

# COMMUNIQUE

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## Discrimination Begins at Home

by Donald Weatherford, Director, Northern Lambda Nord

Well, Spring is in the air and the birdies are chirping away. I'm glad to see it arrive. Though I do enjoy the snow and the cold, I'm glad to see the temperature rise into the double digits above zero! Could summer be very far away? Gosh, I hope not! I'm looking forward to slipping into my bikini (picture that, if you dare!) and basking in the sun while – of course – swatting away those darn, pesky black flies. Which is worse: swatting black flies or shoveling snow? Good question, but I have no answer. So, I guess I am just going to enjoy the warmer weather as I'm sure we all will do.

Now, on a more serious note. *Does discrimination exist within our community?* A charge of discrimination has been brought before the NLN Board from several former NLN members. At first I was floored. I have been an active member of this organization for two years, and I have never seen discrimination. At least that is what I thought. I was thinking of discrimination from a racial standpoint. But let's look at the definition of discrimination. Webster defines it as, "to act with partiality; to observe a difference; biased or unfair treatments or judgments."

So, does discrimination exist within the NLN community? The answer is, yes. We are all guilty. A mighty strong accusation, and some will be offended by this statement, but let's look at this. How many of us have sat in a group and took part in a conversation where a member of our family is being made fun of because he/she is different? He/she is either unemployed or has a low-paying job? He/she is either too fat or too skinny? He is too faggy? She is too dykey? He/she is not attractive to a particular person? He/she is too closeted, or too OUT? I have personally sat in on a group of people and heard the aforementioned, and – sadly – I have even joined in on a few.

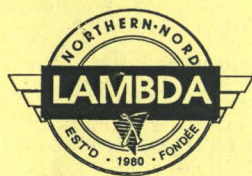
Admitting this is hard for me. I have always considered myself to be a very accepting person,

and for the most part I am, but I am only human. I have fallen into the realm of gossip, as I am sure we all have. I guess the word "discrimination" is a hard one for me to accept. But when we sit around and bash a person or gossip about another, we are discriminating against that person. Regardless of what word we use to explain why we partake in this behavior, it still boils down to discrimination.

The charges that were brought to the Board's attention were more of a racial matter, and I thank the persons who brought their concerns forward. Though I have not seen evidence of this, the Board and I are going to do everything in our power to erase any discrimination on the "race" level.

As far as the other forms of discrimination that plague this organization, I cannot do much. The only thing I can do is appeal to the NLN family for change, and make a personal change on my part. I just feel that we have to endure so much hate and bigotry from the outside world, I just cannot figure out why we have to have it within our own community. I am not saying that you cannot dislike someone. That is our choice and our right, but it is also our humane duty to be civil to everyone. That's all I am asking from you. Stop and think about the person you may be talking about, and wonder how that person may feel if they heard you. One thing I have learned about his community: *gossip does not stay in the closet*. It spreads like wildfire. So, if we think of the consequences before we speak, just maybe a change can occur. Someone once told me that I was "stupid" for accepting the director's position. "Change is not possible," I was told. "You're wasting your time. Nothing will ever change in Aroostook County! Accept it!" Well, I refused to believe this person, and I still refuse to believe. Change is in the air! Change is inevitable!

A little advice for myself and for you: "Think



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before you speak, and as a great lady once stated, 'If you look hard enough, you can always find some good in everybody.'"

Until next time,

/s/ D. ▼

## On another note . . .

by Donald Weatherford, Director

I would like to take this space to welcome JOHN NELSON aboard the Board. He has graciously agreed to fill the vacant Member-at-Large slot, and I know that he will be an asset to us all. I am looking forward to working with him. I would also like to give a special *Thank You* to the Board. You are all doing a wonderful job. Because of your dedication, our community – and the community as a whole – is becoming a better place. I am proud to be a part of this organization.

Though I have not been able to attend the majority of the functions this year, I understand that they have all been successful, much in part to our social director, but also to those who

volunteer to help. A special *Thank You* to Sirois' Restaurant for the donation of a gift certificate, which was one of the door prizes at our Valentine's dance at the Caribou VFW. Thanks to John and Lynn for supplying the food for several functions. Also, congrats to John for a fine job as DJ at the St. Patrick's dance in Van Buren; nothing but great things have been said!

Just to let you know, May 31st is our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. I would love to see you all attend and let the Board and myself know what you're thinking. If you have ideas or complaints, this is the time and the place to share them! We are all in this together, and without each other we are doomed to fail. So, check out the calendar and make plans to come. There is a pot luck meal and sock hop dance following the General Meeting. So if you can, make plans to come and share. That's what it's all about!

/s/ D. ▼

## Help Prevent Transmission of HIV - Become a Volunteer!

by Debra Madore, NLN Phonenumber Coordinator

Northern Lambda Nord's HIV Prevention Phonenumber Project needs more volunteers. Trained volunteers offer information and referrals in an effort to reduce risks and to help prevent HIV transmission. They also talk with people who call the Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine with questions other than HIV/AIDS-related. A 16-hour training course is required. Completion of the training enables you to staff the Phonenumber once per month (or more) for two hours each evening. The Phonenumber is at our Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine in Caribou.

Training topics include: HIV 101; safer sex - examining personal and professional attitudes; assessing/changing risky behavior; confidentiality; sexual orientation issues; beginning listening and phone skills; crisis intervention and making referrals.

VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROJECT, a collaboration between NLN and HEALTH 1<sup>ST</sup> with funding provided by the Maine Bureau of Health. This project not only benefits HIV-prevention efforts, but also supports the needs of the gay community. It's a rewarding experience to know that your efforts have helped someone struggling with the difficult issues of coming out, finding a safe place, or just someone to talk to. Your efforts could make a difference in someone's life. WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP IN THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT? Current volunteers include both gays and straights. They all recognize the need to pull together to defeat discrimination, isolation, heterosexism, homophobia, and to support each other, no matter who we are.

The Phonenumber is staffed every Monday, Wednesday and

### NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD, INC.

POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA ▼ CP 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA  
Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center Centre communautaire des gais & lesbiennes  
398 Main Street (mail: POB 990) 398, rue Principale (postes: CP 990)  
Caribou, Maine USA Caribou, Maine USA  
Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber 207.498-2088 Télégai 207.498-2088  
toll-free within Maine 800.468-2088 sans frais de l'intérieur du Maine 800.468-2088  
e-mail: nlamban@agate.net e-mail: nlambda@agate.net

OUR MISSION 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.

NOTRE MISSION: Développer les intérêts et le bien-être de la communauté des gais, lesbiennes, bisexuelles et transgenres de la vallée de la haute St-Jean au Nouveau-Brunswick et de la comté Aroostook au Maine.

### STEERING COMMITTEE ▼ COMITÉ EXECUTIF

<u>Director/directeur</u>	<u>Social Director/directrice des activités sociales</u>
Donald Weatherford, Limestone, Maine	Sheila Everett, St-Léonard, New Brunswick
<u>Treasurer/trésorier</u>	<u>Librarian/bibliothécaire</u>
Phil Bushey, New Sweden, Maine	Chris Levasseur, Van Buren, Maine
<u>Secretary/secrétaire</u>	<u>Phonenumber coordinator/coordonateur du téléphone</u>
Diana Campbell, Limestone, Maine	Debra Madore, Presque Isle, Maine
<u>Members-at-Large/membres en liberté</u>	<u>Newsletter editor/rédacteur du bulletin</u>
Walter Fournier, Sinclair, Maine	Dick Harrison, New Sweden, Maine
Wayne Morrow, Van Buren, Maine	
John Nelson, Fort Fairfield, Maine	

### 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 peuvent être organisés. NLN est une organisation à but non-lucratif; toutes donations sont taxe déductible aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le CommuniQué sont disponibles. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenus.

### 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.



Friday from 7-9pm. The next volunteer training is scheduled for Saturday, May 31 from 8am till noon in the Caribou-Presque Isle area. If you'd like to help, or just want to ask questions, please call Darylen Cote or Debra Madore at HEALTH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 207/768-3056 or 800-432-7881. Call today! ▼

## You Can Earn \$10 Per Hour!

If you care about stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS, you may be one of five men who are chosen to help with this special project and earn some money at the same time. Call Donald, 207/325-3413 or the Gay & Lesbian Phoneline, 207/498-2088 or 800/468-2088 and leave a message. ▼

## Gay Bar Opens in Madawaska!

by Dick Harrison, editor

As of Saturday, April 12, 1997, there is a place to go dancing and socializing in this region. It's called the Wonder Bar, and it's on Main Street in downtown Madawaska. It seems that the owner, Mr. Bouchard (who also owns the Yacht Club in Van Buren) realized that he had to do something to increase his Saturday night business; 10 patrons was not a good crowd. Some gay people in Madawaska and Edmundston had approached him with the idea, and after some discussions he decided to have a "private party" to see what kind of crowd there would be. Well, through word-of-mouth, (telephone, telegraph, tell a gay?!) there were about 100 people that first night, and Mr. Bouchard has decided to have this "private party" every Saturday, as long as the support is there (which I believe it will be). The NLN Board plans to talk with Mr. Bouchard and with some of the local people who organized this historic happening in order to establish a working relationship between the Wonder Bar and Lambda. Just as the Community Center provides a central meeting place and home for our offices and Phoneline, the Wonder Bar can offer a means to promote NLN's goals and activities and offer the kind of networking opportunities that our community has in most urban centers. ▼

## NLN Joins Local Chambers

by Dick Harrison, editor

Northern Lambda Nord is supporting local Chambers of Commerce with our membership. In February, we joined the Caribou Chamber of Commerce – a membership plaque hangs at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center – and a short article about NLN appears in the Chamber's April-May newsletter. At our most recent (April) Lambda Board meeting, money was approved for membership in the Greater Madawaska Chamber of Commerce. Other area chambers include Fort Kent, Edmundston, Grand Falls/Grand-Sault, Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle and Houlton. We'll join them as well, as funds permit. ▼

## Chris & Tret In Concert

If you're familiar with women's music, you've probably heard of Chris Williamson and Tret Fure. Their spring concert tour includes two performances in Maine: Tuesday, May 13 at The Left Bank in Blue Hill (207/374-2201) and Wednesday, May 14 at Jonathan's in Ogunquit (207/646-4777). ▼

## Gay Men's Retreat '97

Inspired by the national trend of men's gatherings, a retreat will be held May 30–June 1 at the Rockcraft Lodge in East Sebago. It's open to all gay and bisexual men, age 18 and older. Workshops and activities are planned. Space is limited to 30 men. The cost is \$30 for the entire weekend. Register by May 16: GMR, POBox 7977, Lewiston ME 04243-7977. Info: Sean Douglas, 207/786-4697. ▼

## Out & About On Campus

If you were an undergrad in the '90s and would like to share your experiences as a lesbian, gayman, bisexual or transgendered college student coming out, being out, or being closeted on campus, a book is being compiled and the editors need your input. Info: Kim & Annie, POB 5345, Takoma Park MD 20913, or e-mail: AS154@umail.umd.edu ▼



You are cordially invited to a • Veillez-vous joindre à nous pour une

## KARAOKE DANCE!

hosted by Northern Lambda Nord • présenté par Northern Lambda Nord

**Saturday, May 10, 1997**

**Presque Isle Snowmobile Club**

near Aroostook State Park, 5mi/8km south of Presque Isle

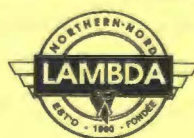
**8pm-1am (Maine time)**

**Admission: Non-Members, \$7 US**

**Members \$5 US**

**Free hors d'oeuvres & coffee – BYOB alcohol**

**Juices & Sodas will be sold**



**samedi, 10 mai 1997**

**Club de motonieve à Presque Isle**

près d'Aroostook State Park, 8km/5mi au sud de Presque Isle

**21h00-02h00 (l'heure au N-B)**

**Entrée: Non-Membres 7\$ US**

**Membres 5\$ US**

**Hors d'oeuvres & café gratuit – BYOB apportez à boire**

**Les jus et les sodas seront à vendre**



## Maine Legislators to Vote on Gay Rights

The Maine House and Senate are on recess the week of April 21, but soon after they return they will vote - for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in 20 years - whether to include "sexual orientation" in the Maine Human Rights Act, granting legal protection from discrimination in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. Those in the know say it will pass in the Senate, but will be close in the House. The governor will sign it if it gets to his desk. **NOW is the time to call and write your representatives.** Call them at home between April 21 and 27. Write to them and get your families and friends to do the same. Tell them it's time Maine joined Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New Brunswick, Québec and the other

states and provinces which protect their gay citizens from discrimination. Here is a list of the Aroostook delegation.

SENATE: *mail to 3 State House Station, Augusta 04330-0003*

District 1 - Judy Paradis 728-4854

District 2 - Leo Kieffer 493-3190

District 3 - Michael Michaud 746-9069

HOUSE: *mail to 2 State House Station, Augusta 04330-0002*

141 - Henry Joy, Island Falls 463-2507

142 - Dean Clukey, Houlton 532-6363

143 - Edgar Wheeler, Bridgewater 429-9108

144 - Richard Kneeland, Easton 488-5311

145 - Jim Donnelly, Presque Isle 764-0276

146 - Mabel Desmond, Mapleton 764-1011

147 - Irvin Belanger, Caribou 496-2821

148 - Gary O'Neal, Limestone 325-4831

149 - Rosaire Sirois, Caribou 498-6750

150 - Douglas Ahearn, Madawaska 728-6030

151 - Duane Belanger, Wallagrass 834-2246

## Regional GUIDE Régionale

**Fredericton Lesbians & Gays (FLAG)** POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6:30-8:30pm), e-mail: [u5mc@unb.ca](mailto:u5mc@unb.ca) or website: <http://www.unb.ca/web/gala>

**Gais.es. Nor Gays (GNG)** CPI/POB 983, Bathurst E2A 4H8, 506.783-7440, e-mail: [andre@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:andre@nbnet.nb.ca)

**Maine Bisexual People's Network** POB 10818, Portland 04104

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

**HIV & AIDS Awareness & Prevention Project**, Caribou 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088 Mon, Wed, Fri 7-9pm

**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

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

**SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick** 65 rue Brunswick, Fredericton 800.561-4009 ou 506.459-7518

**Community Pride Reporter** newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine, published monthly, POB 178, Saco ME 04072, 207.282-4311, fax 207.282-4551 e-mail: [cprpride@ime.net](mailto:cprpride@ime.net)

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

**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](mailto:wayves@fox.nstn.ca) or website: <http://www.cgibrd.com/accounts/wayves>

**Maine Gay Network** - <http://www.qrd.org/QRD/www/usa/maine/gaynet.html>

## PHOTOGRAPHER



STEVEN HATCH

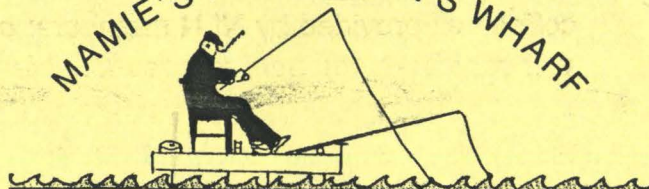
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## SIDA LES NIVEAUX DE RISQUE

**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