

Communiqué

Volume XIV: no. 1 janvier/January 1993

Commentary, by Dick Harrison

Thirteen going on 300

Northern Lambda Nord marks its 13th anniversary this month, the oldest gay-lesbian-bisexual organization in Maine, and one of the oldest in Atlantic Canada. Our first meeting was held January 27, 1980 in Van Buren, Maine. The thirteen people in attendance, from both sides of the border, could never imagine that what they started would be around

more than a dozen years later. Over

275 different people have been

card-carrying Lambs in the

past 12 years. Many more

have supported the organization

through their participation in the

variety of social, educational, and

political events sponsored by NLN.

It's now the Gay 90s, and this is proving to be our decade. More and more jurisdictions, from towns and cities to provinces and states, are incorporating civil rights protections for us. In the east, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Québec; Massachusetts, Vermont, and Connecticut; the City of Portland, the Portland School board, and the Portland-area United Way, have all recognized that gays and lesbians are discriminated against and have said it is wrong. We are publicly challenging social institutions, from the military to organized religion to the definition of the family, and even the Boy Scouts. For the first time a candidate for the U.S. Presidency spoke out in favor of our rights. He takes office this month, and we wait to see if his actions reflect the strength and conviction of his words.

Support for our cause is evident in the latest reports on the boycotting of Colorado, a state which passed a referendum

continued inside

Lessons From Geese

based on the work of Milton Olson

Fact 1 - As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another. **Fact 2** - When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it. **Lesson:** If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others. **Fact 3** - When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position. **Lesson:** It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents, or resources. **Fact 4** - The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. **Lesson:** We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek. **Fact 5** - When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock. **Lesson:** If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong. ▼

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Highlights

OF NLN'S DECEMBER BUSINESS MEETING



One guest and six members present, four of them Steering Committee members.

❖ The Treasurer reported that the **money** bag used at the Halloween party has not been located. It is believed to have been stolen, since it was placed in a drawer during the party and could not be found despite an extensive search. Estimated loss, \$50-100 in US and CDN funds. ❖ All the books in the **library** collection have been put in order on the shelves. Beginning at the next "First Friday" they will be entered into the computer, one shelf at a time. Volunteers are needed to help. ❖ Two people will review the estimated costs for a statewide 800 number for the **Phoneline** in order to approach other Maine groups for possible financial support. ❖ **Thank yous** go to Stephen in Presque Isle for hosting the Christmas party, and to Dennis in Caribou for hosting the monthly meeting. ❖ **Outreach:** The Caribou Unitarian-Universalist Church has appointed a committee of three to meet with NLN members to discuss our use of church meeting space for the monthly meetings. ❖ The **building fund** incurred a \$6.30 bank charge in November. ❖ The Portland-area **United Way** has adopted a non-discrimination policy re: sexual orientation. NLN will ask the Aroostook UW to clarify their policy, something they have avoided doing since January 1992. ❖ NLN has received information re: the weekly gay-lesbian radio program, "This Way Out", and will contact a gay staff member at **Maine Public Radio** for advice in gaining MPR's support to broadcast the program. ❖ **Activities calendar** ❖ *Discussion & Pot Luck* - Sat, Jan 9, topic: Maine's up-coming gay-lesbian civil rights bill, where it stands and how we can get it passed in 1993. Presenter, B.J. Broder, former Houlton resident and board member of Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance; ❖ *"First Friday" plus 2 weeks event* - Fri, Jan 15, 7pm (Maine), set up system and begin entering library book info into the computer, volunteers needed (can you type?) followed by a film at 9pm (Maine); ❖ *Monthly meeting* - Sun, Jan 17, 3pm (Maine), Caribou; ❖ *Fold & Stuff the February newsletter & calendar* - Wed, Jan 20, 7pm (Maine), Caribou - at the Phoneline; ❖ *Snow fun day, pot luck, and games* - Sun, Jan 24, starts at noon (Maine), sledding, snowshoeing, fun-in-the-snow, pot luck, evening of board/card games, in New Sweden; ❖ *NLN's 13th anniversary dinner party* - Sat, Jan 30, Carriage House Restaurant, Presque Isle; ❖ *"First Friday"* - Fri, Feb 5; ❖ *Valentine's Party* - Sat, Feb 13, Caribou; ❖ *Monthly meeting* - Sun, Feb 21, location needed; ❖ *Fold & Stuff March newsletter & calendar*, Wed, Feb 24, 7pm (Maine), Caribou; ❖ *Snow fun day, pot luck, and games* - Sat, Feb 27, noon (Maine), New Sweden *The meeting adjourned after 1 hour 10 minutes.* ▼

Going on 300

prohibiting the enactment of any civil rights laws, past or present, which protect gay people. It is not surprising that national gay & lesbian organizations have canceled planned conferences in that state, but several U.S. cities including New York and Atlanta have announced that they will cease doing business with Colorado firms, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors has changed the venue of their meeting, which had been planned for Denver.

We have lived through over a decade of criminal neglect by the government with regards to its lack of action in the face of AIDS, which has taken its toll on our community. Most every one of us has been touched in some way by the effects of this disease.

A new generation of gay & lesbian revolutionaries has claimed what had been a negative epithet and now use it unashamedly with pride - Queer. Lesbian and gay youth now grow up and see an older generation of queers who are their role models. We're on "Donahue", the nightly news, on the cover of national magazines. We have our own radio and tv programs, and even a new satellite radio station, KGAY which broadcasts from Colorado(!). A lot has changed since January 27, 1980.

After thirteen years of community organizing in northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick, Northern Lambda Nord's work continues. There are many women and men in this rural region who remain self-oppressed and in their closets, who have a low self-esteem and have

internalized their homophobia. They're comfortable with their closeted lives and fear the changes and challenges that come with personal growth, a growth they will surely experience if they push aside some of those old-fashioned clothes and take a step away from their closet doors. This organization is here to act as a focus for activities, a resource - both materially and financially. Under the umbrella of Northern Lambda Nord we can publicly challenge homophobia, work to pass civil rights legislation, and fight anti-gay and lesbian forces while maintaining individual anonymity, to whatever degree we choose. NLN should not be seen as threatening; it should be seen as a way through which each of us may gain personal freedom and growth. But it is for each of us as individuals, not for the organization, to bring our sisters and brothers out from the back of their closets so they may breathe the air of personal freedom they have yet to enjoy. In thirteen years, the original thirteen individuals with a dream have grown to almost 300. Let us make the personal effort to grow as gays and lesbians and to help others grow with us. ▼

Caribou Unitarians: UPDATE

The Unitarian-Universalist Church in Caribou has been approached three times to allow Northern Lambda Nord to hold our monthly meetings in their building. The UUA is traditionally gay-supportive, but the local congregation has been an exception to the national organization.

Lambda representatives will meet with three UUA Board members January 7th to discuss our most recent request for meeting space. It is hoped that in the next *Communiqué* it will be reported that the Caribou church is shedding its homophobic reputation. Film at 11. ▼



A gay-owned radio station, KGAY, is broadcasting via satellite. You can pick them up on Galaxy 5, transponder 6, at 6.3 and 6.46 mhz, or on Spacenet 3, transponder 22, at 6.2 and 7.4 mhz. Call for more information: KGAY studio - 1-800 733-5429, administration - 1-800 758-6642. ▼

Communiqué

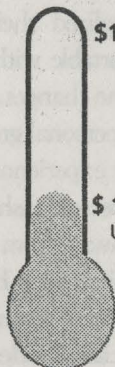
COMMUNIQUÉ publié dix fois par année par **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**, une organisation pour la communauté gaie-lesbienne-bisexuelle au nord-ouest du Nouveau Brunswick et au nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton-Aroostook). **ABONNEMENTS** - 10\$ par année. **COTISATION NLN** - 15\$ par année, dans lequel inclus la subscription. Les fond E-U et canadiennes sont acceptés au par. Ceux qui ont de la difficulté financièrement, des paiements à terme peut être organisée. NLN est une organisation à but non-lucratif; toutes donations sont taxe deductible aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le **COMMUNIQUÉ** sont disponible. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenue.

COMMUNIQUÉ is published ten times yearly by **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**, an organization serving the gay-lesbian-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.



BUILDINGFUND



**\$10,000
GOAL**

\$ 1296.89
U.S. funds
as of
12/20/92

The NLN Building Fund is designed to raise money for a community center for this region.

The center would house the phoneline, 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. ▼

January 30, 1993
**NLN's 13th
Anniversary
Dinner Party**
April 25, 1993
**March on
Washington
for Gay,
Lesbian and Bi
Equal Rights
and Liberation**
May 28-31, 1993
**Maine Lesbian
& Gaymen's
Symposium XX**
Unity College,
Unity Maine

Gay/Lesbian G·U·I·D·E Lesbienne/Gai

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN),
CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736
USA

GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE 207.498-
2088 TDD/Voice - staffed Wed, 7-
9pm (Maine)

**AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN
AA GROUP** meets Sundays, 7pm
(Maine time) in Madawaska. Groupe
bilingue/bilingual group. Call
207.498-2088 to make contact
▼.

ACT UP/BANGOR POB 1554,
04402-1554, 207.947-3947
AIDS New Brunswick/SIDA
Nouveau-Brunswick 800.561-4009
AIDSLine/Maine 800.851-AIDS -
Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till
7:30pm

AM CHOFSI Maine Jewish group,
meets monthly; POB 5017, Portland
04101, 207.871-1014 (Bob) or 833-

6004 (Susan)

APEX: A Point of Departure,
published monthly by Phoenix Press,
POB 4743, Portland 04112
DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group,
POB 8113, Portland 04104

EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK
POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038,
207.990-EMAN

**EDMUNDSTON AREA GAYS &
LESBIANS FOR EQUALITY (EAGLE)**
POB 611, Edmundston E3V 3L2
506.735-5029

FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS
(FLAG) POB 1556, Station A E3B
5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-
9pm)

GAZETTE For Lesbians & Gay Men
in Atlantic Canada, published 10
times yearly, POB 34090, Scotia
Square, Halifax, NS B3J 3S1

GAIS & LESBIENNES DE

**MONCTON/GAYS & LESBIANS OF
MONCTON (GLM)** CP/POB 1072,
Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.855-8064

GAISES NOR GAYS (GNG) CP/POB
983, Bathurst E2A 4H8

GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University
of Southern Maine, 88 Winslow
Street, Portland 04103, 207.874-
6596

**GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY
NETWORK** POB 212, Bangor 04401,
207.862-5907/941-2189

**GAY/LESBIAN PARENTS SUPPORT
GROUP** Portland, 207.780-4085/
772-4741

HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-
lewi group, POB 4044, Portland
04104

INTEGRITY Episcopalian group,
St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union
Street, Hallowell 04347, 207.623-
3041/845-2985

**LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE,
MAINE CHAPTER, NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL
WORKERS** POB 5112, Station A,
Portland 04102

**MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S
NETWORK** POB 10772, Portland
04104

**MAINE LESBIAN-GAY POLITICAL
ALLIANCE** POB 232, Hallowell
04347

**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

**OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and
Gaymen in Maine**, published monthly,
9 Deering Street, POB 10744, Portland
04104, 207.761-0733

**OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of
Gay & Lesbian Youth**, age 22
and under, POB 5028, Station A,
Portland 04102, 800.339-4042
OUTRIGHT CENTRAL MAINE
for age 22 & younger, every Fri,
7:30pm 1st Unitarian Church,
Pleasant St, Auburn; POB 802,
Auburn 04212, 800. 339-4042
OUTRIGHT TOO Bangor area
Gay-Lesbian Bisexual youth
group, c/o POB 212, Bangor
04401
PWA (People With AIDS)
COALITION OF MAINE 377
Cumberland Avenue, Portland
04101, 207.773-8500
WOMYN's GROUP POB 20082,
Fredericton E3B 6Y8, 506.457-
2156