

COMMUNIQUÉ

Volume XV: no. 6

juillet-août/July-August 1994

Maine's only peer support & info line

Does Closing of Loring AFB Mean the End of the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber?

by Dick Harrison, New Sweden

After 12 years of uninterrupted service, the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber, a project of Northern Lambda Nord, faces possible termination. It's not because NLN cannot afford to pay the phonebills, nor is it because we have no more volunteers to staff the Phonenumber each week. It's because we must find a new location to house the

sustain what was the third largest town in Aroostook County. As of September 30, 1994, that community no longer exists. And its end may also mean the end of our Phonenumber.

NLN's Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber was first established in 1982 with the financial support of our "family" from Fredericton - the insightful and generous people at FLAG, Fredericton Lesbians and Gays. Our friends in the New Brunswick capital knew how important the

existence of a telephone helpline was to the strength and growth of a vital lesbian-gay-bisexual community. After hearing that Lambda was interested in setting up such a service, FLAG volunteered the funds we needed to begin what was then and continues to be the only phonenumber of its kind in Maine.

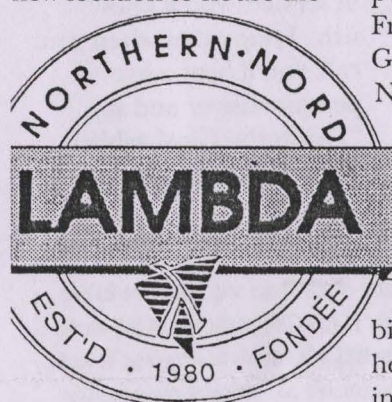
During the past 12 years, Lambda Nord's telephone number has found its way into countless guidebooks and resource listings

throughout North America. The Phonenumber is staffed by a team of volunteers, currently three gaymen, who answer calls every Wednesday evening between 7 and 9pm. In just two hours a week they've logged about 200 calls this past year: inquiries from teenagers who are unsure about their sexuality; from siblings of gay people wondering how to broach the subject with their lesbian sister or gay brother; from married men and women who are beginning to get in touch with suppressed feelings and need to talk; from transvestites and transexuals who have no one else in whom to confide; from people planning a trip to Maine who want information about Bangor, Portland, or Ogunquit; from folks who've just arrived in Aroostook County and want to know where to find the nearest gay bar (surprise!). Inquires are from many communities and from a variety of people, straight, gay, and every place in between.

For more than a decade Northern Lambda Nord's Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber has been an anchor for lonely people,

for women and men just coming out, for newly arrived residents. It has served as a way for people to meet, make friends, and even find their special someone. The Phonenumber is not a dating service, but there are several couples who are together today because they met as a result of calling the Phonenumber and then attending a Lambda event.

For its first years of existence, the Phonenumber was located in Caribou in my home. Then when my partner, Phil, and I moved to New Sweden, the Phonenumber followed. This, however, required a new telephone number with a New Sweden exchange; but unless you're calling from Caribou, calls to New Sweden are long distance, and the result was a decrease of incoming calls. Because of the generosity of a Caribou woman who owned a large business space on South Main Street, we built a small, small, small room (about 5'x6') with its own outside door into which we placed the Phonenumber; it again had a Caribou phone number. But a few years later, when she sold the building, the Phonenumber moved once more, this time into Roger's home, still in



Phonenumber, and we don't know if we can. This need is a direct result of the closing of Loring Air Force Base, which has been a major employer in northern Maine, providing jobs directly to federal government employees and indirectly to the people who work for the numerous supportive services necessary to

publié par/published by NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD, Inc.

CP/POB 990 Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber/Télépai 207.498-2088 (TDD/Voice-Voix)

Caribou, where it has remained since. He has generously opened his home as a weekly drop-in every Wednesday. There are sometimes more than a dozen people standing around his kitchen talking, reading magazines, and just getting to know each other better. But this will come to an end very soon; Roger's job, which is one of those which has been supportive of Loring, is going to Bangor, and he's going with it. So the Phoneline must move. Again.

The NLN Steering Committee has discussed this crisis at the past two meetings. The word went out in the members' calendar that we need a new home for the Phoneline, and that it need not be a weekly drop-in; just a place for the telephone, a few files, and one volunteer each Wednesday. If at all possible, we want to keep it in Caribou to avoid changing the number. As one alternative to finding a willing individual to keep the phone in her or his home, (no volunteers yet) we decided to see what rental spaces were available, since the Loring closure has not only created a glut of empty houses, but has also left Caribou with many vacant storefronts.

Following Roger's suggestion, I investigated an office space on South Main Street, and it appears to be adequate and very

reasonably priced. It's a large room with almost 200 square feet (more than twice the size of our current Library/office space and larger than the current Phoneline room). There's plenty of parking on two sides of the building. The rent, which includes heat and electricity plus trash removal and snowplowing, is \$125 per month. The

Phoneline alive. We need 12 people to each pledge \$125, people who have the financial means and who care about the continuation of this service. They could sponsor their birthday month, or any month at all. Or if the cost of a month seems too much, how about two dozen sponsors, each pledging a week at \$30, or two weeks for \$60, or three for \$90.

the Phoneline is important enough that you will pledge a donation during the next few months. (A donation which is tax-deductible, I might add). When you break down how much we need for a year (\$1500) by the number of current NLN members (54), that's less than \$28 per year or about 53¢ each week from each member.

Whether the Phoneline will be here for a 13th year is up to us. The Pat Robertsons, Jerry Falwells, and Carolyn Cosbys of this world would just as soon we fold up our tents and go away. So the next time you call 207/498-2088, if you hear a recording which says, "This number is no longer in service" you'll know why. I hope that when you call, you'll hear a live person answer and say, "This is the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, may I help you?" ▼

Progress lies in the direction we haven't been.

Unknown

No progress can be made without deviation from the norm.

Unknown

only additional cost would be the phonebills.

But can Lambda afford to pay \$1500 per year? Having this office would allow us to move not only the Phoneline and its furniture, but the Library and office equipment into one space, sort of a one-room Community Center. But where can Lambda get the money we'd need to do this? And if we can't, what do we do with the Phoneline? September is less than two months away. That's our deadline.

Well, here's an idea that was discussed at the July monthly meeting. Sponsorships. Pledges. Making a financial commitment to keep the

Over the course of a year, that's not a lot of money. And we're not looking for the money up-front, just the commitment that you feel the continuation of

Win a \$100 Shopping Spree at the store of your choice and Support the Building Fund! Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$1 (US=CDN), available at all NLN events
Gagnez un Faire la Fête de Shopping 100\$ à la magasin de votre choix, et vous supportez notre projet de construire pour un centre communautaire!
Billets: 1=2\$, 3=5\$ (CDN=US), disponible à toutes les événements NLN.



BUILDING FUND

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

Bibliothèque Lambda

A Milestone Has Been Reached

It can now be said that 99 and 44/100% of the collection of books in *Bibliothèque Lambda*, Northern Lambda Nord's lending library, have been entered into the computer. Sara completed the entries at the latest Library Day July 10th. The next task is housekeeping, i.e. reviewing the print-out of the collection (almost 900 volumes) to make sure that there is standardization in the manner in which the books are entered: that the categories are all written the same ("NonFiction" vs. "Non-Fiction" vs. "Non-fiction" vs. Non-fict"), that an author's name is entered in exactly the same fashion every time (middle initial or no middle initial) etcetera. With more than one print-out, several

people can work on this aspect of the listing at the same time.

The book pockets which are found in the back of library books have arrived. They are printed with NLN's logo, name, address, and telephone number, and have spaces for due dates of the borrowed materials. The steering committee put together a written policy regarding who may take books out from the library, for how long, overdue fines, etcetera. The library policy and a complete book list will be available to all members soon. The goal is to have a list ready by October 1, 1994, the date for membership renewals.

The next Library Day is in New Sweden Sunday, August 7th starting at 3pm (Maine time) with a barbeque following at around 6pm. We'll be putting the self-adhesive

book pockets into the books. Everyone is invited to come by and "check it out!" ▼

May 1995 Conference

Symposium XXI Update

The Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XXI, whose theme is "Coming Of Age," will be held Friday through Monday, May 26-29, 1995 on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle. A small but dedicated Planning Committee has been meeting regularly to put together this event. Committee members met with representatives of the University Conferences Office and reviewed our campus needs for Symposium. Rather than use classroom spaces in Folsom-Pullen Hall, where workshops and films were held at the three previous

Symposia at UMPI, the 1995 event will take advantage of the new Campus Center. Campus officials gave Symposium Committee members a tour of this new facility, which promises to offer spectacular new spaces for many of the workshops, films, Saturday evening banquet, and Saturday night dance. Even Kelly Commons, the dining hall which is attached to the Campus Center, will have undergone renovations in time for Symposium. Emerson Hall, the dormitory, will be used again to house conference participants.

The Planning Committee has prepared a preliminary budget, is working on a grant application to help fund the conference, and is contacting several possible keynote speakers and entertainers. More details will be available when plans become finalized.

• S • I • D • A •

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.

• A • I • D • S •

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

The next planning meeting is Thursday, July 28 from 6:30-8:30pm in Presque Isle. The agenda will include finalizing the budget and reviewing the grant application, deciding which spaces at UMPI will be used for which events, reports on responses from possible keynotes and entertainers, and brainstorming on workshop topics and workshop facilitators.

Anyone and everyone who has ideas or is even remotely interested in Symposium is urged to attend. The Committee needs to increase in size. Call the Phoneline for directions to the meeting, 207/498-2088. ▼

The Rage

Bangor Bar Closes its Doors

Bangor's only bar for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and our friends has closed.

The Rage, which was on Franklin Street, was owned by Randy, who's from Aroostook County. There's no word as to the reason for the bar's demise. The latest word is that the two men who had owned The Riverfront (the original name of The Rage), are looking for a space in Brewer in which to open a new club. ▼

Do more than belong.
participate

HIV Testing

Testing for HIV in Maine is both confidential and anonymous - they DO NOT need to know your name, address, phone. Testing in New Brunswick is confidential but NOT anonymous! Call "Health 1st" in northern Maine for more information and an appointment.

All Area Code 207

• Fort Kent 834-3513 • Caribou 498-3798

• Presque Isle 768-3056 • Houlton 532-0503

Testing includes both pre- and post-discussion. There is a minimal fee to cover lab costs. ▼

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.

Gay/Lesbian G·U·I·D·E Lesbienne/Gai

New Brunswick • Maine • Nouveau-Brunswick

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA
GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE 207-498-2088 TDD/Voice - staffed Wed, 7-9pm (Maine), 8-10pm (NB)
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 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, 207.874-2970 (Rheatha)
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
DIAL KIDS, 774-TALK for lesbian, gay, bisexual & unsure youth under 19
DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland 04104
EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 207.990-EMAN
FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG) POB 1556, Station A E38 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)
FRUITS OF OUR LABORS Lesbian-Gay-Bi events calendar published monthly, POB 125, Belfast ME 04915
GAZEETTE 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
GAIS.ES 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/BISEXUAL PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 207.772-4741 (Frank)
HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-levi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104
INTEGRITY Episcopalian group, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 207.622-6631
LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 10818, Portland 04104
MAINE LESBIAN & GAY LAW ASSOCIATION (LeGal) POB 443, Portland 04112, 207.829-3379
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
NO BORDERS/SANS FRONTIÈRES POB/CP 461, Campbellton, NB E3N 3G4
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
SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick 800.561-4009
10%: Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men, POB 10536, Portland 04104
TIME OUT outdoor activities, monthly calendar, POB 11502, Portland, ME 04104
WOMYN's GROUP POB 20082, Fredericton E3B 6Y8, 506.457-2156