

# Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

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## ▼ COMMENTARY by Dick H.

An incident occurred in February which needs discussion because it's affected some people's attitudes about Lambda and has brought up important issues.

It was reported that the OSI (Office of Special Investigation at Loring Air Force Base) knew of Lambda, of our activities, and of specific names and addresses of some Lambda members. Some people have become fearful of these spies -- the OSI is nothing more than the KGB of the US Air Force. This was discussed at the February general meeting and it seems to me that some people fear (and I emphasize some) - some people have expressed concerns that now that the OSI (allegedly) knows of NLN and our who and whereabouts, that the local police, the State troopers, and even the RCMP may come and bust one of our gatherings.

Now, let's look at this again. NLN has been in existence for over 4 years. If the OSI were not aware of our existence by now, they're pretty dumb. And what is the concern of the OSI? It's military, not civilian people. They want to bust any gays in the Air Force. It's been reported in *Gay Community News* that an Air Force witch-hunt has occurred at Bolling AFB near Washington DC where over 40 military were investigated. So it's not surprising that gays in the service stationed here at Loring should be wary. We should all be aware of the situation. Gay women and men in the military know what their rights are. Zero. They've chosen to be in a career where they're really not wanted.

It's not unreasonable to assume that these government spies, this OSI, has followed service people whom they suspect of being gay -- followed them to Lambda gatherings. It's also not unreasonable to assume that the OSI knows where some of us live. I say, so what!? Shall I become paranoid and live in fear of these spies? I'm a civilian. I work at Loring, I'm involved in Lambda, and I can most

likely assume that the OSI knows where I live and who I am. But what should I be afraid of?

It's not unreasonable to assume that one of us may be OSI. I'm not saying any of us Lambs is an undercover agent, but there's always that chance. (This whole scenario reeks of Nazi Germany and spies and undercover and persecution of gay people which took place in the 1930's.)

It was mentioned at the meeting that some people felt that we could be busted for some charges dealing with minors or some drug charges. Now let's look at this, too. Minors. That means younger than age 18. How many people at Lambda gatherings are under 18 years of age. The Maine drinking age is 20. How many of us are under 20? And drugs. The only "controlled substance" I've ever seen at gatherings is pot, and usually in small amounts - a couple of joints. Maine law says that anything in that small an amount is a misdemeanor. Our gatherings are not dens of drug dealings or pedophilic (is that a word?) activities.

You've heard the term homophobia -- an irrational fear of homosexuals and homosexuality. It seems that this OSI incident has created a mist of homophobic feelings among some of us. Don't let yourself be put into a defensive position. Don't allow yourself to be intimidated by stories. Don't allow yourself to become irrationally fearful -- fearful of spies, of police, of talk about police. That's an attitude which gays have been struggling against for years. The drag queens at the Stonewall said, "Enough!" No more shall I live intimidated by the fear of what the police may or may not do to me. Enough of thinking I'm wrong. I'm gay and I'm OK and there's nothing wrong with what I do or who I am. That's what gay pride means. Don't succumb to fear and intimidation. That's what "they" want. "They" want us to stay hidden, in the closets, always fearful. "They" want to control us through fear. "They" want us to act as if we've done something wrong. I SAY NO!!! I, for one, refuse. I will not be intimidated.

An appeal -- to Lambs: attend the next general meeting (April 1 in New Sweden). Let's discuss this. Let's get our fears out into the open. Let's find out what people's concerns are. It's been said over and over by others in this column, "We're only as strong as our membership." If there's no interest in gatherings, there's no need to continue. Your presence will show your concern. ▽

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ALNY COMMUNIQUE

▼ TV INTERVIEW APPEARS

It wasn't reported in the past couple of issues of *Communiqué*, but that 5-part series of men's lifestyles in Aroostook County appeared November 28-December 2, 1983. The Wednesday (third) segment dealt with gaymen. An audio recording of the complete 5 parts is in the a-v section of *Bibliothèque Lambda*. If you'd like to hear it, stop by the Office any Wednesday evening after 6:30 pm. The file also includes another TV interview with Channel 8 in Presque Isle, (May 19, 1983), the TV news report about the 1984 Winter Carnival Booklet and the Caribou Chamber (January 17), a February 4, 1984 news report, again about the Winter Carnival, this time on the National Gay Radio Network, a tape of an NLN discussion group with Rev. Doug Strong (April 15, 1983), a discussion group with Kim Strom of the Aroostook Mental Health Phoneline, and tapes of the opening plenary at the Maine Symposium XI in Orono in '82. ▼

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NLN COMMUNIQUE

**LESBIANS**

WE MEET TO SOCIALIZE,  
TO DISCUSS, TO GIVE  
EACH OTHER SUPPORT.  
WE HAVE A NEWSLETTER,  
A LENDING LIBRARY,  
A PHONELINE. WE ARE  
NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD  
BOX 990 • CARIBOU • 896-5883

**GAY MEN**

▼ OUTREACH TO UNIVERSITIES

This is the small advertisement which appeared in the February 24 edition of *The University Times*, University of Maine/Presque Isle's student newspaper. It will also be placed in their remaining 3 issues this semester. The ad will eventually appear in the U of M/Fort Kent & Orono, *St-Louis-Maillet/Edmundston*, and Woodstock Community College papers. ▼

▼ DANCE, DANCE, DANCE

Friday, March 2 --4 two gaymen were seen dancing together at the new lounge at Yusef's in Caribou. People's reactions varied: three couples made moves to leave the floor but didn't: a woman asked the men if they were "homosexuals. My brother is a homosexual." (the men responded in the affirmative); another woman said, "you guys have got balls"; a third woman was seen to turn away from her male partner twice and dance with the gaymen; no one became hostile. Gay dancing DOES occur in the County outside of our homes. ▼

▼ Symposium XI

NLN members will find pre-registration forms enclosed in this newsletter. Registration fee is on a sliding scale; pay the most you can afford; no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Housing is free; send in your request now! Child care must be requested in advance. (The registration form says March 1; it's obviously past that date; send it in

anyway for child care or housing!). Updated schedule as follows:

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Fri, Mar 23: registration, 5 pm until midnight; film "Word Is Out" (EXCELLENT stories of 25 gaymen and lesbians, telling of their lives - see it if you can) shown at 7 pm; dance from 8pm-midnight. Sat, Mar 24: registration, 9-10am; Keynote address at 10<sup>am</sup>-- Richard Steinman, who teaches the gay studies courses at the Univ. of So. Maine in Portland, will address the attendees. He'll talk about his recent sabattical when he visited gay people around the country. Then, throughout the day Saturday there will be a choice of about 15 different workshops offered, discussions focused on Couples, Health Issues, Sex, Sdngles, Coming Out, Alcoholism, Non-traditional Christianity, Political Action, Parenting, Massage, more. Supper is included with your registration: on Saturday, 7 pm - a spaghetti dinner; dancing from 9pm-1am. Sun, Mar 25: Coffee beginning at 9 am, religious gathering, then separate gatherings ("wrap-up sessions") of men-only and women-only, then a final plenary of everyone together. Ends by 1pm. The whole thing happens at the Memorial Union at the Univ. of Maine at Orono. It's Maine's ELEVENTH statewide gathering of lesbians and gaymen. If you've missed the first ten, it's time you went. (Mem. Union is now totally wheel-chair accessible) ▽

- FREDERICTON: FLAG, POB 1556, Sta.A., E3B 5G2; FLAGline - 506/457-2156
- ORONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, Univ. of Maine; meets on Sundays, 7 pm, Peabody Lounge, 3rd floor, Memorial Union
- SAINT JOHN: LAGO-SJ, POB 6494, Sta.A, E2L 4R9
- MONCTON: Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton, CP 7102, Riverview, N-B, E1B 1V0
- HALIFAX: Gay Alliance for Equality, Box 3611, So. Postal Sta., B3J 3K6; 902/429-6969, Mon, Tues, Wed, 7-9 pm; Thurs, Fri, Sat, 7-10 pm
- QUÉBEC CITY: Télégai, 418/522-2555, lun-ven, 1900-2300 hrs.
- WEBWORK, women's correspondence club, New England and the Maritimes - Box 131-N, Calais, Maine 04619
- MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS: POB 125, Belfast 04915
- NORTHERN MAINE AND NEW BRUNSWICK: NLN, CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 Télégai/Gay Phoneline: 207/896-5888, Wed/mer: 7-9 pm (Eastern time)

*COMMUNIQUE* is published by Northern Lambda Nord, Box 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA. *COMMUNIQUE* is for and about the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual community in northern Maine, northwestern New Brunswick, and Témiscouata Québec; Subscriptions are \$7 for ten issues (one year). Northern Lambda Nord membership is \$10 per year, which includes *COMMUNIQUE*. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. Advertising rates available upon request. NLN accepts Canadian and U.S. funds at par. We welcome your comments. NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD is a member of the Atlantic Lesbian and Gay Association/Association des Lesbiennes et des Gais de l'Atlantique, an umbrella group of organizations in Atlantic Canada.