

COMMUNIQUE

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L A M B D A
N O R D

Commentary *Dick H.*

WATERING HOLES & SPIES

Long before the modern Lesbian-Gay Liberation Movement began at the Stonewall in 1969, the Gay Bar was the place to go to meet others of our same "persuasion". It afforded the opportunity to talk and get to know other gay people, to share information about happenings in our community, and was generally safer than other meeting places (parks, t-rooms, and such which didn't give much chance for conversation). Criticism arises about the proliferation of gay bars in urban centers and their role (not as central meeting places for those of us coming out and for the 'old timers', but) as places which foster drinking (there's a higher rate of alcohol and drug abuse among gaymen and lesbians than in the general population.) But most things have their good and bad sides, and our bars are no exception.

Northern Maine/New Brunswick has always had a gay population, but it wasn't until the summer of 1988 that there was a Gay Bar in Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska. When that closed one year later, another opened in Rivière-Verte. Now that has closed, too, and there's a rumor that someone is opening one in Edmundston. It seems it only took the courage of one man to start and demonstrate that the need for such a business was there. Now when there is no regular place to go on weekends, the lack of a place is felt. Whether you're someone who was there weekly and was one of the regulars or whether you almost never went, at least there was someplace to go when the urge hit.

It seems that it's only a matter of time until the next watering hole opens, whether it's in Edmundston, Grand-Sault, or Caribou. So far the bar has been located in Madawaska County. That's a good location to serve people in northwestern New Brunswick and northern Aroostook County, but is not as easy to get to from Caribou/Presque Isle/Perth-Andover and south. Whether this region can support two bars is questionable, but it would be nice to have something in northern Maine, too.

And speaking of bars, when I was downstate recently I went to the bars in the Waterville-Augusta area. There's one in each city: Chip 'n' Dale's in Waterville and Papa Joe's in Augusta. I've been to Papa Joe's before; it's been around for a number of years. It's one block from the downtown shopping area in an old meat packing building. The metal racks are still hanging from the ceiling. I like it there; the dance floor is the center of attention, with the bar at one end and

seating in a semi-circular area around the dancers. There's also an area with electronic games, and a room with a pool table.

Chip 'n' Dale's opened recently. It's in a former bar and is adjacent to Laverdiere's across from the Elm Plaza at the west end of town. They bill themselves as "the northernmost bar in the U.S." (Not on a U.S. map!) As you walk in, the bar is on your right, and the long, narrow room is filled with tables, leading back to the dance floor in the rear right, booths along the left rear wall. People there are friendly, as they are at Papa Joe's. The physical layout of the two clubs is decidedly different. But what I remember about my first impression of Chip 'n' Dale's was when I walked in and the man at the door barked, "Two dollars". Not so much as a "Hi!" Certainly not the reception you get at Papa Joe's!

One thing which the two clubs have in common, and which surprised me, was that they both sold Coors beer. I just don't fathom why gay people give their money to a company which in turn gives money to anti-gay organizations. No matter how much Coors gives to AIDS organizations, that doesn't change their anti-gay attitudes.

And speaking of anti-gay, be on guard for the spies, the SS, the Gestapo of the United States Air Force, the O.S.I. - Office of Special Investigation. The U.S. military has a standing policy of discharging gay people. And the OSI is the Air Force's spies who sneak around and investigate suspected gays and lesbians. The OSI will recruit both military and civilians to do their dirty work (which, by the way, costs us thousands of dollars each year - our tax money hard at work!).

It would not be beyond the OSI's tactics to try to infiltrate NLN by sending OSI agents to parties or to even become members, thereby being able to identify the military who are present at our gatherings. This happened once several years ago, but the OSI agent was identified in time and was "advised" by some Lambda members that he better not show his face at the next night's party.

Any time people affiliated with Loring - both military and civilians - contact NLN for the first time by calling the Phoneline or attending a party or meeting, it has been and should continue to be standard practice to ask them, "Are you OSI?" If they're not spies, then nothing's lost (and they're sure to understand our caution). If they are from the OSI and admit it, we can ask them to leave. If they are an agent and do NOT admit it, any information they gather after that point is obtained under "entrapment" rules and cannot be used in any investigation. Either way, it's important for all of us to be aware of how the U.S. government treats its gay and lesbian citizens. ▽

N-B COALITION NEWS

The New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform/Coalition pour la réforme des droits de la personne du Nouveau-Brunswick is working for inclusion

of "sexual orientation" in the province's Human Rights Code. One of their fundraising efforts is a raffle of a signed original print by noted Canadian artist, Freeman Patterson.

According to the Coalition newsletter dated October 28, 1989, here's an update on what's happening in their efforts: The Office of the Minister of Labour is conducting a major study of the NB Human Rights Code. The report should be released in December and published in January. This will generate publicity about the existence of and goals of the Coalition. In order to counter any anti-gay sentiments in the media, the Coalition is preparing press kits and other information. Both gay and straight Coalition spokespersons are willing to meet the press; more are needed.

COALITION CALENDAR:

- * Sat, Nov 18 - *GENERAL MEETING*, 11am
Loring Bailey Hall at UNB/Fredericton.
Coffee, tea, cider, donuts provided;
everyone welcome
- * Sun Dec 10 - *INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY* - meeting at Randy Audfroid's
near Woodstock; winners of raffle will
be drawn; bring pot luck and folding
chair; 2pm
- * Sun Jan 14 - *GENERAL MEETING* in
Fredericton, home of Hank Williams

TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP THE COALITION,
write to POB 1556, Station A, Fredericton
E3B 5G2, or telephone 328-2058 ▽

AIR FORCE PAPER INCLUDES GAY AD

For the first time, the weekly newspaper at Loring Air Force Base, the *LIMELITE*, published a paid advertisement submitted by Northern Lambda Nord. The small display ad (at right) promoted our Phoneline. It noted that when Loring personnel, both military and civilian, give donations to NLN through the base-wide CFC fundraising campaign, they are helping the Phoneline.

NLN has never submitted any advertising to the *Limelite*, wrongly assuming that because of the anti-gay policies of

the US Air Force, they would not accept any of our advertisements. But this year, because it was the second time that Lambda was included in the CFC campaign as an affiliated organization, the members at the October meeting voted to submit the ad to the paper. It was to be placed during the first two weeks of the CFC campaign, but was delayed one week when Northeast Publishing Company in Presque Isle, who prints the paper, checked with the Air Force at Loring about accepting the ad. And, surprise, surprise! The next two weeks it appeared. This may be the only military publication which advertises a gay organization. Now that they've accepted it, how can they ever refuse? ▽

STRAIGHT ANSWERS TO GAY QUESTIONS

GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE
498-2088

WE BENEFIT FROM YOUR CFC CONTRIBUTIONS
TO NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD

DID YOU HEAR?

In a special program on *Radio Canada* (French-language CBC radio), there was a comprehensive report about the Stonewall Rebellion and the beginning of

Movement. The significance of the Stonewall was equated to the Storming of the Bastille in revolutionary France. The report discussed the

lesbians, literature by and for gay people, and civil rights movements in Canada today which have been successful in amending the provincial codes to include gay people. ▽

CABINET MEMBER TAKES ANTI-GAY STAND

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Louis Sullivan, has sided with the anti-gay forces of noted homophobe Representative William Dannemeyer (Republican, California).

In a recent HHS report on teenage suicide, there is a sizeable section on gay and lesbian suicide, reporting that "gay youth face a hostile and condemning environment, verbal and physical abuse, and rejection and isolation from families and peers." It continues, "the traumatic consequences of these external pressures make gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transsexual youth more vulnerable than other youth to a variety of...problems and self-destructive behavior." Dannemeyer has attacked the report as being "contrary" to the aim of "advancing traditional family values", and requested that Sullivan state where he stood on the report, which Dannemeyer claims is being used to advance a "homosexual political agenda".

In a written response to Dannemeyer, Sullivan states that "the views expressed in the

paper entitled 'Gay Male and Lesbian Youth Suicide' do not in any way represent my personal beliefs or the policy of this Department...I am strongly committed to advancing traditional family values. Federal policies must be crafted with great care so as to strengthen rather than undermine the institution of the family. In my opinion, the views expressed in the paper run contrary to that aim."

In a sharply worded letter to Sullivan, with copies to the major media and to President Bush, Executive Director of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force stated, "We believe strong family values have traditionally meant the nurturing, affirmation, protection, and understanding of young people, not their alienation and stigmatization. We believe, as we hope you do, that suicide and violence are not family values." ▽

DANISH MARRIAGE, CONTINUED

Eleven gay couples were married in Town Hall in Copenhagen October 1, the day a law allowing same-sex marriages took effect in Denmark. Under the measure, married gay couples have nearly the same legal protections as married heterosexual couples, including tax advantages, inheritance rights, and the right to share a last name. However, gay couples cannot adopt children under the law. ▽

so they say ▽

SHE HAS THIS HONOR BECAUSE (HE) IS A WIMP WHO TOADIES TO THE FEMINISTS WHO ARE CONSTANTLY BREATHING DOWN HIS NECK. AND DEMANDING MORE 'CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.'"
--Phyllis Schlafly referring to Dave Palmer, U.S. Military Academy Superintendent, who appointed the first woman Captain of the Corps

PENTAGON REJECTS REPORT

A report ordered by the Department of Defense concludes that the American military should reexamine its homophobic policy and consider ending anti-gay and lesbian discrimination. The "Nonconforming Sexual Orientations and Military Suitability Report" was dated December 1988, but was only recently published in a *New York Times* article. The report urges an end to the ban on gays and lesbians; citing changes in American society's acceptance, the report states that the Government will most likely be forced to reexamine its anti-gay policies. The Pentagon has rejected the report, calling it wasteful, flawed, offensive, and exceeding its mandate.

Credit for increased scrutiny of military policy goes to Representative Gerry Studds (Democrat, Massachusetts), one of two openly-gay members of Congress.

Studds has worked to guarantee equality for gay people in the military, and was primarily responsible for making this report public. ▽

INCREASING SUPPORT

A recent Gallup Poll shows increasing acceptance of lesbians and gaymen by the public. Seventy-one percent of the people surveyed believe gay people should have "equal rights in terms of job

opportunities." Sixty percent said gaymen and lesbians would be appropriate in the military. ▽

BOOKS SEIZED

Canada Customs continues to seize books destined for Little Sister's Bookstore in Vancouver. They have been holding three titles with sadomasochistic themes since early February 1989. An additional 71 books valued at over \$2000 were seized May 12. On June 12 all but ten of the titles were released. ▽

so they say ▽

I DID MY SHARE OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (PLAYS), AND I NEVER HAD ANY FUN DOING ANY OF HIS GUYS. I LOVE HIS WOMEN, THOUGH. NOBODY WOULD EVER LET ME PLAY ANY OF HIS WOMEN. --Tom Selleck

STILL WAITING

Canadian Minister of Justice Doug Lewis says he intends to bring the long-awaited amendments to the Canadian Human Rights Act to the House of Commons in early 1990, but would not say "sexual orientation" was on the list. He did say it was one of the four major issues of discussion. Questioned by Svend Robinson (NDP, Burnaby) Lewis said the government was still committed to moving on the sexual orientation issue. ▽

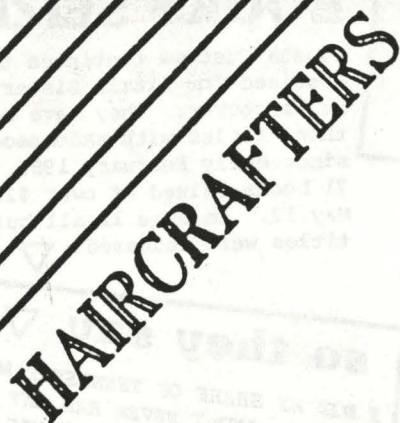
NEW FRATERNITY

Delta Lambda Phi is a newly-recognized gay fraternity on the Sacramento campus of the California State University. Formal college recognition allows the 14-member chapter to use the school's name, meet on campus, and apply for money from student activities funds. The Sacramento campus has 25,000 students. Delta Lambda Phi has



I WAS FIRED FROM MY JOB AS A SCHOOL TEACHER BECAUSE I AM GAY. NOW I SEE ABOUT 40,000 CHILDREN A DAY.

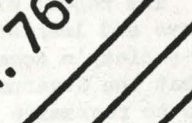
—OUTLOOK MAGAZINE



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DOMESTIC PARTNERS LAW

San Francisco voters repealed a law enacted by the City Council which would have granted unmarried "domestic partners" certain rights, such as bereavement leave. While in Seattle, the City Council voted to extend sick-leave and bereavement benefits to unmarried domestic partners, defined as two unmarried gay or heterosexual adults who share a residence and living expenses and who have a close personal relationship. ▽

MICKEY & GOOFY ARE DANCING

Nine years ago, two gaymen were ejected from Disneyland for dancing together. But now after a jury ruled that Disneyland officials had illegally discriminated against the men, Andrew Exler, accompanied by eight male couples visited the park without incident, dancing the night away! ▽

RECOMMENDS PROTECTION

Eighteen witnesses testified in favor of including protection for gays in the Baltimore County human rights law. The proposed law currently excludes gay people. Two other Maryland counties as well as the City of Baltimore include protection for gaymen and lesbians. The St. Paul Minnesota Human Rights Commission unanimously recommended that the City Council pass legislation to prohibit anti-gay discrimination. ▽

NEW GROUPS FORM

The Iowa Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus has formed, and will establish a legislative agenda which includes lobbying for passage of a gay civil rights bill and a bill aimed at anti-gay violence. The groups "seeks to represent the political interests of some 300,000

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lesbians and gaymen in the State of Iowa. (POBox V, Des Moines 50311) Guadalajara, Mexico is the location of The Grupo Lesbico Patlatonalli, which has opened a "Casa Lesbica". The group feels it is important to provide a safe, secure, private gathering place for women who are not openly lesbian. The Casa includes office space and meeting room. Their services include psychological and legal consultations, plus offerings of workshops, and a Library for Women. (Grupo Patlatonalli, Apartado Postal 1-623, 44100 Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico). ▽

ANOTHER VICTORY

The Evanston, Illinois City Council voted 16-1 to add an amendment to their equal employment law which prohibits anti-gay discrimination. The city already forbids housing discrimination. ▽

NLN CALENDAR

- ▽
- Sun, Nov 26 - Monthly meeting & pot luck (Italian theme) in Caribou
 - Sun, Dec 17 - Monthly meeting
 - Sat, Dec 23 - Christmas party in Presque Isle (gift exchange)
 - Sun, Dec 31 - New Year's Eve party
 - February - 10th anniversary party

Complete details on members' insert

▽

NEWS ITEMS are from PERCEPTIONS, the Gay Newsmagazine of the Prairies (published in Saskatoon), THE ADVOCATE (Los Angeles), GAY COMMUNITY NEWS (Boston), GO INFO (Ottawa), and press releases from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force,

▽



**"I gave my lover everything,
including AIDS."**

If the gay community is to survive this epidemic, we must give up Unsafe Sex. Most of us already have.
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SIDAIDS

QUESTIONS?

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1-800/561-4009 (N-B)

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Gay/Lesbian GUIDE Lesbienne/Gai

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN) CP/POB 990,
Caribou, Maine 04736 USA, Gay-Lesbian
Phoneline/Telegai - 207/498-2088

AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP meets
weekly in Madawaska; contact Northern Lambda Nord
for information

BANGOR AREA GAY-LESBIAN-STRAIGHT COALITION
(BAGLSC - "Bagels") c/o 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer
04412

DOWNEAST LESBIAN GAY ORGANIZATION (DELGO)
c/o Unitarian Church, 126 Union Street, Bangor 04401,
207/942-6503

DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland
04104

FREDERICTON LESBIANS AND GAYS (FLAG) POB

1556, Station A, Fredericton E3B 5G2, 506/457-2156

GAIS ET LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/GAYS AND

LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CP/POB 7102,

Riverview E1B 1V0, 506/858-1013

GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern

Maine, 92 Bedford Street, Portland 04102, 207/780-4085

GROUPE GAIE DE L'UNIVERSITE LAVAL (GGUL) CP

2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cite Universitaire, Sainte-Foy,

Quebec G1K 7P4, 418/648-2751

HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-levi group, POB

4044, Portland 04104

LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER,

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04101

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 1792,

Portland 04104, 207/780-4085 (leave message)

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS POB 125, Belfast 04915

MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB

232, Hallowell 04347

NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA REFORME DES

DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU NOUVEAU-

BRUNSWICK POB/CP 1556, Station/Succursale A,

Fredericton E3B 5G2

OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in

Maine published monthly, \$12 for one-year subscription,

POB 10744, Portland 04104

OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth

POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04101

WILDE-STEIN CLUB Memorial Union, University of

Maine, Orono 04469

WOMLAND TRUST Wornn Owning Maine Land Trust,

POB 55, Troy 04987

AIDS information SIDA

MAINE AIDS-line 1-800/851-AIDS (-2437) (Portland -

775-1267), Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Monday &

Wednesday 6-9pm, Saturday 10am-1pm

NEW BRUNSWICK AIDS-line/La ligne SIDA

NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK 1-800/561-4009 (Fredericton -

459-7518)

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