

# LAMBDA

## Carolina Gay Association Newsletter

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### UNC-CH Refuses Scholarship for Gay Medical Students

Dr. Robert Ragland, a Florida psychiatrist who had a fellowship and was an instructor at UNC-CH from 1959-63, has offered \$500 to Duke University or the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a scholarship for a medical student "who has already openly and publicly made manifest a same gender affinity preference." Both universities have refused his offer.

Dr. Ragland first made the offer to Duke in December 1982, but it was declined after "cordial" correspondence. He initially wrote the President Terry Sanford who released his letter to the Dean of the Medical School and to others, including the student publication and the Duke Gay and Lesbian Alliance. A dialogue ensued between Sanford and Dr. Ragland, and the administration and the Alliance. The end result was that the administration accepted an alternative scholarship proposal worked out between the Alliance and themselves which is funded by people in the area in an amount several times that which Ragland offered.

When Duke declined the scholarship, they wrote, "It [the scholarship] has produced substantially increased respect

and understanding on both sides [administration and the gay community]. So you see, a gift can be a gift in many ways—even if the money doesn't actually change hands. I hope the collateral outcome pleases you as it does me. In the meantime, please accept my thanks for your thoughtfulness and consideration throughout our discussions."

The offer was then made to Dean Bondurant of the UNC School of Medicine on Feb. 28, 1983. At that time the scholarship stipulated that the recipient be male. Dean Bondurant returned Ragland's check with the objection that the scholarship was restricted to males.

Ragland in turn opened the scholarship to women but explained in a later letter to UNC President William Friday, "The original offer was meant to discriminate between men and women but not to discriminate against women.... The condition I was trying to correct was the enforced secrecy imposed upon certain segments of our society.... The requirement of secrecy is much more severely enforced against men as compared to women. The benefit deriving from an abrogation of this requirement is greater the more (see SCHOLARSHIP on page 2)

### Duke Student Government Revokes DGLA Charter

The article began, "Item: In Durham, Duke University Medical Center closes its AIDS clinic, orders its student chapter of the GAA disbanded, and becomes the first institution of higher education in the country to require sexual preference information of all incoming male students."

This fictitious item, written by Jerry Douglas and published in the November issue of Stallion magazine, was the writer's "worst scenario" vision of social reaction to AIDS.

In what seems a case of deja vu, part of Douglas' scenario is near reality: the Duke Gay and Lesbian Alliance (DGLA) has lost its charter. On Oct. 6, the student

government president revoked the charter after being advised that it violates North Carolina law.

Student groups at Duke University must have their charters approved annually by the Associated Students of Duke University (ASDU) in order to be eligible for funding and use of university facilities and equipment. The Duke Gay Alliance was first chartered in 1971. Its charter, which has been approved by ASDU each of the past eleven years, provides that one purpose of the group is "promoting a social setting for gays and lesbians in the University community."

The group reorganized and was chartered (see DGLA on page 7)