

N.C. Lesbian & Gay Democrats Organize

A group of 20 Democratic Party activists from across the state have now met twice to form the Lesbian and Gay Democrats of North Carolina. They first convened on March 27 during the North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Conference in Chapel Hill, and attenders included precinct officials and delegates to past national Democratic conventions.

According to an article in the North Carolina Anvil (April 2, 1983), organizers intend to work within the North Carolina Democratic Party both on issues of interest to gay people and toward electing to office candidates with favorable positions on those issues.

In a followup meeting on April 17, organizers agreed to steer clear of endorsing candidates and to work to make sure that Democratic candidates adhere to the national Party platform which includes a prohibition of discrimination against lesbians and gay men. Organizers have already begun to lobby state Party officials to include a similar prohibition in their delegate selection plan for the 1983 Democratic National Convention.

The group has joined the National Coalition of Lesbian and Gay Democratic Clubs and will use a decentralized structure to encourage local activities across the state. Organizers hope soon to send speakers to various localities to obtain more members and to encourage people to get involved in Democratic Party politics in their locality.

People wanting more information can write to:

Lesbian & Gay Democrats of N.C.
P.O. Box 307
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

(AIR FORCE LESBIAN continued from p. 1)
Faith Seidenberg of Syracuse, who argued persuasively for an appeal. The U.S. Air Force Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., met on Oct. 15, 1982 to consider the appeal.

Seidenberg argued before the appellate court that Newak had little chance of receiving a fair trial in the Air Force community because of Smith's representation and biases. The judges, however, upheld the decision. In the opinion of Lt. Col. Edward Miller, if Newak had been tried on these identical charges in a civilian court, "it is likely that the court would not have had full capacity to recognize the complete impact of damage to the national security resulting from such conduct on the part of a commissioned officer.

Colman McCarthy of the Washington Post responded to Miller's conclusion by stating, "So that's it. A few puffs of pot in your living room, some no-no friendship with another woman, and before you can say Air Force Dense Pack, 'national security' is dealt a first-strike hit."

Seidenberg is bringing the case to a higher military appeals court that has three civilian judges. The National Lawyers Guild and other groups have joined the appeal, and a new case that involves basic constitutional questions is being developed. The appeal alleges that Newak's Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment rights to counsel were denied by her military counsel. In addition, all of the charges against her occurred off-base, and were charges which were not crimes in the jurisdiction where she resided. The Air Force used the fact that she could not be prosecuted in state courts as a rationale for prosecuting in the military.

Newak's case has to be reviewed in one more military court, which does not recognize the U.S. Constitution. Then she can file in Federal Court, which does recognize the application of the Constitution to the military.

The State Conference Legal Defense and Education Fund (P.O. Box 314, Syracuse, NY 13215) has been active in Newak's case and requests contributions to continue her litigation. They ask that people support Newak by writing directly to Secretary Verne Orr, Department of the Air Force, The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330. A copy of a sample letter of support written by the Fund is available in the CGA office.



*Come experience God's love
by worshiping with your
Gay & Lesbian
Brothers and Sisters.*

**St. John's Metropolitan
Community Church**

Reverend June Norris, Pastor Phone: 834-2611 Rap Group: 8:00 pm Thurs.	Sunday Worship: 3:00 pm Singspiration: 2:45 pm 814 Dixie Trail, Raleigh
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