

## Playing Doctor Was So Delicious.

You remember: it was scary, tantalizing. We usually took off our clothes. Back then, we were so open to each other, so trusting. We gave each other such delight.

As we grew up, we closed a little year by year. Sex lost its innocence. Even worse, we learned not to be intimate — physically or emotionally.

Now there's a workshop that helps gay and bisexual men break through the barriers we've erected that block our ability to love ourselves and others unconditionally. In this safe and nurturing workshop, we learn again to openly enjoy sensuality, closeness, massage. We look at assertiveness, personal myths, empowerment.

Actually, we've had unconditional love in us all along. We just have to learn how to find it again. Please join us.

**Introduction** to CONNECTIONS workshops: Mondays, 7:30 p.m.

**Level 1** (no nudity) weekends: Aug. 9-10 or Sept. 13-14.

**Level 2** (some nudity) weekends: Sept. 26-27-28 or Oct. 24-25-26.

For price and registration details, call Clay Felts, 704/553-0735.

An Experience Of  
Intimacy For Men

**CONNECTIONS**

CONNECTIONS, 5901 Linford Dr.,  
Charlotte, N.C. 28210

To arrange a CONNECTIONS workshop in your area, please call or write.



## Parents Of Lesbian Find Love Pouring

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tempt. After the rejection gays face, it is no wonder. But this is a very touchy subject and we don't want to give parents something else to worry about unnecessarily.

**Q-Notes:** There is the adage that "knowledge is power." Do you feel that your group helps supply that missing information for parents?

**Carol:** We certainly hope so. For instance, we had a woman come to the group recently and she told me, "I have been to three different counselors and have gotten three different answers. I have been to three different members of the clergy and have gotten three different responses." What we can do in PFLAG is sit down with people going through the same thing and work out the hurts together. In addition to our regular meeting with speakers, we meet alone as parents and talk openly.

**Bob:** People are afraid. We had a woman ask us to shut the door to the meeting so that no one would see her in the room. We respected her wishes and the door stays shut now.

**Q-Notes:** Do you feel children should tell their parents that they are gay?

**Carol:** That's a difficult question. I think that as soon as they know they are gay, they should tell them. The gay person himself knows his own parents best. Therefore, he should know which one to approach first. But some parents don't want to know. The child has to be prepared to be kicked right out the door.

**Bob:** The time has to be right for the gay person. A friend has a child who is gay. We have known for years, but the time still hasn't been

right for their child to tell them. It may never be.

**Q-Notes:** Since gay marriages are not sanctioned as legal, do you see gay relationships as more precarious or unstable than heterosexual marriages?

**Bob:** I know they can last. I have a cousin who has been with his partner since 1969.

**Carol:** We just hope that our daughter can have someone to live with the rest of her life. Everyone wants that for their child. I don't think homosexual relationships are any different than heterosexual marriages.

**Q-Notes:** Do you feel comfortable with the gay community?

**Carol:** I can tell you one thing: I have never felt so loved and so welcomed by a group of people in my life. If everyone could just get to know them, they would feel the same way. One mother told me that she could never go to a party where gays would be attending. I told her that if she didn't know they were gay before she went, she would not know it when she left!

**Q-Notes:** Any final words of wisdom for the gay community?

**Carol:** I think their strength is in how they help each other. Our daughter put it this way, "We have to help ourselves because no one else will."

*After an afternoon with this remarkable couple, I doubt that is true. Through such groups as PFLAG and people like Carol and Bob, we can, and will, earn the love and respect we deserve. We owe these unsung heroes a debt of gratitude.*

# OLEEN'S

A Charlotte Landmark For 17 Years  
At 1831 South Boulevard ☐ 373-9604

## AUGUST SPECIALS

**WEDNESDAYS:** "C&W" Night. Country music all night long with 10 p.m. pool tournament (\$20 prize). House drinks \$1.50; schnapps 75 cents.

**THURSDAYS:** "New Wave" Night. Party with DJ Mark to new wave music all night. All the canned beer you want — \$5 members, \$6 guests.

**SUNDAYS:** Open At 3 p.m. with free pool until 8. Win one of Oleen's hand-made pound pooches. House drinks \$1.50; schnapps \$1.

## AUGUST'S BIG SHOWS

August 1 & 2: House Show

August 8: Veronica Lee

August 9: Crystal Chantel and Richard Scott

August 15 & 16: Christina Cantrell and Special Guest

August 22 & 23: From West Virginia — Dina Jackson and Monica James

August 30: Grand Prix with Oleen's house performers

### STARTING SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Talent Night with \$20 to each week's winner. After five weeks of competition, winners compete for \$100 cash prize. Call or see Lynn.

### WATCH FOR SEPTEMBER'S SPECIAL SHOW

Do you like Waylon Flowers and Madame? Catch Jerry with his upstart puppet Lola. Comedy at its best!