

# The Front Page

Apr 9-Apr 22 1985

Vol. 6, No. 6

## 1983: 8th SE Conference...

Report by Ollie Lee Taylor, Jim Baxter and Ron Lambe

"I am very uncomfortable with people who find the opposite sex unattractive," Rita Mae Brown told an intrigued audience of lesbians and gay men. "Most of my friends have experienced in some loving way both sexes. Whenever I meet someone who says 'I'm just straight' or 'I'm just gay,' I'm always a little nervous. It doesn't mean that you always have to go out and actualize these feelings. . . but if a good man came into my life and could really love me and I turned him down just because he was male, I would consider myself a great fool. Because love, deep love — and I'm not talking about this romantic silliness, which is an insanity shared by two — real love is so rare, you must not question the package in which it comes."

The occasion for Brown's speech was the 1983 Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, which convened two years ago in Atlanta, from April 28-May 1. The purpose of the conference — as in previous years — was to provide a forum for lesbians and gay men to gather information, broaden organizing skills, and to strengthen a tenuous regional network. This was the eighth consecutive renewal of the conference, which first began in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Novelist Rita Mae Brown was a featured speaker, as was NGTF's Executive Director Virginia Apuzzo, Tales of the City author Armistead Maupin, and Dr. James Curran of the Center for Disease Control. Over 300 women and gay men gathered to hear these four and to attend their choice of some three dozen workshops and seminars.

The remarks by Rita Mae Brown, quoted above, indicate the tone set by much of the conference: to break down barriers — sexual, racial and economic — within the loosely formed gay community.

Keynote speaker Virginia Apuzzo urged her audience "to look at our struggle in a comprehensive fashion." Calling upon gay people to accept the diversity of their community, put aside differences, build coalitions and use the power of the voting booth, Apuzzo noted that a broad political scope is needed. "Build positively on issues that concern more people than just ourselves," she said.

At a Saturday night concert, Brown reiterated the point: "There is a paradox of oppression: as long as you keep protesting your place, your enemies have you where they want you. So long as gay people keep talking only about being gay, we're not as politically fearsome as we would be if we also developed a

platform about nuclear power, the economy, etc."

"Think about developing a broader base," she said in closing her remarks, "so that we won't be discounted or simply thrown a few crumbs from the government table."

### Facing Hard Facts

The first evening was set aside for conference participants to get acquainted. Hospitality suites and caucuses were set up in the midtown area of Atlanta for early arrivals.

The first daytime sessions on Friday were dedicated to health concerns. A Symposium on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) started things off. An overview of the problem, including current research and preventative information, was presented by James Curran, M.D., M.P.H.; Lewis Katoff, Ph.D; and James Braude, M.D. — all members of AIDS-Atlanta.

Curran, who works for the Atlanta-based U.S. Center for Disease Control, told delegates that AIDS is unique in its "severity — the profound relentlessness — of its

breakdown of the body's defenses." While stating that there is no cure nor a specific test for diagnosis of AIDS, Curran cautioned "it is important not to be negative about it. This is one area where experimental treatment may be useful. Many people who are now under treatment may live."

Later in the day, a reception for AIDS patients and acquaintances was held. The afternoon was dedicated to a symposium on substance abuse and other sexually transmitted diseases. Linda C. Regnier, R.N. and David MacDonald headed a panel discussion on alcoholism and drug abuse in the gay community. Literature on prevention and available resources were in copious supply.

### Miss Brown To You

In the evening on Friday, Rita Mae Brown spoke at a Benefit for Atlanta's Human Rights Foundation. (Her appearance was not included in the conference registration fee, and while almost everyone of the conference participants paid the extra \$5 to attend, many of those attending came only for her speech and skipped the conference.)

Author of the novels *Rubyfruit Jungle*, *Six of One*, *Southern Discomfort* and, most recently, *Sudden Death*, Brown lectured on the role of language as a cultural force and as a tool of oppression.

Brown mentioned her latest novel only briefly. "Language involves two actions: speaking and listening. The two are not necessarily related," she said, adding "if any of you has an elderly mother, you know that. I will not discuss my mother this evening. She's angry with me. She's not in *Sudden Death*, and I've put her into every book I've written.

She's furious that she's not in this book, and I said 'Mother, you're 78 years old. You're too old to be a tennis player!' She said, 'Well, goddamn it, you could have made me a promoter!'

"Are you laughing?" Brown continued. "Do you know what her revenge was? She sent a naked picture of me as an infant to *Publisher's Weekly*, and they printed it. No flies on my Mom!"

Returning to her speech, she offered some provocative ideas. "We live in a culture and inside of a language. You are in an intellectual framework you didn't create, that you inherited, and it is determining the way you act and feel even as you sit here listening to me. I want you to think about that..."

The simple act of naming something, she said, is fraught with significance. For example: "There is a study by the government, about the effects of radiation on living creatures, called 'Operation Sunshine.' That's a corruption of language. The effect of radiation on the body is disgusting."

Brown also warned: "Beware the passive voice. The passive voice occurs when, instead of saying John was hit by Mary, you simply say John was hit by a moving object. The agent of change has been deleted — so you can't hold anybody responsible!

"Remember the Pentagon Papers?" she asked. "I want to read you one sentence, describing an incident in the Vietnam War: 'Air attacks were authorized and executed by target systems for the first time in 1967.'

"Think about it. Authorized by whom? Executed by whom? They don't really want you to know who's pushing the button, and if you don't know, you can't go after them."

Not all the responsibility for the corruption of language belongs to the government, though. "Another example is also something that happened in the sixties," she said, "in the early days of the protest movements. People would say they were going to do magnificent things. We could have simply said 'We'll get ten people down to the polls.' Instead, we said 'We'll organize the whole city!' And, of course, we couldn't do it.

"First of all, we were too young. Second, we were too inexperienced. So, of course, very often nothing happened!

"We couldn't believe ourselves anymore. It was not just the times — which, granted, were very difficult — part of it was our own

*continued on page 7*

## The Southeastern Conference: Past & Present

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# Healthline Opens

The Lesbian and Gay Health Project (L&GHP) now offers health care referrals, peer counseling, and general information to the lesbian and gay community through Healthline at (919) 286-0079. Healthline is staffed by volunteers Monday through Thursday, 6:30pm to 9:15pm. An answering machine records messages all other hours.

Healthline is an outgrowth of L&GHP's health survey distributed in the summer of 1982. By calling Healthline during regular hours, people can receive a selection of health care providers recommended to L&GHP by lesbians and gay men.

This recommendation is *not* a declaration of sexual orientation by the health care provider, but confirmation that they have cared for lesbian and gay patients professionally and sensitively.

Healthline volunteers cannot diagnose any caller's health concern over the phone, but can give the caller the name of a health care provider who can.

In addition to referrals, Healthline volunteers are trained to handle situations

ranging from redirecting crisis calls to appropriate resources to providing information to out-of-town travelers seeking local lesbian and gay organizations and bars.

When first contacting Healthline, callers will be asked a few brief questions designed to make the service more effective. Callers will also be asked to contact Healthline after their visit with the health care provider in order to evaluate the services offered. All calls and information are kept strictly confidential.

The Lesbian and Gay Health Project continues to compile and update a comprehensive listing of health care providers — throughout North Carolina — sensitive to the specific needs of lesbians and gay men. You can help expand this service by:

- 1) Recommending a health care provider you know to be competent and sensitive;
- 2) Volunteering your time and energy in any capacity, and/or
- 3) Making a tax-deductible contribution.

The Lesbian and Gay Health Project can be contacted by writing: L&GHP, P. O. Box 11013, Durham, North Carolina 27703 or by calling the Healthline at (919) 286-0079.

# MCC District Conf.

St. John's MCC in Raleigh is in preparation for the spring conference of the UFMCC's South Atlantic District. One hundred (or more) clergy, worship coordinators, delegates and interested parties are expected to begin arriving on April 25 for the week-end convocation. Participants will be coming from North and South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

In addition to the business meeting for the district, there will be workshops, meals and sharing time. Worship services are being planned for Saturday morning and evening and an outdoor service on Sunday morning.

Some attendees will stay for St. John's regular worship on Sunday at 2:45pm. Others will need to return to their churches.

The public is invited, free of charge, to attend all worship services. Only those who are registered will be participating in the other activities. (Registration forms may be obtained by calling the church office at 834-2611.)

When St. John's MCC hosted the conference in 1982, churches numbered thirteen. Groups in Atlanta, Charlotte, Mobile (AL) and Jackson (TN) have since been added.

# Fire Suspect Freed

Despite a new federal law that permits imprisoning some defendants before trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth Andresen failed Tuesday to keep jailed a suspect in a Charlotte nightclub fire.

According to an article in the Wilmington, N.C. "Morning Star," Andresen had portrayed Robert Jackson "Jack" Eury, Jr. as a danger to potential witnesses to the Christmas Eve burning of Scorpio's Lounge, one of Charlotte's most popular Gay night spots.

The prosecutor contends that Eury, who runs a competing Gay bar, has threatened

witnesses who know something about the fire and may try to obstruct justice. Eury and two others charged in connection with the fire operate Chase's.

Andresen wanted Eury, charged with conspiring to burn Scorpio's Lounge, held without bond at the Mecklenburg County Jail pending his trial.

But U.S. Magistrate Barbara DeLaney placed Eury under \$25,000 bond and released him, ordering him not to associate with witnesses or victims and to report to a probation officer daily.

# THE NEWS

## Women's Festival

The Second Annual Southern Women's Music & Comedy Festival will be held over Memorial Day Weekend, May 24 through May 27, 1985 (Friday through Monday) at a beautiful, private camp near Cleveland, Georgia (80 miles north of Atlanta). The camp facilities include a lake, cabins, tennis & hot showers.

As well as musical performers including Ferron, Cris Williamson, Alive!, Edwina Lee Tyler & A Piece of the World, Casselberry-Dupree, the Reel World String Band, and many more, the comedy will feature comics — Robin Tyler, Judy Carter, Lea Delaria and Jeanine Strobel, Danitra Vance, and Pici. Ginny Foat will be the featured speaker.

During this four day, three night event, there are also workshops (given by festival participants), a crafts and artisans area, sports, swimming, a day stage at which festival participants can perform, and a dance every night.

Last year's successful first event drew over 1800 women plus workers, making it the largest gathering of lesbians in the South.

This year, the festival has once again been limited to 2000 women.

Tickets, which include entrance fees, shows, and vegetarian food (hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken and soft drinks are being sold in concessions), are \$85-\$100 for a 4-day camping ticket (if working, please pay top of the scale), \$110 for a 4-day cabin ticket (bunk bed-cabins hold up to 24 women), and a very

limited supply of 3-day tickets (Saturday through Monday only) \$70-\$75.

The producers are Robin Tyler and Lisa Ulrich Marsh.

For more information or a registration form, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: S.W.M.C.F., 103 19th Avenue, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida 33706, or call (813) 367-5815.

## Williamson & Fure at ASU

Popular recording artists Chris Williamson and Tret Fure will be in concert at Appalachian State University on Friday, April 19 at 8pm. They will be performing in Farthing Auditorium, and tickets are \$5 each.

For ticket sales and/or information, write: Tickets, ASU AWS, ASU Box 9024, Boone, N.C. 28608. Please include: a stamped, self-addressed envelope; check or money order for the number of tickets requested; write the word "Map" on the lower left-hand corner of your return envelope if you are unfamiliar with the Appalachian State University campus; and also write the word "Lodging" on the return envelope if you need a listing of local hotels/motels.

## Grounds for Divorce?

When a client told Lexington, S.C. Rep. Lenoir Sturkie that she wanted to divorce her husband because he was a homosexual, Sturkie said he assumed South Carolina law would consider it a valid reason.

But, "to my surprise there was no provision for that," Sturkie said.

On March 13th, the Republican lawyer introduced a proposal that would amend the South Carolina state constitution to add homosexuality to the list of valid reasons for divorce.

"I didn't propose the bill for any cause," Sturkie said.

"My client was facing this situation. Her husband had admitted to having sexual relations with other men."

A person who proves adultery, desertion,

physical cruelty or habitual drunkenness can get a divorce in roughly three months, Sturkie said.

Without legal grounds for divorce, the woman must be separated from her husband for a year before the split can become final.

Sturkie also said that he had "searched in vain for a case law that said a homosexual affair was grounds for divorce."

Some states already consider homosexuality a ground for divorce, while some others include grounds like "mental anguish," or "irreconcilable differences," Sturkie said.

Sturkie's bill would require voters to approve an amendment to the state Constitution. The proposal was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

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# A History of SE Conferences

"A regional identity — that's the level of organizing the rest of us could certainly aspire to," NGTF director Virginia Apuzzo said of the Southeastern Conferences for Lesbians and Gay Men last year.

"And for the South, that regional identity includes not only communicating and working among the various Southern states, but changing some of the old, false images of the South — letting people know that the South is changing, and that the local gay and lesbian community is at the forefront of that change."

This quote appeared in the National Gay Task Force Report (March-May 1984) following Apuzzo's address at the 9th conference in Birmingham.

Each Spring hundreds of lesbians and gay men from the Southeast gather for the 4-day Conference, which is hosted by local organizations and individuals. A brief survey of past Conferences will give you an idea of their scope.

\* \* \*

The first Southeastern Gay Conference was held in April 1976, but was preceded by two other similar events. These events also brought in gay speakers from outside the state and focused attention on the South.

A symposium held at UNC-Charlotte in November 1975 appears to be the first such major event. Sponsored by the UNCC Special Activities Committee, the week-long event was originally entitled "Christopher Street Comes South." Eventually, perhaps to take advantage of the bicentennial, it was retitled "Gay Liberation '76," and featured four speakers: Barbara Gittings, a prominent figure in the gay movement since 1960 and founding member of the American Library Association's Gay Task Force; Rev. John Gill, pastor of the MCC in Atlanta; Dr. Bruce Voeller, co-executive director of NGTF; Lee Lehman, director of the National Gay Student Center; and Dr. Frank Kameny, long-time gay activist.

Another symposium was held in January 1976 on the campus of UNC-CH, this one entitled "Counseling and Homosexuality," and hosted by the Carolina Gay Association and the Human Sexuality Information and Counseling Service.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Ralph Blair, of the Homosexual Community Counseling Center in New York City. In addition, there was a panel of professional counselors and laypersons who talked about the special areas of counseling gays. There were also several workshops on a wide variety of topics ranging from "coming out" to "why there can be no rejection at a gay bar."

This was the second in a series of successful counseling conferences which Dr. Blair had been holding around the country. The previous year's conference for the southeast region, held in Atlanta, was viewed as

beneficial and stimulating by many participants.

The first Southeastern Conference was the invention of concerned members of the Chapel Hill/Durham gay community. Originally, it was to have been sponsored by a number of gay groups, was finally hosted only by CGA, and held on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill in April 1976.

The organizers hoped that it would be one of the biggest and most comprehensive gay conferences held in the Southeast. As it turned out, it was, and has continued to be for ten years. Its regional focus, until recently, has been unique in the United States.

The speakers that year were Franklin Kameny; Dave Kopay, former pro football player; and Loretta Lotman, who had been the media director for NGTF. Some 300 people attended.

The second Conference, in 1977, was also held in Chapel Hill on the UNC campus. Once again, its sponsor was CGA. That year the planners became even more ambitious, and even added a theme: "Celebrating the Gay Lifestyle."

Speakers in '77 were Karla Jay and Allen Young, co-authors of *Out of the Closets — Voices of Gay Liberation*, and *After You're Out*; Jean O'Leary, co-executive director of NGTF; Louie Crew, founder of the gay Episcopalian group "Integrity;" and Barbara Gittings.

The Southeastern Disco D.J.'s Association donated their services for a professional disco show at the Conference's Saturday night dance. 700 attended the conference.

In 1978, the 3rd Conference took place in Atlanta, sponsored by the Georgia Gay Alliance. The conference was held, not on any college campus, but at the Georgia Terrace Hotel and the Fox Theatre. Attendance was around 500.

Rather than bring in outside speakers, the conference focused on lesser-known gay activists from the Southeast. Some controversy and internal dissension erupted, however, and many participants did not stay for the full conference. The first of many debates began over Conference structures and techniques.

Tennessee, where the ERA had been ratified, wanted to hold the 1979 conference, but no site could be located. So, once again, the conference was held in Chapel Hill, even though North Carolina had not ratified the ERA.

CGA decided on "Unity through Diversity" as the theme for the fourth year. Charlie Murphy and Therese Edell were featured performers, as well as the Her-Chorus. Over 650 attended.

In 1980, the Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights wanted to host the conference but could not find a location so the Memphis Chapter assumed the challenge.

The fifth Conference was held at the Holiday Inn Rivermont on the Mississippi, and had as its theme: "Aware and Active."

Leonard Matlovitch, the first open gay to make the cover of *Time*; Leah Hopkins, a black lesbian poet from Kansas City; and Barbara Grier, co-owner of the Naiad Press were the speakers. Meg Christian, popular songwriter and former UNC-CH first guitar major, performed. Over 500 attended.

A group of about 200 fundamentalists demonstrated outside the hotel, and blanketed cars with anti-gay literature. J.R. Finney, the Memphis MCC's minister, led an equal number of lesbians and gay men in singing. They joined the fundamentalists in a rousing chorus of "Lead Me Jesus." When the gay group began singing "Jesus Loves Me," the demonstrators hastily departed.

In 1981, the Students for Gay Awareness at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge hosted the sixth Conference. "Vive la Difference!" was the theme. Larry Bagneris, Michael Denny and Ann Toups were speakers. About 250 attended.

"Be Unique" was the theme of the seventh Conference held in Tampa, Florida in 1982. Sponsored by University of South Florida Gay/Lesbian Coalition, speakers included film historian Vito Russo; Mel Boozer, then NGTF's Director of Civil Rights Advocacy; Sheila Ortiz Taylor, author of *Faultline*; and Rev. Charles Arehart. Comic Robin Tyler entertained. Attendance was about 400.

The Tampa conference effort was delayed by a contested piece of Florida state legislation, aimed at hampering campus gay groups. Until the Florida Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional just months before the conference, organizers were not certain they would have use of the USF facilities.

Atlanta sponsored the eighth Conference in 1983. Organized by an ad hoc Steering Committee, the event was held at the Ramada Inn. The theme was: "Proud Enough to Be Strong...Strong Enough to Be Proud." (For more details, see the article in this issue).

In 1984, the ninth conference was held in Birmingham, Alabama, at yet another Holiday Inn. Sponsored by Lambda, Inc, the event has as its theme: "Pulling Together and Reaching Out." (For more details, see the article in this issue.)

It was at this gathering that the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, Inc. (SECLGM) was incorporated as a non-profit, educational organization. This move was to help insure continuity in the planning and implementation of the annual meeting.

This year, the conference is once again in Chapel Hill. The tenth annual gather will take place April 11-14. For more information, just scan through this issue of *The Front Page*. Or call CGLA at (919) 962-4401.

"There is not one member of the gay community who hasn't benefitted positively from the changes over the last 30 years. Yet we still hear, 'I don't like the gay community here very much.' To which we must respond, 'But my dear you are the gay community!'"  
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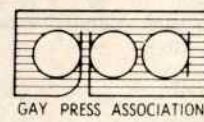
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# 1984: 9th SE Conference

By Ollie Lee Taylor, Thomas Pliney, and Lee Mullis

The message was clear — the gay/lesbian community must be come more visible in the political process. Speaker after speaker at the 9th Annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men emphasized the importance of increasing gay/lesbian participation in the political process as well as expanding the education of all parties.

"Pulling Together and Reaching Out" was the theme of the Conference, held at the Holiday Inn-Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Attendance was about 230 at April 12-15, 1984 event (although between 400 and 600 had been anticipated).

Tom Chorlton of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs sounded the first call at a Friday Night dinner. Virginia Apuzzo, executive director of the National Gay Task Force, picked up the theme during Saturday's keynote address.

Other major speakers at the conference included Abby Rubinfeld, managing attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, and Mike Rutherford, then executive director of the Gay Press Association. They agreed: each of us must become aware; become involved; and become committed to action.

Conference organizers said they chose their theme because they saw the need for gay men and lesbians in the Southeast to work more closely with each other and to build alliances and coalitions with supportive people in the greater community.

## Planning Ahead

No sooner had the chlorine gas cleared at the 1983 Southeastern Conference than planning began for 1984.

Alabama planners stated that they wanted to hold the next conference, and that they planned to place special emphasis on solidifying the lesbian/gay network in the region. At the '83 conference, efforts were made to revitalize the Southern Association of Lesbian and Gay Organizations (SALGO). A renewed effort, coordinated by Stewart Butler of New Orleans, met in Birmingham and put together a regional mailing list of people and organizations in each of the various states.

This list was to be used for mailings of news of regional interest, and has been very helpful in distributing publicity for the '85 conference. One of SALGO's aims is to make the list available to all lesbian and gay organizations in the region.

All the advance planning paid off, and the Birmingham conference offered several surprises for those who thought they had a idea about gay life in Alabama.

## A Major Coup

Richard Arrington, the Mayor of Birmingham, came to the conference to extend his greetings. The Mayor — who was then in his second term, having been re-elected with a 60% share of the vote — warmly received conference participants, and he



NGTF's Ginny Apuzzo gesticulates (above); and accepts an autographed Anita Bryant album (left).

spoke in part of the dynamic change occurring in the city.

Arrington noted that Birmingham is not the city of fifteen or twenty years ago. (Undoubtedly, he was referring to the unrest and racial tension which occurred in the sixties. This was to be alluded to more than once during the weekend.)

Birmingham, he said, is a city in transition "that has maintained some growth and stability despite changes." Examples of these changes include the local economy. Once the "Steel Capital of the South," ten years ago, 30,000 were employed in the steel industry. Now, there are 4,000 employed in that industry. There is a trend towards a diversified economy with health care being the largest employer. Recond commercial construction has occurred over the past five years, he added.

More importantly, he said, there has been a political transition. "Birmingham is maturing on social justice issues." All groups, he said, including those previously left out, are getting a voice in policy making.

The recession that affected much of the nation that year had made its impact there. The way the community has been "handling it speaks to its strength and dynamic change, Arrington said.."

"Gays have organized well and have made significant contributions to the maturation of this city," he told conference goers. This is particularly true, he said, with issues of social justice and change.

## The Gay Press

Mike Rutherford, executive director of the

Gay Press Association, was the first of three keynote speakers.

He began his address by quoting from a letter he had received which was critical of gay media. The writer was reported as being "angry, frustrated and deeply saddened by the sorry job the gay press is doing."

Rutherford's theme was "Reaching Out and Influencing Gay Media." Rutherford classified more the 400 media outlets that compose the Gay Press Association.

There are about 100 newspapers that range in distribution from local to international. As an average, these publications will have a press run of 8,000 to 10,000. They run with a full-time staff of three to five. The average person working in these media is an activist, not a journalist. Being "ego-centric, money grabbing and power hungry" is not the norm, he said. Examples of these would be: *The Washington Blade*, *Gay Community News* (Boston), and *The Front Page*.

Fifty entertainment guides are existant, he said. *Cruise* (Atlanta) and *David* (Fort Lauderdale) are examples. There are more than 100 organizational newsletters, and a number of privately held newsletters, usually dealing with a particular need. These include *Woman to Woman* (women's plight in prisons), *BWMT Quarterly* (minority/race relations), and *13th Moon* (transsexuals).

Twenty-five sexually explicit publications were in existence that year, Rutherford told his audience. He also cited the existance of fifty electronic media outlets, almost all radio. These go by names uch as "Fruit Punch" (KPFA-Berkeley), "Women with Wings" (WKRD-Chicago), "Gay Dreams" (WAIF-Cincinnati), "Break Through" (KPTF-Houston), and "Radio Free Lambda" (WRUW-Cleveland). There was even a cable

video news magazine, "Couldn't Be More Graphic."

All told, the publications reach about 2.5 million gay men and lesbians.

The GPA is non-judgmental of the content of the gay media. The bottom line for all, he said, is financial stability. GPA holds regional and national conferences, provides instructional texts and seminars.

Rutherford offered specific pointers on improving the gay media. For one, expansion to include both the men's and women's community. "Friction is based on ignorance."

The gay audience should respond to its own media, but he added, "if you criticize, criticize constructively." Offer your talents, if you are so inclined, to your favorite publication. "But, if you do so, be dependable." Respond to advertising, he said, and let advertisers know where you saw or heard their ads. Finally, pass along a publication to a friend. Print runs could be doubled if publications found that doing so is affordable.

Rutherford concluded with a general admonition to the community-at-large. "I cannot urge you strongly enough to keep love in your heart everywhere you go, with everything you do and with everyone you meet."

## Legal Issues

Abby Rubinfeld of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., provided the Conference's second keynote address. "Where we've been, where we are and where we are going" was the thrust of her speech. She focused on Southern concerns. She exuded pride in bringing about change "in a great part of the country."

Rubinfeld held that we've come far in the fifteen years since "The Stonewall Riots" in New York. "A lot of things have changed." Looking ahead, however, she emphasized four areas of priority in legal issues: sodomy law reform; employment discrimination; the legal ramifications of AIDS; and family or relationship issues.

"If you go into court as a gay man or lesbian on any sort of issue in a southern state or any state that has a sodomy law, you are going to be faced with that law.... The label *criminal* has been attached to us."

Since 1969, twenty-two states have decriminalized consensual homosexual acts. In three other states, judicial decrees, including Texas, eliminated these laws. A quick review of statutes billed as "sexual misconduct, sodomy, unnatural lascivious acts, crimes against nature, unnatural intercourse and buggery" found penalties running from six months to twenty years ... sometimes with fines. "We need to organize for change and litigate against these laws."

There are "about fifty municipalities and one state, Wisconsin, that have protective legislation that cover discrimination based on the basis of sexual orientation." Outside of these jurisdictions, particularly in the private realm, the nexus between being gay and job performance must be shown, she said.

The threat of exposure, however, often forestalls a challenge, particularly for teachers. "The reality is that you're going to have a hard time in the future getting another

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21 OPEN AT 2!  "Virgin Mary's"\$1  Continental Brunch \$1.75 2-4  <u>MOVIE NIGHT</u> at 9	22  Happy Hour 6-8 Free munchies  <u>FILM FESTIVAL</u> The movies of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers- all week at 10:00	23  Happy Hour 6-8 Free munchies  <u>FILM FESTIVAL</u> TBA	24  Happy Hour 6-8 Free munchies  <u>DYNASTY NIGHT</u> .45c Miller draft during show 9-10  <u>FILM FESTIVAL</u> TBA	25  Happy Hour 6-8 Free munchies  New members night .25c Miller draft during show 9-10  <u>FILM FESTIVAL</u> TBA	26  Happy Hour 6-8 Free munchies  <u>DALLAS NIGHT</u> .45c Miller draft during show 9-10  <u>FILM FESTIVAL</u> 'The Continental'	27  Happy Hour 6-8 Free munchies  <u>FILM FESTIVAL</u> TBA

## 8th Conf

continued from page 1

clumsiness with the human language, with English in particular.

"If you can't believe that words are going to be followed by action, why should you make common political cause with anybody? It results in paralysis."

Perhaps the most telling example of the corruption of language among ourselves, she said, is that provided by gay people who don't come out. "They're not giving covert negative information, but you're not getting the truth. Therefore, how can you believe anything this individual says to you? When you're in that kind of situation, how can you ever trust yourself to that person? Why should you entrust your cause to them? What happens when, to be quite blunt, the shit hits the fan?"

"My point is simply that there is a tremendous gap between what somebody is not saying and reality, and that can create a lot of difficulty. The case of the closet fairy is really infinitely more difficult to those of us who are out than anybody who is not gay can imagine.

"Let me put it to you another way: you are as sick as you are secret."

After her speech, Brown fielded questions from the audience. As for drugs and alcohol, she said "They will destroy you. I don't smoke, drink or use drugs. I invite you to join me."

Brown lauded the motion picture "Gandhi," then in general release, as "Marvelous. It ought to be requiring viewing for gays as a moral imperative."

She noted that the political right is potent because they look backward to hold on to values, they're on the offensive, they offer clear programs and exploit the fear of losing societal control. When asked, she responded that third party approaches do not work. She saw no alternative to a "bloc vote." "We are all going to have to compromise with one another. It still may be the lesser of two evils... or the evil of two lessers."

On the national political scene, Brown felt strongly that Andrew Young (former UN ambassador, US Representative and Mayor of Atlanta) would be "creative, dynamic, tough" and wouldn't knuckle under to what he thought was wrong. "He should be President of the United States."

While criticizing gay men for being insensitive to rape and related issues, Brown was critical of caterwauling over the differences between gay men and women. "These differences can be negotiated."

Brown ended her speech by asking audience members to "think about yourselves. Part of being gay is that you are feeling these things and culture tells you that you're wrong and that you don't exist." A move for creative change can come from lesbians and gay men, she asserted. "Trust yourself, tell the truth even though it is painful. Think about yourself in new ways and truly trust yourself."

### Live Radio

During Brown's speech, Armistead Maupin (due to speak at the conference the following day) was across town at a local all-news radio station as the guest on a call-in talk show. When an irate caller informed Maupin that homosexuality was against the law in Georgia, he exclaimed "Oh, no! You mean I broke the law three times last night?"

The caller sputtered and continued, saying that gay people shouldn't act on their feelings until the laws were changed. Maupin responded. "If you think I'm going to wait for an act of legislature before I get laid you're crazy."

After the radio show, and toting his infamous saddle shoes under his arm, he caught the last of Rita Mae's speech and — once she had finished signing copies of her new book — chatted with her, briefly.

### Apuzzo Speaks

Virginia Apuzzo, executive director of the National Gay Task Force and the Fund for Human Dignity, was making her third trip to Atlanta in a year and was warmly received.

Serving as the keynote speaker for the conference, she spoke for about 30 minutes to an attentive Saturday morning audience.

In her keynote speech, Apuzzo suggested ways in which local groups could organize themselves to work more effectively within both the straight power structures and with other progressive groups to advance gay/lesbian concerns.

She also noted the importance of building media awareness on gay-related concerns. It is vital, she said, that stereotypes and inaccuracies be pointed out — even better, avoided.

Apuzzo highlighted the defeat of Albert Lee Smith, the Birmingham, Alabama congressional delegate who sponsored the Family Protection Act. She also mentioned efforts by gay activists in Kansas City, Missouri, which contributed to the election of a black mayor in that city.

She also pointed out that the District of Columbia Sexual Assault reform was targeted by Jerry Falwell and the Moral Majority as a "litmus test." Of the 126 who voted to support the reform, only one lost — and redistricting was a factor in that instance. Twenty-four who voted in accord with Falwell lost.

Apuzzo was critical of the response to the AIDS outbreak. She termed it as "evil in that it is symptomatic of a society that has a structure of power that can eliminate so many of us." She stated that "there are categories of persons that can be ignored even if it is a matter of life or death. Can we tolerate this?"

The National Institute of Health, she said, is a billion dollar institution. "A billion is a thousand dollars every day for three thousand years. This year [1983] it has designated one fifth of one percent of its money to the AIDS crisis. That's approximately three million dollars. In New York, we spent five million to clean up our blizzard! That is not a lot of money.

"There is a necessity to make our system responsive," she said. "You can bring something noble of purpose to the struggle against oppression." (See related story.)

### Fairie Anniversary

There was also a special anniversary at the conference, celebrating five years of the "Fairie Movement" in the southeast. This movement encompasses a broad spectrum of individual gay males and ideas. It is spiritual and political, anti-sexist and concerned with creating an alternative culture for gay men.

The caucus dates itself to the earlier SE conference in Atlanta in 1978. "I was not there," caucus member Ron Lambe explained, "but I understand that there was a riff between the men and the women. The women boycotted the conference, or walked out at some point.

"So, some of the men decided that it was time for them to get their act together and have a men's caucus. Mikel Wilson had this farm in the mountains of North Carolina and invited the group to come up there for a summer solstice celebration. Thus, the Running Water Gatherings were born.

"When I moved back to North Carolina in May of 1979, I heard about the Gatherings and came to the Summer '79 Gathering (the Third) and so fell in love with Running Water-Farm and the group of loving, sensitive men, that I bought into the place and have been living here ever since." Lambe also edits *RFD*, the magazine for rural gays, from there.

"To explain what 'fairie' means would take pages, and then we would be pretty much back where we started. Part of being a fairie is defying limitations and definitions. Like all spiritual experiences, this is an experimental process and defies words. But we use words, too.

"At the '83 Atlanta conference, we formed our traditional circle and each in turn expressed what he was feeling. We did some singing, lots of hugging, and then we played. When there is this kind of circle of sensitive men (or women or whoever), the circle tends to take on a vitality of its own and it evokes whatever is needed most — laughter, play, sadness, pain, love, caring, nurturing. It was good for me to be back with my brothers arm in arm again after a long winter!"

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## Concert on a Cartop

A broken pipe leaking chlorine gas forced the evacuation of a concert at the 8th SE Conference before the main attractions. Armistead Maupin and Rita Mae Brown, could speak. As the conference goers gathered in a parking lot outside the hotel, an automobile was put into service as a makeshift speaker's platform for the pair.

Maupin, speaking from atop the trunk of the roadster, said "It feels good to be back in the South. It was in Battery Park in Charleston where I finally lost my virginity."

He announced that he had created some new, and rather useful, categories. "For years now, I've been increasingly bothered by this 'straight' and 'gay' business. I'm perfectly happy to be called 'gay,' mind you, but I think 'straight' is a perfectly dreadful way to label someone you truly care about.

"In point of fact, the word itself has become terribly maligned. 'Straight' used to mean honest, direct and, on rare occasions, sober. Nowadays, it conjurs up hard images of James Watt and the Osmonds.

"So I've invented some new terms: 'G' and 'Non-G.' 'G' people are those who are either gay and comfortable around gay people or straight and comfortable around gay people. 'Non-G' people are either gay and not comfortable around gay people or straight and not comfortable around gay people."

Maupin's idea was greeted with applause. As an indication of how far the gay movement has come, he then offered some examples of "inroads that homosexuals have made into society that have not been generally acknowledged:

"The Brawny paper towel man, Margot Kidder (one of a new breed of dyke-like actress, that I am personally very fond of)," he said. "The way John Wayne walks. The way Barbara Stanwick walks. Ronald Reagan's wife's dresses. Ronald Reagan's wife's friends. Ronald Reagan's wife's son, Merv Griffin. Madame, but not Wayland Flowers. Jane Wagner and the straight women she lives with. The word 'hunk.'"

Maupin waited for the laughter and applause to die down, and then became a little more serious.

"I am standing on top of this car tonight for reasons that may be obscure to the evangelical people who are meeting inside the building. But I hope you all know what we're here for..."

"I think it's high time that we let the rest of the world know that there are just as many gay men who resemble Richard Chamberlin as resemble Richard Simmons.

"And until we come out and let people know who we are, the world is not going to change for us. We cannot point our fingers at other people and say, 'they are doing this to us'. We are doing it to ourselves, and we have been for too long.

"I know that many of us think that the world is going to come to an end if someone in our life finds out that we're gay. This is not the case. There are fags on *Dynasty*, you're mother watches *Dynasty*, your mother will know about it when the time comes.

"Speaking of which, I think the time has come for me to bring on someone who has become so dear and special to me in the last year that she has changed my life. We've done a number of gigs together, we're very fond of talking about our 'dog and pony show.' We've done everything from the Gay Olympics to a Wet Jockey Shorts Dance Contest.

"As a matter of fact, at the last Jockey Shorts Contest, a young woman came up to me, and said 'Are you Armistead Maupin?' and I said yes. I thought perhaps she wanted an autograph. She said 'How well do you know Rita Mae?'"

"Rita Mae has brought me much much closer to my lesbian sisters than I have ever been before. Because for a long time, I was the only person in San Francisco who had her phone number.

"She is my friend, my chum, and often my champion. . . Rita Mae Brown."

Defly exchanging places with Maupin, Brown spoke to the Conference's need for funds. "I have two ideas. We could produce boy scout and girl scout shirts with badges for life: divorce, coming out, middle age. And if that doesn't do it for you, we could organize a gay carnival and each of us could be a ride."

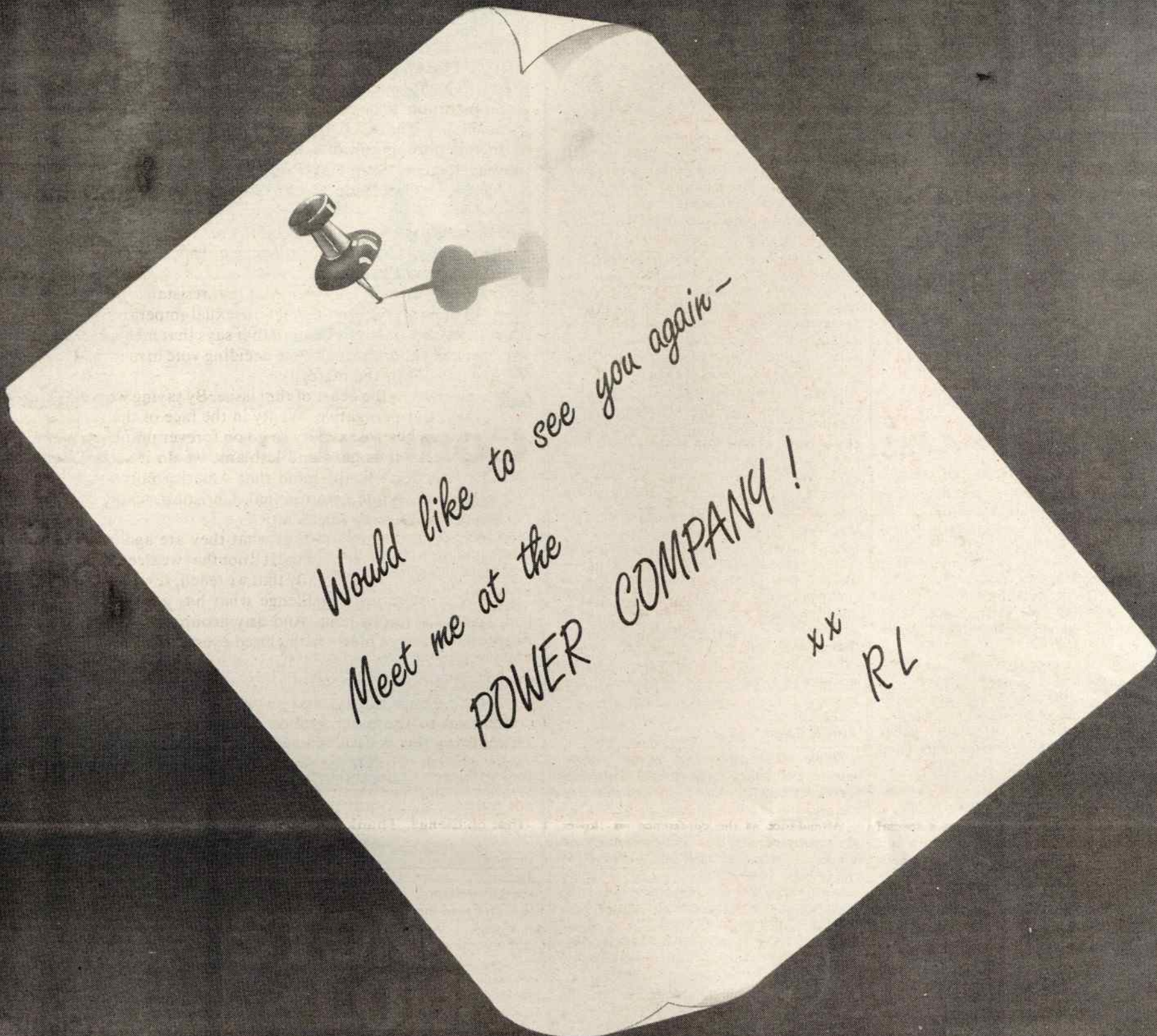
"They say that all gay people are sex maniacs. Unfortunately, this is not true. I speak from deep personal experience. And, of course, the people who are always saying this are the Christian Right. Which is a contradiction in terms: they are not Christian and they are not right.

"And all this talk about 'gay' and 'straight.' I want to know, if we're 'gay,' are they 'glum?' Of course, we could call them 'dire straights.' And if somebody asks you if you're a dyke, you just say 'Why no, honey, I rather thought of myself as the Hoover Dam.'

"All my life I've really looked for the Right Woman, but in the meantime I've had a lot of fun with the wrong ones. I am probably the leading lesbian failure in America. I mean, it's so bad I'm going to put an ad in the *Atlanta Constitution*: 'Wanted: Lover. No Bad Habits. Must Be Willing To Learn.'

"It's quite an event to have your life spread across the newspapers. But I did learn one thing: the only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about. So, have no pity upon me, it's all worked out fine.

"If I could leave you all with one thought, it would be this: You have a duty to act, a responsibility to act, and no right to expect approval. So, do it!"



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## 8th Conference continued from page 7

### Concert Crisis

Saturday night was to be a major event: an evening of music, dance, and entertainment was planned for the hotel ballroom. Popular Atlanta performer Pici emceed and soloed in her mime act. The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus did a set of tunes featuring: "Let Me Entertain You," "Charlottetown," "If I Ruled the World," "Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair" and a medley from "South Pacific." Beth York provided a segment of music on the piano, followed by rock from a woman's band called Tsunami.

Unfortunately, in the midst of Tsunami's set, a pipe burst in a neighboring pump room, spreading chlorine gas into the ballroom. The leak was apparently accidental, but nevertheless the ballroom had to be quickly evacuated. Most attendees were outside and regrouped in the parking lot before they knew what had happened. Allida Black, executive director for the Atlanta Gay Center, was on medication for chlorine exposure, but no other injuries were reported.

Armistead Maupin and Rita Mae Brown gave an impromptu comedy performance in the hotel parking lot (See related story). The Fairie Caucus formed a singing circle to pass the time until a decision could be made. However, the audience thinned out after it was determined the leak could not be quickly corrected. The Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus cancelled their performance, but a group of gay male cloggers would not give up so easily.

Later the same evening, the Buffalo Chips, took over the hotel's lounge bar, called "The Filibuster" — the conference was within shouting distance of Georgia's state capitol building — and Conference goes footstomped and cheered amid other hotel guests who looked slightly bewildered.

### Sunday Morning

On Sunday morning, there was a special religious celebration provided by Evangelical Outreach Ministries of Atlanta. Southern Baptist pastor Mel Williams spoke. "The issue for this current generation is hope," he said. "Cheery optimism feels too much like dishonest fluff. But hope is not optimism. Hope is what you have when the last shred of optimism is thrown to the wind..."

"The word of the Lord does not happen to folks in power, but to the powerless. John... a nobody, rough, abrasive... a free spirit. This is the kind of strange person God comes after. God makes John into a messenger... What happens when regular folks hear the word of the Lord and take their ministry seriously? The social and political order starts to shake..."

"So the word to us is this: exercise your calling. Be a voice in the wilderness. We don't need light weight optimism now. We need hope and hope-filled messengers."

The final event was a picnic in Atlanta's Piedmont Park. The remaining delegates shared an indoor lunch beneath a windblown set of lavender balloons. There were impromptu discussions of the conference and what was learned. The picnic weather was ideal. In fact, the weather was splendid the entire weekend.

The few remaining conference goers exchanged addresses, shared feelings and sought involvement in future local activities as the time came for departures.

### Down To Business

Later the same morning, attention turned to business matters. Only about 40 conference

participants attended the plenary session, the purpose of which was to evaluate the conference and to decide on the 1984 SEC location.

Birmingham filed to host the next conference. Chapel Hill preferred to hold off and host the tenth anniversary in 1985. Birmingham won without dissent.

There were some sparks over an Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance resolution directing future conference organizers to assure space and time for workshops focussed upon women's and minorities' needs. There was some opposition manifest by some who thought separatism was detrimental to the gay community. After it was explained that this wasn't in such a spirit, the motion passed with about a half-dozen dissents.

An effort was made to network gay organizations as a basis for improved communications. A number of groups felt organization and notification was poor in some instances. One contact person per state was to be appointed as the core of the new network of Southeastern Gay Organizations.

One question was tendered by a BWMT member. It concerned the lack of minority participants. (There were ten observed) This was deemed unusual for a majority black city with blacks having as much political power as Atlanta's. The conference spokesperson presiding noted efforts were made to tap into the local black community but got little response. Another delegate pointed out that 60% of the registrants were from outside the Atlanta area. This suggests that the local community was not communicated with as much as it might have been or that it was as supportive as it could have been. (Some noted that several had remarked to them in gay oriented businesses in Atlanta that they were unaware of a conference even existing in any form.)

### Pros & Cons

While many commented at the plenary session, evaluation of the Atlanta conference went on long after. Several factors went into the creation of a deficit of nearly \$2,500.

Attendance at the conference was lower than expected, only one-fifth the anticipated number. "Atlantans were outnumbered by out-of-state visitors," said promoter Susan Martin. "We are very disappointed by the low local turnout." Regional attendance was termed outstanding — "there was great diversity," said a visitor from Washington, D.C. About one-third of the registered participants were women.

A nearly complete changeover on the Conference Steering Committee also made organization difficult. "The original Steering Committee consisted of a few individuals who were excited about having the Conference in Atlanta," explained Lainey Richardson, assistant coordinator. By the time of the conference, only one of the original Committee members remained dedicated and involved, she said.

Local universities turned conference organizers away, forcing the rental of hotel facilities. "Traditionally, the SEC has been held on university campuses. Reduced facility costs, adequate housing, and available space requirements all contributed to this pattern," commented Allida Black, assistant coordinator of the conference. "The 1983 Committee found, however, that despite support from campus lesbian/gay organizations, no Atlanta-based university would house us at a reduced rate. The Vice-President of one university sent out word to department heads to pass us by — so much for school spirit in Atlanta! Thus, hotel facilities were leased."

"Holding the Conference at a hotel increased the cost of the event tremendously,"

## Dare To Question

We've had a lot of activity in our community lately. That activity has met with enormous resistance. I have a picture here from the Association Press, which appeared about two months ago, of a Ku Klux Klan demonstration. The headline reads "War on the American Library Association. The KKK joins fight over gay library books."

In this photograph of a KKK demonstration, there is only one sign visible. It says, "Stop Gay Pride."

Not stop "Gay Pride Week." Not stop the "Gay Pride March." *Stop Gay Pride.*

The resistance is escalating. I don't have to tell you that. You live, most of you, in areas where just *being* gay or lesbian is a health hazard. And I want to acknowledge that.

But I also want to focus on what that resistance is truly about: the fact that *we dare to question* the heterosexual imperative. Heterosexuality in our society is set up in a fashion that says that men will be dominating of women and children, and be the deciding vote in matters of decision, even if they are not in the majority.

We go right to the heart of that issue. By saying we will *self-define*, and that this is our prerogative. We fly in the face of the very cornerstone of what enables heterosexuality to go on forever unquestioned. We do it as women, we do it as gays and lesbians, we do it as anyone of the other groups who don't fit the mold that America puts down in front of us: Heterosexual. White heterosexual. Christian, white, heterosexual.

That's a very, very key point.

We have to understand that what they are against is not this or that they they put out in front of us. It's not that we sleep together, it's not that we live together, it's not really that we teach. *It's that we dare to question.*

It's that we dare to challenge what has gone on unquestioned and unchallenged for so long. And any group that dares to question, that dares to challenge meets with closed eyes, closed ears, and rhetoric that says "Back in your place." "Back in your place."

I want us to understand that clearly.

Our challenge as gays and lesbians in terms of reaching out to each other and to the other groups who have with us a vested interest in revitalizing this system, in engaging this system in true change that will reflect a quality of life for people, is absolutely essential. I believe with all my heart and soul that we — we — can bring something that is noble of purpose to the struggle against oppression. And I feel that we're up to that challenge. Thank you.

— Virginia Apuzzo

agreed Coordinator Ron Wudarsky. "But, it was either hold the Conference at a hotel or not at all."

Finally, the forced evacuation of the Saturday night benefit and fund-raiser prevented a final plea for donations.

Various fund-raisers helped offset some of the debt, and some savvy bargaining with the hotel over the gas leak helped eliminate the rest.

Despite the difficulties, conference organizers felt that the effort had been worth it (although they doubted they'd do it again).

"We've all been at each other's throats at some point," Richardson remarked, "but we've managed to maintain our friendships and respect for each others' opinions. I have learned a lot from this Conference, some good, some bad, about Atlanta, our community, people's reactions to us, but most of all, that we need to really support each other."

Richardson and Wudarsky joined in making a statement after the conference:

"Although the Saturday performance was cut short, not permitting us to make a final plea for assistance," their statement read, "the strong feeling of camaraderie was felt as we gathered in the hotel parking lot to hear Rita Mae Brown and Armistead Maupin speak from atop the trunk of a car, reminiscent of our reactionary days. And, the positive expression of same-sex affection was made clear before, during, and after the Buffalo Chips' performance in the hotel's lounge. That was surely a night to remember."

"From comments received, lesbians and gay men who attended returned to their home with greater insight, broader skills, and encouragement for greater community involvement. The nearly 50 facilitators presented us with information and affirmation to help us realize the importance of our work. Plus, we all got to know each other a little bit better."

(Atlanta's workshops were typical in their wide variety. See article page 11.)

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# Sample Workshops

There were three dozen workshops and seminars offered at the 8th Southeastern Conference in Atlanta. As with previous years, these covered a wide variety of topics. Examples: lesbian & gay literature, grassroots organizing, crisis counseling, lesbian herstory, gay parenting, homophobia, aging, police/community relations and much more.

• "Overcoming Trashing and Turf: Or How to Overcome Crises in Community Organizing" was the title of Virginia Apuzzo's workshop, which had a large attendance.

The session dealt with the problem of internal conflicts and power struggles that tend to vex every community. Approaches to address and rise above such conflicts were sought. Activists were cautioned about possessiveness leading to "imperialism" in the gay movement. There are issues existing that fall within the jurisdiction of several groups. The much publicized National Gay Task Force/Gay Rights National Lobby rivalry was an example of such conflict.

The consensus was that tasks should not be overdone at the expense of nurturing. Social bonds should be built to sustain people through periods of hard work. "It hurts to be trashed after you've given so much." Be sure you are doing what the organization wants, she warned activists. Be generous in your concern for the needs of individuals, she cautioned organizers. "Ferret out in a non-confrontational way. It will postpone ulcers. Politics should be happy. The other person would want to have input."

• Armistead Maupin and Allida Black talked about "Lesbian/Gay Literature: An Overview." Black concluded the workshop with an anecdote about her high school English teacher, who "moved to Meridian, Mississippi and founded a progressive school. They now have their first two black kids there, but she almost had to fire the board to get those kids in."

As a hopeful example, she told about their senior English class: "Out of the 27 students in that class, fourteen of them are men, five of them on the football team. And they all have to read *Rubyfruit Jungle* before they can graduate!"

There was also a Lesbian/Gay Poetry reading by local writers.

• Eight members of Gay Peer Volunteers, of Tallahassee, Florida, held a "how-to" workshop for starting and running a gay community resource organization to provide counseling, social events, a speaker's bureau, hot line, etc. They used individual descriptions and "role-playing" examples to depict how they help clients in search of information and those with sexual-identity concerns. They told of library resources, medical and legal referrals, rap groups and peer counseling situations getting clients to think through personal crises (using the "Switzer model").

• Doug, Gerry and Janice from Lynchburg, Va., offered "Grassroots Organizing: A Case Study from Falwell Country," based on their experiences forming the Blue Ridge Lambda Alliance and Positive Alternative Lifestyles. They, too, offered a discussion of the development of gay community organizations, including initial problems, networking, recruitment of members, and methods to maintain vitality.

"The panel offered some valuable

experience on how to hold a group with such diverse interests together," Ron Lambe noted, "with a light and flexible structure. They also suggested that if there is enough interest in a particular area such as politics, form another group. I suppose it would be just as viable to form a 'caucus' within a general support group, but the important point made about the success of their group was keeping it social and lightly structured. The involvement into doing a switchboard took a long, long time and a great deal of perseverance. I found the success of this grass-roots rural organization most reassuring particularly since they are surviving right in the core of Falwell country — his home town!"

• Other workshops on community organizing included "Police Community Relations," offering examples of techniques used in two major Southern cities, Atlanta and New Orleans; "Sexual Orientation vs Sexual Orientation and What It Has To Do With Homophobia, Coming Out, Oppression and Gay Pride," with Stewart Butler of New Orleans, LA.

• Caitlyn Ryan, an Atlanta therapist, participated in two workshops: "Coming Out in the South: Women's Experience — Issues and Concerns," and, with Washington, D.C. therapist Gary Raymond, "Being Out/Staying Out: The Professional's Dilemma in Creating Social Change."

• Franklin Abbott, another Atlanta therapist and a poet, also offered two workshops: "Making A Culture of our Own: A workshop for Gay Men," and "Keeping Well in a World That Wants You Sick," a workshop focusing on the emotional aspects and impact of sexually related diseases.

An additional health-related workshop was "Herpephobia," dealing with the problems attendant to herpes.

• Workshops aimed specifically at lesbians included "Feminist Therapy, Revisited" by Tina Stern, an Atlanta psychiatrist; "Lesbian Health Concerns," presented by staff members of the Feminist Women's Health Center; "Women's Music," presented by Beth York of Atlanta; "On Reviving Ancient Heresies," an examination of "matriarchal spirituality," facilitated by Maria Helena Dolan and Kandy Richmond of Atlanta; and a "Women's Caucus," offering a panel discussion on lesbian separatism — the history, the theory, and the reality — presented by members of the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance.

• Political workshops included "Lesbian and Gay Rights before Congress," a presentation by Abby Rubinfeld of New York, a managing attorney with Lambda Legal Defense; "Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs: An Overview," by Tom Chorlton, executive director of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs; "Running for Office as an Openly Gay Candidate," based on the personal experiences of Ollie Lee Taylor of Tampa, FL and John Grannon of New Orleans, LA; and "Challenging the Sodomy Laws," an informational workshop lead by Katherine Wilde, a member of GOAL (Georgians Opposed to Archaic Laws).

Gannon ran for City Council in Tampa. He got a 9% share of the vote this spring. Taylor got a 1.5% share in February 1982 when he ran in Tallahassee.

# The Revolution in a Day

I know all the reasons for not coming out, and if you try to come out individually, you *can* get picked off one by one.

But you and I can end gay oppression in five years time. I'll tell you exactly how to do it. I have no modesty.

During WWII, the Germans overran the Netherlands, and they said they were going to cart off everybody of Jewish extraction — of course, to be happily resettled in the East. The Dutch, however, were not so easily taken in. The Germans said that on the appointed day everybody who's Jewish has to wear a little yellow armband with a star of David on it. And, on the appointed day, *every citizen of the Netherlands was wearing the yellow armband*, including the King and the Queen. And that was the end of it.

The Germans didn't know who was who anymore. So, if we want to stop this silliness about who's straight and who's gay and who's in the closet... We take five years to organize, not a "Come Out Day," but an "Integrity Day," whereby we ask people to wear a lavender armband symbolizing that they feel that the government and groups have no right to tell anyone whom to love and when to love and that this is a matter of individual dignity and choice.

And with five years to organize this, I have a suspicion that an awful lot of people would wear those armbands.

That is my devout belief and hope.

— Rita Mae Brown, who spoke at the 8th Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia

Both Taylor and Gannon were in accord on the adequate financing and organization of a campaign needed to insure success. They agreed that sexuality was an issue only obliquely and was not a critical factor for their failure to do well in gaining voter support.

There were contrasts. Grannon opposed two black candidates. Although he was strong on civil rights issues, he was able to get only minimal minority support. Grannon garnered much of his financial support locally. Taylor, involved as a plaintiff in *Bolden, et. al., vs Mobile*, a redistricting case that reached the U.S. Supreme Court, had one black opponent in addition for four one white opponent. About 60% of Taylor's support came from outside the gay community.

Both men felt that they'd made a positive impact, despite the lack of support, and that they had built coalitions on progressive social issues.

• A number of workshops focused on relationships: "The Lesbian/Gay Couple as Family: Principles for Building Satisfying Relationships;" "Gay Parenting," a look at raising children with non-stereotypical models for growth and change, led by John and Merrill Harris from Dowltown, TN, a lesbian/gay couple who have adopted four children; "Gay Coupling: Exploring Probable Parameters;" "Issues of Aging: Old and Gray or Old and Gay?;" and "Creating New Lives and Family Systems" by Gary Raymond.

Of course, not all the workshops offered were equally rewarding. Concerning Raymond's workshop, *The Front Page* was told: "He offered an extensive background of his personal experience of coming out and finding a lover who in turn developed a relationship with a women, and how the three

of them worked out a triad relationship," Ron Lambe said. "The concepts offered for the workshop were very exciting, but somehow Gary's presentation was quite dull and uninspiring. Perhaps that it was just the end of a busy day. I was hoping to hear some lively discussion on different ways we can form supportive relationships, but instead we were subjected to a monologue in great detail about one possibility. It was interesting to learn that such an arrangement can work. I was just hoping for more."

• Evangelical Outreach Ministries, a gay religious group based on Atlanta, Ga., held a workshop entitled "Gay Evangelicals: Your Voice in the Bible Belt."

• Black and White Men Together offered twin workshops, one on the organization itself and its role in the community, the other offering advice on making an outreach to minorities.

Atlanta's Melvin Ross and Memphis's Irwin Rothenberg told of activism and litigation to combat discrimination against blacks in gay oriented nightclubs and entertainment activities. Reports on moves to counter racism were made available to those in attendance. The facilitators were not shy in making their feelings known. When an Evangelical Outreach Ministry leader noted that the present circumstance was that there were no blacks in leadership positions of the program. Rothenberg demurred: "That's an unfortunate circumstance." In order to put into effect what they advocated, BWMT has by-laws requiring co-racial leadership in all its units.

Also facilitating these sessions were Grieg Leonard of Atlanta and Joe Calhoun of Memphis.

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# 9th Conf

continued from page 5

job if you are a teacher and threatened and exposed as being gay. This is the one area, the main area, where the myths and stereotypes about gay people still overwhelm people, it just overcomes them. It is a difficult area in which to litigate." There are a lot more challenges under way.

Rubinfeld pointed out that the AIDS issue affects both lesbians and gays. It is used as a defense for sodomy laws. "It comes up in custody and visitation cases, even those involving lesbians. It is basically a cover for old fashioned homophobia," she said. It is readily picked up and distorted by the media.

The fourth area of family and relationships concerns stems from the denial that our relationships are not recognized legally, Rubinfeld said. This creates problems with such matters as taxes, wills, medical treatment and insurance.

Concerning her organization, she said "We're restarting to be more affirmative in the type of litigation we're filing."

Southern litigation that has resulted in change was reviewed. Baker vs. Wade, the Texas sodomy statute case, is being appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. In the realm of student recognition, success has occurred in Tennessee and Georgia. "It is basically a settled issue. It is ridiculous not to let a student group meet."

Lambda Legal Defense Fund is willing to challenge in situations involving custody and is winning some cases. The Supreme Court of Virginia had recently upheld a lesbian's right to retain custody. However, she cautioned, "It is very difficult when you're having the emotional stress, the trauma of fighting a battle like that, and have a stake in losing your children. It is difficult to go out and raise the thousands of dollars that it takes in legal and court costs."

In Florida, in the realm of professional licensing, its Supreme Court held that an attorney can't be denied a license for being gay. The fact that her law teacher in ethics showed her the case was taken by Rubinfeld as "how far we've come."

In the "constructive trust" concept, Arkansas and Georgia have taken steps recognizing relationships. This hasn't appeared in New York or California.

Naragon vs. Wharton *et al* involves a lesbian graduate teaching assistant at Louisiana State University. Her teaching duties were removed when parents of another female student complained about her lesbian relationship. (The other student was not and could not be in classes taught by the plaintiff.) An amicus brief was filed on an appeal before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Four other organization working on gay and lesbian legal concerns are: Texas Human Rights Foundation, National Gay Rights Advocates, Lesbian Rights Project, and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. Lambda is now involved in cases in five different federal and at least five different state courts at various levels.

In conclusion, Rubinfeld spoke about our collective future.

"We're going forward, we're making changes and we're going to continue to do that." The American Civil Liberties Union and the five gay organizations, she said, will link up to challenge the sodomy laws in the remaining states. She pointed out, however, that the ACLU, worried over funding and other problems, hasn't been so open on the national level. Finally, we, together, can make better conditions in the South."

## Homophobia Kills

Virginia Apuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, was the third of the conference's keynoters. She sparked the audience with a declaration that "those attending are leaders for social change."

"We are talking about basic changes in the way this society functions," she said in her hard-hitting speech. "We want to live our lives with dignity. We want to address the racism and sexism that exists all over the country. We are asking whole institutions to look at themselves."

"In order to effect change, we have to see the magnitude of the job." Apuzzo underscored the need "to commit ourselves to what the task really is. We have to change in terms of how we see what we're going after. I mean the issues of sexism, racism or homophobia."

In considering involvement, she said, an informed decision is important. "There are very real reasons for fear out there," she cautioned. As for time, "it will take a lot of time." As for money, it will be "more that we're willing to pay right now. It will be more money and time than the people who are involved right now."

When organizations are not supported, Apuzzo said, the people who work will "begin to feel that nobody gives a damn, the tasks become too large, energy becomes too short and tempers become too short. The opportunity to make history slips through our fingers."

Concerning homophobia and oppression, Apuzzo argued: "It doesn't just hurt. It is not just a slight pain. It kills! The oppression that is in this country and that is running rampant in this country is killing."

Before we reach out, she advised, "let's reach in, fully conscious of those kinds of needs we, as persons, have. This is the fuel we need, in addition to the time, money and commitment. We need the support, nurturing, the concern and the caring."

Apuzzo also stressed practicality. "Politics without education is investing in a reaction, in a backlash and in failure. We are just learning a bit about politics. We haven't gotten to base one in learning about government. Politics alone, will not solve all of our problems: Politics is a power game. It has to deal with numbers."

"Now we have to teach them (political leaders) that they will be measured, graded, supported or fought on the extent to which they are responsive to the needs."

"Politics without education is a waste of time," she reiterated. The ERA and the incredible miseducation about it are an example. Jerry Falwell says what he asserts about us

"because it is a lucrative thing for him to do." Falwell and the radical right "knows those things are not true. But, they're lucrative."

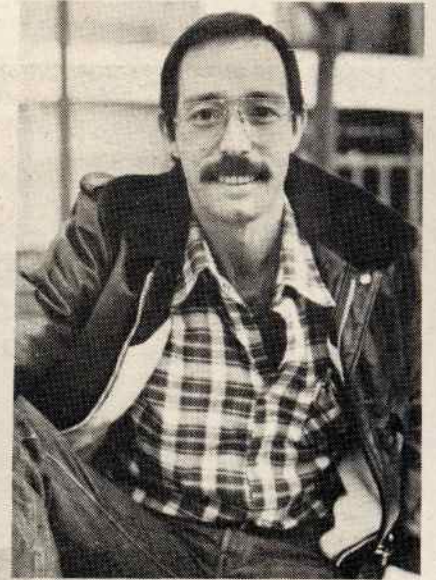
Apuzzo challenged community members to not just look to passage of the gay rights bill as the ultimate goal. "We must be present at hearing, give testimony, and let politicians know that gays and lesbians are there in the district and politically active. It is the only way minds and attitudes can be changed," she said.

Speaking as Ginny Apuzzo, and not for NGTF, she said "I believe the most significant thing we can do in 1984, if we're a movement for change, is to change the current administration. In 1984, we're going to have to roll up our sleeves and register every human being we know." We're going to have to bring people to the polls, according to Apuzzo. "If women, third world people, gays and lesbians, people of conscience get involved in this process, then we will have a change in 1984."

"This is no time for sabbaticals," she said. "There are two flanks to fight on. There is too

# Celebrate Difference

I wrote *The Celluloid Closet* to celebrate difference. It irritates me to see some person on a TV show saying to the majority, moral or otherwise, "Please accept us, because, after all, we're just like you." I think what needs to be said is "Grow up!" There are all kinds of people in the world. We're not all the same, and we should teach people to see the beauty in difference, to appreciate it without trying to change everyone into an acceptable norm.



People must stop co-operating with their own invisibility, and it has to start with the audience. Motion pictures will never reflect the reality of gay experience in America until people come out and make that reality visible. Fifty years from now, I don't want the only openly gay actors to be the dead ones. In the words of Rita Mae Brown, "I've heard all the excuses, honey, and they're all shit."

— Vito Russo, who spoke at the 7th Conference held in Tampa, Florida

much at stake for all of us. Make sure they know you're here."

As she raced to a conclusion, Apuzzo noted "Love has possibilities of changing someone's heart. The single most significant thing we do is come out. Love overcomes fear."

"The single thing that most identifies oppressed people is the belief that it can't be done. Think of the movements which preceded us. You have power over our future. It will require the dramatic, devastating, tedious and boring stuff... the stuff that people don't notice. The entire future of the earth depends upon us believing in our capacity to create a change."

From Lao Tsu, Apuzzo quoted: "When the best leaders are finished, the people will look at each other, and smile, and say: We did it ourselves!"

## Remembering Martin

Tom Chorlton addressed a banquet sponsored by PRO-PAC (Privacy Rights Organization-Political Action Committee). His theme was "People Make Things Happen." Before an audience of over fifty, Chorlton emphasized that it only takes a few to begin a movement.

As an example, he recalled that twenty-one years earlier Martin Luther King, Jr., began serving his sentence in the Birmingham jail. Chorlton observed that King, too, was concerned when only a handful of people answered his initial call for civil disobedience in Birmingham. Yet, in the final analysis those few were able to begin and sustain a movement that changed history.

The "Birmingham Manifesto" was a request by Martin Luther King, Ralph Abernathy and others of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to the business leaders of Birmingham.

"You will end segregation... You will end this

insult." Project C (confrontation) called for mass mobilization on a scale that had never been called for in the black civil rights movement.

Chorlton addressed the recurring feeling that there is never enough support. "Don't feel alone, this is something that runs consistently through the struggle for civil rights."

Martin Luther King, in Birmingham's jail, he said, "did something that I think we all have to learn again, again and again. He took that frustration, that barrier, and turned it to the positive."

King's response to rabbis and ministers, those seriously troubled by the new methods used by the civil rights movement, was "The Letter from Birmingham Jail." Several have termed it "the most eloquent and learned expression of the goals and the philosophy of the non-violent movement ever written."

For the lesbian and gay movement, the message is still alive. "What kind of people worship those who proselytize hate and turn to their gay children and their gay fathers and mothers and condemn them, speak against them and turn society against them. We need that same anger and same determination," Chorlton said.

He also drew parallels with King's reference to "armchair liberals:" that "shallow understanding from people of goodwill is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will..."

"Those who advocate that we wait, King wrote, "those who think that justice will cure itself must be told that the time to wait has past. How often do we hear in Birmingham, Tallahassee or Washington, DC, wait, keep the lid on? Don't push too hard. Things are moving. Things are moving because people make them move. We must go back to our friends in the media and politics, and we have

continued on page 18

**Farewell to the Marlboro Man**

He looked for the hand of a friend. Where were you?  
 He waited for you to get off the disco floor to have a man to man conversation. Where were you?  
 He waited for you to put aside all the fluff and glitter and relate honestly as a human being to another. Where were you?  
 He waited for you to drop all the fake images and barriers and share a moment of reality with him. Where were you?

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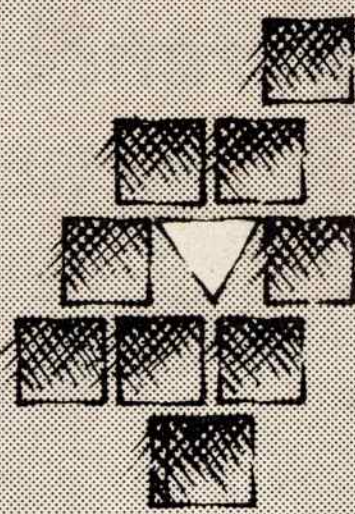
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# Barbara Smith

by Pam Mitchell, *Gay Community News*

A racially mixed crowd of between 75 and a hundred people gathered in the International Lounge at Brandeis University on March 5 for a panel discussion on "Women of Color in the 80's: priorities, issues and directions." Black lesbian activist Barbara Smith delivered the keynote speech, in which she described the expanding Third World feminist movement and discussed some of the obstacles to that movement's continued growth, focusing in particular on racism and homophobia.

Smith began her talk by expressing regret that the audience hadn't been able to share in the "rousing discussion" of the evening's topic which had ensued when the panelists met over dinner earlier in the evening; she said that lively discussion was another indication that "we have a movement."

She reported that when the panelists compared notes about their lives in the Boston area, they all had a lot of stories to tell about the increasing poverty and racist violence in their own communities. White people must become conscious of the impact of racism on people's lives and must decide what actions to take, not out of charity but in the interests of "creating a decent world," Smith said.

As one example, she urged whites to consider the impact of gentrification on people of color when moving into "new" (to whites) neighborhoods. She said that at dinner she and other panel participants discussed how they had all been squeezed out of Boston's South End at some time.

However, she said she would like as much as possible to leave the topic of racism to white people to discuss, since dealing with racism and privilege "go with the territory" of being white. "I don't often talk about racism anymore," she said, "because it's not my job. But," she added, stressing that white people

must take anti-racist action, "these are serious times."

She said that, mainly, she wants to concentrate her energies on the "joyful topic" of the creation of women of color feminism.

Smith described how women of color feminism has grown from a few "voices crying in the wilderness" in the early '70's to a "real movement" by the '80's. There are now large numbers of Third World feminists "defining our own movement," she said, "though we don't get a lot of media coverage" from the white press.

The creation of autonomous Third World media is another sign of the vitality of the movement, she said. Leafing through the first issue of the new women of color newspaper *Between Our Selves*, based in Washington, D.C. she asked, "In 1970 or 1973, did I ever think I'd be holding a paper like this in my hands?"

Smith said the new movement includes many women of color who "may not call themselves feminists but when you're sitting in the room with them they come through." She said she has trouble identifying with the label of "feminist" herself when it "includes 'white' in parenthesis," but has no such reservations when feminism is infused with the particular world view and priorities of Black feminism, or Third World feminism.

When speaking of "Third World feminism," Smith stressed that it must be regarded as one noun, one entity - the words "Third World" are not just optional adjectives modifying (white) feminism. She said that Third World feminism includes a "multi-issue perspective," The concept of "manifold and simultaneous oppressions" - that someone who is a member of more than one oppressed group will experience those multiple oppressions at the same time and inseparably



Barbara Smith

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON BLADE

and will have particular insight and perspective because of this - has been "the crux" of the theoretical contribution of Third World feminists.

Barbara Smith stressed that as an autonomous Third World feminist movement develops, "we determine the agenda," and women of color will participate in greater and greater numbers.

Though Third World feminists have gotten little credit or media attention for it, Smith said, it was actually women of color who

began discussing the concept of coalition later exemplified "very publicly" by the rainbow coalitions of Mel King and Jesse Jackson. While she praised King as a radical and activist who has acknowledged women of color and helped move their work forward, Smith characterized Jackson as "a politician...not a progressive," who has borrowed the coalition concept.

Smith went on to quote a passage from the Black feminist anthology *Home Girls* in

*continued on page 17*

# Gil Gerald

by Gil Gerald,  
*National Coalition of Black Gays*

November 6th is now history. All the major metropolitan newspapers are currently featuring endless commentaries on the significance of the results of the national elections. We cannot afford to spend too much time pondering or lamenting that which is obvious: The electorate overwhelmingly opted for the presidential candidate least likely to be responsive to "special interest," which are new code words for those of us who are either poor, feminists, Blacks, Hispanics, Lesbians, Gays, peace activists, or environmentalists among others.

For all of us, not having a president as an advocate for our cause is nothing new or surprising. We must continue, without pause, in our efforts to bring about economic and social justice.

For Black Lesbians and Gays this means taking stock of our community's institutions and resources - the social clubs, women's groups, political clubs, print media, businesses, collectives, rap groups, artists groups, religious groups - and determining how their economic, political, and cultural influence can be increased so as to bring about real change at the grassroots level, and collectively at the national level. For NCBG it means pursuing a course of facilitating the development of a consensus agenda for our community, the further development of a national staff providing an effective voice and other resources for the community, the development of scores of new chapters around the country to involve new members, and the further development of an effective working relationship with the civil rights community. At NCBG we have been working diligently so that these objectives will be achieved.

*Habari Daftari*, NCBG's newsmagazine,



Gil Gerald

received a \$2,000 grant, this month, to support its continued publication. The grant was received from the Crossroads Fund in Chicago. The newsmagazine is one of the most effective means for networking in our community.

*Havari Daftari* was recently cited in the *Gay Community News* of Boston as one of the best magazines for people of color in the Lesbian and Gay community. We expect that the coming year will see "Habari Daftari" receiving wider acclaim.

Many of you have been inquiring about the plans for a November 1985 national conference for Black Lesbians and Gays in conjunction with the scheduled NCBG General Convention. It was finally decided to hold the conference in the St. Louis Metro

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# Deacon Maccubbin

by Bonita Becker, *Washington Blade*

In December 1974, in Edinburgh, Scotland, the Greek letter "lambda" was designated by the Gay Rights Congress as the international symbol for Gay liberation. That same year, Lambda Rising Bookstore opened its doors to "celebrate the gay experience."

The store first opened in a 300-squarefoot townhouse on 20th Street, near Dupont Circle, store owner L. Page "Deacon" Maccubbin recalls. He remembers visiting the Oscar Wilde bookshop in New York two years prior to the opening of Lambda Rising "I said to myself, there should be a store like that in D.C."

So with \$3,000 of his own money, and \$1,000 from another Gay activist, he went into business.

Ten years (and a few months) later, that business, including a mail-order section and the new Baltimore store, is expected to gross about three-quarters of a million dollars in 1985, according to Maccubbin. The new D.C. store - on Connecticut Avenue - has 1700 square feet of office, stockroom, and mail-order area.

Maccubbin points out that the market for Gay and Lesbian books was there from the start. Yet neither libraries nor mainstream bookstores seemed aware of that fact, although in 1974 the Gay Activists Alliance estimated Washington's Gay population to be in the neighborhood of 40,000 to 50,000. The purpose of opening the store, says Maccubbin, was, in a sense, to "put ourselves out of business" by showing other stores that it paid to carry books by and about Gays.

But the need for a specialty shop remains in order to accommodate the vast increase in Gay literature, as well as to provide access to rare and out-of-print titles. The specialty store also provides an immediate marketplace for Gay authors who are starting out.

From the beginning, Lambda Rising served as more than a bookstore. Instead the store operated "almost like a community center," says Maccubbin. He recalls the first Saturday that the store was open, "someone from Baltimore came in, gave a sigh and said, 'home at last'."

The store offers a community bulletin board and serves as a ticket outlet for most



Deacon Maccubbin

concerts and events in the Gay and Lesbian community. While the local Gay switchboard only operates in the evenings, Maccubbin points out that the store is open during the day and tends to function "almost as a switchboard."

Moreover, he said, researchers in psychology and sociology have been able to make use of the store's specialized literature. And college English professors have been able to assign books available through the store. Families and friends also come to the shop in order to gain a better understanding of the Gay people in their lives.

For the first five years, the annual Gay Pride Festival was also sponsored by Lambda Rising. However, by the fifth year, when some 10,000 people attended, there was no longer enough space, so Maccubbin says he turned the celebration over to the P Street Festival community group.

Aside from being Washington's only Gay and Lesbian bookstore, Lambda Rising also set precedent in 1975 with the first Gay-oriented television commercial. Describing the struggle to get the commercials aired, Maccubbin says that two stations said that

*continued on page 17*



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# Smith

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which Bernice Johnson Reagon describes coalition as neither a comfortable place nor a home, but as something participants join because if they don't link up, they "stand to be killed." As an example of this, Smith cited the significant number of people of color who have become involved in disarmament and anti-nuke work, since the issue affects everyone's survival, though "it's not people of color who are making the nuclear reactors" or raiding Native American lands and trading with South Africa for the fuel to run them; "basically, it's Protestant males" who have done so.

She added that people of color are "more likely to die today from police brutality" than from nuclear disaster.

Smith also touched on the problems that can arise when women from different communities of color attempt to overcome the barriers that have been erected between them by racism and isolation to work together. As an example during the question and answer period, she described difficulties that developed at Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, an institution Smith helped found. Although intended as a joint effort, many women of color have left amid a lot of tension so that the Press is now functionally a predominately Black enterprise.

"I will admit my ignorance" about other women of color, she said, and will work to overcome that ignorance in the interests of future coalition. She said she places highest priority on such work, and expressed optimism that differences can be overcome.

As one case in which homophobia could divide women of color, and one which represents a particular challenge to Black women, Smith discussed the dilemma posed by the U.N. End of the Women's Decade conference scheduled to occur in Kenya in July of 1985. The Kenyan government has announced it intends to arrest any lesbians, or even any political feminists, who come to Kenya to attend the conference. This is not an issue other women of color can be held accountable for, Smith said, but "how are Afro-American women going to act," she asked, "when they start trying to arrest us...within the family...in a country from which we came?" Black women have to be willing to say, "This is not going to wash any more."

Smith concluded her talk by encouraging Third World gay men and lesbians to continue working against homophobia both inside and outside of communities of color. She said that because of heavy pressure from Gil Gerald and the National Coalition of Black Gays, Jesse Jackson was pushed to talk about gay issues and even to say the words - not just gay, she noted, but lesbian as well - at the Democratic convention, and that kind of pressure and encouragement must continue.

# Maccubbin

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National Association of Broadcasters would have to clear them.

"At first," he said, "the standards board wanted the word 'adult' instead of 'Gay.' But I told them no, that's not what it is. That would make it sound like a porn shop." The commercials were finally approved.

By 1977, the 20th Street townhouse was stuffed to capacity and the bookstore was forced to relocate to a bigger space around the corner on S Street.

The Washington Post reported that during that year "publishers sent an unprecedented 60-plus books related to homosexuality out into the world." It also noted that "publishers agreed that the readership (for Gay books) is vast, unusually literate and engaged."

The following year, a Gay Caucus within the American Booksellers Association (ABA) was formed. The ABA adopted an anti-discrimination resolution. Moreover, literally hundreds of non-Gay bookstore owners set up Gay sections in their stores, Maccubbin says. He notes that these sections are especially important in areas where the Gay population is too small to support a specifically Gay bookstore.

The increased interest in Gay books has been particularly important for the Gay presses, which Maccubbin credits with getting Gay literature into print and keeping it there.

In another move to increase access to books of interest to the Gay and Lesbian community, Lambda Rising published a mail-order catalog about two years ago. While the catalog lists about 2,000 titles, readers can order some 10,000 titles, Maccubbin says.

One noteworthy store policy is that no fiction dealing with the subject of homosexuality is ever censored no matter what the author's attitude on the subject. While this has generally not caused any controversy, Maccubbin admits that the stocking of *Windows* and *Cruising* both books that held negative views of Gays, did result in some criticism. But non-fiction books that are anti-Gay, such as the *Homosexual Network*, are generally not kept in stock by the store.

Maccubbin estimates that 60 percent of the store's customers are men. Of the women

customers, many tend to be more Gay-oriented than the feminists who shop at Lammas, the women's store on Capitol Hill. Maccubbin says that he doesn't see himself as competing with Mary Farmer, Lammas' owner. Lambda Rising buys it records through Farmer, and the owners of both stores exchange information, he says.

In addition to books, Maccubbin says about 50 percent of the store's revenue comes from cards, magazines, and gift items. Having the store makes him aware of the market for certain materials. He cites the publishing of greeting cards for blacks as one example. After realizing there was a market for the cards, Maccubbin says he pressured the greeting card people into producing them.

The Lambda Rising D.C. store has a staff of eight, balanced between men and women. It is co-owned by store manager Jim Bennett. Bennett and Maccubbin were married to each other, says Maccubbin, in February 1982 and so far working together has not interfered with their relationship.

The two owners are looking at the possibilities for opening stores in other cities, probably in the South or Midwest. In that way, says Maccubbin, they could sell enough individual titles to guarantee publishers that they would buy perhaps 3,000 copies of a book. He adds that he would like to get to the point where he could "make a book" or help authors get published.

Aside from operating the store, Maccubbin is active in a number of community activities. He is the currently elected co-chairman of the Gay Rights National Lobby, and has been active in his Advisory Neighborhood Commission and the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club.

The new Washington, D.C. store is located at 1625 Connecticut Ave., N.W.

# Gerard

continued from page 15

area. The exact convention facility is still under consideration and will be announced shortly.

Our goal of producing educational materials for the purpose of addressing homophobia in the Black community has taken a step forward as we seek funding for a pilot joint-venture project with the D.C. Coalition of Black Gay Men and Women. The proposal, for which we have already been interviewed by one grants source, calls for developing three brochures to be used in a public education project for the Black community in D.C.

The brochures will respond to the myth that Black Lesbians and Gays either do not exist or suffer from a "sickness" that mostly affects whites, respond to questions people often ask about Lesbians and Gays, and provide information about resources in our community for those who seek further information or help. Once developed the brochures will be adapted and made available for use by NCBG chapters and groups around the country.

With respect to local organizing, we have developed and are seeking funding to carry out workshops for organizing our community in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Once new board members are announced, the re-development of a New York chapter should get an immediate boost.

Last year we received a \$5,000 grant towards our general operating expenses. We are hopeful that we will receive at least that much for 1984-85. This support will make it easier for us to continue to operate a national office to facilitate and coordinate the efforts of local NCBG chapters and individual members into a coherent and effective national voice for social change.

NCBG can be contacted by writing 930 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004, or by calling (202) 737-5276.

NCBG just received a \$1,500 grant from the Fund for Southern Communities to conduct a two-day workshop to benefit black lesbians and gays in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

According to Gerard, the objective of the two-day workshop is to develop organizing strategies for the "empowerment" of the black lesbian and gay community in the tri-state region. "We hope to facilitate the development of a local plan to create community-based organizations that respond to the particular political and social needs of black lesbians and gays," Gerard said.

The planned workshop is part of a series of educational projects being undertaken by NCBG to ensure that black lesbians and gays become invested with the skills and organizing strategies required for their advancement and survival, particularly in a time of renewed right-wing, racist and homophobic attacks.

# Volunteers Needed!

The Front Page needs volunteers in the Triangle area to help us with several jobs involved in getting your favorite gay newspaper out!

Every other Thursday morning, we desperately need someone to take the paper from Raleigh to the printer in Chapel Hill by 7am. Payment negotiable.

Every other weekend we need people to type stories for us into the computer (no special skills required).

If you have worked on a newspaper before or have any experience with layout and paste-up, great!

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4. Just Another Night - Mick Jagger
5. Touch Me In The Morning - Lydia Steinman
6. New Attitude/Axel F. Theme - Patti LaBelle
7. Sussudio - Phil Collins
8. Born To Love - Claudja Barry
9. Totla Eclipse Of The Heart - Koffie
10. Invitation To Dance - Kim Carnes
11. Point Of No Return - Expose
12. Take Me To Heaven/Sex - Sylvester
13. Why - Bronski Beat
14. The Heat Is On - Glen Frey
15. One Night In Bangkok - Murray Head
16. If Looks Could Kill - Pamala Stanley
17. Do You Wanna Get Away - Shannon
18. Black Leather - Miquel Brown
19. Emotion - Barbra Streisand
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2. I Want You - Rofo
3. Only A Memory - Oh Romeo
4. No Fool For Love - Hazell Dean
5. Julia - Eurythmics
6. Get Lost Tonight - Fancy
7. My Love Is Music - Gloria Gaynor
8. Catch My Fall - Billy Idol
9. Charlie - Carrie Lucas
10. Love Is Like An Itching - Lisa

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2. Come To Me - France Joli
3. Fame - Irene Cara
4. You Said You'd Give Me Some More - K.C.
5. Memory - Menage
6. Blue Monday - New Order
7. Right On Target - Paul Parker
8. I Can't Help Myself - Bonnie Pointer
9. La Bamba - Antonio Rodriguez
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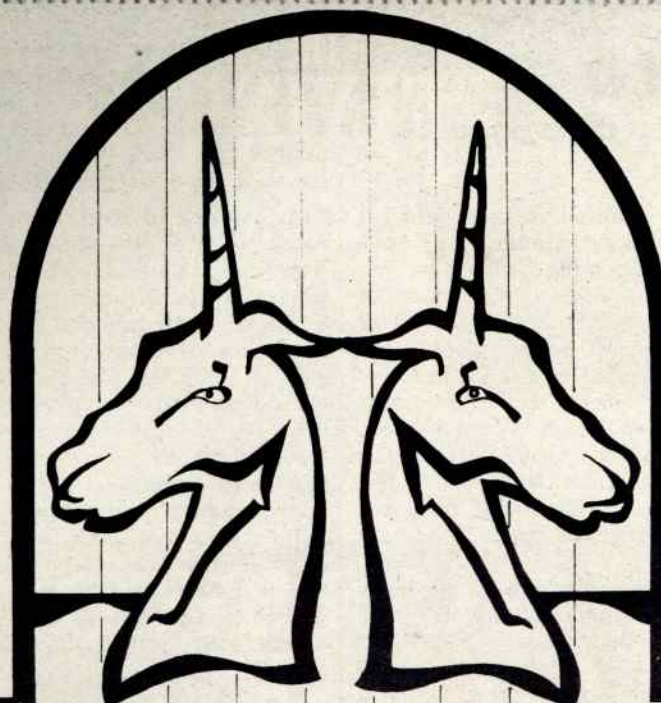
### DO NOT'S

- Do not talk to the police. No conversation.
- Do not take any performance tests.
- Don't stand on one leg or touch your nose.
- Do not answer any questions or offer any information.
- Do not refuse to take the breathalyzer

### DO'S

- Do be very polite
- Respectfully decline to take any performance tests, i.e., walking a straight line and touching nose, etc.
- Respectfully decline to answer any questions.
- Take advantage of *all* your rights as they are explained to you. Make phone calls. Get a witness.
- Especially start breathing immediately...* in your nose and out your mouth. Slow, deep and steady.
- Delay the breathalyzer test as long as possible.
- And keep breathing.
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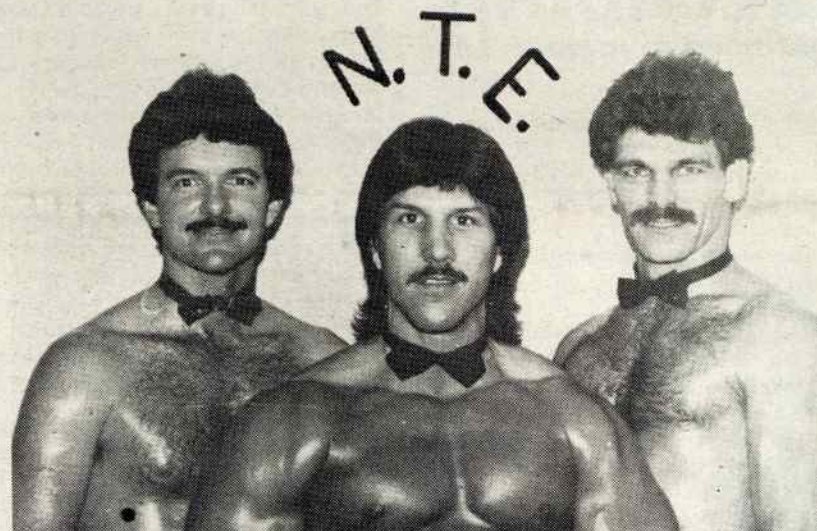
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Friday, April 12

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Saturday, April 13  
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Friday, April 19  
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Saturday, April 20  
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April 12  
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April 19  
**DEE DEE PRICE  
 HESLEY ROSS  
 DONNA SAYE**

April 26  
**BENEFIT FOR LAUREN COLBY**  
*Starring*  
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**9th Conf**  
*continued from page 13*

some, although not enough, that we've waited long enough. Now is the time to listen and to learn."

Perhaps the most eloquent portion of King's letter quoted by Chorlton was this: "We'll reach the goal of freedom in Birmingham and all over the nation because the goal of America is freedom. Abused and scorned though we may be, our destiny is tied up with America's destiny."

Chorlton gave examples of other individuals, gay men and lesbians, who have made a difference. For example: Rhonda Rivera, law professor, President of the Stonewall Union of Columbus, OH; Carol Weeks of Denver who helped found a Gay Community Center; Lynn Mattingly of Broward County who "works here fingers to the bone, as has so many of the activists in each state"; Tim Thomas is Missouri, published the *Gay News Telegraph* "on a shoe string who works, probably twenty hours a day turning out journalism worthy of standing beside some of the finest papers of the nation"; and Pat O'Dare, a Columbia, SC black lesbian with a "network that gets the job done."

Chorlton extolled members of the audience to take up the challenge. He said that it begins with those few who start a banquet for political fund-raising; it starts with a few who run for office; and it starts with a few who support and work for the election of friendly officials.

"The success of that effort," commented Chorlton, "is the fact that the Mayor of Birmingham came here not just once but twice! That is evidence of perceived political clout!

"As much as we moan and groan," he said, "as much as we complain and fret that there are never enough people, there is never enough time and God knows, there's never enough money, all of us are getting the job done." If those who can't work for the movement make it clear they can't because the discrimination is real, they can still be effective, Chorlton said.

"We owe it to Martin Luther King and to all the leaders of the black civil rights struggle to remember that night," Chorlton said in conclusion, "to recall that letter which helped to change America, and above all to understand we are part of the process in the ongoing struggle for civil rights ... Lesbian and gay Americans will no longer tolerate second class citizenship. We will be counted and we stand together, and as we're doing together, we will change the history of this country."

**Workshops**

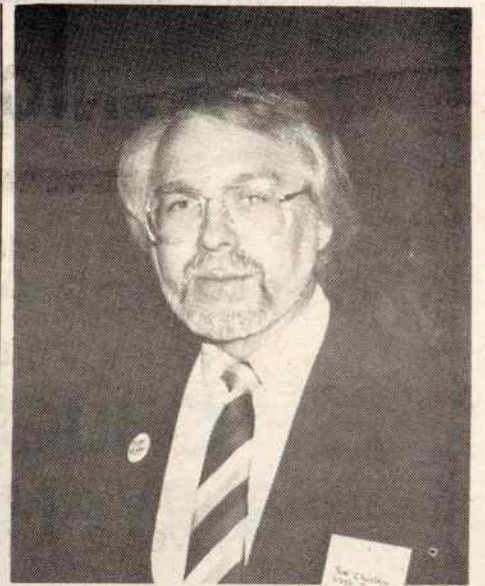
More than forty symposiums and workshops were staged at the conference on a vast range of topics. Conference organizers said they received enthusiastic support from national lesbian and gay figures as well as Birmingham activists.

Workshop facilitators included Patricia Todd of the National Organization of Women, Barbara Grier of Naiad Press, and Tanyan Corman, field director of the Gay Rights National Lobby, among others.

Topics varied from Intimacy and Jealousy in Lesbian and Gay Relationships to Establishing and Maintaining a Lesbian and Gay Library; from a Comedy Workshop on Lesbians and Culture to a Self Defense Workshop. Impromptu meeting slots were provided for caucuses and extended sessions.

- Glenda R. Elliott, Ph.D. held a session on overcoming loneliness and loss. Pointers were provided on "the experience of authentic selfhood." The Birmingham therapist's reading list included Phillips' *How to Fall Out of Love*, 1982, Greenburg's *How to Make Yourself Miserable*, 1966, Colgrove's *How to Survive the Loss of a Love*, 1977, and Clark's *Loving Someone Gay*, 1977.

- Darrell L. Erickson, a social worker and member of Tallahassee's Gay/Lesbian Support Services, told of "Assertiveness, Self-Esteem and the Bars." Erickson contends that



Tom Chorlton is a regular at the Southeastern Conferences.

"the natural tendency of human beings is to drift with the tide of old behaviors and circumstances." A set of interventions to apply consistently (the essence of mental health) were offered.

People were asked to honestly examine why they were going out, their feelings and energy level. Then, the person was asked to decide to address alternatives that might better suit the needs in light of the responses. If a bar trek does occur, Erickson requested that energy be placed into socializing. This was seen in terms of three styles of communication: passive, aggressive and assertive. Finally, strategies for coping with the fear of strangers such as overcoming self-deprecation and approaching someone in the sense that meeting provides an opportunity to learn about a person.

- Huntsville's K. L. Craig spoke on "Becoming the Person You Want to Be." She saw this as a continuous process involving a point of decision of being honest with yourself, loved ones and society from birth to death. The sequence of becoming is carried through the individual interacting to external influences. Literature on the subject: *Love* by Leo Buscaglia, *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf and *Ripening* by Lee Lanning and Vernetter Hart are examples.

- Pontiac's John O'Neill is Executive Producer of "Another Voice." This is an internationally syndicated lesbian/gay radio program. In a workshop on using local TV and radio to advance gay concerns, O'Neill advised people to choose intelligent, polite, conversant and verbal spokespersons. Doctors, therapists and people with professional standing increase credibility. O'Neill advised complimenting local media when a good job is done. Local contacts should be made offering "responsible, educated and informed persons." Make sure that those who will be on radio or TV are prepared. Also, it is important to take whatever time or opportunity that is offered and organize support and letters for any programs.

**Meg Entertains**

For entertainment, a "womyn's band" called Marathon performed dance tunes at the conference site on Friday evening. A mix of rock, folk and country tunes had a number of those in attendance constantly clapping, tapping and dancing.

On Saturday evening, a packed house delighted to Meg Christian's performance in concert. She used original and a few popular tunes in the feminist mode. Instruments as basic as a guitar and as complex as a synthesizer were employed. Intertwined were subtle political messages as well as exhortations of joy and pride.

Mayor Arrington's representative was present to greet Christian with a proclamation and a key to the city in behalf of the mayor.

Christian told *Alabama Forum*, "I have tremendous respect for all lesbians and gay men who working for change in the South. The South doesn't have a monopoly on bigotry, but it's more upfront with it, and

*continued on page 21*

# COMING SOON:

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Thursday Night  
**MTV**  
WITH NIGHTLY SPECIAL

Friday Night  
**FREE WINE & FREE DRAFT**  
**ALL NIGHT**

Saturday  
**PARTY NIGHT**

continued from page 19  
therefore gives it's okay to that bigotry. For that reason, it is more challenging to be open in the South. Having this conference in Birmingham is unbelievable and a tribute to those who worked to plan it."

**T-Shirts & Such**  
Another conference asset was books and souvenirs. T-shirts depicting the conference logo were on sale in a rainbow of colors. The book collections were provided by shopkeepers from places such as Birmingham, Atlanta, and Tallahassee. There was more than enough of a variety to stock a library of an ardent collector or literary buff. A number of spiritual groups of all shades with outreaches to the gay community were on hand. They offered both workshops and information tables.

**NORTH CAROLINA'S  
FINEST SELECTION OF  
BOOKS  
MAGAZINES  
NEWSPAPERS  
RECORDS  
CARDS**

**NOW OPEN  
FRIDAY TILL 8 PM**

**FOR LESBIANS  
AND GAY MEN**

WRITE FOR OUR  
MAIL ORDER  
BOOK  
LISTS!



**White  
Rabbit  
Books**

1833 SPRING GARDEN  
GREENSBORO, NC 27403  
MON-FRI 12-6, SAT 10-5  
PARK IN REAR  
919-272-7604

GREENSBORO'S ALTERNATIVE BOOKSTORE

Local interests provided snacks and decoration for hospitality suites. These periods of retreat enabled one to meet speakers one to one or for those from all over the southeast to mingle right on the site. The location of the conference was well selected. Everything a delegate would need was at hand or within easy walking distance. One variable sponsors could not control, the weather, was good. Mornings tended to be cool for the season. But, there were only sprinkles of rain on a couple of occasions.

**Starting on 1985**

The plenary session — the business aspect of the conference — proceeded swiftly. Articles of incorporation were approved without dissent. A Board of Directors with representatives from all over the region was selected. Chapel Hill was scheduled for 1985, and New Orleans expressed interest in 1986.

One attendant brought up the question of minority involvement. After citing that not even twenty third world people were observed, more outreach was requested by the concerned party. Organizers cited their efforts. The attendant was placed on the Board of Directors to assist in next year's effort.

There was praise offered for workshops that were well organized, staged and on time. Also, it was noted that the sponsoring staff was less tense than past meetings.

A delegate from Atlanta remarked that the conference went better than they were able to stage it the previous year. It was argued out that a "central" location would help attendance.

Concern was expressed over child care. It was noted by a North Carolina delegate that this should concern both men and women. There was no dissent on this point.

One delegate in each state was recruited for the purpose of networking. The idea is to catalog each gay organization, business or contact for purposes of communication. This was attempted with only limited success in 1983. Such a network would facilitate efforts to handle crises and foster future conferences and provide for sharing of experiences and resources.

# STONEWOOD LOUNGE

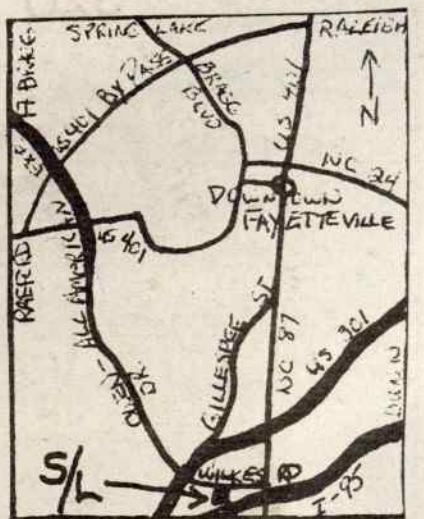
**FAYETTEVILLE'S HOTTEST  
NIGHT SPOT**

Apr 19, Friday  
Lauren Colby,  
Darleene Duncan,  
Autumn Hunter

COMING IN JUNE  
AMATEUR NIGHT?!

OPEN 7 NIGHTS A WEEK  
9 TILL ?

For show info contact  
**JOE at  
919-323-4777**



ALL SHOWS START AT 11:30

**STONEWOOD LOUNGE** 346 WILKES RD., Fayetteville, NC  
A Private Club...Not Open To The General Public. 919-323-4777

**MISS DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL PAGEANT  
FOR FEMALE IMPERSONATORS**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

For entry information,  
contact Power Co. at 683-1151

**Entry Fee \$35**

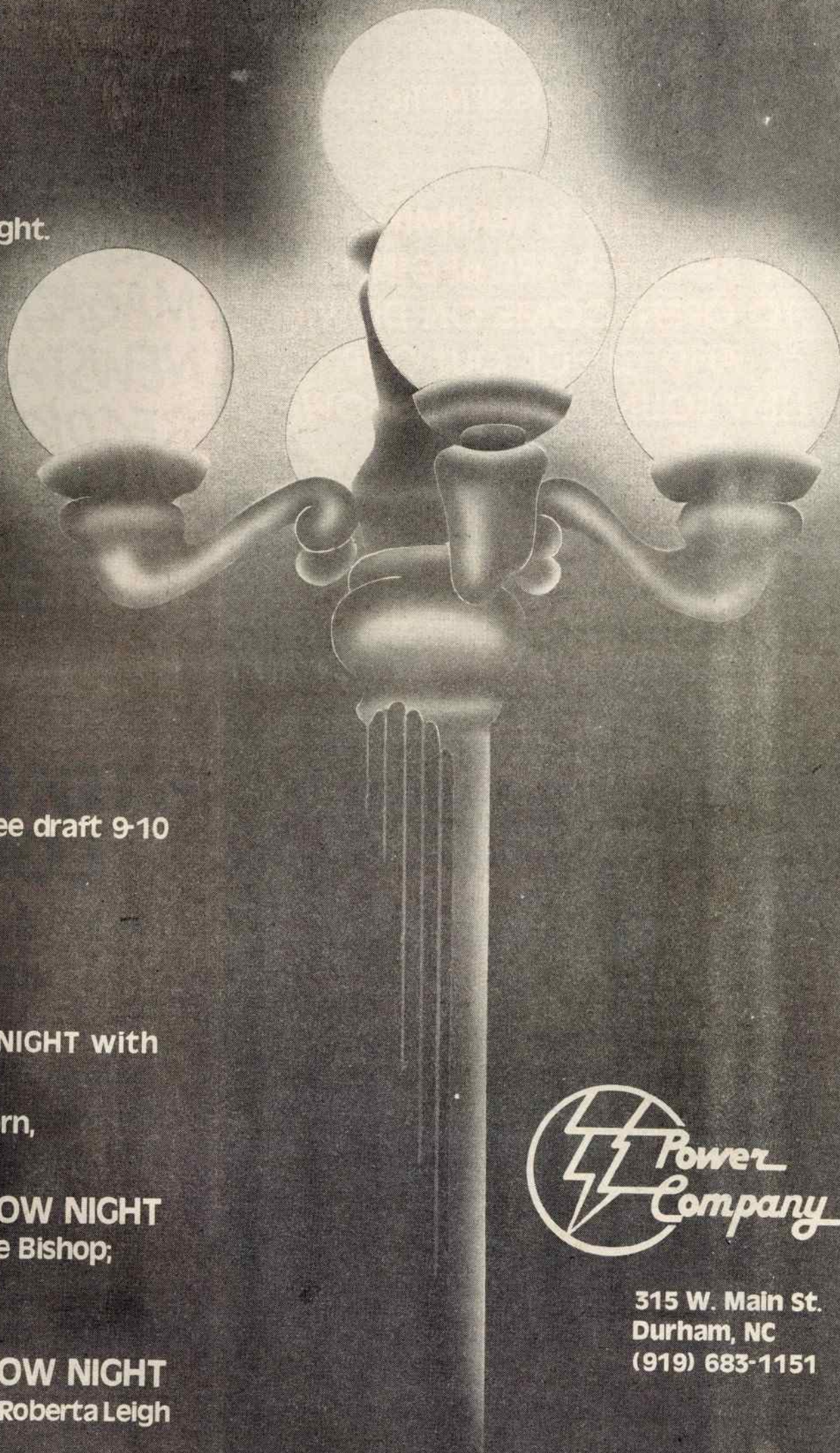
**Winner \$150**

**Second \$100**

**Third \$50**

Doors open at 8:30 Sunday night.

Coming May 19th to Durham:  
**MISS RALEIGH PAGEANT**



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

Members admitted free - free draft 9-10  
Drawing for cash & prizes

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
PARTY NIGHTS**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

**EASTER SUNDAY — SHOW NIGHT with  
DEE DEE PRICE**

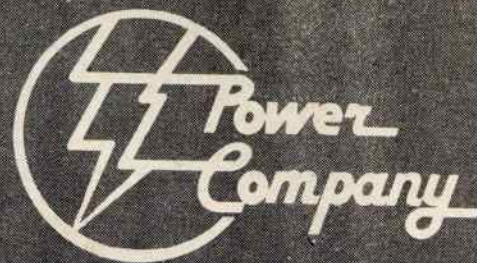
Erica Van Court, Toni Van Dorn,  
& Melody Kane

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18 - SHOW NIGHT**

Features: Miss NC, Diana Lee Bishop;  
Charlene, Darlene Duncan, &  
Stephanie Scott

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21 - SHOW NIGHT**

Brandy Alexander, Kelly Rae, & Roberta Leigh



315 W. Main St.  
Durham, NC  
(919) 683-1151

# CLASSIFIEDS

## COMMERCIAL ADS

**MOUNTAIN RETREAT FOR RENT**  
to lesbian and gay men. Lesbian-owned cabin located in Pisgah National Forest, Asheville, N.C. 100 acres. Total privacy. Rushing streams; woods; hiking; wildlife. One bedroom. Fully furnished. Oilheat and fireplace. Write "Bear's Cabin," 41 Cumberland Circle, Asheville, N.C. 28801. (7)

**WANT TO GIVE GOOD AD?**  
Is it time for you to have a classified affair? John Preston and Frederick Brandt can show you how to have active fun or play passive games with the personal ads. In their new book *Classified Affairs*, they'll tell you how to write an ad that really stands out; what to expect when you place or respond to an ad, and even what all those funny little abbreviations mean. Send \$8 (postpaid) to Alyson Publications, Dept. P-31, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118. (2)

**TYPESETTING, GRAPHICS, DESIGN SERVICES**  
Resumes, Newsletters, Flyers, Letterhead, Business Cards, Brochures, Newspaper & Magazine ads. You name it — if it's printed, we can get it ready to go to the printers.  
Raleigh firm offers high quality, fast turnaround, reasonable prices. If you produce a newsletter or similar piece and you prepare your copy on personal computer or word processor, we can even take your copy over the phone directly from your machine into our typesetter. Saves money and time — and assures accuracy. Call 832-1161.

**LADYSLIPPER'S 1985 CATALOGUE IS OUT!**  
30 pages of records and tapes by women plus a resource guide. Includes women's classics like Meg Christian and Alix Dobkin, new releases and Ladyslipper's own first release. Donations of 50¢ or more helps pay for postage. Write: Ladyslipper Music, Box 3124, Durham, NC 27705.

**THE NORTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT**  
North Carolina's only statewide newspaper. *The Front Page* has called this bi-weekly publication, with offices in Durham and Greensboro, "spunky, thoughtful and a visual treat." Subscribe! One year (24 issues) is only \$19.76 (\$19 subscription, 76¢ sales tax.) Write to: *The North Carolina Independent*, P.O. Box 2690, Durham, North Carolina 27705. For a \$1 more, you can have a bumpersticker, too!

**GAIA'S GUIDE — WINTER/1984**  
The International Guide Books for Gay Women. 10th edition. All U.S.A./Canada, plus Europe/Australia/New Zealand. Each area locally researched. Bars/organizations/publications/restaurants/bookstores/hotels & much, much more. \$10.00 only (discreet fast mail order) from: WOMANBOOKS, 201 West 92nd Street, New York, NY 10025

## NON-COMMERCIAL ADS JOBS WANTED/ OFFERED

Your own Roommate Matching Business? You'll be the only one who can offer both Local AND Nationwide Roommate Matching. Most major cities in your area now available. Send #10 SASE to Roomies(R), Box 3984, San Diego, CA 92103. (6)

**EXCITING INCOME OPPORTUNITY**  
As seen on national TV for men, women, and couples as full/part time distributors of new herbal nutritional weight-loss program: if you're sincere, want to feel great, lose weight and keep it off, meet new people and help them have happier and healthier lives, or just want to earn extra income: phone Ralph at (704) 366-7756 anytime or write to P.O. Box 922, Matthews, N.C. 28106. Full details over the phone. No hassle, hard sell, or gimmicks. (6)

Professional Chef seeks position in private home, estate, or corporate headquarters. Innovative and original recipes, all cuisines. 10 years experience in cuisine restaurants. Single, willing to live-in. Able to travel. Please write for resume to: Mikel Wilson, 141 St. Dunstan's Rd., Asheville, NC 28803, (704) 258-0449. (7)

"If you are an experienced telemarketer, who can sell chess sets to rednecks, who would like to work part-time from your home, earning very high salary against commission, then a national commodity brokerage firm would like to talk to you. We seek self-motivated, talented, high-confidence, positive-attitude, goal-oriented people; please send brief resume, three (3) references, and home telephone number to: TOCN, P.O. Box 36063, Raleigh, NC 27606-0663, an equal opportunity, M/F, employer, hirer of minority group members and physically-disabled individuals." (7)

**OVER 21 AND LIKE TO FLAUNT WHAT YOU'VE GOT?** We are looking for people interested in performing in films with adult erotic themes. Sex or preference not important and we need several people who meet this criteria. Please mail inquiries to: PRODUCTIONS, 412F Chapel Hill Blvd., Durham, NC 27707. (7)

Room and board provided for young male in exchange for help in small business. NO sex involved unless you desire. Write Front Page Box 136, include photo and phone. (7)

**BIG, ROUND BELLY NEEDED**  
Heavy male models needed to sit for study sketches. All work done weeknights. Hourly wage. Ability to relax and maintain energy flow important. Reply: Model, P.O. Box 1254, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092. (6)

## ROOMMATES

**CHARLOTTE ROOMMATE WANTED**  
27 yr. old professional GWM seeks GWF as a roommate to share a two bedroom/one bath house. Strictly business arrangement. Must be gainfully employed and willing to share 1/2 of rent (\$350.00 per month), plus 1/2 of the utilities. Serious inquiries only. To contact, call 704-536-5824 between the hours of 10a.m. and 2p.m. (7)

**GREENSBORO:** GWM, 24, looking for same to share 2 bedroom townhouse near Four Seasons area. Rent is \$175.00/mo. plus 1/2 utilities. Deposit of \$125 will be required. Prefer mature and stable individual. Apt. is basically furnished except your room. For more info, call Chris (evenings and weekends) at 854-0775. (7)

**CHARLOTTE**  
Studio apt. with cathedral ceilings for rent upstairs in home in Dilworth section near Freedom Park. Furnished or unfurnished. Includes T.V. & HBO, central heat and air, washer and dryer, all utilities. \$250/mo. Must have own car and stable job. Available mid-April. 376-0063. (7)

GWM age 27 blonde hair blue eyes looking for someone straight looking and straight acting to share fully furnished two-bedroom apt. cost is \$125.00 non refundable deposit and \$250 a month. Includes everything but grocery. Person must be steady worker and pay bills on time. \$250 a month includes all the following: Microwave oven, color TV with cable and HBO stereo, washing machine, electric room heating bill and extras only those sincere and steady working. Please call Eddie at 803-366-6859 no collect calls accepted. In Rock Hill, SC. (7)

**HICKORY**  
GWM, mid 20's, wants roommate to share large house in Kenworth neighborhood of Hickory. Age, race, sex and sexual preference NOT important. You must be financially stable. Sorry but no cigarette smokers (due to allergies) and no pets. I cover most utilities but some will be shared. Rent is \$150 per month. Please respond to: P.O. Box 3743, Hickory, NC 28603. Include phone number for faster response. (7)

**CHARLOTTE**  
Discreet WM looking for roommate to share home in Elizabeth section. Room has phone, air con., cable TV, fireplace and is furnished. Call Tony at (704) 376-3704. (6)

**HOUSEMATE WANTED:**  
Single gay man, quiet disposition, likes classical music. Rent \$40/wk includes all utilities and furnished bedroom. Call Al 258-3706. (6)

**NORFOLK, VA**  
A GWM graduate student seeks roommate to share comfortable apartment 1/2 block from ODU, and within 2 blocks of Cue Club and Oak House. Rent is \$150.00 per month + half utilities. I am 27, responsible, and a great guy. Hopefully you are responsible, neat, considerate, and nice. Call (804) 440-9244 for additional information, anytime between 6:00am and 4:00pm. (6)

GWM desires roommate to share Mobile Home located in nice Park in Cary near Mall with male or female, desire someone between the age of 22-35 years old straight looking and acting. Must be clean and share in cleaning duties, no drugs! Rent \$165.00 per month plus 1/2 utilities. Deposit required. Reply to: Boxholder, P.O. Box 11343, Raleigh, N.C. 27604. (6)

**ROANOKE RAPIDS - AHOSSKIE, N.C.**  
Young GWF seeking to share apartment or house in Roanoke Rapids - Murfreesboro - Ahooskie area. I am a professionally and will be in the area for approximately four months beginning April 1st. Prefer place away from major roads since I have an outside dog. Will pay generous monthly rent. Please write to Boxholder, P.O. Box 5822, Raleigh, NC 27650 or call collect (919) 832-3687 on weekends or after 5pm on weekdays. (6)

**BURLINGTON**  
GWM seeks same to share 2 bedroom house - fully furnished \$137.50 plus 1/2 utilities - Deposit required - steady income. Call 919-226-2501. After 5:00pm Monday thru Friday - Anytime weekends. (6)

Your own bedroom and bath in private home in exchange for mowing lawns and trimming hedges. If interested, write to "Boxholder," Box 907, Elon College, N.C. 27244. (6)

## GROUPS

**SAILORS, JUNIOR DIXIE CUP CLUB, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!** IF INTERESTED CONTACT: Terry, Box 110, 2101 Crystal Plaza Arcade, Arlington, VA 22202. (7)

**INTERESTED IN VIGOROUS OUTDOOR SPORTS?**  
Do things like backpacking, bicycling, rockclimbing, and whitewater turn you on? If so, join Pisgah Outdoorsmen. We are an Asheville based group for guys into outdoor backcountry sports. Member's interests presently include backpacking, hiking, bicycle touring, rock scrambling, downhill and cross-country skiing, ski-packing, whitewater and flatwater kayaking, canoeing, and rafting. If interested write: Mike Turner, Rt. 1, Box 156, Horse Shoe, NC 28742. (7)

**IIIGO WITH US!!!**  
Friendly Group touring France June 13-June 28. Full details - 803-385-3878 6-10pm. Come On. THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO GO! (7)

**DIGNITY ANNIVERSARY PARTY**  
Friday, April 19, 1985 7:00pm. Five years in the Community of Greenville. For Males, Females, Friends All Welcome. Special Speak. Dinner. Be There. RSVP. Write of Call Dignity Piedmont, P.O. Box 5572, Greenville, S.C. 29606 or call 1-803-299-1847. First Gay Friends in the Update. \$3.00 per person. (7)

**INTEGRITY, a service oriented group** sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians, welcomes persons of all religious and sexual persuasions to join us at the Duke Episcopal Student Center, 505 Alexander Ave. in Durham. Write Integrity, P.O. Box 3535, Durham, N.C. 27702, or call 919-477-0654 for further information. (5)

**DUKES LEVI-LEATHER CLUB**  
Does the sight of men in black leather turn you on, conjure up images of mysterious rituals of manhood and brotherhood? Then the DUKES LEVI-LEATHER CLUB may be the Club for you. We are a fraternity of like-minded men living and exploring the gay leather lifestyle. We welcome men with varied beliefs and tastes in leather and the leather lifestyle. The Dukes L.L.C. meet the second Sunday of the month at 7:00pm. For more information, send SASE to: Dukes L.L.C., P.O. Box 3111, Durham, N.C. 27705 or attend one of our meetings and share brotherhood with us. (5)

**STATE GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY**  
"Hot and Getting Hotter!" The N.C.S.U. (State) Gay/Lesbian Community. For information, write P.O. Box 33519, Raleigh, NC 27606 or call 829-1202. Students, faculty, staff, and all interested persons are welcome! (4)

**AIDS? ARC? THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO! LET'S SUPPORT EACH OTHER. A SUPPORT GROUP FOR PWAs (people with AIDS) IS MEETING WEEKLY. MONDAYS AT 7:30 IN CHARLOTTE. DON'T THINK YOU'RE ALONE! CALL (704) 375-1156 (6)**

**WINSTON-SALEM**  
LUNA (Lesbians Up for New Activities), social and recreational group, meets 3rd Fridays, Potluck March 15. Bear Island Canoe Trip Planned for March 23 and 24. Calley Tracy at (919) 723-2703 or write LUNA, P.O. Box 15321, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27113. (6)

**VD HOTLINE**  
The national VD Hotline gives confidential information to callers, and will refer people to their local health departments where they can get free venereal disease diagnosis and treatment. North Carolina residents may call 1-800-227-8822 toll-free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**THE GAY CLUB**  
Our club is an informal group of gay men meeting to plan and participate in group athletic and social activities within Raleigh and surrounding communities. We are open to all gay men who wish to participate. Tell a friend.  
Whatever your social interests are (softball, weight lifting, playing Trivial Pursuit, biking, swimming, golf, theatre, skydiving, motorcycling, alligator wrestling, tiddlywinks, something for everyone or only a few), come to a meeting and bring your interests with you. We encourage any and all ideas which lead toward better involvement.  
All meetings are held at 7:30pm on the second and fourth Tuesday or every month in the Unitarian Fellowship Hall (3313 Wade Avenue, Raleigh, N.C. Call (919) 834-3302 or 833-1209 for more information (before 9pm, please). (4)

**WILMINGTON AREA**  
GROW, a social, educational and support organization serving the lesbian and gay community meets monthly. Call 919-675-9222 or write: PO Box 4535-G, Wilmington, NC 28406. (1)

**TOLL-FREE AIDS INFORMATION**  
The government is providing the public and the medical community with up-to-date information on AIDS through a toll-free telephone hotline and two new publications. The hotline will be open daily from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm EDT, the Number is 800-342-AIDS. A leaflet called "Facts on AIDS" may be obtained free by writing to the Public Health Service, Office of Public Affairs, Room 721-H, 200 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20201. A separate publication called "AIDS Information Bulletin," will be sent on the first and third Mondays every month to health professionals. (1)

**NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE TOLL-FREE 'CRISISLINE'**  
1-800-221-7044  
The National Gay Task Force has opened a toll-free CRISISLINE, a national telephone number which will be used to compile a nationwide statistics on homophobic violence, and to provide callers with access to local hotlines and support services. The service also provides AIDS information and referrals. The CRISISLINE is staffed from 3 to 9pm weekdays, by volunteers who have undergone rigorous hotline training. (1)

**DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE YOU'RE GAY?**  
In your job, in housing, in legal matters, in financial dealings, in any way? The North Carolina Human Rights Fund is working to compile data on discrimination against gay men and lesbians in North Carolina. In dealing with lawmakers and the courts, we must have proof before we can ask for changes. Absolute confidentiality is assured. Please write a brief description of your experience with discrimination and send it to: NCHRF, P.O. Box 10782, Raleigh, N.C. 27605, or call (919) 828-2077 Monday-Friday 9-5. (1)

**IIIGO WITH US!!!**  
Friendly Group touring France June 13-June 28. Full details - 803-385-3878 6-10pm. Come on. There's No Better Time To Go. (7)

## LESBIANS

**ATTENTION**  
Lonely GWF seeks your company. I enjoy music, dancing, quiet evenings alone together, walks on the beach and much more. I'm not heavy into the bar scene, drugs, or alcohol. I would like to meet someone with similar interests for friendship or maybe something more. Those "seriously" interested contact M. Pantages, 113 Ashe Ave., Raleigh, N.C. 27605 or call (919) 755-0603. (7)

**IIIGO WITH US!!!**  
Friendly Group touring France June 13-June 28. Full details - 803-385-3878 6-10pm. Come on. There's No Better Time To Go. (7)

counts as one word. Most hyphenated words count as two words. Most abbreviations count as full, separate words. Telephone numbers, box numbers and zip codes count as one word. Punctuation is free.

Phone numbers and street addresses (as opposed to post office box numbers) must be confirmed before the ad can be run: there is a \$1.00 charge for this. All phone numbers must include area code.

Classified ads are FREE in the following categories:  
JOBS WANTED/JOBS OFFERED  
ROOMMATES

Ads will run twice. Any excessively long ads will be edited, at the publisher's discretion. No changes or corrections will be accepted, unless a copy of the old ad is included.

All ads must be accompanied by completed release form. If the ad contains a phone number or a private home address, then a \$1 verification fee must be included. The address and/or phone number must be confirmed before the ad can be run. All phone numbers must include area code.

Classified ads for GROUPS/EVENTS are also FREE, and need not send the phone/address verification fee once they are known to us (that is, after the first ad insertion). Ads will appear twice.

**COMMERCIAL ADS:** If you are a paid business or service, profit-making enterprise, or non-profit organization charging for your service, the you pay the following rate:

\$5.00 for thirty words, plus 20 cents per additional word. Multiply your cost times the number of issues in which you wish to appear, less any applicable frequency discounts.

Frequency discounts: 10% for six times; 15% for eleven times; 20% for twenty-two times. Frequency discounts are based on the ad running with no changes.

Commercial ads may run for any number of consecutive issues provided payment is received in advance.

**PAYMENT:** Check or money order should be made payable to "The Front Page," and mailed to: P.O. Box 25642, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. If payment is not enclosed, we will throw the ad away. We cannot invoice for classified ads.

**REFUNDS:** There will be no refunds for cancellations, errors or omissions, but space credit (not to exceed two additional insertions) will be given, when appropriate.

**ERRORS:** It is your responsibility to check your ad promptly for accuracy. If we made an error, we will correct it if notified by deadline (two weeks prior to issue date). If we think the error is serious enough to affect your ad's response, we will (at our option) publish it again or allow your partial credit toward future advertising. However, we make no allowance on purely aesthetic grounds or for inconsequential errors. *The Front Page* will not be responsible for errors on any handwritten copy sent in, or for phone numbers and/or addresses left off ad copy.

**CHANGES, CORRECTIONS, OR RE-INSERTIONS:** When cancelling or correcting an error in your ad, please clip and include a copy of your ad. If you wish to repeat your ad, please clip and send along a copy of the ad with your payment and the completed release form.

**HOW TO FIGURE THE COST OF YOUR AD:**

1. On a separate piece of paper, type or print neatly your ad. Count the number of words, and figure the appropriate cost.
2. Add phone or address verification fee, if appropriate.
3. If you are interested in using the *Front Page* mail forwarding service (see elsewhere on this page), enclose \$5.00 for thirty days.

Box Numbers/Mailing Service:

If requested, box numbers are assigned for 30 days. There is a \$5.00 charge per thirty day period for handling and forwarding mail. Payment must accompany ad insertion.

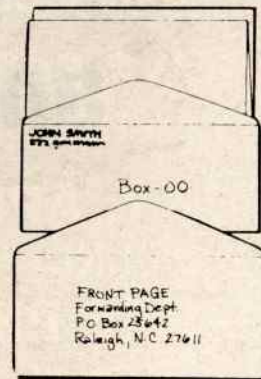
If responding to a *Front Page* Box Number, please put your response into a STAMPED envelope and include your return address. Then, put this envelope inside another and mail it to the paper. If you do not follow these instructions, your letter cannot be forwarded.

If you want to answer an ad using a *Front Page* box number, here's how:

1. Place your letter to be forwarded in an envelope, stamp and seal it.
2. Plainly print your name and mailing address in the upper left hand corner.
3. Print the complete box number in the center of the envelope.
4. Enclose your sealed letter in a larger envelope, and mail it to *The Front Page*, P.O. Box 25642, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

It doesn't cost you anything to answer an ad. Your unopened reply will reach the person you're writing in just a few days. Your complete return address is needed in the event that, for some reason, we are no longer able to forward mail to a particular box. Your name and address will remain strictly confidential.

Advertisers names and address are strictly confidential. They are not sold, rented, or released to anyone at any time.



**YOU MUST SEND IN A SIGNED RELEASE WITH YOUR AD. JUST CLIP AND SIGN THIS FORM AND SEND IT ALONG WITH YOUR AD AND PAYMENT. NO AD CAN BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT IT.**

*The Front Page* will not knowingly accept any fraudulent, obscene, offensive or questionable advertising. Since it is impossible to investigate each advertiser, we assume no responsibility relative to any communications or transactions between advertisers and readers. Anyone corresponding with or through this publication is required to comply with all local, state and federal laws.

Your signature on the authorization that follows is required for every ad submitted:

I, the undersigned, hereby certify with my signature that I understand and accept the above stated terms of advertising in *The Front Page*; that I am 18 years of age or older; that I am the person represented and possess the full legal capacity to execute this authorization; and that the data in my ad is true and correct.

I understand that no proofs of my ad will be supplied to me for my approval and I waive all claims regarding accuracy of reproduction, due to mistakes or technical failure. I understand that *Bugle Publications* is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any person that I contact through this publication. *The Front Page*.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Any ads which arrive at *The Front Page* without a signature on the above line and any letters to be forwarded without stamp, forwarding envelope or return address will be destroyed (for your own protection) without further notification.

## FREE & DIRT CHEAP CLASSIFIEDS

Please be sure to carefully read and follow all instructions. We have designed them to help you, and not because we enjoy making rules.

**NO PHONE CALLS:** Sorry, but we are unable to accept classifieds — or to answer questions about classifieds — over the phone. No exceptions. If you can't find the answer to your question on this page (and you probably can), drop us a note.

**THE BASICS:** Please type, or print NEATLY. If we can't read it, we can't print it! All ads must be accompanied by your signature on the release form below (right). Any ads submitted without the completed release form will be thrown away.

**PUBLICATION STANDARDS:** *The Front Page* reserves the right to reject any advertising for any reason. In general, with the one important exception noted below, we will not edit your ad without your knowledge. If it is unacceptable, we will notify you of our reasons and give you the chance to rewrite it. We will correct minor errors in grammar and spelling.

Ads determined to be in bad taste, or which would offend a large segment of our readers, or directed at or from persons under the legal age of consent will be refused. Pursuant to state and federal law, we will refuse any advertisement of any kind — except in the "Personals" ("Gay Men," "Lesbians," "Bisexuals," "Messages") category — which state a preference, limitation, specification or discrimination based on race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, non-job-related handicap or disability, place of birth or sexual orientation.

Such preference, limitation, or specification may be included in the "Personals," but only if politely phrased. Please note: **WE WILL NOT PRINT THE PHRASE "NO FATS, NO FEMALES, NO BLACKS."** The phrase — and those which are similarly rude, ugly and/or racist — will be deleted, and no refund made for the difference. If these matters are important to you, there are polite ways of saying so. We appreciate your cooperation.

**NON-COMMERCIAL ADS:** If you are advertising as an individual for something unrelated to a business, or as a non-profit organization which does not charge for its services, then you qualify as "Non-Commercial."

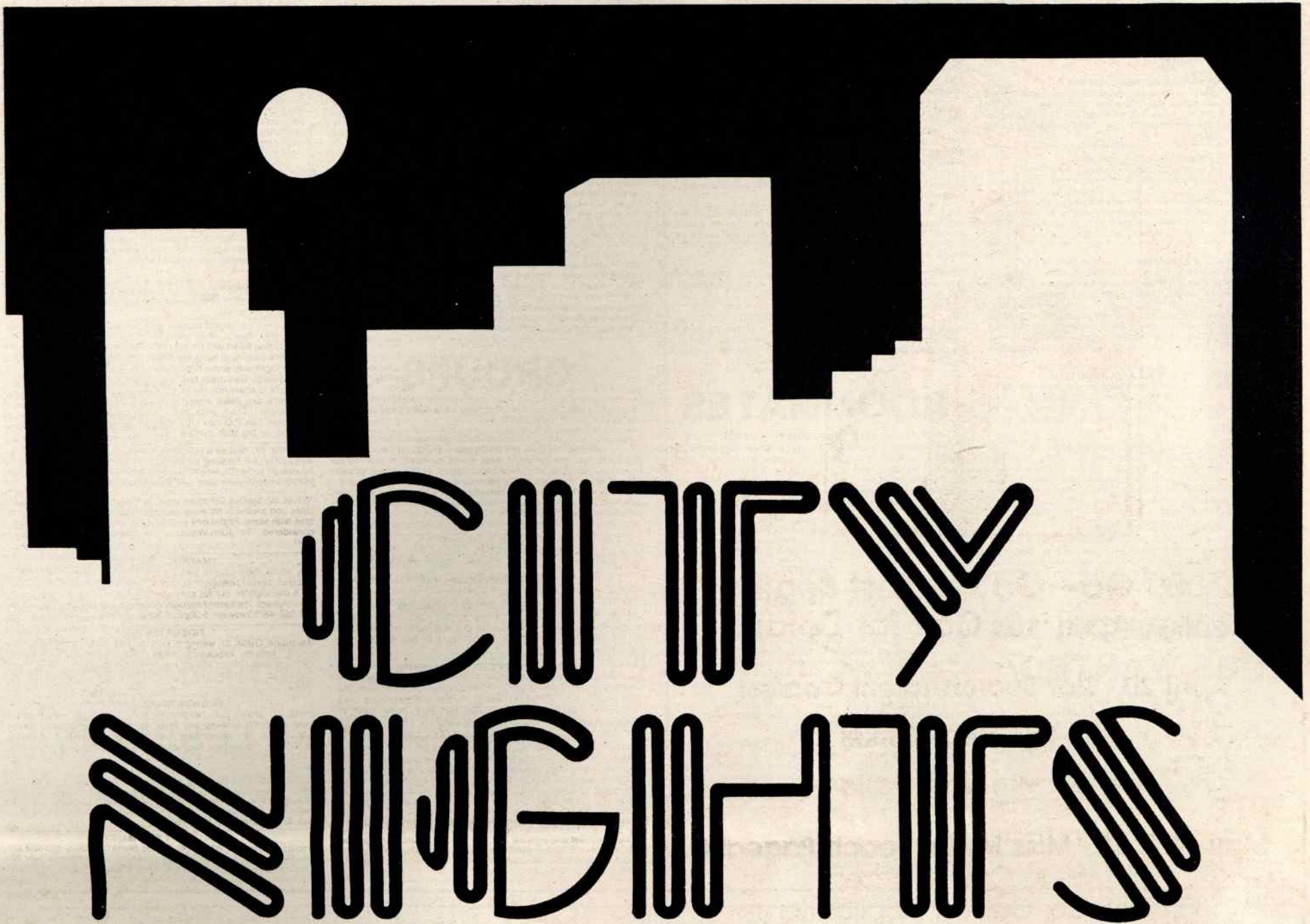
**PERSONALS:** In the following categories of non-commercial ads, there is a small charge as listed below:

**GAY MEN  
LESBIANS  
BISEXUALS  
MESSAGES**

Each ad runs twice (that is, in two consecutive issues). The fees are as follows:  
30 WORDS OR LESS: \$1.00  
30-60 WORDS: \$2.00  
60-90 WORDS: \$3.00  
90-120 WORDS: \$4.00  
120-150 WORDS: \$5.00

In other words, personal ads cost \$1.00 for each group of thirty words. Any word in the dictionary

**when the sun goes down . . .**



**Charlotte Discoteque  
and Entertainment Complex**

**1615 Elizabeth Avenue  
Charlotte, N.C. 28204**

**EASTER PARTY — APRIL 7**

**Talent Show — April 21**

\$75 First Prize/\$25 2nd Prize

**GRAND OPENING**

April 28! Special Guests!!







# 99<sup>44</sup>/<sub>100</sub>%

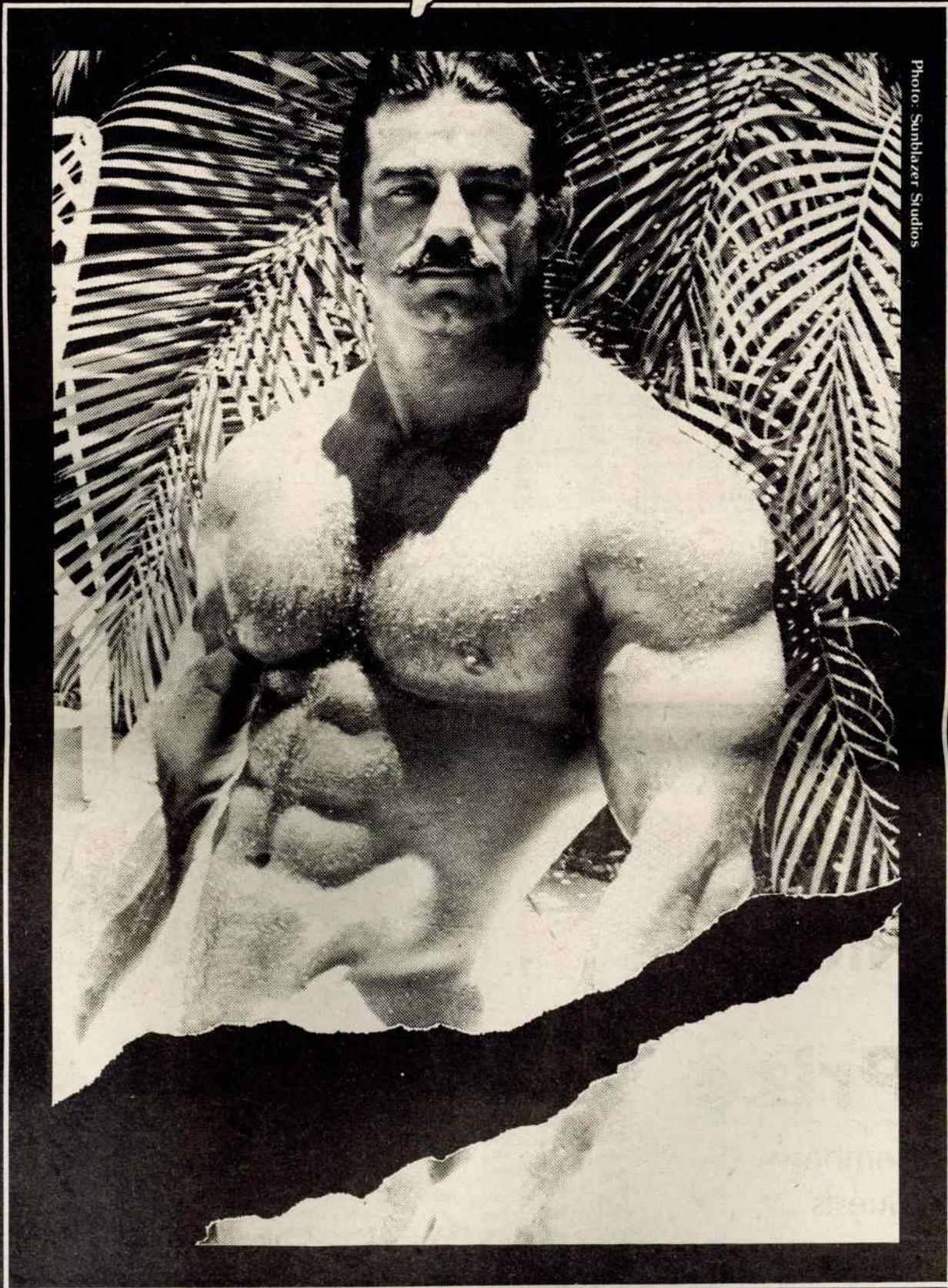


Photo: Sunblazer Studios

Pure!



The Capital Corral & Glitter Gulch Disco!  
313 West Hargett Street, Raleigh / 755-9599

A Private Club For Men.



Lesbian and Gay Health Project  
P.O. Box 11013  
Durham, North Carolina 27703

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