



COMMUNIQUE

VOLUME XIX: NO. 2
MARS/AVRIL - MARCH/APRIL 1998

From the Director's Pen

Is it Spring, yet?!

by Donald Weatherford, Director

Yes, it is **Springtime!** The birds are singing. The trees are growing and showing their leaves. The flowers are in bloom. The grass is almost ready for the lawnmower. Lest we forget, the shorts can now be removed from storage. Remove that quizzical look from your faces! It is this way, SOMEWHERE! You cannot blame a person for dreaming, can you? I believe that it will happen, soon. I mean, the Farmers' Almanac says we will have an early spring, and we all know that the almanac does not fib. Right?!

Just to bring you up-to-date on a few things: We lost the vote! I know that some may be shocked by this revelation, but it's true. But we can take solace in the fact that a few good things came out of the loss. Aroostook County is now known as the "Hate Capital" of Maine. Let us take pride in that fact! I mean, where else but in The County was there a 3-to-1 ratio in this vote? Yipee!! Another good thing that came from this is that we were not granted Special Rights. Come on, folks, what makes us think that we, being the Sexual Deviants and the slime of Society that we are, actually deserved Special Rights?! Come on -- let us be real. The majority of society saw through our guise of Equal Rights. We fooled nobody. We got what we deserved. Let us all slither back into our closets and shut the door. If we learned anything from this vote, let us learn that we have our place and we should not venture OUT!

With that defecation being said and spread, let us be real! The loss was indeed a blow. Using a war analogy, the battle was lost, but the WAR is far from being over. Let us lick our wounds and heal, but during this time prepare for the next battle. A few things that we should remember: Only 31 percent of the populus voted. That leaves 69 percent who felt that this was not an important issue. Why did we lose? We can blame and point the finger, but only a few factors are true. The vote was during the winter and it was a one-item ballot. But the primary reason for our loss was that our organizational methods were not as good as that of the religious right. Pure and simple. The time of the election and the one-item ballot were factors, but not the reason. Let us learn from this. For the next time that we meet on the battlefield, we will be prepared. One more thing, folks. Remember: 69 percent did not vote. That is a sign. I mean, "69" is our number! Let us remember that!

Let us take this time to unite and stand as One. Alone we will continue to lose the battles. Together, as One, we will be victorious. That is what this organization is all about. Without the support of you, the individual, we cannot be one. If you have ideas to share or complaints to lay on the table, please do just that. Without feedback from the community, we - the elected board - feel as if we're going in the right direction. If this is not true, and unless we hear from you, how are we to know? Right now, NLN is at its lowest membership ever, and attendance at functions is almost nonexistent. *What's up with this?* I can speculate and come up with all sorts of excuses, but I would like to know your ideas and thoughts. What can we do or *not* do to help in the task of uniting the community? Remember: alone, we can do nothing; together, we can indeed conquer the world. Drop me a line or give me a call or come to a board meeting. Let us know where to go from here. WHAT CAN WE DO? We are your board. We are your voice. We are here to do whatever we can to make it easier for us all.

That is all for now. Just remember to keep your chin up and take pride in who you are.

Until next time, /s/ Donald ▼

In Madawaska AND Van Buren

Two Gay Bars

In April 1997, Bob Bouchard of Van Buren, owner of the Wonder Bar in Madawaska, made a wise business decision: Saturday night at the bar was very, very slow. He knew there was a market of gay people out there with no place to go. Solution: offer the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgendered community a place to meet, to dance, and to be ourselves in a safe space. Thus, the weekly Saturday-is-gay-night at the Wonder Bar was born. It's been so successful, (drawing mostly Edmundston-area people, but also folks from Grand Falls area and central Aroostook) that Bob has decided to add a SECOND night, but this time at the other bar he owns, The Yacht Club in Van Buren. Every Friday night is now for us at The Yacht Club. (It's on Main Street at the corner of Bridge Street -- the road to the border crossing: use the side entrance on Bridge Street). The Yacht Club is a much nicer space, too, with pool

table, large dance floor, and friendly bartender. Cover charge at both places is the same, \$5, which includes a ticket for a free drink. If the Van Buren club gets enough support, i.e. let's boogie on Fridays!, then it will continue. It's up to us. ▼

brief notes en bref

- **SAVE YOUR BOTTLES & CANS** - Northern Lambda Nord has an on-going Building Fund Drive, designed to raise money to purchase our own building. It grows, in part, from your bottle & can deposits. Please donate bottle & can money to the fund; either bring your empties to an NLN event or to the Community Center Office where there's a can for empties, or bring in the money.
- **NEW WEBSITE AND NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS** - NLN has changed our Internet Provider for several reasons, including price and features offered for expansion and growth. Therefore, our address had changed, and now we also have

our own website. E-Mail is now: lambda@ctel.net and our website is: www.ctel.net/~lambda/ Lambda has a "second" site as well, which was created by a Canadian gay service, located at www.cglbrd.com/entries/1603 This site has us listed under Grand Falls. *Check Us Out!*

• **FUNDRAISING - CAN YOU HELP?** - We're always looking for ways to raise money, and here are some ways we're planning: for all of them WE NEED BODIES - people willing to help. (1) at the Aroostook Centre Mall in Presque Isle, the twice-yearly "community day" - Stu Libby from Rentown in Presque Isle has donated an RCA satellite dish to Lambda, and we'll be raffling it Thursday, April 23, from 9:30am-9pm. The money is to help our HIV/AIDS Prevention Project, which runs through our Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber. (2) at the Maine State Democratic Convention (see article enclosed about the County Chair, Roger A. Roy, and his donation of a booth space to NLN) - we'll have an informational and fundraising booth Saturday, May 16, 9am-5pm, and Sunday, May 17, 9am-noon. Lambda's new brochures and business cards will be available, and we'll have some NLN t-shirts and rainbow flags for sale, too. In addition. Lambda is having 1500 lapel buttons made to distribute to every delegate. They will be black with a pink triangle and will read, "DAD - Democrats Against Discrimination - Welcome to The County from Northern Lambda Nord" (3) at the Phish Concert in August - we're in line for a vendor space. The vendor company provides all the stuff to sell - food, the booth set-up, everything. We'll need as many people as we can to staff the booth, 12 hours each day for two days. The potential for fundraising is great - last year, the Presque Isle High School French Club raised \$2300 by staffing the Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream booth. It's also a great place to cruise! More on this Phish one later. IF YOU CAN HELP with any of these, contact a board member today!

• **TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS** - "By The Way" is a "bi-weekly" newsletter for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied community in central Maine: the Augusta-Bangor-Ellsworth-Belfast area, and is available at the bars in Bangor. Info from Johnathan Williams, 471-4490 or hezakiah@aol.com -- "Fast Times" is distributed twice monthly from Bangor to Porstmouth.

• The province of British Columbia will give gays and lesbians the same privileges and obligations as heterosexual couples regarding custody access and support. • Washington State is the 27th in the U.S. to ban same-sex marriage. • Same-sex couples in Holland are now able to adopt children. • The London Tourist Board is promoting gay travel to that city. ▼

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: lambda@ctel.net e-mail: lambda@ctel.net
web: www.ctel.net/~lambda/ web: www.ctel.net/~lambda/

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 haut St-Jean au Nouveau-Brunswick et de la comté Aroostook au Maine.

STEERING COMMITTEE ▼ COMITÉ EXECUTIF

<u>Director/directeur</u>	<u>Social Director/directeur/trice des activités sociales</u>
Donald Weatherford, Caribou, Maine	Vacant
<u>Treasurer/trésorier</u>	<u>Communications director/directeur des communications</u>
Phil Bushey, New Sweden, Maine	Terry White, Castle Hill, Maine
<u>Secretary/secrétaire</u>	<u>Members-at-Large/membres en liberté</u>
Diana L. Campbell, Limestone, Maine	Walter Fournier, Sinclair, Maine
<u>Newsletter editor/rédacteur du bulletin</u>	Sheri-Lynn Gagnon, Easton, Maine
Dick Harrison, New Sweden, Maine	Wayne Morrow, Van Buren, Maine
<u>Librarian/bibliothécaire</u>	Lauri St. Peter Caribou, Maine
Chris Levasseur, Van Buren, Maine	Julia Soloman, Easton, 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 bienvenues.

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.

Calendrier Northern Lambda Nord Calendar



sunday/dimanche

monday/lundi

tuesday/mardi

wednesday/mercredi

thursday/jeudi

friday/vendredi

saturday/samedi

APRIL 98

Spiritual Gathering EVERY SUN. 5

at the COMMUNITY CENTER
658 Main St. Caribou

11am-M noon-N

Everyone is welcome.

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NEW! "Internet for Beginners"

EVERY 7 TUESDAY in April

at the COMMUNITY CENTER
658 Main St. Caribou
6:30-ishM 7:30-ishN

FREE!!

Find out about the web, e-mail, and all that stuff

Webmaster Terry will be your guide!

OPEN HOUSE EVERY WED. 8

at the COMMUNITY CENTER
658 Main St.

Caribou
7-9pmM 8-10pmN

22

29

2



9

Monthly NLN Meeting at Community Center, 6:30pmM 7:30pmN Your Ideas & Input welcome

16



23

APRIL 23 -- COMMUNITY DAY AT THE MALL in Presque Isle. NLN will raffle an RCA Satellite Dish to raise money for our HIV/AIDS Prevention Project. HELP STAFF the BOOTH and sell tickets! 9:30am-9pm

NEW! 3 OPEN HOUSE

10 EVERY FRIDAY at the

COMMUNITY CENTER
658 Main St.

24

HELP Fold & Stuff newsletter & calendar, plus an Open House at Community Center, 7pmM/8pmN

Caribou
7-9pmM 8-10pmN

Time Zones:

M = Maine time

N = New Brunswick time

11

18

25

MAY 98

Spiritual Gathering EVERY 3 SUN.

at the COMMUNITY CENTER

658 Main St. Caribou
11amM, noonN

10

Gay & Lesbian Community Services
Center of Northern Maine
658 Main St. opposite Nylander Museum Caribou
498-2088 800.468-2088
lambda@ctel.net
www.ctel.net/~lambda/

OPEN HOUSE EVERY WED. 6

at the COMMUNITY CENTER
658 Main St.

7-9pmM 8-10pmN

13

20

27

7



14

Monthly NLN Meeting at Community Center, 6:30pmM 7:30pmN Your Ideas & Input welcome

21

28

OPEN HOUSE EVERY 8

FRIDAY at the COMMUNITY CENTER

658 Main St.
7-9pmM 8-10pmN

22

29

2

May 2 - Artists for AIDS Awareness 4th annual BANQUET & ART AUCTION at Caribou Inn. Be there or be square!

9

May 9 - NLN's 18th anniversary DINNER & AWARDS - Old Iron Inn, High St, Caribou 6:30pmM - 7:30pmN reservations required!

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May 16-17 - DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION at the Forum, Presque Isle. HELP STAFF the NLN info & fundraising booth any time between 9am & 5pm

23-25

DAY 2 - DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION NLN has an info & fundraising booth at the Forum -- HELPII 9am-noon - followed by a MEETING with reps from Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance to discuss issues of concern to NLN and MLGPA - MEETING at Community Center (exact time is still pending)

24TH ANNUAL MAINE LESBIAN & GAYMEN'S SYMPOSIUM U of ME campus in Farmington

Everyone welcome.

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MAY 23-25 - 24TH ANNUAL MAINE LESBIAN & GAYMEN'S SYMPOSIUM U of ME campus in Farmington - workshops, discussions, annual Town Meeting, films, dance, music, food. NOTE: NLN will host the 25th in Presque Isle in 1999

HELP Fold & Stuff newsletter & calendar, plus an Open House at Community Center, 7pmM/8pmN

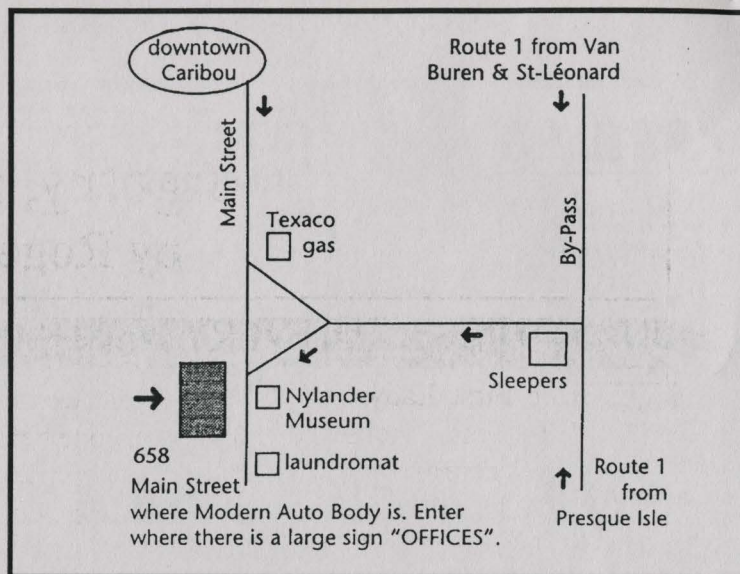
30

Events at the Community Center

658 Main Street, Caribou

(M=Maine Time and N=N-B time)

- ✓ **Every SUNDAY - Spiritual Gathering**
11amM/noonN
- ✓ **Every TUESDAY in APRIL - "Internet for Beginners"** with Terry White, master of the web, starts about 6:30-ish M/ 7:30-ish N. FREE - find out more about the mysteries of the Web!
- ✓ **Every WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY - Open House** 7-9pmM/8-10pmN
- ✓ Thursday, April 9 - **NLN Meeting**, 6:30pmM 7:30pmN
- ✓ Friday, April 24 - **Fold & Stuff** this calendar and newsletter, 7pmM/8pmN



UPCOMING EVENTS

NLN is still looking for a volunteer as Social Director, to seek out and capture exciting and fun-filled activities. CAN YOU HELP? (If the calendar seems a little "thin", it's because we need help!)

- ?? What would YOU like to see on this calendar???

Can you host an event at your home? Would you host an event if someone else provided the location? Contact any Board Member with ideas & suggestions — your Board is Donald Weatherford (director), Phil Bushey (treasurer), Diana Campbell (secretary), Dick Harrison (newsletter), Julia Soloman, Wayne Morrow, Sheri-Lynn Gagnon and Walter Fournier (at-large members).

- NLN's annual "Friends & Family Barbecue" will be in June, Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender **PRIDE MONTH!** - invite your friends and family to join us!

Saying Yes to Intolerance, Bigotry, and Hate, by Roger A. Roy

This article first
appeared in "The
Aroostook Democrat"
newsletter
March 1998, Vol.6, No.3
Roger A. Roy is Chair of
the Aroostook County
Democratic Committee

The First Lady has chosen for the theme of her millenium project "Remember the past, and imagine the future;" I wish to borrow that theme and apply it to Maine and civil rights.

In Maine's past, it was socially acceptable to discriminate against blacks, Jews, Franco-Americans, Catholics, Native Americans, women, and gays. The history of the state, as is that of most states in our country, is replete with stories of bigotry, hatred, and violence. From the burning of a Catholic church and the tar and feathering of Father John Bapst in Ellsworth, to the Ku Klux Klan marches through Lewiston neighborhoods, to the murder of Charles Howard in Bangor, we have been witness to the so called Christians of this state lashing out at anyone they perceive as different.

If we are to have a decent future, it is time for good people to stand up and say no to hatred and fear. By staying home, we voted yes to discrimination. We are saying that it is acceptable behavior to deny someone credit, housing, or work because that person is a Jew, or a Catholic, or black, or a Native American, or a woman, as long as we don't admit that is why we are discriminating; all we have to do is claim we thought they were gay.

Have we come to a point

where we are willing to condemn someone because of who they are? We have laws to regulate behavior, but should we be able to regulate creation. My sexual preference, as is my personal faith, is none of anyone else's business. I have been created by God, and if the results of that creation are displeasing to you, your disgust is with God not with me.

If I engage in behavior that the community deems illegal, then I should be judged by the law and

By staying home, we voted yes to discrimination. We are saying that it is acceptable behavior to deny someone credit, housing, or work because that person is ...a Catholic, or Franco-American ... as long as we don't admit that is why we are discriminating. All we have to do is claim we thought he or she was gay.

held accountable for my behavior.

But what have we come to when you say you have the right to judge me based on who you think I am as a person? We all have personal preferences and inclinations, but we do not legislate what a person must think or how a person must feel. This is a slippery slope to fascism.

I am worried about the future. I am ashamed of the results of the vote on February 10, 1998. As a heterosexual, Catholic, Franco-American male, I need to embrace my gay brothers and lesbian sisters and express my feelings of pain and shame.

As a Christian, I am called to love even Michael Heath and Paul Volle. I can hate their lies and half-truths, but I must love them. I need prayer before I can do that. Jesus is the only one who can melt the hardness of their hearts. He can even forgive them for persecuting His gay brothers and lesbian sisters.

As for me, I can only deal with my own life. It is time for the straight community to reach out to the gay community and say we love them. We are all part of the same human family, and it is wrong for us to exclude anyone.

At the Democratic State Convention, I have decided to sponsor an informational booth for Northern Lambda Nord, the gay and lesbian service organization in Aroostook County. I hope this will increase awareness in Aroostook County that "those people" are our neighbors, and are really part of our communities and families. They are us.



Artists for AIDS Awareness

4th annual
AIDS
Benefit to
Celebrate
Life

Saturday
May 2, 1998
Caribou Inn &
Convention Center
6:30pm

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1998 • 6:30PM

CARIBOU INN & CONVENTION CENTER U.S. ROUTE 1, JUST SOUTH OF CARIBOU

*music, buffet dinner, entertainment by local performing artists,
auction of original works of art created by County artists*

PROCEEDS

*benefit HIV & AIDS awareness and prevention education programs
and services for people living with HIV & AIDS in Aroostook County*

TICKETS

*\$15 each, two for \$25, at ticket outlets throughout northern Maine,
or by mail using the form below*

RESERVATIONS

accepted until Monday, April 25, 1998

information from Cathy Bohls 768-3056

Ticket Reservation Form

✂ for information call 768-3056

.....
NAME of each person reserving a ticket

mailing ADDRESS

daytime TELEPHONE _____

number of TICKETS reserved 1 ☐ 2 ☐ other _____

TICKETS are \$15 each, 2 for \$25 AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Make checks payable to Artists for AIDS Awareness

MAIL this form with your check to:

Artists for AIDS Awareness, c/o Cathy Bohls
P.O. Box 1116, Presque Isle ME 04769-1116
Your tickets will be waiting for you at the door