Better to be pissed off than...  
by Jim Potter, Director, Northern Lambda Nord

"Doing My Part to Piss off the Radical Right" So reads the bumper sticker on one of my colleague's cars. I noticed it as I was attending a staff meeting at our headquarters building in Augusta. It is joined by a rainbow flag and a "No on One" sticker. I have both of the latter stickers on my car, but I haven't given much thought about whether I was deliberately "pissing off the Radical Right," that is, until the last few weeks, but I'll get to that in a minute.

When it comes to being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered persons, many of us, I suspect, expend most of our energy avoiding "pissing off" others. In fact, who would dispute that this is the whole reason why many of us remain in the closet to some degree? Why would we openly invite the contempt and rejection of family, friends, and coworkers by coming out? Or - worse yet - how many times have we squirmed at the thought of being labeled one of those "damn militant homosexuals" that Jesse Helms talks about on C-SPAN all the time. God forbid (poor word choice, sorry) that we might participate in an angry ACT-UP demonstration or parade on Pride Day dressed in drag or leather, or ride in a procession of Dykes on Bikes. I don't know how many of you have been thinking like this, but it's where my thoughts have been over the years. So when it comes to advocacy, my guess is that many of us are unwilling activists at best, as some of us discovered last week.

Last Thursday, Sheila, Doug, Dick, and I attended a meeting of the "Coalition to End Special Rights" (CESR) that was held at the United Baptist Church in Caribou. I don't think that any of us went with the deliberate intention of "pissing off" the other side. Terry and I had gone to a previous CESR meeting in Presque Isle a few weeks earlier, and we felt that it was important to get information to Maine Won't Discriminate, and to try to understand the organizing tactics of the Christian Civic League and other Radical Right political groups. On a personal level, I was very curious about what local people in my community felt about the issue. Dick and I made up flyers that included quotes from the Bible (not the ones they use), researched church positions, and other sources. We attempted to distribute these materials after sitting quietly while the ministers and other straight self-ordained "experts" discussed the so-called "Gay Agenda." As one would expect, we were portrayed as "pedophiles and perverts who would never inherit the kingdom of God." Not once did we interrupt their diatribe of lies. At the end of the presentation, Dick distributed materials at the door, and I placed some of my "No on 1" materials on the back table along with their pieces. I noticed that a person was attempting to take all of my copies and discard them. For lack of a better thing to say, I walked up to him and said, "Thou shall not steal." He got very angry and clenched his fists, and then put the remainder back on the table. Chalk up one for the ten commandments! Now if we can just get that 11th commandment: Thou shall not discriminate against thy neighbor. (Given the lengthy list of lies they used to characterize us, I would settle for "Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.") When I got outside, Doug expressed frustration because he was tempted to ask questions, but chose not to do so. None of us did. It was the safest thing to do. Sheila was also angry and frustrated. Moments later, she was "coming out" to a elderly gentleman from her hometown who
assumed that we favored the referendum; she educated him. Meanwhile, we had unknowingly left Dick inside to deal with the throngs of people who had figured out that we had "infiltrated" the sanctity (not to be confused with sanity) of their haven. He walked around to people to pass out flyers to them because they weren't coming up to him. He left a chaotic scene where the minister was waving the flyer in the air and yelling, "This is not true! This is not true!"

The point that I want to make is that we are four generally nice people who "did our part to piss off the Radical Right." We learned that it's quite easy to do it. It wasn't our purpose to make them angry, but we have grown weary of the Radical Right using the Bible as a weapon of hatred against us. So we used our weapons: Weapons of educating them (well, we tried!). Weapons of quietly confronting them. Weapons of presenting ourselves. We did what we could. I'm hoping that you will, in turn, do what you can — no more — no less!!

And please remember to Vote No on One on November 7th!

Be well, /s/ Jim ▼

In The Library

Northern Lambda Nord's lending library, Bibliothèque Lambda, has about 1,000 volumes of fiction, non-fiction, travel guides, and a selection of gay & lesbian newspapers and magazines from around North America. The library is housed in the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine in Caribou. Here are brief summaries of four of the books available for members to borrow. Comments are taken from the book jackets.

Tim and Pete, a novel by James Rober Baker (1993) John Preston says that "Tim and Pete is a 1990s gay version of A Clockwork Orange, a chronicle of people dealing with the insanity of our modern world. There's no more Mr. Nice Guy in Baker's portrayal of today's homosexual. Ravaged by disease and disdain by government, Baker's gay men live in a world filled with outrage. Tim and Pete speaks with the clarity and fury of an ACT UP demonstration."

The Wanderground: Stories of the Hill Women, a novel by Sally Miller Gearhart (1979) Elizabeth A. Lynn notes that "The Wanderground is an absorbing, haunting collection of tales set in a future in which women live in a women's culture, apart from men or male values. Sally Gearhart writes with care and tenderness about the harmony of the natural order and the place of women in it. We need such visions. Many women, reading them, will find their own dreams reflected."

Telling: Confessions, concessions, and other flashes of light, a humorous
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memoir by Marion Winik (1994) (Library of Congress catalogue * 305) From the text of the book: “A born iconoclast, an aspiring artiste, a feminist vegetarian prodigal daughter, from early youth I considered myself destined to lead a startling life far outside the bounds of convention. I would be famous, dangerous, brilliant and relentlessly cool: a sort of cross between Emma Goldman, Jack Kerouac, and Georgia O’Keefe . . . So where did this station wagon come from?”


SIDA LES NIVEAUX DE RISQUE

LE BAISER avec échange de salive (french-kiss) ne comportent aucun risque. LES CAresses S En 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.: vibrateur, 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, Shared enema equipment, douching equipment, or sex toys
Northern Lambda Calendar

- **Second Sunday of the month**
  - NLN Meeting Nov 12, Dec 10, 1-3pm(M) 2-4pm(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
    - FILM 8pm(M) 9pm(N)

- **THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE HELD AT OTHER LOCATIONS**
  - **Halloween Dance Sat**, Oct 28 in Van Buren, 8pm(M) 9pm(N)
  - **Mexican Pot Luck Supper Sat**, Nov 11 in New Sweden, 6pm(M) 7pm(N)
  - **Women's Night Fri**, Nov 17 in Presque Isle, 7pm(M)
  - **Christmas Party Sat**, Dec 9 in Caribou, 7pm(M) 8pm(N)

- **CES ACTIVITÉS TIENS AU CENTRE COMMUNIQUÉ DES GAY ET DES LESBIENNES 376, RUE PRINCIPALE ELD. CARIBOU, 70478-2088 (SITUATION AU MAÎTRE, HÔTEL DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK)**
  - deuxième dimanche tout les mois rencontre NLN 12 nov, 10 déc, 14h-16h(N) 13h-15h(M)
  - tous les mardis Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting 20h30-21h30(N) 19h30-20h30(M)
  - tous les mercredis - Portes Ouvertes au Centre Communautaire 20h-22h(N) 19h-20h(M)
  - première vendredi tout les mois film 21h(N) 20h(M)

- **LES ACTIVITÉS SURVIVANT TIENS AU LIEUX DIFFÉRENTS**
  - **Halloween Dance sam**, 28 oct à Van Buren, 21h(N) 20h(M)
  - Souper mexicain "pot luck" sam, 11 nov à New Sweden, 19h(N) 18h(M)
  - Soirée des femmes ven, 17 nov à Presque Isle 20h(N) 19h(M)
  - Fête de Noël sam, 9 déc à Caribou, 20h(N) 19h(M)

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**Lesbian-Gay GUIDE Lesbienne-Gai**

**NEW BRUNSWICK • MAINE • NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK**

- **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD INC. (NLN)** CP/POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA 207.498-2088 TTY/Voice - serving northern Maine & northeastern NB (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Canterbury counties); desservant le nord-ouest du NB et le nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton-Aroostook)

- Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine 398 South Main St, Caribou; mail: POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA; 207.498-2088 TTY/Voice
  - Centre communautaire des gai.e.s et des lesbienne.s 398, rue Principale sud, Caribou; poste: CP 990, ME 04736-0990 USA; 207.498-2088 TTY/Voix

- Gay-Lesbian Phoneline of Maine 207.498-2088 TTYVoice - staffed Wed, 7-9pm (Maine) 8-10pm (N-B); mail: POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990

- Gay-Lesbian AA meets Tuesdays, 7:30pm(Maine) 830pm(N-B) at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 South Main St, Caribou; call 207.498-2088 to make contact

- **REGIONAL GROUPS**
- **GROUPES RÉGIONAUX**
  - Fredericton Lesbians & Gays (FLAG) POB 1554, Station A, E3B 5G2. 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6:30-8:30pm), e-mail vsmc@unb.ca
  - http://www.unb.ca/web/glsa

  - Gaïes. Nor Gays (GNG) CP/POB 983, Bathurst E2A 4H8. 506.783-7440

  - Maine Bisexual People’s Network POB 10818, Portland 04104

  - No Borders/Sans Frontières CP/POB 461, Campbellton E3J 3G4

  - Pride in Life gay & lesbians of southeastern NB, POB 7102, Riverview E1V 0V, 506.835-8046 (Mon & Thurs 7-9pm), e-mail dicksine@nbnet.ca

  - Symposium Forevermore, Inc., committed to the continuation of the annual Maine Symposium for the gay-bisexual-transgendered community, POB 1320, Caribou ME 04736-1320

  - Time Out outdoor activities, monthly calendar, POB 11520, Portland 04104

  - Woman’s Group POB 200082, Fredericton E3B 6Y8. 506.457-2156

  - **HEALTH • SANTÉ**

    - AIDS New Brunswick 65 Brunswick St, Fredericton 506.561-4009 or 506.459-7518

    - AIDS Moncton 14 Duka St, 2nd floor, 506.859-9616

    - AIDSLine/Maine 800.851-AIDS - Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm

    - Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force POB 47049, Halifax B3K 280, 506.565-4355, 902.492-4255

    - Eastern Maine AIDS Network POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 207.990-0949

    - PWMA (People living with AIDS) Coalition of Maine 377 Cumberland Ave, Portland 04101, 207.773-8500

    - Health 1st anonymous HIV tests (northern Maine) 506.432-7881

    - SIDA Moncton 14 Duke St, 2nd floor, 506.859-9616

    - SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick 506.561-4009

  - **MEDIA • MÉDIAS**

    - Community Pride Reporter newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine, published monthly, 142 High St, Suite 634, Portland 04101, 207.879-1342

    - Fruit Cocktail radio program, 7pm Mondays on CHS 97.9fm, Fredericton 506.453-4985

    - Fruits of Our Labors month by month gay/bisexual events calendar, POB 125, Bellfast 04915

    - Waysies serving Atlantic Canada, 10 issues per year, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax NS B3J 3S1, 902.432-4999 e-mail waysies@de.Windows.ca

  - **YOUTH • JEUNESSE**

    - Dial Kids 207.774-TALK for lesbian, gay, bisexual & unsorted youth under 19

    - Outright/Central Maine age 22 and younger, 800.339-4042

    - Outright/Portland POB 5077, Portland 04101, 207.774-TALK or 207.774-HELP

    - OUT GOO Bangor area, ages 16-22, 207.285-7180

  - **UNIVERSITY • UNIVERSITÉ**

    - Gay & Lesbian Alliance (GALA) University of New Brunswick, c/o Help Centre, UNB SUB, POB 4400, Fredericton E3B 5A3, 506.457-2156, e-mail: http://www.unb.ca/web/glsa/taste/glsa.html

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**COMMUNIQUÉ**


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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, $25 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. Editor Dick Harrison.