Northern Lambda Nord Communique, Vol.8, No.2 (February 1987)

Northern Lambda Nord

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**GAY PURGE AT LORING AIR FORCE BASE** - Commentary, by Dick

Well, they're at it again. Cleaning house, so to speak. Every so often the Office of Special Investigations, or OSI, and the Base Police, and whoever else is involved, search out those among them who are exhibiting homosexual tendencies. They'll search-and-destroy the military careers of those who are too obvious, not discreet enough, or who get turned in by their friends. That's pretty much what seems to have happened this time. An airman (used in the generic sense, not denoting rank) was turned in by his friend, a naval officer who was caught. With pressure mounting at Loring, the search was on. Four others were found to be guilty; some of them turned themselves in rather than continue to put up with the threat of discovery. It's a constant looking-over-your-shoulder. They'll threaten you with their knowledge of every gay person at Loring (and that's a very long list), demanding that they turn themselves in or else. They've even gone so far as to say that they have a copy of the NLN membership list (a figment of their misguided and apparently deficient minds, let me assure you).

While these threats-to-our-national security await discharge, they may be assigned to cleaning toilets and shoveling snow. And if they've lost a security clearance and their social security number is added to a file in Washington DC, they may be permanently marked as security risks. Now at first I figured this couldn't affect someone too seriously. But let's say this honorably-discharged servicemember is an exceptional journalist or photographer, for example. One of the best in their field, they receive an assignment to become part of the White House Press Corps. Oh, sorry. You're an avowed, practicing, self-identified homosexual. As a threat-to-our-national-security, you don't expect us to let you near the President of these United States, do you?!

I've mentioned to several of my friends who are in the Air Force at Loring, I don't have any sympathy with any gay people who enroll in the U.S. Armed Forces. Why would someone want to work for an employer who doesn't want you? Don't come to me looking for consolation when your true self is discovered. I do respect those who honestly wish to serve their country but I cannot tolerate the military mentality, one which continues to exclude gay Americans from serving with honor and in a truly honest manner.

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**CARIBOU WELCOME SIGN INCIDENT** - update

Last month's Communiqué detailed the refusal of the Caribou Chamber of Commerce to accept a donation from this organization towards the cost of construction of three Welcome signs on area highways. The Steering Committee met January 5th and approved a letter to the Chamber requesting two answers: (1) is NLN welcome to donate to future fundraising efforts of the Chamber, and (2) will they accept our advertising in this year's Winter Carnival Booklet (they accepted an ad in '83 but rejected one in '84; we filed a discrimination complaint at that time with the Maine Human Rights Commission, which does not have authority until a 'gay rights' bill is passed).

Cindy Hebert, Chamber Director, responded to NLN's letter: (1) "The nature of most of our fundraising activities is of such an unplanned and impromptu nature, often in the form of requests brought to us, that it
Decisions made by the Steering Committee included the following: In response to the continuing failure of the Chamber to recognize the organization, the NW Steering Committee has issued this statement: "There is no business in the Caribou area in a Chamber of Commerce. In essence the Chamber speaks for all Caribou businesses. Their continuing refusal to accept Northern Lambda Nord as part of the Caribou community is very sad. It presents a negative image of area businesspeople."
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★ NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK: Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA: Gay-Lezbian 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 - meets in Thursdays, 6-9pm in Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union Building
• BANGOR: Bangor Area Gay-Lezbian-Straight Coalition (BAGLS), POB 1805, 04401 - meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7pm, at 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer - 989-3306
• BANGOR: Interweave, Inc., POB 8008, 04401 - Meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 8pm at University College Center, Texas Avenue, Bangor - Dance and coffee house every Saturday, 9pm-lam at University College Center - $3.00 - Information: 884-7079
• QUEBEC: Centre homophile d'aide et de liberation (CHAL), 175, Prince-Edouard, G1K 2M2, 418/523-4997
• QUEBEC: Groupe gai de l'Université Laval (GUGUL) et Groupe des femmes gaies de l'Université Laval (GFUGUL), CP 2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cité Universitaire, Ste-Foy, G1K 7P4
• MONCTON: Gais et Lesbianne 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 3X6, 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.