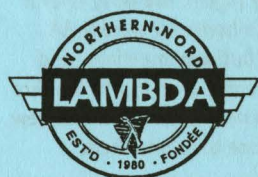


COMMUNIQUE

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OCTOBRE/OCTOBER 1995

Better to be pissed off than . . .

by Jim Fotter, 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

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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*

Northern Lambda Nord Fundraising Up-Date

as of October 8, 1995
all figures are in U.S. funds

Office Rent

Our goal is to raise \$1,500 to cover the cost of the Community Center Office in Caribou (12 months @ \$125 per month) **TOTAL raised to date.....\$508.21** which is enough to pay the rent through December 1995
Amount we still need.....\$991.79

This is the **only** Community Center in Maine! It provides a space for the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline of Maine (the **only** phone service of its kind in the state); our 1000-volume lending library (again, the **only** one) is there. The Center is home for weekly AA meetings, monthly business meetings, and the Wednesday evening drop-in which offers new people – both new to the area and new to "the life" – a place to meet others.

Use of the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center is **always free**; there's no charge for meetings, for attending film night, for use of the library, or for the weekly drop-ins. Our sole support is donations. **Can you help?** Please underwrite as much as you can afford; one week's rent, one month's, or more.

Northern Lambda Nord covers the cost of this newsletter (printing, paper, envelopes, and postage), the cost of maintaining the Phoneline (monthly phone charges), and all other projects solely from memberships and donations. Community Center funding must come from the community.

Use the form below; cut it out, check-off a box and send it with your check today. Make checks payable to "NLN - Center Rent" and mail it to NLN, POB 990, Caribou 04736. Your contributions are tax-deductible on your U.S. federal tax return.

Thank you in advance for your support.

YES! I want to help maintain the Community Center! Enclosed is a donation
☐ \$30 - one week ☐ \$125 - one month
☐ \$60 - two weeks ☐ \$250 - two months
☐ \$95 - three weeks ☐ Other \$ _____

My name.....

Address.....

City.....

State/Province.....

ZIP code Postale.....

Telephone.....



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?"

When Someone You Know Has AIDS: *A Practical Guide by Leonard J. Martelli, Fran D. Peltz, C.S.W., William Messina, C.S.W., and Steven Petrow* (revised edition, 1993) (*Library of Congress catalogue #616.97*) From the book jacket: "When Someone You Know Has AIDS . . . is . . . for anyone who cares about a friend, lover, son, daughter, sibling, spouse, or parent confronting the challenge of AIDS. Informative and compassionate, this book will help you care in the best way you can. . . . [It covers] legal and financial planning, health insurance, disability, and living wills [and] how to handle AIDS prejudice. . . . [It] provides you with comfort and solace."

Save Up to 25% On Your Long Distance Calls

**and Help Create a Reliable, On-going
Source of Revenue for the Gay & Lesbian
Phoneline of Maine!**

The Pride Network is the largest long distance program for the gay, lesbian and HIV/AIDS communities. When you make a long distance call with The Pride Network, 3% of every call goes to the Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine, plus The Pride Network will donate \$5 to the Phoneline when you join!

The Pride Network has all the services of any other long distance carrier • free customized calling cards • the lowest rates of any nationally-advertised calling plan • 100% digital fiber optic quality • 24-hour customer service • no cost to join • plus the option to receive all material in discreet packaging

JOIN NOW and The Pride Network will automatically send \$5 to the Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine!



Call 800.342-3302 today!

*and tell them you want to help Northern Lambda Nord
and the Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine*

SIDA 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.

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

Calendrier Northern Lambda Nord Calendar

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE AT THE GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER OF NORTHERN MAINE, 398 SOUTH MAIN ST., CARIBOU, ACROSS FROM THE NYLANDER MUSEUM, 207/498-2088 (M=MAINE TIME, N=NEW BRUNSWICK TIME)

- 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) 8pm(N)
- Christmas Party Sat**, Dec 9 in Caribou, 7pm(M) 8pm(N)

CES ACTIVITÉS TIENS AU CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE DES GAI.E.S ET DES LESBIENNES 398, RUE PRINCIPALE SUD À CARIBOU, DE L'AUTRE CÔTÉ DE LA MUSÉE NYLANDER, 207/498-2088 (M=HEURE AU MAINE, N=HEURE AU NOUVEAU BRUNSWICK)

- deuxième dimanche tout les mois rencontre **NLN** 12 nov, 10 déc, 14h-16h(N) 13h-15h(M)
- tout les mardis Gay & Lesbian **AA Meeting** 20h30-21h30(N) 19h30-20h30(M)
- tout 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 SUIVANTES TIENS AUX 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)

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 & northwestern NB (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton counties); desservant le nord-ouest du N-B 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 04736-0990 USA; 207.498-2088 TTY/Voice

Centre communautaire des gai.e.s et des lesbiennes 398, rue Principale sud, Caribou; postes: CP 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA; 207.498-2088 TTY/Voice

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

Gay-Lesbian AA meets Tuesdays, 7:30pm(Maine) 8:30pm(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 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6:30-8:30pm), e-mail: u5mc@unb.ca or <http://www.unb.ca/web/gala>

Gais.es. 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 E3N 3G4

Pride in Life gays & lesbians of southeastern NB, POB 7102, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.855-8064 (Mon & Thurs 7-9pm), e-mail: dickbain@nbnet.nb.ca

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

Time Out outdoor activities, monthly calendar, POB 11502, Portland 04104

Womyn's Group POB 200082, Fredericton E3B 6Y8, 506.457-2156

• HEALTH • SANTÉ •

AIDS New Brunswick 65 Brunswick St., Fredericton 800.561-4009 or 506.459-7518

AIDS Moncton 14 Duke 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 2B0, 800.565-4255, 902.492-4255

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

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

Health 1st anonymous HIV tests (northern Maine) 800.432-7881

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

SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick 800.561-4009

• MEDIA • MEDIAS •

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 CHSR 97.9fm Fredericton, 506.453-4985

Fruits of Our Labors monthly lesbian-gay-bi events calendar, POB 125, Belfast 04915

Wayves serving Atlantic Canada, 10 issues per year, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax NS B3J 3S1, 902.423-6999 e-mail: wayves@fox.nstn.ca

• YOUTH • JEUNESSE •

Dial Kids 207.774-TALK for lesbian, gay, bisexual & unsure 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

Outright TOO 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/gala/katie/gala.html>

Gay/Lesbian Alliance University of Southern Maine, 88 Winslow Street, Portland 04103, 207.874-6596

Wilde-Stein Club University of Maine, Orono, every Thurs 6:30pm, Sutton Lounge in Memorial Union

• PARENTS •

Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual Parents Support Group Portland 207.772-4741 (Frank)

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) Bangor/Brewer area 207.989-5180

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) Fredericton area 506.452-0528 (Kerry)

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) Moncton area 506.536-0599 (Eldon Hay) or Pierre Bourgeois, 358 rue LaFrance, Dieppe E1A 2B8

• RELIGION •

Am Chofshi Jewish, meets monthly, c/o Horowitz & Kass, RR#1 Box 686, South Harpswell 04079, 207.874-2970

Dignity/Maine Catholic, POB 8113, Portland 04104

Integrity Episcopal, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union St., Hallowell 04347, 207.622-6631

New Hope Community Church c/o Unitarian House, 749 Charlotte St., Fredericton, 506.457-4675

• PROFESSIONAL • PROFESSIONNEL •

Lesbian-Gay Committee, Maine Chapter, National Association of Social Workers POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102

Maine Gay Visual Artists' League 207.775-3420

Maine Lesbian & Gay Law Association (LeGal) POB 443, Portland 04112, 207.829-3379

• POLITICAL ACTION • • ACTION DE SOUTIEN •

Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance POB 232, Hallowell 04347 800.55-MLGPA (556-5472)

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

COMMUNIQUÉ

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COMMUNIQUÉ

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