

# COMMUNIQUE

VOLUME XVIII: NO. 1

JANVIER-FÉVRIER/JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997

## A New Year, A New Beginning

by Donald Weatherford, Director, Northern Lambda Nord

### AIDS

Attacks the body

### HOMOPHOBIA

Attacks the spirit

One is caused by a virus

One is caused by ignorance

Both Can Kill

A virus can be fought with money

Ignorance is only fought by truth

AIDS will be conquered!

IGNORANCE lingers on . . .

Nineteen-ninety-six has passed us by, 1997 is anew and thus, the changing of the Northern Lambda Nord Board of Directors. In 1996, under the leadership of Sheila Everett, the NLN Board conquered many mountains and even reached what was once thought of as unattainable goals. This is due in large part to the vision of Sheila and the board, and the support of our family and the friends of NLN.

So enter 1997. A few switches in titles and the addition of two fresh faces will, in my opinion, make the 1997 Board reach higher goals. There is a promise of change in the air, and with the enthusiasm and vision of the newly-elected board, change is inevitable.

When I first arrived in The County I was told by many people that The County was still in the seventies. I scoffed at such a notion. Well, I have been here well over a year and a half, and I have seen that there is some truth to that statement. I believe, however, that with the growth of the community, both Gay and Straight, that perhaps by the end of 1997 we may reach 1987 in our thinking.

This will be accomplished through education. Educating the straight community that we as gays, lesbians, transgendered and bisexuals, exist in The County; we are not the pariahs that they see us as, and – in return – we as a community

must stop thinking of the straight community as our enemy. We must ally ourselves: this will be the only way that homophobia can be defeated. Ignorance and fear are our worst enemies. Sadly, though, not only do we have to deal with it from the straight community, we must also deal with it from within our own community.

My hopes for this new year is to try and defeat some of the preconceived notions of who we are and to defeat the false notions that we, as a community, hold about the straight community. The only way we can be free is to stand together, both straight and homosexual. With the vision and enthusiasm of the new NLN Board, I believe we can make a large dent in this problem. We *do* have a lot of friends out there. I think many of you will be surprised. My other hope is that by the year's end, AIDS will be a disease of yesterday.

Peace to us all,

/s/ D. ▼

## Sheila says, . . .

by Sheila Everett, Social Events Director

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for allowing me to be a part of the growth of Northern Lambda Nord as your director during 1996. I didn't reach all the goals I had set for myself and for Lambda, but I gave it my best shot, so I guess I'll be satisfied with that.

As your new Social Director, I would like to see the social aspect of NLN continue to grow, i.e., more dances at rented halls, and more pot lucks, game nights, and fun sports events at private homes.

The next big event for us is our Valentine's Dance, Saturday, February 15, 1997 at the Caribou VFW Hall. This is the first time we've held a dance there. It's costing Lambda \$200 for rent, plus other incidental charges such as coffee, the DJ, and use of the sound system. *I'm looking for people to help sponsor this dance, i.e., to help*



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## 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

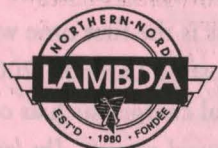
Donald Weatherford...*Director/directrice*  
Phil Bushey...*Treasurer/trésorier*  
Diana Campbell...*Secretary/secrétaire*  
Sheila Everett...*Social Director*  
*directeur des activités sociales*  
Chris Levasseur...*Librarian/bibliothécaire*  
Debra Madore...*Phoneline*  
*coordinator/coordonateur du téléphone*  
Dick Harrison...*Newsletter editor*  
*rédacteur du bulletin*  
*Members-at-Large/membres en liberté*  
Walter Fournier & Wayne Morrow

## COMMUNIQUÉ

CommuniQué publié six 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 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 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

CommuniQué 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 *CommuniQué* are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.



underwrite the costs. Direct donations of any amount, large or small, will help Lambda's bottom line. Being a financial sponsor is one way to help us pay the cost of hosting a dance. The other way is to attend the dance and bring friends! Our door charge is pretty reasonable, and we need at least 40 people attending just to break even. These dances are designed to both give our community with a

safe space to dance, have fun and socialize, as well as being a fundraising event for NLN.

Finally, let me officially thank those people who helped sponsor our last dance, November 30, 1996 at the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club: John, Karen, Julie, Jacinthe, and Sheila.

Yours in reclaiming Pride and Life,  
/s/ Sheila ▼

## The New Board: Diverse, Dispersed and Driven

by Dick Harrison, editor, CommuniQué

As we flip the calendar to reveal a new year, the leadership of this organization changes hands, and I am encouraged. Northern Lambda Nord is 17 years old this month; the first meeting was held at the end of January, 1980. I've been a board member for all that time and have witnessed many changes. This past year marked a significant milestone in our group's growth: during 1996, for the first time in our history, the director of Lambda was someone who was born and raised in Aroostook County. The significance is that we no longer depended upon people "from away" who had few if any ties in this region, to take the helm, and to be our public spokesperson, the region's "token" queer, the one the media calls on again and again to respond to events. It says a lot about the maturity of our community in this rural, isolated region of North America, and, in turn, about our community worldwide: the urban centers are maturing faster, and places like eastern Europe and Africa at a slower pace than here.

This past year's growth is significant in other ways. For the first time a local agency, Health 1<sup>ST</sup>, approached Lambda to work with them on a joint project, a grant application to fund the dissemination of HIV & AIDS prevention information. Because of this cooperation Lambda reached a long-sought-after goal: adding a toll-free number and thus making our Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine truly statewide. It remains the only service of its kind in Maine.

Another giant step we took during 1996 was the decision to double the size of our office, which we call the Gay & Lesbian

Community Services Center of Northern Maine. Again, this is the only community center in the state.

Most of you are probably aware of the increase in the number of social events, specifically the number of times we rented halls for dances. In previous years, we held only two non-house party dances annually: our October membership drive party and our May dance were both an area country club. But during 1996, in addition to those two events, we held an early August AIDS benefit dance and a Labor Day weekend dance (both at the Van Buren Community Center); we rented the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club for a holiday dance at the end of November; and for the first time our Valentine's Dance is *not* in someone's basement game room or emptied-of-furniture kitchen – it's at the Caribou Veterans of Foreign Wars hall. That venue alone is a real hoot! (Don't ask, don't tell . . . **.not!**).

Getting back to the headline of this article, I see this 1997 board which you, the membership, have chosen to lead our group through the next 12 months, as being the most DIVERSE in NLN's 17-year history. The nine members range in age from 16 to 70. We are both men and women, both gay and straight, and live in both Maine and New Brunswick. We are DISPERSED throughout much of the region from which Lambda draws its membership: board members live in The Valley (Sinclair, Van Buren, and St-Léonard) and in central Aroostook (Limestone, New Sweden, Caribou and Presque Isle). *(If anyone from southern Aroostook is interested, there is a vacant*



*Member-at-Large seat on the board!)* Living in such a sparsely-populated region where we can keep this group alive and well for so many years says a lot about us.

I am impressed by the energy the new board has; Walter has volunteered to work on membership retention, and will correspond personally with last year's members who have not renewed since October 1. Phil is researching what it will take in computer hardware, software, and cost to put Lambda not only on-line on the Internet, but to establish our own website. Sheila's out in front driving our social calendar, and Deb has accepted the awesome responsibilities that go with the position of Phoneline Coordinator. Diana is doing research on sources of funding for the group, and Chris is getting his feet wet as the new Librarian. Wayne is always there to help, whether it's putting together a sound system for our next dance or, most recently, diagnosing the problem with the Phoneline's TTY machine (a teletype used to talk with hearing-impaired callers). Our new director, Donald, in his cover article, has set the tone of how he views Lambda's work in the coming year. And I have volunteered to put together a self-promotional brochure for NLN, something we've not had since the group's early and now out-dated one was used. There. That covers DRIVEN.

### To Queer or Not to Queer, that is the Question.

I'm approaching this from the standpoint of (1) naming ourselves, (2) inclusion, and (3) an editorial/communication standpoint, i.e., simplification.

We grew up with a negative sense of this word, QUEER. It was used against us as an insult and we've internalized that, along with one degree or another of our own homophobia. But I've become more and more accustomed to seeing this word used in the national and regional queer press. The dictionary says it means "behaving, acting, or appearing in a manner other than the ordinary or usual manner." That's me: out of the ordinary; unusual. But still normal when viewed within the context of the entire human species. Using the word reclaims something that people may view as negative and turns it around, using it in a positive sense, with no shame, no embarrassment, but with pride. QUEER has power. A few years

ago while talking with a local candidate for the state legislature, the conversation turned to drag queens and their appearance, and she felt that they may not be "good" to represent the "regular" homosexual. When I made the comment that I was "just as queer as any drag queen", you could see the shocked reaction on her face. Some of that shock may have been from realizing that I see myself as no different from someone who chooses to wear drag, but it was also from my unabashed use of QUEER. (*A brief aside:* Why is there this double standard: there's no problem when women dress in drag, wearing men's clothing – pants, jacket, even a tie – but for a man to wear a tasteful skirt and blouse is severely chastised, even to the point of physical abuse! Could it be a woman in drag is putting on the uniform of someone in power – which is acceptable – but a man in drag is relinquishing that power by wearing the clothes of the less-than-powerful – which is not acceptable. Do you see the relationship between women's and gay liberation?)

The inclusion part is easy, and it's related to simplification. With political correctness the driving force, we're referred to as the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered community (or communities), or name our events Bangor Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Pride Parade, or . . . you see the point. Because it's such a mouthful, people shorten it to GLBTs, or something of that sort. Is that glibbets? And shall the walls come tumbling down around us if we fail to include every term which people have claimed as a name for themselves? I respect inclusiveness and the idea of naming ourselves, so don't get me wrong. But are not all us glibbets QUEER, too? And don't people generally know who and what you're talking about when you call someone a QUEER? (used with pride, not derision, of course!) It makes it so much easier when writing, too, to use one simple, one-syllable word to refer to us non-traditional-out-of-the-ordinary-unusual people. That's why you'll see me using QUEER whenever it suits me, thank you very much! If a chill runs up and down your spine when you read the word QUEER, (say it out loud a few times so it will get easier – QUEER – QUEER – QUEER), perhaps it's connected to our internalized homophobia, because we've all internalized our self-hatred. Now get over it, Mary! ▼

## Valentine ♥ Dance

Saturday, Feb 15  
8pm-midnight<sup>(Maine time)</sup>

samedi, le 15 fév  
21h00-01h00<sup>(heure N-B)</sup>

### Caribou VFW Hall

U.S. Route 1, 1/2 mile north  
of Cary Medical Center

U.S. Route 1, .8km au nord  
de Cary Medical Center

#### ADMISSION

NLN members, \$5<sup>US</sup>

Non-members, \$7<sup>US</sup>

Soda & Juice available

BYO alcohol

#### ENTRÉE

Membres de NLN, 5<sup>\$US</sup>

Non-membres, 7<sup>\$US</sup>

Soda & jus disponible

BYO alcool

### Join NLN members at our table at the 12th annual Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance Dinner/Dance and Awards Banquet

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1997

AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER

- social hour 6pm • buffet dinner 7pm • awards 8pm •
- music & dancing 9pm-midnight •

They regularly have 200-300 people in attendance (Maine's Governor King was there last year and spoke to those assembled)

Tickets \$30/person (check, VISA or MasterCard)

Proceeds benefit MLGPA

Call Harold Booth, 207/623-8383 for more info or to reserve a ticket, or mail your check or credit card number and expiration date to:

ML/GPA, PO Box 232, Hallowell ME 04347-0232



## 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.

**NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD Inc. (NLN)** CP/POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088 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 or in Maine 800.468-2088 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 or in Maine 800.468-2088 TTY/Voice

**Gay-Lesbian Phoneline of Maine** 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088 TTY/Voice - staffed Mon, Wed, Fri 7-9pm (Maine) 8-10pm (N-B); mail: POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990

**Gay-Lesbian AA** meets first Tuesday each month, October-May, 7:30pm (Maine) 8:30pm (N-B) at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 South Main St, Caribou; to contact, call 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088

## AIDS THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER

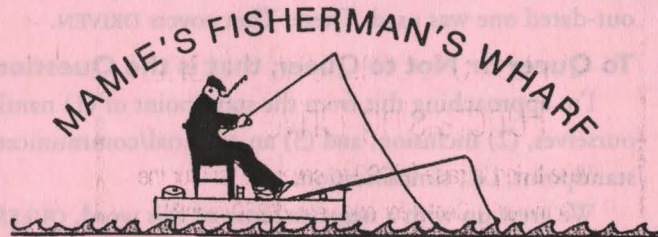
**CONSIDERED SAFE:** Mutual masturbation,

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

☞ Your Business Card-size Ad is Only \$5



Walter E. Fournier, Route #162, Box 212, Sinclair, Maine 04779  
**Long Lake - the Heart of Good Fishing Country!**  
 207/543-7878

## CalendrierNorthernLambdaNordCalendar

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 (M=MAINE TIME, N=NEW BRUNSWICK TIME)

- **First Tuesday** each month Gay & Lesbian **AA** - 7:30pm(M) 8:30pm(N)
- **Every Wednesday** is **Drop-In & Open House** 7-9pm(M) 8-10pm(N)
- **Second Thursday** each month is the **NLN Meeting** 6:30pm(M) 7:30pm(N)

THESE EVENTS MEET AT OTHER LOCATIONS

**Winter Fun Day 1** Sat, Jan 25, sledding, snowshoeing, pot luck supper in New Sweden, starts at noon(M) 1pm(N)

**Valentine's Dance** Sat, Feb 15, Caribou VFW Hall, U.S. Route 1; admission:

\$5 for NLN members, \$7 for guests - BYOB. 8pm-midnight(M) 9pm-1am(N)

**Winter Fun Day 2** Sat, Feb 22, snowshoeing and pot luck supper in New Sweden, starts at 1pm(M) 2pm(N)

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

- **premier mardi** tout les mois Gay & Lesbian **AA** - 20h30(N) 19h30(M)
- **tout les mercredis** - **Portes Ouvertes** 20h-22h(N) 19h-20h(M)
- **deuxième jeudi** tout les mois à l'été **rencontre NLN** - 19:30h(N) 18:30h(M)

CES ACTIVITÉS TIENS AU LIEUX DIFFÉRENTS

**Jour de 'fun' en hiver 1** descendant en glissant, raquettes, souper au pot luck, au New Sweden, samedi, 25 janvier, à partir de midi

**Dance valentin** samedi, 15 février, 21h00-01h00, Caribou VFW Hall, U.S.

Route 1; entrée 5\$, amilés 7\$; byob

**Jour de 'fun' en hiver 2** raquettes, souper au pot luck, au New Sweden, samedi 22 février, à partir de 14h00