

# Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

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

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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 homo(\*gulp\*)sexual. 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

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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



is impossible to make a definitive statement regarding the purposes and participative posture of same; 2) The 1987 Winter Carnival Booklet was delivered to the printers prior to receipt of your letter."

Meanwhile a press release has been issued detailing the unacceptability of gay money in the pockets of the Caribou Chamber of Commerce. Local radio, television, and print media have received copies. The press release ends with this paragraph:

In response to the continuing failure of the Chamber to recognize the organization, the NLN Steering Committee has issued this statement: "Though not every business in the Caribou area is a Chamber member, 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."

#### SUMMARY OF JANUARY 5 and JANUARY 25 MEETINGS

7th Anniversary party: February 14, Caribou Country Club. Bar closes at midnight so last call is 11:45. Starting time will be 7pm instead of 8pm (Maine times).

DOOR PRIZES - \$50 cash grand prize; 8 table centerpieces will be given away; two gift certificates for purchases from Lambda Rising Bookstore in Washington DC (catalogues available) - \$10 each; three \$10 gift certificates for use at the restaurant of the winners' choice.

DECORATIONS - Following theme "Red Hearts, Pink Triangles", there will be a decorating party Sunday, February 8th in Presque Isle to make decorations. Items needed will be purchased the previous Saturday. (\$25 budgeted)

DOOR - will be staffed at all times by two people, 30-60 minute shifts, depending upon number of people helping. Sign ups taken at February 8th party.

FOOD - catered by Country Club, menu has been set - mix of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres

BAR - Coors beer will NOT be available, in support of the national boycott (Coors family supports anti-gay and lesbian groups and policies)

INVITATIONS & TICKETS - 162 people have been invited, (includes the current NLN membership), color coded depending upon price of entrance

RESULTS OF NLN SURVEY - All people attending the membership renewal party in October were asked to fill out a questionnaire of interests. There were 26 which were returned. Results:

1 - Was this your first NLN party? YES - 1 NO - 12 No Answer - 13  
2 - Activities you're interested in: dancing (20 votes), camping/hiking (15), films (11), skiing (10), swimming (9), games (8), biking (7), discussions (7), skating (6), canoeing (4), tours (2), and one vote each for sliding, snowball fights, orgies, knitting or quilting bees.

3 - Your top-three interests: dancing (12), camping/hiking (6), films (5), canoeing (4), games (4), discussions (3), biking (2), skating (2), tours (1), fishing (1)

4 - Why are you joining NLN?: "...because I wouldn't dare not"; "...because I thing you guys are a hoot", to support the group (2), to be informed (2), to socialize and/or party (3), to meet people (3), because of the people (2), because of friendship and community contacts (1)

5 - Why do you choose NOT to join NLN?: visiting from away (2), "I like the people but not polically interested", too much publicity, "my social, political and religious affiliations prevent me", "don't like the politics and mailings from other organizations"

The Steering Committee reviewed the results, noting that most people were joining NLN to meet people and socialize, and the top interests were in dancing, camping/hiking, and films. It was felt that NLN is doing fine at offering opportunities for dancing at the regular gatherings, and that we would wait until summer and plan some camping/hiking during the warm weather. The films, which had been met with moderate to no success last fall, will be resumed, but with a different plan. Films will be screened in Presque Isle on a Sunday afternoon, once per month. Two films will be shown, videos available locally

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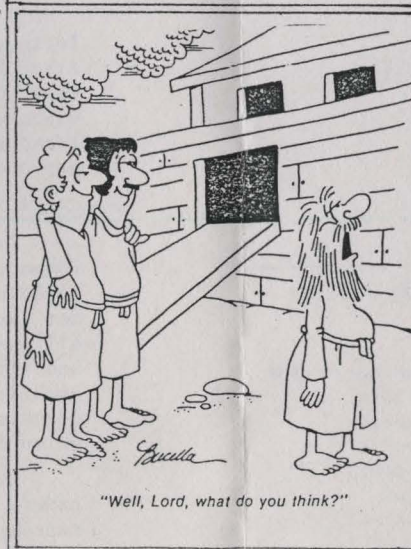
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at a rental store. A theme was chosen for each month's films. If gay-themed films are available locally (with gay characters or homo-erotic relationships), they will be shown, but films will be general-interest films. Chosen themes are: February - mystery; March - musicals; April - Comedies. Admission at the films is free. Specifics as to time and location are in members' calendar.

#### FLAG SPONSORS WINTERFEST WEEKEND

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) invites all NLN members and friends to the first FLAG Winterfest, Saturday and Sunday February 21 & 22. Events begin at 1pm Saturday at Mactaquac Park Lodge, 20km this side of Fredericton on Route 105, east of Nackawic. The afternoon will be filled with cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, skating, making snow sculptures, nature

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walks, and just relaxing around the fireplace at the Lodge. There are two licensed restaurants and a coffee shop in the Lodge, as well. At 5pm there will be a sleigh ride, lasting until around 6:30pm. Then, from 9pm-2am is the FLAG Mardi Gras Dance at the Kinsmen Centre, School Street in North F'tn. Prizes will be awarded for best costumes. (You must be 19 or older to be admitted to the dance - liquor license restrictions). The weekend will be topped off Sunday, 11am with a brunch and a chance to relax with new friends at a private home in Fredericton. The cost for the entire weekend, including billeting in a FLAG member's home, is just \$10, Canadian funds. This includes all Mactaquac activities, the sleigh ride, dance, and brunch. The dance only is \$2. You'll need to bring your own skates, snowshoes, and sleds. XC skis/boots/poles are available at Paul Mar Sports, Queen Street in Fredericton for \$7. Bring very warm clothing or a sleeping bag for the sleigh ride. FLAG wishes to thank Gays and Lesbians of Moncton for their generous assistance, without which this Winterfest would not be possible. You may register either Friday evening, 8-10pm at Dance Trax, Fredericton's gay-lesbian bar, located on Westmorland, between King and Queen, or at Mactaquac Lodge between noon and 1pm Saturday. FLAG can guarantee housing if you register early. Call the FLAGline 506/457-2156, Tues-Wed-Thurs evenings, or write (include \$10 registration) FLAG, POB 1556, Station A, Fredericton E3B 5G2.

#### RELUCTANT LESBIAN HERO (Bay Windows, Boston)

A gay newspaper's revelation that the first woman to reach the North Pole is a lesbian has stirred controversy, since the woman's supporters claim she did not intend to come out to the general public. Ann Bancroft made national headlines recently as a member of the team which travelled to the top of the world on dog sleds. According to an account in the Minneapolis gay paper, *GLC Voice*, Bancroft scheduled an appearance at the Women's Coffee House, a predominantly lesbian establishment in Minneapolis. The *Voice* called local straight media to say Bancroft would be at the coffeehouse, but apparently Bancroft was uncomfortable about the media being present. *Voice* publisher justified his actions by saying that Bancroft's appearance had been highly publicized at the Minneapolis Gay Pride and broad hints had been made about her sexuality at the time. Bancroft, a physical education teacher, also plays on the Women's Coffee House softball team.




**RFD**

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- **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-Lesbian-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-1am at University College Center - \$3.00 - Information: 884-7079
- **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, G1K7P4
- **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

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