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Northern Lambda Nord

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PENTAGON UPHOLDS REJECTION OF NLN ADVERTISING

The Department of the Air Force has upheld the rejection of advertising by Northern Lambda Nord's Gay-Lesbian Phoneline in the Loring Air Force Base newspaper, the Limelite.

In the fall of 1989, the Phoneline place two display ads in the weekly base newspaper, offering "straight answers to gay questions/Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/498-2088". In February 1990, the Phoneline resubmitted the ad for four weeks, but this time the Loring AFB Wing Commander, speaking through his Public Affairs Officer, Capt. Kellie Rebscher, disallowed NLN access to advertising space with statements such as, "not serving the best interests of the Loring Community", "presents a potential compromise to the loyalty, discipline or morale of the military community", "inappropriate for publication", "material the readership at large finds offensive", and a reference to some unspecified "recent court decisions" and to unspecified "complaints generated by the ad over the recent past".

A letter detailing the rejection of advertising was sent to our three representatives in Congress, Sen. George Mitchell, Sen. William Cohen, and Rep. Olympia Snowe; only Cohen and Snowe responded (they're both running for re-election this year).

According to a copy of a letter sent to both Cohen and Snowe from Lt. Col. Richard Gammon, Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison for the U.S. Air Force, Lambda has every right to place advertising in the Limelite; the Wing Commander also has the right to request from the publisher that the ad not be placed if it were "felt to present a danger to the loyalty, discipline, or morale of the base populace, or if the ad in some way implied the Air Force indorsed a particular product, establishment or group in the community." If the publisher decides to accept the ad, the Wing Commander "can elect not to distribute the commercial enterprise paper on the base." In this case, the "Commander of the 42nd Bombardment Wing, Loring Air Force Base, found the ad in question to be inappropriate for inclusion in the newspaper based on negative feedback he received from military members on the base."
Lambda may still "purchase advertisements in the Loring AFB Limelite but the Wing Commander has the authority to prohibit on-base distribution of the paper."

EDITOR’S NOTE: In October, 1940, the U.S. military's Selective Service established qualification standards for military service. They excluded women and blacks from the Marines and Army Air Corps based upon the rationale that "they made poor combat soldiers, their presence in units would threaten morale and discipline, and their integration would turn the military into a testing ground for radical social experimentation rather than a strong fighting force." - Coming Out Under Fire: The history of gay men and women in World War Two, by Allan Bérubé, page 2. (This book is in the Lambda library collection.)

--- MILITARY NEWS ---

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA FORMS

The GLBVA is a newly-formed national veterans' group whose goals include assisting gay, lesbian and bisexual veterans and active duty personnel in matters which pertain to discrimination, harassment, and less-than-honorable discharges. The GLBVA is organizing an effort to challenge the Department of Defense's anti-gay policies. Included in the umbrella of the GLBVA are such regional groups as the New England Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans and Texas Gay Veterans. The GLBVA is also cooperating with the Military Freedom Project of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force as well as with student groups on university campuses where ROTC programs are being challenged. For more information: call 414/342-6543 (callers are guaranteed a personal response within 24 hours, if you leave a recorded message). Anonymity/security is assured if requesting legal information or if you are under investigation. GLBVA, 1350 North 37th Place, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208, Attn: Miriam Ben-Shalom.

AUTHOR SEeks MILITARY INTERVIEWS

Best-selling author Randy Shilts is seeking interviews with lesbian and gay military personnel for a new book to examine the issue of gays in the armed forces. The book will focus on lesbians and gaymen in the military since 1969, starting with the Vietnam War. However he is also looking for other interviews who have served in the armed forces at any time during this century,
particularly, he said, "if they have a good story that needs to be told." Shilts promises to protect the confidentiality of people who might not want their names used. He is National Correspondent of the San Francisco CHRONICLE, and author of And The Band Played On: Politics, People and The AIDS Epidemic, and The Mayor of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk. Persons interested in providing information for this project, write to Randy Shilts, c/o San Francisco CHRONICLE, 901 Mission Street, San Francisco 94103 or leave a message at 415/777-7220.

MADONNA GIVES MONEY TO AIDS PROGRAM (Gay Community News, Boston)

At the end of her U.S. tour in June, Madonna donated the profits from her final show at the Meadowlands, $300,000, to the American Foundation for AIDS Research, AmFAR. This is the second time the singer has donated money to AmFAR. Some of the proceeds from her 1987 tour were donated to the organization. Her last album included safer sex information and urged record buyers not to discriminate against people with AIDS.

AIDS IN MAINE (NETWORK NEWS: the Newsletter of Eastern Maine AIDS Network, Bangor)

As of June 30, 1990, there were 192 reported cases of AIDS in the state; 102 of those people have died.

WHAT IS EMAN? The Eastern Maine AIDS Network, based in Bangor, serves a five-county region: Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock, and Washington. Offices are located in the Professional Building, 263 State Street, Bangor; the building is handicapped accessible. EMAN operates with a Case Manager/Director and a 15-member volunteer board to assist clients in locating health care providers, legal assistance, volunteer services, and help with Medicaid and Social Security. An AIDS Educator was recently added to the staff.

LOOKING FOR ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY COUNSELING & TESTING? The location in Aroostook County is the ACAP Family Planning Clinic in the Industrial Park, Presque Isle (764-3721). They also have a clinic in Fort Kent. Counselors at the clinic have been certified by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services as HIV antibody test counselors. Testing is anonymous; the only client identifier is the printed number on the laboratory slip which you must present to receive test results. The charge for pre-test counseling, test, and post-test counseling is $15; no one is refused testing because of inability to pay.

QUESTIONS ABOUT AIDS AND SAFER SEX? The Lambda library has a number of informational brochures. Stop by and pick one up, or ask about getting one at a party or monthly meeting.
“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. And you?

SIDAIDS
QUESTIONS?
1-800/851-2437 (Maine)
1-800/561-4009 (N-B)

Gay Lesbian GUIDE Lesbienne/Gai

COMMUNIQUÉ is published ten times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton Counties). SUBSCRIPTIONS - $10 per year. NLN MEMBERSHIP - $15 per year, which includes a subscription. U.S. and Canadian funds are accepted at par. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are tax-deductible. Advertising rates in COMMUNIQUÉ are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.


SAIL/MAINE

AIDS Information SIDA
MAINE AIDS-line 1-800/851-AIDS (1-2437) (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 - 659-7515)