

Gay activists develop new political coalition

By Brandy Fisher
Staff Writer

N.C. gay activists are working to establish a new coalition designed to gain more political and national recognition for the homosexual community. The North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Political Action Agenda held a kickoff meeting Saturday for about 40 people in Chapel Hill. Among other goals, the group members said they planned to

lobby the N.C. General Assembly, to participate in national homosexual movements and to organize a state political convention, said Mandy Carter, the group's director.

"The days of quiet, in-the-closet movement are numbered," Carter said. Tammy Williams, a member of UNC-CH's Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association, said, "There are so, so many rights that gay people don't have that other citizens do; they deserve these rights."

The group will target the N.C. General Assembly, asking members to advocate gay rights legislation. By rally-

ing the homosexual community together, the group hopes to present a visible and united constituency to legislators, Carter said.

The group will specifically lobby for the repeal of the crimes against nature law, which outlaws all sexual positions other than the missionary position.

"This can only be done through the N.C. General Assembly," Carter said. "It will take changing hearts and minds."

Encouraging state participation in national gay and lesbian movements is another goal of the group, which will try to voice the specific concerns of the N.C. gay community.

The group hopes to solicit statewide interest for the April 1993 march for gay and lesbian rights as well as the 1994 celebration of the 25th anniversary of the police confrontation in New York City's Stonewall gay bar.

Additionally, the group will try to send a team to the 1994 Gay Games, which are held every four years like the Olympics and which draw a turnout of about 16,000 gay and lesbian athletes. The new political group originated from a political action committee formed during last year's Senate race. The race marked the first time lesbians and gays had come together statewide in a PAC, and many of the new group's members were part of this early committee.

"After the race, there were a lot of people involved, and they didn't want all that effort to end," said Mike Holland, a member of the CGLA.

Although the turnout for the first Chapel Hill meeting did not show statewide representation, the group is looking to extend membership on a grassroots level, Carter said.

The group also hopes for success in the planning of a first-time state political convention for lesbians and gays to be held August 17-19, 1992, at the Raleigh Civic Center.

Among the goals of the convention are the production of an exact legislative agenda and the formation of a political base for lesbians and gays running for political office. To draw a large turnout for the convention, the group must network and educate throughout the state's 100 counties.

The outreach will include college campuses, and the group plans to work through the CGLA at Chapel Hill.

Carter plans to address the CGLA 7:30 p.m. Monday in 226 Union. The next organized meeting will be Oct. 26 in Durham, the location of the group's headquarters.

"At the moment, we are brainstorming as to what we think we could possibly do," Holland said. "The organization is in such a state of infancy, it's hard to tell exactly what we'll do."

Williams said the formation of the group "may not help immediately, but it will help in the long run by getting more people involved."

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Campus Calendar

FRIDAY
8 a.m. Student Laser Printing is available until noon in the Phoenix office at 50 cents per copy.
11 a.m. Amnesty International will have a table in the Pit with information on the Student Action Group, the Women's Rights Campaign and Prisoners of Conscience.
Noon: The CGLA Lesbian Lunch will be in 218 Union.
1 p.m. The Juggling Club will meet in the Pit.
2 p.m. American Indian Law Student Association will meet in the Law School. Ben Bridges, tribal attorney for Cherokee, will speak about current issues in historical development of Indian law.
5 p.m. The Black Interdenominational Student Association (BISA) will hold a general body meeting in the Wesley Foundation behind the Carolina Inn.
IM-REC: Graft softball begins.
7 p.m. The International Christian Fellowship will meet in the Green Room of Craig to talk about the trip to Hanging Rock on Oct. 6.
IM-REC: The finals for Home Run derby will be held.
The Carolina Pep Band members need to be at Carmichael ready to play. Go Heels! Best Seat!
8 p.m. Experience "A Night in Africa" in the Cabaret with the N.C. Central dance group, "The Ebony Readers." Call 933-5835 for more information.
The Loreleis will present their first two-night cappella, "Wham Jam Thank You Ma'am," at Playmakers Theatre today and Saturday. Tickets are on sale all week in the Pit.

SATURDAY
10 a.m. Rape Action Project will hold an intensive workshop on rape and date rape in 208-209 Union.
1 p.m. IM-REC: The Rugby Club will play at Appalachian State.
7 p.m. The Carolina Pep Band members need to be ready to play at Carmichael for the volleyball game. Go Heels! Beat Furman!

SUNDAY
11 a.m. The Former chairman of Israel's Military Intelligence will speak on "Israel's Fateful Choices" at the Hillel Foundation, 210 W. Cameron Ave. Open to public.
12:30 p.m. IM-REC: The football club will play the Pack Club at home.
7 p.m. The Latter-day Saint Student Association will hold a session for those interested in the Mormon faith at the LDS Church, 400 Country Club Drive. Speakers will be former missionaries who are now UNC students.
1 p.m. IM-REC: Women's Soccer Club will play at Greensboro.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
The Collegiate Black Caucus is sponsoring a canned food drive. Please drop non-perishable food items in the box in the Black Cultural Center today.
The Black Cultural Center invites you to view Angela Medlin's "Background" in the BCC until Oct. 22.
Student Health Services is forming a Diabetes support group. Call 966-6562 for more information.
The 1992 Yackety Yack will be on sale from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. this week in the Pit.
The UNC Math Contest is available in the mathematics library, 365 Phillips.
Register to vote in the Pit between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. until Oct. 4. Bring a picture ID with your birth date and proof of local address (phone bill).
The CGLA will hold a general meeting Monday in 226 Union. The speaker will be gay and lesbian activist Mandy Carter.

GO HEELS!!!
Beat the HELL out of STATE!!!