

# Editorial

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CGA celebrates its sixth birthday on Feb. 6, 1980. Since its inception, it has strived to establish a lesbian-gay consciousness in the Chapel Hill area. CGA has good reason to be proud of its identity and achievements. It has proven its permanence through flux, and will probably continue to be an influential gay student group throughout the '80's.

The Carolina Gay Association has successfully fulfilled many functions in the past years. Most significantly, it has and does support gay identity through the very fact of its existence. As a well-established gay organization, it serves as a model organization for newly-forming gay groups. Other equally important contributions include: the improvement of regional networks due to regional conference planning; social events as alternatives to gay bars; and the provision of information on a multiplicity of topics through outreach sessions, program meetings, conferences, awareness weeks, and Lambda.

The outreach program has had a positive impact by raising the consciousness on the UNC campus in the area of alternative lifestyles. Programs, conferences, and awareness weeks have given us a chance to learn more about gay people internationally, nationally, and locally, as well as to exchange ideas on topics relevant to gay lifestyles. Lambda, as the only gay newsletter in the area for years, has provided coverage of significant national, state, and local issues. It has reinforced verbal communication within the communities of lesbians and gay men through its listing of CGA and other local activities.

How has CGA changed since its birth? CGA membership was predominantly white and male until 1976, at which time women began to participate and assume leadership roles. This change has led to a sharing of responsibilities by both women and men. The way meetings are run has changed from Robert's Rules of Order to a decision-by-consensus method. The institution and revamping of activities and programs such as the Southeastern Conferences of Lesbians and Gay Men and the outreach program have led to improved abilities to coordinate programs. Regarding social and political awareness, CGA has reached beyond the gay community to encompass and support other oppressed groups such as physically challenged people and Third-World groups, which are also working towards human freedom.

We have witnessed the birth and activities of one of the more influential gay student groups in the Southeast. Where does CGA go from here and what problems does it face now and in the future? CGA will continue to fight for gay rights through its support of gay issues and to increase its awareness of the interconnectedness of oppressions. It will have to examine in more depth prejudices in its own ranks, specifically racism and classism. CGA also must broaden its scope, for example through the generation of new programs. Most importantly, CGA must guard against complacency. It must be the watchdog in the midst of growing national conservatism and the threat to civil liberties it might present. And finally, it must demand not just tolerance for gay women and men, but acceptance and respect for all oppressed groups.

Happy Birthday, CGA. We're proud of you!

## cga starts spring activities

The Feb. 18 CGA program meeting is tentatively planned as a facilitated discussion of leadership styles and small group process.

Candidates for UNC student body president and for editor of the Daily Tar Heel took part in a CGA forum on Feb. 4.

Plans have started for a prom to be held after spring break.

## Strokes to Lambda

Dear Lambda:

Thank you for your recent letter enclosing a copy of Lambda. Our

members enjoyed learning about recent activities and events in Chapel Hill and throughout North Carolina.

As an organization currently planning the first issue of its own newsletter, we deeply appreciate the inspiration your fine work has given us.

Wishing you the best as you move forward, we remain,

LAMBDA ALLIANCE OF  
WILLIAMSBURG

John Bradley King,  
Chairperson