Northern Lambda Nord Communique, Vol.17, No.5 (September/October 1996)

Northern Lambda Nord

Dick Harrison

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Can You Lend A Hand?

by Sheila Everett, Director, Northern Lambda Nord

Your NLN Steering Committee is in the process of scheduling a Yearly Events Calendar to plan our activities during our membership year, October 1-September 30. Certain dates are predetermined by holiday times; all other dates are flexible and able to be set according to the host’s discretion. We need people willing to open up their homes for pot lucks, “sock hops,” barbecues, games nights, women’s & men’s nights, or any other event your imagination may inspire. We’re also looking for people who can be financial sponsors to help pay the cost of rent for a hall for one of our dances. Can you lend a hand?

Based upon the 1995-1996 calendar, here is what NLN may do during this next year: (Some people have already agreed to host some activities, but most of our social calendar depends upon YOU!)

✓ **BONFIRE & BARN DANCE** Saturday, Sept 28 in Mapleton (Pat & Mike's)

✓ **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE DINNER & DANCE** Saturday, Oct 12, Presque Isle Snowmobile Club (thank you Nancy, this party’s sponsor)

✓ **HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY & DANCE** Saturday, Oct 26 in Van Buren (Wayne's)

✓ **SATURDAYS IN NOVEMBER** Dates are open for men’s & women’s nights, a pot luck, or some other reason to get together in a supportive space

✓ **YANKEE SWAP CHRISTMAS PARTY** Saturday, Dec 14 - Our annual gift exchange - *host needed*

✓ **SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER** Do you want to have some other event this month?

✓ **NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY** Monday, Dec 31 in New Sweden (Dick & Phil’s)

✓ **SATURDAYS IN JANUARY** The first three weekends are available

✓ **NLN’S 17TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER PARTY** Saturday, Jan 25 - we haven't picked a location yet - past dinners have been at Keddy's and the Carriage House in Presque Isle, and at the Old Iron Inn in Caribou - any suggestions?

✓ **FEBRUARY WEEKENDS** Think about doing something to combat those mid-winter blues

✓ **VALENTINE’S DANCE** Saturday, Feb 15 - maybe at the Van Buren Community Center;

what do you think?

✓ **MARCH WEEKENDS** Winter just won’t quit, so let’s get together for food or something - what are your suggestions?

✓ **FIRST DAY OF SPRING BBQ** Saturday, March 22 - This has become an annual event, shoveling the snow from around the grill - any takers for hosting?

✓ **ST. PATRICK’S DAY** Saturday, Mar 15 - Last year we had a green food pot luck and a sock hop

✓ **SATURDAYS IN MARCH** The rest of the month is available - use your imagination

✓ **APRIL** All weekends are open - What would you like to do?

✓ **ANNUAL SPRING DANCE** Saturday, May 3 - last year it was at the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club. We’re looking for financial sponsors this year.

✓ **MAY WEEKENDS** Dates are open (The annual Maine Lesbian & Gaymen’s Symposium might be May 24-26 in the Sugarloaf/Bethel, Maine region)

✓ **FAMILY & FRIENDS OF LAMBDA BBQ AND GAMES** Saturday, June 21 in New Sweden (Phil & Dick’s)

✓ **JUNE WEEKENDS** Summer’s here - bbq, hiking, swimming… what do you suggest?

✓ **JULY CANADA DAY/INDEPENDENCE DAY** How about a barbecue and dance - where can we have one?

✓ **SATURDAYS IN JULY & AUGUST** Summer’s too short - any ideas of things to do? Anyone want to host an event?

✓ **SUMMER DAYS & WEEKENDS AT THE LAKE** These have become annual events - one weekend at Wayne’s at Van Buren Cove on Long Lake, one day at Walter’s on the Sinclair side of Long Lake. Anyone else have ideas or places where we can swim, bbq, bonfire, and just enjoy the warm days?

✓ **LABOR DAY WEEKEND DANCE** This year was the first time we’ve done this, at the Van Buren Community Center. Should we do it again?

✓ **OCTOBER 1997** Membership drive dance & Halloween, and then round we go again!

*Please look over the possibilities and let a*
Northern Lambda Nord, Inc.
The Mission of Northern Lambda Nord is to advance the interests and well-being of the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgendered community of the Upper Saint John River Valley of New Brunswick and Aroostook County, Maine.

Steering Committee
Comité Exécutif
Sheila Everett
Mike Bushby
Diana Campbell
vacant
Donald Weatherford
Dick Harrison

Members-at-Large:
Bill (Aroostook, Madawaska, Maine)
Walter Fournier & Wayne Morrow

CommuniQue
CommuniQue publié six fois par année par Northern Lambda Nord, une organisation pour la communauté gai- lesbienne-bisexuelle au nord-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick et au nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska, Victoria, Carleton et Aroostook).

Abonnement, 15$ par année. Adhésion NLN, 25$ par année (fonds E-U), dans lequel inclus l’abonnement. Ceux qui ont de la difficulté financièrement, des paiements à terme peuvent être organisés. NLN est une organisation à but non-lucratif; toutes les dons sont taxe déductible aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le CommuniQue sont disponibles. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenues.

COMMUNIQUE
CommuniQue is published six times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the gay-lesbian-bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook, Madawaska, Victoria and Carleton counties).

Subscriptions, $15 per year. NLN Membership, $25 per year (U.S. funds), which includes a subscription. 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 CommuniQue are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.

Northern Lambda Nord Budget '96-'97

INCOME
Account                      Budget
0.1 - Dues                      $1250
0.2 - Events/door admission    $1000
0.3 - Fundraisers              $750
0.4 - Donations                $2000
0.5 - Reserve/carry over       $2400
0.6 - Dividends/interest       $200
0.7 - Grants                    $3570
Total income                   $10,970

EXPENSES reflect NLN's four Strategic Objectives: (1) To help LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) people divest themselves of negative attitudes about sexual orientation, to become comfortable with themselves, and to celebrate and appreciate the diversity of our community.

Account                      Budget
1.1 - Social activities        $1200
1.2 - Issue groups & guest speakers $100
1.3 - Conferences              $500
1.4 - Newsletter               $700
1.5 - US/Cdn networking        $150
1.6 - Library                  $100
Total Expenses section 1      $2750

(2) To serve as an educational resource and a role model within the community at large in an effort to positively affect attitudes about LGBT people.

Account                      Budget
2.1 - Friends & Family group   $50
2.2 - Teen conference          $50
2.3 - Advertising              $700
2.4 - Youth group              $50
2.5 - Non-gay coalitions       $100
2.6 - Speakers bureau          $100
Total Expenses section 2      $1050

Lambda Budget Set for the Next Year
Your NLN Steering Committee met Thursday, September 12 to prepare our organizational budget for fiscal year 1996-1997 (October 1 '96-September 30 '97). The process is based upon what is called a "zero-based budget," whereby you look at the money you expect as income, then divide it up to pay for the projects and programs you want to have during the year. Your income dictates your projects. This is opposite from how we used to (and many other groups still) prepare a budget: deciding what you want to do and how much it will cost, and then allowing that to dictate the income you need.

We based our expenses upon the four objectives of Lambda, as reflected by our constitution. Our FY95-96 budget was $6950; our FY96-97 budget is $10,970. The process and discussion was concluded in about 90 minutes. We owe a sincere thanks to NLN's previous director, Jim Potter (now residing in Brunswick, Maine). Through his leadership this organization moved from working with a haphazard, backwards budget to this zero-based system, which gives us a better handle on our finances and on our direction and priorities. Thanks, Jim!

The primary mission of Northern Lambda Nord is to advance the interests and well-being of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community of the Upper Saint John River Valley of New Brunswick and Aroostook County, Maine.
**So let’s talk Money**

**PART ONE** - NLN operates the first and only community center in Maine for queer people and friends. The need is there. The old space was too small, so we recently doubled the size of the office. The Center is our single biggest expense: $3000 rent per year (heat and electricity included). Our income depends a great deal upon your generosity. **How much can you donate to help?**

Rent is $250/month. Can you give enough to pay for one day, one week, two weeks, a full month, two months? Can you pledge an amount every month? A donation form is on page 4; please use it.

**PART TWO** - Fundraising is a necessary evil of most organizations, ours included. We have asked you to save your empty bottles and cans and donate the deposits to Lambda. It's a simple way to help pay for some of the costs of this newsletter or stamps or rent. Every dollar or two adds up. But we’re only getting response from the same three people every month. **Should we let them support the group by themselves? Everyone** drinks soda or beer or wine or juice or bottled water. **Every five cents makes a difference** to the financial health of Northern Lambda Nord. Why not put a jar or a can on your kitchen counter and drop in your change.

**PART THREE** - Take a close look at the income figures for our new budget. **Membership dues (item 0.1) account for only 11% of our income.** We need to raise the other 89% from door charges at events, selling pins or mugs or raffle tickets, from grants which must be written to large funding groups (and there's no guarantee we'll get any money from them) and donations. **If NLN is important to you, renew your membership and get at least one other person to join this year!**

**Spend Some Time at the Mall**

**How often do you go to Aroostook Centre in Presque Isle?**

**How about going Saturday, September 29th?** That's the date of the mall's twice-yearly "Community Day" where local organizations have literature and fundraising tables. For the third time, Northern Lambda Nord will be there. **We’ll be distributing information about our Phoneline's HIV-AIDS prevention project and selling raffle tickets for a $50 shopping spree.** So far, we have two people who have said they will help staff the table; **we could use at least two more.** Set-up is at 9am (mall stores open at 9:30) and we’ll be there all day, not far from the food court. Stop by, if only to give the volunteers a chance to peek! ▼

**Dinner & Dancing**

Over the past 16 years NLN has rented halls for special dances: Keddy's Motor Inn in Presque Isle, the Presque Isle Country Club, the Caribou Country Club, the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club, and - most recently - the Van Buren Community Center. We've also sponsored food events in members' homes, including pot lucks and barbecues. We've held our annual anniversary dinner at the Carriage House Restaurant in Presque Isle, at Keddy's in Presque Isle, and at the Old Iron Inn in Caribou.

This year we're trying something different: we're **eating and dancing the same evening at the same place!**

**Dinner-dance! Saturday, October 12 at the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club.** Food is at 6:30pm, dancing from 8pm-1am (Maine time). It's a **MEXICAN MENU:** appetizer, chicken fajita, rice, salad, dessert. BYO beverage for both the dinner and the dance (munchies will be served at the dance). Deb Madore, who prepared the **fantastic** and quick-to-disappear chicken fajita at last June's "Lambda's Friends & Family" barbecue, has agreed to make this popular and delicious dish again. **You must make a reservation so she knows how much to make!**

Dinner is $10 (U.S. funds); admission to the dance is extra (the dance is free if you buy a '96-'97 NLN membership for $25.00; admission is $25.00 if you don't buy a membership).

**Make dinner reservations by Wednesday, October 9th by calling Sheila (207.764-7838) or Dick (207.498-0900).** You may pay in advance or at the door, but **if you make a reservation and then do not show up, you still owe the money! And . . . . if you can help us decorate and set up for this event, that's happening Friday, October 11th starting at 6:30pm - the more the merrier! ▼

**A Survey**

Over the next two years, the **Maine Community Foundation** will distribute $120,000 to gay groups in the state. Northern Lambda Nord hopes to receive some of that money. The Foundation has asked us to help them determine the needs of our community by sending a short survey.
A copy is enclosed with this newsletter. (The Foundation paid for the extra postage, so it didn’t cost NLN money.) Please fill it out and mail it back today! Extra copies will be available at the October 12th dance at the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club.

Your Membership Has Expired

All Lambda memberships expire September 30. You may renew at the October 12th dance or by mail (a form is below). A new pro-rated membership fee structure was adopted at a special Steering Committee meeting in August; it goes into effect October 1, 1996.

DATE MEMBERSHIP RECEIVED

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<td>July 1-September 30 (4th quarter)</td>
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MEMBERSHIP FEES are accepted in U.S. funds. NLN still accepts Canadian money for door charges at events, but will do so at an exchange rate of 10% above the bank rate.

November 5 is Election Day in Maine

This year we vote for federal and state officials - a President, our member of the House of Representatives, one of two U.S. Senators, and the entire Maine Legislature. Despite some of his actions, Bill Clinton has been outspoken in support of gay people. He tried (and blundered) the “gays in the military” issue; he removed the exclusion of gays receiving security clearances in the FBI and CIA; he’s appointed openly gay people to high positions; he and Hillary are the Honorary Co-Chairs for the October 11-13 display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington DC. He said the G-word and the L-word in his acceptance speech at the nominating convention. By contrast, Bob Dole may not be personally homophobic, but his party’s platform is, and the religious right has his ear. The next president will probably appoint some new members of the Supreme Court. You decide whether you want Bill or Bob to choose those justices, because the court will probably review cases such as Hawaii’s right-to-marry law.

In general, the same Democratic vs. Republican party differences on gay issues are at the state and local level, too. The Maine Legislature will vote on a state gay civil rights law. Vote November 5 (you can register at the polls) then YOU decide who will be on our side when THEY vote.
Commentary: Gay Marriage in an Election Year

by Dick Harrison, Editor CommuniQué

There's been a lot of news lately about “gay marriage” or what I prefer to call “our right to get married.” The Hawaiian Supreme Court will soon rule on a case which will probably permit anyone to get married in that state: man and woman, two men, or two women. The U.S. Congress has passed – and President Clinton has signed – a bill entitled “The Defense of Marriage Act” (to defend whom from what they don't say) which defines a marriage as a man-woman thing, in regards to federal laws and benefits.

Four months ago my partner (spouse/companion/husband) and I went to my (our) niece's wedding. It never struck me before at how much validation a straight couple gets and how absolutely no validation a gay couple gets. From the pre-nuptial parties and showers, to the pomp and ceremony of the marriage vows themselves, to the applause welcoming the newlyweds at brunch the morning after they “did it” as a “legal” couple (what is it they do anyway?), it's all celebrated and affirmed.

Marriage is officially recognized and approved by two “oversseers” – the church and the state – and therefore by society. There's the formal church/religion/god recognition and approval of two people's relationship, and there's the government/state/legal recognition of this relationship. Some organized religions are just beginning to deal with the issue of gays as clergy and gays getting married. Governments are generally fighting against it. But when listening to our government representatives in Congress, their arguments against us are generally bible-based (what happened to separation of church and state?) and a “that's the way it's always been” reasoning.

Some gay couples want the right to marry, some don't. Personally, I'm not interested in the institution of marriage; I don't want the government interfering in my life any more than it already does. But I also don't want the government to penalize me because I'm gay. I should not be denied the right to be covered by my partner's health insurance, or for him to visit me in the hospital if I'm sick, or for us to file a joint tax return. There should be legal equality for a long-term commitment between two people, whoever they are.

The typical family is no longer the Ozzie & Harriet-Leave It To Beaver-Father Knows Best model of the 1950s. Only about one-fifth of all families in North America today fit this model. Though many people on the political right do not accept the concept of “family” to include anyone other than the Mom & Dad & 2½ children type, most families today are either single parents, divorced and remarried with children, gay parents with children, or couples – both straight and gay – with no children. The right's rhetoric is “family values” and they push to help strengthen their definition of family, i.e. the “traditional” family. Single parents, unmarried couples and queers need not apply. But they fail to acknowledge that by supporting all families we actually strengthen the family, the broad, inclusive definition of the term. A family is defined first by love, support, trust and sharing, not just by the arbitrary structure of man-woman-child.

Until gay love and gay commitments and gay relationships are viewed on an equal footing with straight ones, we will continue to be treated as second class citizens with fewer rights and benefits than the rest of the population. Straight people take their freedoms for granted; we cannot. We do not have the freedom to marry the person we love and to have all the rights and privileges granted by society to heterosexual people. That situation is inherently unequal. I am sure this will eventually change; Hawaii is the beginning of the wave. But it will take a long, long time. The way people change their attitudes about gays and lesbians is first and foremost when they know a gay person, realize that their neighbor, co-worker, or clerk at the store where they shop is gay and is a really nice person. Coming out, not being afraid of who you are, not being ashamed of who you are, knowing that there's nothing wrong with who you are, getting rid of the guilt, taking pleasure in being at a gay party rather than being afraid of who might see you there, these are all small, personal acts. But they accumulate. They are the most effective ways to make things better for our children, the gay and lesbian youth of today and tomorrow. These small personal acts can make us feel better about ourselves and can change the political climate. That's what they mean by “the personal is political.” Change will come from the bottom up, from the small towns where the people who know and care about their gay friends and family tell their representatives in government that we must stop fearing differences and stop being afraid of gay people. We must embrace the full diversity of humanity and stop using people as scapegoats for some political agenda. Come out, come out wherever you are! ▼

Since I first wrote this article, a minister of the United Church of Canada performed a marriage ceremony for a gay couple in Saint John, New Brunswick. This minister (I think his name was Bob Johnson) was at the Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium in Bar Harbor during August. At one of the workshops he spoke a bit about the experience and about his congregation's reactions. ▼

Ben Klein, an attorney with GLAD – Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders in Boston – will be speaking at our Community Center Thursday, October 3 from 7-9pm. He'll talk about legal issues including the right to marry, family rights, discrimination, and other topics. ▼
Sida

Les niveaux de risque

Le baiser avec échange de salive (french-kiss) ne comportent aucun risque. Les carences 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: 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

Calendrier Nothern Lambda Nord Calendar

The following events are held at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine 398 Main Street, Caribou, 207-498-2088 Across From Nylander Museum (Maine Time, Tuesday and Wednesday)

• First Tuesday each month Gay & Lesbian AA - Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3 7:30pm(M) 8:30pm(N)
• Every Wednesday is Drop-In & Open House 7-9pm(M) 8-10pm(N)
• Second Thursday each summer month is the NLN Meeting - Oct 10 6:30pm(M) 7:30pm(N)
• Special Event! Thursday Oct 3 Guest Speaker from Boston - Ben Klein speaking on legal issues - 7pm(M) 8pm(N)

These events meet at different locations

Bonfire & Barn Dance Sat, Sept 28, Mapleton near Presque Isle, 7:30pm(M) 8:30pm(N)
Annual Membership Party - Dinner & Dance Sat, October 12, Presque Isle Snowmobile Club Dinner at 6:30pm(M) 7:30pm(N); dancing from 8pm-1am(M) 9pm-2am(N)
Halloween Costume Party & Dance Sat, October 26, Van Buren, 8pm (M) 9pm(N)

Home for Rent

3-bedroom house for rent on State Road in Mapleton. Available NOW. Rent plus utilities. Snow and garbage removal included. References & security deposit required. Call 764- Leave message.

Camping Weekend - Mike & Pat are going to Camden area Oct 4-6. If you want to go, call 764- Leave message.

Les activités tiens au Centre Communautaire des Gaïs et des lesbiennes 398 Rue Principale a Caribou, 207-498-2088 et l'autre côté de la Musée Nylander (Maine Time, Tuesday and Wednesday)

• premier mardi tous les mois Gay & Lesbian AA - 1 oct, 5 nov, 3 déc 20h30(N) 19h30(M)
• tout les mercredis - Portes Ouvertes 20h-22h(N) 19h-20h(M)
• deuxième jeudi tous les mois à l'été rencontre NLN - 10 oct 19h30h(N) 18h30h(M)
• ÉVÉNEMENT SPÉCIAL! jeudi 3 oct une présentation par un avocat gay - les sujets de la loi et les gens gaï/é/s - 20h(N) 19h(M)

Feu de joie et dance au grange sam, 28 sept, à Mapleton (Presque Isle), 19h30h(M) 20h30h(M)
Diner & Dance annual sam, 12 oct à club de motoneige à Presque Isle, Repas à partir de 18h30 (M) 19h30 (N); dance à partir de 20h(N) 21h(M)
Fête du cotûme & Dance d'Halloween sam 26 octobre à Van Buren, à partirde 20h (M), 21h (N)