

Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

CP/POB990 Caribou Maine 04736 USA

207/498-2088

Volume VII: number 3

March 1986

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mars 1986

The following letter was received in response to the 'Observation' by Dick in the January 1986 issue and the reaction to that from Ruth, published in the February 1986 issue.

DEAR COMMUNIQUE by Sue

I'm writing in response to Ruth's and Dick's letters. Having been a Lambda member for over two years now, I have made quite a few friends, some who have become very special friends. I've also watched a gradual, yet important change in attitude amongst our membership.

In the early days we yearned for female companionship but found that just because we are lesbians it doesn't mean we have to enjoy each other's company; the same goes for gaymen, straights, and people from every minority or majority. One also has to realize that many of the "cat and mouse games" are just actions of basic human nature that are present in varying degrees any time a group of people interacts. Step back and take a minute to look at the party situations in context. We are all in various stages of being out of the closet, and the parties and other functions serve as a haven for us to let loose before assuming our daily roles in the straight world. In the beginning, we were like outsiders; there were the men and then there was us. Times have changed. We are no longer excluded from private parties and activities. The men have opened up and accepted us into their world. The least we owe them is a chance to become part of ours.

The sooner we cut out these separatist attitudes in the gay world everywhere, especially in Aroostook County, the world will be a better place to be. Just because we've cast the opposite sex from our bedrooms, let's not shut them out of our lives.

COUNTRY CLUB CHARGED WITH DISCRIMINATION

Northern Lambda Nord has filed a formal charge of discrimination against the Caribou Country Club. The Maine Human Rights Commission, whose mandate is to accept and investigate such complaints, was notified March 4, 1986. The letter to the Commission reads, in part:

"In January 1985, NLN held our 5th anniversary party at the Caribou Country Club. The arrangements were made by two representatives of the organization. They did not identify themselves as gay. One representative rented the Country Club building in his own name.

"In January 1986, two representatives of our organization inquired again about renting the Country Club for the 6th anniversary party. When the Clubhouse manager inquired, he was told that the party was for Northern Lambda Nord, the same group as the previous year, and we were the gay-lesbian group in the area. The manager said he would have to check with the Board of Directors.

"Even though we were the same group of people as in 1985, this year we identified ourselves as gay and were refused rental of the building."

We now wait a response from the Commission. The Commission's mandate does not include protection of people based upon sexual orientation, so they have no enforcement powers. NLN's action merely lends greater credence to the reasons for including lesbians and gaymen in civil rights protections. This case would fall under the section barring discrimination in "public accommodations".

The Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club of San Francisco, producers of the AIDS/safe sex brochure, "can we talk?" has notified Lambda Nord that Paul Michaud, Assistant Postmaster in Caribou, intercepted the brochure, mailed first class and addressed to *Communiqué*, read it, and without notice to Northern Lambda Nord (nor direction from us to do so), returned it to the Assistant Manager of the local post office in San Francisco. Michaud deemed the brochure "sexually oriented advertising"; upon first inspection, the San Francisco post office Assistant Manager, Jay Hemphill, concurred and returned the brochure to the HML&GDC with a notice that in the future, this type of mail must be sealed in an envelope and marked with "warnings" as to the content.

The HML&GDC immediately protested the action. Their letter to the Postal Service states, in part: "The HML&GDC is outraged at the notice to the Club, returning a copy of 'can we talk?', and labelling it as a 'sexually oriented advertisement'. It is not 'advertising' anything. The regulation mentioned was written to control the flow of pornography. To connect 'can we talk?' with this regulation indicates that you are calling this important AIDS education and health crisis pamphlet a piece of pornography. It is not prurient nor titillating, nor is it intended to be used to exploit sexuality. The brochure is meant to save lives through disseminating important health education information. The pamphlet has been hailed around the world by governments and health departments, physicians, educators, universities, and others as being the most clearly worded, straightforward document in the realm of available AIDS education material."

The protest letter goes on to list organizations that have contributed to the production and distribution of the brochure, including the health departments of governments in 39 states plus the U.S. and four additional national governments. The brochures are distributed around the world through the contributions of hundreds of individual and corporate donors.

The HML&GDC has demanded an apology from the U.S. Postal Service for refusing to deliver the pamphlet to *Communiqué*, and for opening first class mail to read it. In addition, the Club has demanded that the Postal Service retract its allegation that "can we talk?" is nothing more than a piece of prurient pornography that needs to be sent through the mails in double envelopes marked as "sexually oriented advertising". The Club further demands that the U.S. Postal Service stop perpetuating AIDS-phobia and homophobia and do their job of delivering the mail, including "can we talk?" brochures.

Postal Service Inspectors have stated that the actions by Paul Michaud in Caribou are in direct violation of Postal Regulations. He apparently intercepted first class mail without a complaint made by the addressee, and returned it without notice to the addressee. San Francisco Postmaster, Mary Brown, responded to the HML&GDC with "sincere apologies of the U.S. Postal Service." She concurred that in her opinion the brochure is not pornography, and that both the Postmaster in Caribou, Paul Michaud, and the postal worker in San Francisco Postal Station "O" acted "in direct violation of postal regulations."

SYMPOSIUM XIII - A PROGRESS REPORT

The Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XIII is rapidly approaching and the planning committee has been meeting regularly. The registration forms have been sent to nearly 500 individuals, organizations, and businesses in Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Quebec, and various locations throughout North America. A registration form also appeared in the March issue of *Our Paper: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine*. The form will appear again in the April issue. Posters are now being prepared for distribution to all gay-lesbian groups in Maine and the Maritimes and for all the bars and businesses in the region. All Lambs should be receiving a form any day now. The University of Maine at Presque Isle has mailed the forms bulk rate, at 7¢ per letter, saving 15¢ per piece. Details about Symposium are included on the registration form. If anyone has any questions, please contact someone from the NLN Executive

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Why boycott Coors?

• The Coors company in the U.S. investigates the personal lives, including the sexual orientation, of its workers

• The Coors family supports the Moral Majority

Coors has been boycotted in the U.S. by unions, ethnic groups and gay organizations since 1967

Though Coors is brewed in Canada by Molson's, licensing fees go to the parent company in the U.S.

Don't undermine the U.S. boycott

Don't drink Coors beer

Reprinted from *The Body Politic*, March 1986

Committee or from the Symposium planning committee (almost one in the same, with a few additions). One item not mentioned on the registration is that the two dances planned during Symposium will be open to non-Symposium participants. Admission to each dance will be \$3 (U.S. funds). The dances are included in your registration fee if you attend the entire weekend. That's Symposium XIII, Memorial Day weekend, May 23-26, 1986, on the Presque Isle campus of the University of Maine. Don't miss this once-in—a-lifetime opportunity!!!

MINISTER OF JUSTICE RECOMMENDS TO DISCRIMINATION

John Crosby, Justice Minister, has recommended that the Canadian government take "any measures that are necessary" to end discrimination against homosexuals. His recommendations mean inclusion of gaymen and lesbians in the Canadian Armed Forces (as if they are not there now). Their rights in the Forces would be protected. Recommendations also include an end to forced retirement in the civil service at age 65, allowing the mentally handicapped to vote, and full participation for women in the Forces. Women would also be allowed to compete for all trades and positions in the Armed Forces. Opposition has been expressed against inclusion of gay people in the Forces.

DID YOU HEAR?...

CJCJ-AM radio in Woodstock's "Lighter Side of the News" report featured an item February 15 about the Gays of Ottawa group. GO sent valentines, described as "plain white hearts with red printing" to all MPs in Parliament urging them to protect all Canadians by including non-discrimination protections for lesbians and gaymen in the Charter of Rights. The valentines emphasized that it was not enough that protections were implied, but they must be spelled out to specifically include homosexuals.

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PROTECT YOURSELF! - Practice Safe and Sensible Sex!

SAFE

Massage
Hugging
Mutual masturbation
Social kissing (dry)
Body-to-body rubbing (frottage)
Light S&M (no bruising or bleeding)

POSSIBLY SAFE

French kissing (wet)
Anal sex with a condom
Sucking - stop before climax
Watersports - external only
RISK INCREASES WITH MULTIPLE PARTNERS!!!

UNSAFE - Rimming, Fisting, Blood contact, Sharing sex toys, Semen or urine in the mouth, Anal sex without a condom. RISK INCREASES WITH MULTIPLE PARTNERS!!!

AIDS symptoms may include: Persistent fevers or night sweats - Unexplained weight loss - Enlarged, hardened, or painful lymph nodes - Recently appearing new growths on top of or beneath the skin or on the mucous membranes (inside mouth, anus, nasal passages, or underneath eyelids) - Dry cough not related to cold or flu - Persistent diarrhea - Thrush, a whitish, thick, persistent coating on tongue or in throat - Easy bruisability or unexplained bleeding. CHECK WITH THE LAMBDA LIBRARY FOR LITERATURE ON AIDS AND STAYING HEALTHY.

top guys

HUNDREDS OF COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS OF NUDE HANDSOME YOUNG GUYS FOR ALL TASTES. SEND \$2.00 US FOR CATALOGUE AND DETAILS TO:

D. SILVA, BOX 6 - MOZELOS
4539 LOUROSA codex, PORTUGAL

Gay/Lesbian GUIDE Lesbienne/Gai

- ★ NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK: Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA. Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégai, 207/498-2088, Wednesdays/mercredi, 7-9pm (Eastern time/heure de l'est)
- FREDERICTON: Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG), POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2 - FLAGline, 506/457-2156
- ORONO: Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine 04469 - they meet Sundays, 7pm, South Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union
- BANGOR: Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition (BAGLS), POB 1805, 04401 - meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7pm, at 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer - 989-3306
- BANGOR: INTERWEAVE, POB 8008, 04401 - Pot-luck suppers on the first & third Saturdays, 6pm, 126 Union Street (Unitarian Church)
- QUEBEC: Centre homophile d'aide et de libération (CHAL), 175, Prince-Edouard, G1K 2M2, 418/523-4997
- QUEBEC: Groupe gai de l'Université Laval (GGUL) et Groupe des femmes gaies de l'Université Laval (GFGUL), CP 2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cité Universitaire, Ste-Foy, G1K 7P4
- SAINT JOHN: Lesbian and Gay Organization in Saint John (LAGO/SJ), POB 6496, Station A, E2L 4R9 - Gayline, 506/633-1256
- MONCTON: Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton/Gays and Lesbians of Moncton (GLM), CP/POB 7102, Riverview E1B 1V0
- PORTLAND: Gay/Lesbian Alliance, University of Southern Maine, 92 Bedford Street, 04102, 207/780-4085
- PORTLAND: Harbor Masters, Inc., leather-levi group, POB 4044, 04104
- HALIFAX: Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE), Box 3611, South Postal Station, B3J 3K6, 902/429-6969
- NEWFOUNDLAND: Gay Association in Newfoundland (GAIN), Box 1364, Station C, St. John's, A1C 5N5
- MONTREAL: Télégai, 514/933-2395
- ARCHIVES FOR THE PROTECTION OF GAY HISTORY AND LITERATURE: Box 6368, Station A, Saint John, New Brunswick E2L 4R8
- OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine - monthly newspaper; \$12 for one year subscription, POB 10744, Portland 04104
- MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE: POB 108, Yarmouth 04096

AIDS information SIDA

- AIDS-Line, information and referral service, 207/775-1267 - 1-800/851-AIDS (-2437)
- GAY HEALTH ACTION COMMITTEE, POB 10723, Portland 04104
- MacAIDS, the Metro Area Committee on AIDS, POB 1013, Halifax, B3J 2X1

★★★ COMMUNIQUE is published ten times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick. Subscriptions - \$10 per year. NLN Membership - \$13 per year, which includes Communiqué. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN accepts Canadian and U.S. funds at par. 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.