

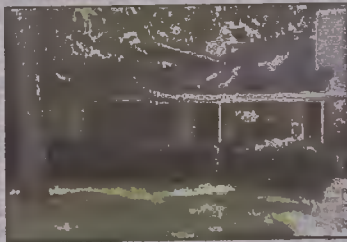
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Timeless Pride

A two-part history timeline of the LGBT Carolinas

by Matt Comer, Q-Notes staff

exQlusive

The history of the LGBT community is a tough subject to study. The community has been oppressed and maligned for so long, that much of the history is forgotten. In most schools, LGBT youth never learn about the legendary events and people who helped to shape the queer community, the entire nation and its political and social landscape.

The story of LGBT people is nothing less than a truly American story — it is a part of the fabric that makes this nation great. And, it shouldn't be forgotten.

From archived issues of *The Front Page*, *Q-Notes*, *Lambda* and other sources, *Q-Notes* staff compiled this two-part Carolinas LGBT history. Part One, below, traces our community's successes, setbacks, sorrows and joys from 1971 — two years after the Stonewall Riots — through 1986. Part Two, to be published in our July 11 print issue, will explore history from 1987 to the present.

1971 — North Carolina native Bob Bland moves back to his home state from New York and founds the Triangle Gay Alliance. He and others rent a home for the group, which acts as an early social, activism and support organization for LGBTs across the state.

Fall 1973 — Concerns about the growing organizing by the "Gay Liberation Movement" by students on University of North Carolina-Greensboro campus prompt the chancellor to seek advice on the matter from the UNC System president.

1974 — Phillip Pendleton and Jim Baxter, future *Front Page* editor and publisher, establish the Guilford Gay Alliance on the campus of Guilford College and an off-campus group, the Greensboro Gay Alternatives.

February 1974 — The Carolina Gay Association, the gay student group at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill is established. It is the first such group in North Carolina and among the oldest LGBT student organizations in the nation.

November 1974 — Students at the UNC-Greensboro organize a gay student organization unaffiliated with the school.

1975 — North Carolina's first gay newspaper, *The Free Press*, is published in Charlotte.

1975 — The first gay church in Charlotte is formed by a non-parochial Catholic priest, Friar Bruce Wood.

1976 — St. John's Metropolitan Community Church in Raleigh is founded.

April 1976 — The first annual Southeastern Gay Conference is held by UNC-Chapel Hill's Carolina Gay Association.

August 1976 — The first issue of *Lambda*, the newsletter of the Carolina Gay Association at UNC-Chapel Hill is published. It is the nation's oldest, student-run, LGBT publication.

1977 — A local chapter of Dignity, a gay Catholic organization, is formed. Later, the group morphs into the more inclusive Acceptance.

1978 — The Gay Academic Union, a social and professional organization for LGBTs in Greensboro is established.

October 1979 — The first meeting of the fully-University-affiliated Gay Student Union is held. Alumni and students protest the school's decision to recognize the group through virulently anti-gay letters to the university and letters to the editor in the daily Greensboro newspaper.

Oct. 25, 1979 — The first issue of *The Front Page* is published in Raleigh.

Dec. 9, 1979 — Thirty-five men and women meet in Raleigh for

the first-ever meeting of the Triangle Area Communication and Planning Committee.

December 1979 — A group of 28 lesbians meet in Winston-Salem and organize a gay support group.

May 1980 — The Raleigh chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) backs and present a resolution on gay rights at a statewide Democratic convention. The never presented.

March 31, 1980 — LGBT community and members of the Metropolitan Community Church participate in Falwell's "I Love America" rally in Columbia.

June 2, 1980 — The White House, a bar in Raleigh, is torched after receiving harassing phone calls days prior. The bar had only been in operation for a few days.

Fall 1980 — Students at Western Carolina University establish their Gay Students Union after they battle their student government organization funding.

1981 — Queen City Quoridians, a group of members and leaders in Charlotte, is established by King and lesbian activist Billie Stickell.

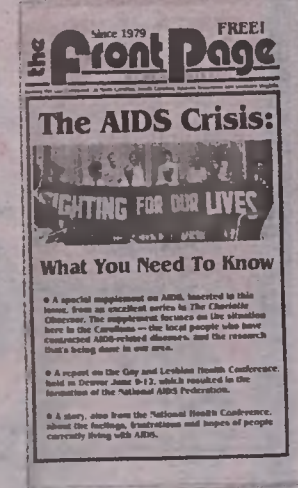
1981 — Metropolitan Community Church is founded in Charleston and Charlotte.

April 15, 1981 — One man is killed in a gay bashing at a popular gay student center on the Little River near Durham.

Another man is arrested and charged with murder.



The first issue of *The Front Page* published on Oct. 25, 1979.



The *Front Page* cover on July 1982.

Carolina, is held in Durham. The

Aug. 25, 1981 — Bob Hoy, an UNC State University, announces his candidacy for Council. He is later defeated in a runoff election by a cent of the vote.

September 1981 — Charlotte's first legal referral and social organization is formed.

Oct. 1, 1981 — The first issue of a women's publication is published in Durham.

Oct. 2, 1981 — Openly gay L. Chapel Hill Town Council. His political time and is seeking re-election. Both are unsuccessful in the primary.

Winter 1981 — Students at UNC-Columbia establish their Gay Student Union.

Sept. 28, 1982 — *The Front Page* primarily affecting gay men and women.

Known as GRID, or gay-related incidents, more than 500 cases had been reported.

Dec. 8, 1982 — USC's Gay Student

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