmed (without protective barrier)
- Fucking (anual or vaginal), with or without a glove
- Getting a blow job, with or without a condom
- Sucking cock without a condom, either with no ejaculation or ejaculation without swallowing
- Receptive cunnilingus, with or without a protective barrier
- Insertive cunnilingus, with or without a protective barrier, outside menstruation
- Sucking cock without a condom
- Fisting or getting fisted (anal or vaginal) with protective glove

Low risk

- Insertive cunnilingus, without barrier during menstruation
- Sucking cock without a condom, with swallowing of cum
- Fucking (vaginal or anal) with a condom
- Getting fisted (vaginal or anal) with a condom
- Fisting or getting fisted (anal or vaginal) without protective glove
- Sadomasochistic activity (S/M), where blood is drawn and proper blood precautions are followed

Very high possibility of HIV transmission

Practices in this category all present a theoretical risk of transmission of the HIV virus, since they involve the exchange of body fluids such as saliva, semen, blood, urine, vaginal secretions, precum, or feces. However, the amounts and conditions of exchange are such that the transmission of HIV is unlikely.

If there are few reports of infection which appear to be based on one of these activities, the activities are termed low risk behaviour.

If the theoretical risk exists but there are no reports of infection based on the activity, the activity is considered only minimally risky.

The guidelines also stress several positive and negative "co-factors" which must be taken into account when considering the risk of transmission of HIV infection:

- Infection by other sexually transmitted diseases, which can create more favourable conditions for HIV to be transmitted and to flourish in the immune system;
- Exposure to multiple partners, without practising safer sex;
- Alcohol and drugs, which can affect decisions whether to participate in high-risk behaviour;
- Use of condoms, spermicides, viricides, and other protective measures.

The guidelines are intended as a resource document for educators and counsellors. But copies, in French or English, are available to anyone for $12.00 by writing to Canadian AIDS Society Distribution, P.O. Box 55, Suite F, Toronto, Ontario M4T 2L4. Cheques should be made payable to Canadian AIDS Society.

THE FOLLOWING IS REPRINTED FROM THE DEC-JAN ISSUE OF GEO INFO, THE PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LESBIANS AND GAYS OF OTTAWA, ASSOCIATION DES LESBIENNES ET DES GAIS DE L'OUTAUL.

HIV, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, is believed to be the cause of AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Safer Sex: What You Should Know

The following information is taken from the new Safer Sex Guidelines of the Canadian AIDS Society.

The guidelines divide sexual activities into three levels of risk of HIV transmission: no possibility, minimal risk, low possibility and very high possibility.

No possibility of HIV transmission

None of the sexual practices in this category has ever been alleged to be a possible route for transmission of HIV nor is there any theoretical risk of transmission.

Minimal risk

- Wet kissing
- Swallowing urine or feces
- Rimming or getting rimmed (without protective barrier)
- Fucking (anual or vaginal), with or without a glove
- Getting a blow job, with or without a condom
- Sucking cock without a condom, either with no ejaculation or ejaculation without swallowing
- Receptive cunnilingus, with or without a protective barrier
- Insertive cunnilingus, with or without a protective barrier, outside menstruation
- Sucking cock without a condom
- Fisting or getting fisted (anal or vaginal) with protective glove

Low risk

- Insertive cunnilingus, without barrier during menstruation
- Sucking cock without a condom, with swallowing of cum
- Fucking (vaginal or anal) with a condom
- Getting fisted (vaginal or anal) with a condom
- Fisting or getting fisted (anal or vaginal) without protective glove
- Sadomasochistic activity (S/M), where blood is drawn and proper blood precautions are followed

Very high possibility of HIV transmission

Practices in this category all present a theoretical risk of transmission of the HIV virus, since they involve the exchange of body fluids such as saliva, semen, blood, urine, vaginal secretions, precum, or feces. However, the amounts and conditions of exchange are such that the transmission of HIV is unlikely.

If there are few reports of infection which appear to be based on one of these activities, the activities are termed low risk behaviour.

If the theoretical risk exists but there are no reports of infection based on the activity, the activity is considered only minimally risky.

The guidelines also stress several positive and negative "co-factors" which must be taken into account when considering the risk of transmission of HIV infection:

- Infection by other sexually transmitted diseases, which can create more favourable conditions for HIV to be transmitted and to flourish in the immune system;
- Exposure to multiple partners, without practising safer sex;
- Alcohol and drugs, which can affect decisions whether to participate in high-risk behaviour;
- Use of condoms, spermicides, viricides, and other protective measures.

The guidelines are intended as a resource document for educators and counsellors. But copies, in French or English, are available to anyone for $12.00 by writing to Canadian AIDS Society Distribution, P.O. Box 55, Suite F, Toronto, Ontario M4T 2L4. Cheques should be made payable to Canadian AIDS Society.
The WESTMAN HOUSE

A BED AND BREAKFAST
in the heart of Aroostook County

207.896-5726

COMMUNIQUE is published ten times yearly by Northern Lambda and in an organization serving the Northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska) region of northern Canada.

Advertising rates: 

For more information, please contact Northern Lambda, an organization serving the northeastern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska) region of northern Canada, at POB 1231, Caribou, Maine 04736

Your Hosts: Phil & Dick

FREE SAMPLE

MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN QUÉBEC AND MONTRÉAL VIA MAGAZINE RG, THE LEADING FRENCH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Box 245, Station C,

Montreal H2X 3M4

[514] 523.9463