

Housing Ad Policies Under Fire

A UNC-CH Housing Department policy has resulted in several complaints from gay people who are specifically seeking gay roommates.

In an alleged effort to fight discrimination, both the Housing Department and the Village Advocate make it a policy not to include racial, ethnic, religious, or gay/straight preferences in roommate listings they publish.

Their policies allow advertisers to state a preference for "marrieds only."

"'Marrieds only' would seem to discriminate against all single people, gay and straight, as well as gay couples, since gay marriage is illegal in North Carolina," said Dan Leonard, one of the people protesting the policies.

When asked whether the current policy is inconsistent, Dan Morrow, publisher of the Village Advocate, said, "I guess I would have to agree with that."

He said that the Advocate might

stop listing "marrieds only" preferences, since it does discriminate on grounds of sexual orientation.

"I suppose a policy of not putting in 'marrieds only' wouldn't hurt anybody," Morrow said. He proposed the designation "couples only" as being less discriminatory.

Dr. James Condie, director of the UNC Housing Department, was unavailable for comment, but a Housing spokesperson said that listing the preference "gay" would discriminate against straights. When asked if the Department's "marrieds only" category discriminated against gay people, the spokesperson had no reply.

Gay people who wish to advertise for gay roommates usually place classifieds in gay publications or include hints in ads they place in restricted listings.

For example, some hints have been, "Looking for Oscar Wilde/Pat Bond type to share . . ." and "Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas. Get the idea?"

Precinct Meetings Approve Rights

Resolutions endorsing gay rights were introduced and approved in four Democratic precinct meetings in Wake and Orange counties on March 13.

Three Raleigh precincts in Wake County endorsed resolutions calling on President Carter to issue an executive order banning discrimination in the federal government based on sexual orientation. They recommended passage of federal legislation insuring the civil rights of gay women and men.

One precinct in Orange County endorsed a resolution calling upon the North Carolina congressional delegation to support the National Gay Civil Rights bills currently pending in the House and Senate.

The resolutions were introduced by gay women and men working within North Carolina party politics to initiate discussion and support of gay rights.

Resolutions passed at the precinct meetings are later introduced at the county, district, state and national party conventions. "Supporters of gay rights see the passage of these resolutions as first steps towards the possible inclusion of a gay rights plank in the Democratic national party platform" said a gay spokesperson.

Delegates to the April 19 county conventions must be registered voters. Interested persons should contact their party precinct chairpersons.

"We urge all who support gay rights to become delegates to their party's county conventions," said a spokesperson from the Triangle Gay Communications and Planning Committee.

Lesbian Conducts Survey

Ronda Carlson, a lesbian, is conducting a national survey to determine how lesbians define themselves and their communities.

She recently completed a Master's degree in Social Work and this research is a continuation of a survey done for her thesis.

Carlson needs lesbians interested in completing a fairly long and specific questionnaire. It should take about 1½ hours to fill out.

The questionnaires and all correspondence will be kept strictly confidential. It is not necessary to be "out" in order to participate.

To request a questionnaire, write:
Ronda Carlson
3014 Millmar Drive
Dallas, TX 75228