

COMMUNIQUE

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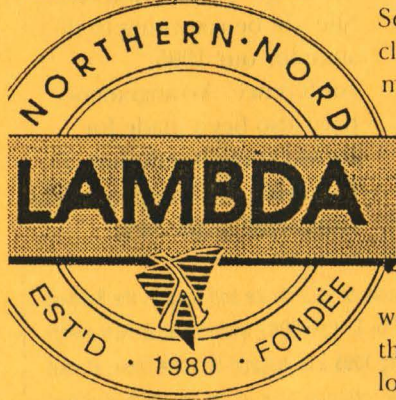
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Serving Northern Maine and Neighbouring New Brunswick

Maine's First Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center Opens in Caribou

by Dick Harrison, Editor

It's been a long time coming, but Northern Lambda Nord can report with extreme pride that we have established the first Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center in either Maine or New Brunswick. Its creation came quickly and rather unexpectedly, since it was a reaction to the need to find a new home for our peer support/information service, the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline of Maine, the only one of its



kind in the state.

The Gay-Lesbian Phoneline of Maine was established 12 years ago and has always been located in an NLN member's home in central Aroostook County. Most recently it was in Caribou and the host, Roger Murphy, generously opened his home every week as a drop-in place. The Phoneline is staffed Wednesdays from 7-9pm, Eastern time. As many

as 10 or 15 people would be in his kitchen talking, reading some of the latest lesbian and gay publications, or helping with the monthly "fold & stuff" of *Communiqué*. The Phoneline volunteers would answer calls, which have been numbering about 200 annually, using the room which had been set aside for this purpose.

When Roger notified Lambda that his job, which was Loring Air Force Base-related, would end in September when the base closed and that he was moving to Bangor, it came as no surprise that it would be difficult to find someone to fill his shoes as Phoneline host. This was in early summer, and we put the word out for a place to house the Phoneline. We weren't looking for a weekly drop-in, just a space for the phone; it could be as small as it had been at one time, a 5'x6' closet space, with room enough for table, telephone, chair, and Phoneline volunteer. But after six weeks, there were still no takers.

It was suggested at our July meeting that NLN look for a small space to rent in town, perhaps about \$100

per month (if that were at all possible), where we could put not only the Phoneline but the Lambda office (desk, files, copier) as well as the nearly 1000-volume lending library and accompanying magazines, files, and shelving. Well, with the glut of vacant housing and office space in the Caribou area (due to Loring's closure) we quickly found something we could afford. For only \$125 per month, which includes heat, electricity, snow plowing, and trash collection, we could rent an office on South Main Street. It wasn't very large, but it was almost twice the size of our current library space, which was housed in two members' home.

At a special Steering Committee meeting in Presque Isle we discussed the pros and cons of taking this step: renting space and making the commitment to establish a Community Services Center. We had found a location, but it was something for which we had not budgeted. Until now, Northern Lambda Nord's major expenses had been limited to the cost of the telephone for the Phoneline, publishing the monthly newsletter and calendar, plus postage and supplies. Now we were talking about undertaking a commitment of an additional \$1500 per year. We weren't sure we

could finance the rent. A Community Center had been a long-range goal, one for which we have been fundraising for over three years, but have netted less than \$3500 in that time. But perhaps this search for a Phoneline home was the push we needed to take the first step and begin to establish our Center. We reviewed our options and decided to make the move if the financial support were there.

A mailing was sent to NLN members, both past and present, requesting financial pledges to give the Phoneline a new home and to keep it operating. We received an overwhelming response from 18 generous people totaling \$1310. With the support of an additional \$500 emergency grant from the Maine Regional Funding Board of the Haymarket Peoples Fund of New England, we made the commitment and signed a two-year lease.

The excitement was high when we met to plan the logistics of the move. Our Community Services Center is a brand-new office space which still needed a final paint job and carpeting. Members donated paint and brushes and enough carpeting to cover about two-thirds of the space. We purchased some additional carpet, and after a few hours of painting the Office was

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

ready for occupancy. We carefully measured the furniture and then made drawings of the Office to make sure we made best use of the limited space. Next, we spent three evenings packing all the Phoneline equipment and files plus the hundreds of books from *Bibliothèque Lambda*, Maine and New Brunswick's only gay-lesbian-bisexual lending library. The books were placed into numbered boxes to ease the job of maintaining the order of the collection. Then the time arrived for the move. Volunteers with pick-up trucks made it easy to transport the Phoneline equipment and furniture from Caribou, and the office equipment, furniture, and supplies plus the library and its shelving from New Sweden.

It was all completed with no problems or delays. The day was bright and sunny and there were enough people and vehicles to require only three trips for everything that had to be moved. Phone service was established at the new location, and when the next Wednesday Phoneline day arrived, all was ready.

Northern Lambda Nord is now able to hold all our monthly meetings, Symposium planning sessions, discussion groups, and Wednesday drop-ins at the Community Services Center Office. Generous members have donated folding tables and chairs, a microwave, a TV, and a VCR. The next steps involve setting up policies for operation of the Office. We're also meeting to make a "wish list" of things we would like to

have. Money has already been approved for purchase of a bulletin board. Two large 7'x18" signs have been posted outside declaring this the "Northern Lambda Nord, Inc./Community Services Center Office/Bureau de la Centre Communautaire/498-2088."

We're located at 398 South Main Street, across the street from the Nylander Museum and just one block from the Caribou Unitarian-

"across" (the border) when the conference is held in Aroostook County, one of our two keynote speakers has always been a Canadian - Hal Hinds, activist from Fredericton (1986); Svend Robinson, openly-gay Member of Parliament (1989); Anne Bishop, Halifax activist (1992). We need suggestions for 1995! *WANTED: Gay Man, Canadian, activist, stirring presenter, familiar with the*

The Supreme Court of the United States agrees with us. Homosexuals do not deserve protection.

- Carolyn Cosby, leader of Concerned Maine Families

We must not let a small group of radical extremists change the face of the State of Maine.

- Karen Geraghty, President

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance

Universalist Church. Stop by when you're in the neighborhood! ▼

May 1995 Conference

Symposium XXI Update

The Planning Committee for the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XXI has been meeting every three weeks to put together the May 26-29, 1995 conference. It will be held on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle. If past Northern Lambda Nord-sponsored Symposia are any indication (1986, 1989, 1992), we anticipate 30% Canadian participation. Because of the significant number of Symposium participants from

current political climate in Canada, and more specifically Atlantic Canada. The Planning Committee has been in touch with some people in Toronto, trying to follow up on the recent

spousal benefits/parental rights bill in the Ontario legislature, which was unsuccessful. The issue of benefits, bereavement leave, adoption, health coverage, etcetera for partners of gays and lesbians is relevant in both Canada and the U.S. The search is not limited to this issue; the Planning Committee is looking for specific suggestions for our Canadian male keynote; please call us or write us today with any names! (Symposium XXI, POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA, 207/498-2088 Wednesdays, 7-9pm in Maine, 8-10pm in the Maritimes, 8:30-10:30pm in Newfoundland)

Symposium XXI's female keynote spoke earlier this year at the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance Banquet: editor of *The Washington Blade*, Lisa Keen. She will be returning to the state for our 1995 conference. Arrangements have also been made for Saturday night entertainers. Following the banquet in The Great Hall at the new

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 ▼

Campus Center, the Weiden Auditorium will be filled with the sounds of the *Maritones*, 16 of the 55 voices of the Maine Gay Men's Chorus. They will be followed by comic Karen Williams, who was one of the entertainers on stage at the 1993 March on Washington.

Workshops. The Planning Committee has been brainstorming on workshop topics and people to lead discussions. HELP! We need to find people who would like to lead a workshop. We also need suggestions for workshop topics, and if there is anyone you know who would be a good workshop leader, call or write today. ▼

Concerned Maine Families
Petition Drive

Anti-Gay Referendum on 1995 Ballot

The Auburn-based organization Concerned Maine Families has collected

enough petition signatures to place a referendum on the November 1995 ballot in Maine. If passed, this referendum would limit the Maine Human Rights Act and prohibit any amendments to its list of protected categories. Concerned Maine Families' leader Carolyn Cosby makes no secret of her wish to limit the civil liberties protections granted lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and other sexual minorities in this state. This measure would also have the effect of repealing the voter-approved civil rights initiative in Portland, and perhaps even limit the protections included in the non-discrimination policies of the University of Maine system. It would also have an effect on Maine's hate crimes law, removing the category of "sexual orientation."

In an article in a recent *Community Pride Reporter*, a Maine monthly published in Portland, the writer pointed out that civil rights protections include *all* people: non-discrimination

protection based on race is not just for African-Americans but for *all* races; religion is not just for Jews but for *all* religions, even atheists. By the same token, "sexual orientation" protects *all* people, no matter what their orientation. This is something with which Concerned Maine Families does not concern itself: facts. They only refer to the "special rights" of homosexuals.

Statewide organizing has been taking place for several months. Immediately following the Concerned Maine Families' presentation of petitions to the Secretary of State, a statewide coalition calling itself "Maine Won't Discriminate" held press conferences in Portland and Bangor. Local business, religious, and civic leaders spoke in opposition to this referendum. All four of Maine's gubernatorial candidates - Democrat Joe Brennan, Republican Susan Collins, Green Party candidate Jonathan Carter,

and independent Angus King - oppose this referendum. Both candidates who are seeking to fill Senator George Mitchell's seat, Republican Olympia Snowe and Democrat Tom Andrews, are against the measure. Even the *Bangor Daily News*, which at one time referred to the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium as a "Homosexual Hoedown", criticizing the event at the University of Maine at Orono, has editorialized against Cosby and her supporters. Cosby's response to all this opposition has been to state that these politicians are "out of touch" with the people of Maine.

A statewide meeting will be held Sunday, September 18 in Bangor. Members of the gay-lesbian-bisexual communities from the Portland, Augusta, Lewiston, Ellsworth, and Bangor areas will be in attendance. Two Northern Lambda Nord members will represent Aroostook County. The purpose of this meeting is to put together a structure for a

• 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

statewide effort to counter the Concerned Maine Families' drive to limit our civil liberties. A follow-up report will appear in the next issue of *Communiqué*. ▼

What's Going On?

Calendar!

Unless otherwise noted, all activities are held at the NLN Community Services Center Office, 398 South Main Street, Caribou; call the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine

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for details, 207/498-2088, Wednesdays 7-9pm (Maine time)/8-10pm (N-B time).
 • *Wed, Sept 21 - Meeting* to set policies for NLN's new Community Services Center
 • *Sat, Sept 24 - Poker Night* in Fort Fairfield
 • *Thurs, Sept 29 - Symposium*

XXI Planning Meeting #7
 • *Sat, Oct 1, 8pm-12:30am (Maine)/9pm-1:30am (N-B) - Annual NLN Membership Drive Party and Dance*
 Caribou Country Club, \$5 cover (\$US=\$CDN)
 • *Fri-Mon, Oct 7-10 - Atlantic Gay & Lesbian Conference*

**Do more than belong.
participate**

in Halifax

• *Sun, Oct 16 - NLN Monthly Meeting*
 • *Mon, Oct 17 - Symposium XXI Planning Meeting #8*
 • *Sat, Oct 29, 8pm (Maine)/9pm (N-B) - Halloween Costume Party* in Van Buren; prizes for best costumes
 • *Sun, Nov 13 - NLN Monthly Meeting*
 • *Sun, Dec 11 - NLN Monthly Meeting*
 • *Sat, Dec 17 - Christmas Party* with gift exchange

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. ▼

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Gay/Lesbian
G•U•Y•L•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 (N-B)

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 E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)

FRUITS OF OUR LABORS Lesbian-Gay-Bi events calendar published monthly, POB 125, Belfast ME 04915

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

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