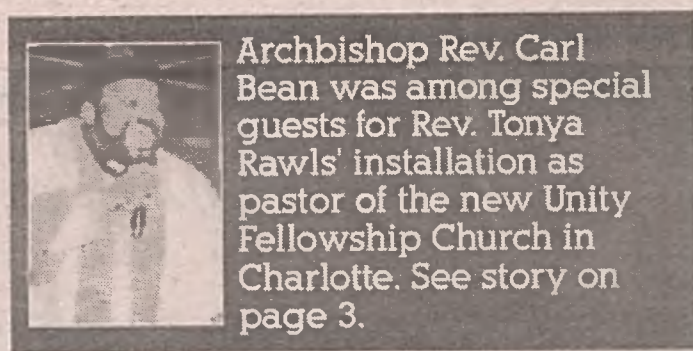


Q Notes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper



Archbishop Rev. Carl Bean was among special guests for Rev. Tonya Rawls' installation as pastor of the new Unity Fellowship Church in Charlotte. See story on page 3.

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Montana college shocked by recent attack on gay student

Many question administration's silence

by Lainey Millen
Q-Notes Staff

HELENA, MT — In the past, most students at Carroll College would probably say they have felt safe in the sanctity of their dorm rooms. But now, that sense of security has been rocked by an attack on a gay student who was severely beaten by an intruder. And the crime has sparked more than fear; the administration's handling of the attack has generated a wave of criticism, as well.

According to a report filed by the student (whose identity has not been released) with school authorities, the attack occurred on January 17 as the victim was returning from a shower around 1:30 am. He was struck in the head with a bottle and knocked unconscious, but his assailant apparently continued to beat him.

The victim received lacerations to his eye that required surgery and "Die Fag" was scrawled on his body. Because he feared for his life, he left the school — one semester away from completing his degree.

School administrators decided not to involve the Helena City Police Department or alert the general campus community. But once the victim left, the news was issued to great contro-

versy

On February 15, a forum was held to address concerns by the student body and faculty. Vice President of Student Affairs Bob Pastoor claimed responsibility for the handling of the incident when students asserted that they should have been informed about it as a security measure. Pastoor responded, "If an error has been made it has been mine."

Increasing campus security in the future was the key issue at the forum. Prior to the incident, the school maintained only a part-time student-staffed security desk located in each dorm. During the forum, Pastoor announced that three security guards would be hired to ensure safety on a full-time basis, and that a campus-wide security audit would be conducted.

The Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires that schools keep and publish on-campus crime statistics.

During that time, Carroll's security record is unblemished except for alcohol and drug possession violations. But because these reports are



The quiet facade of Carroll's campus belies the fear and anger over anti-gay assault.

based on police arrest records and not incidents handled by the school, students charged that they are an inaccurate measure of campus safety.

Controlled-substance crimes compose most of the 150-200 disciplinary actions taken by Carroll's administration. More recently, rapes and acquaintance rapes topped the list of the most violent crimes. He further commented that with exception of the more severe cases,

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TCW gives funds totalling 25% of budget back to United Way

by Will Elliott
Special to Q-Notes

RALEIGH, NC — Triangle Community Works (TCW) a nonprofit organization serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities in the Research Triangle area, announced in January it would return donations it has received from the Triangle United Way. The action represents TCW's opposition to Triangle United Way's decision to continue providing funds to the Boy Scouts despite their discriminatory policies against gays.

"It would be hypocritical for TCW to accept money from the same organization that funds discrimination against us, even though it means a significant cut in our funding," said Wayne Wilson, TCW chairperson.

TCW is a coalition of individuals, programs, projects and organizations whose aim is to foster a safe, healthy and life-affirming environment for members of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and allies.

TCW programs include the Gay and Lesbian Helpline, Resource Library, Health Provider Resource Project, and Community Resource Guide. Other organizations affiliated with TCW include GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Educators Network), Lesbian Health Resource Center, N.C. Pride, PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and NCBiNet.

At the heart of the issue is the Triangle United Way's membership policies which allow for discrimination based on sexual orientation. Currently, organizations are only required to meet the minimum standards tier for

"It would be hypocritical ... to accept money from the same organization that funds discrimination against us."

membership — a level that excludes rules regarding sexual orientation anti-discrimination.

The Triangle United Way has chosen to fund the Boy Scouts of America despite their discriminatory policies against gay participants, which were upheld by the US Supreme court in June (*Boy Scouts of America, et. al., vs. Dale*). TCW believes that discrimination based on sexual orientation is no different than discrimination based on race, sex or religious affiliation.

"Our hope in returning the funds is that we might be able to educate Triangle United Way on the importance of inclusion and that discrimination, of any form, is not acceptable in our community. TCW invites Triangle United Way as well as other organizations to join us in saying we won't accept any discrimination, especially where our young people are concerned," explained Wilson. ▼

[People interested in donating to TCW can do so directly. Donations may be given through their web site or by mail. For more information, visit the TCW web site at www.tcworks.org or call the local Gay & Lesbian Helpline at 919-821-0055.]

Rep. Nadler reintroduces GLBT immigration bill

by April Herms
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC — United States Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) gave GLBT bi-national couples a Valentine's Day present by reintroducing in Congress the Permanent Partners Immigration Act (PPIA) on February 14. A coalition of human- and gay-rights organizations joined Nadler at a press conference for the introduction of the bill.

PPIA would allow United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to sponsor their permanent partners for residence in the United States, granting same-sex couples all the privileges that currently accrue to legal spouses under federal immigration law.

First introduced in February of 2000, the



PPIA garnered nearly 60 co-sponsors in its first year, as well as the support of the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force (LGIRTF),

the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and many other human rights groups.

On February 16, openly gay Representative Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) signed on as the bill's first

Republican co-sponsor. "A permanent partner is a permanent partner, period. No one in government should be empowered to make distinctions between the propriety of gay/lesbian or heterosexual unions." Kolbe stated when asked to comment on his co-sponsorship. "It is a matter of simple fairness that INS apply the same standards to all Americans."

US immigration is largely based on the principle of family unification, which allows US citizens and legal permanent residents to sponsor their spouses and other family members for immigration purposes. Approximately 75 percent of the one million green cards or immigrant visas issued each year go to family members of US citizens and permanent residents.

See NADLER on page 17

NC Pride sets fall date, dual venue for PrideFest 2001

For the first time, the Pride Committee of North Carolina has chosen two cities for North Carolina's 16th Annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Pride Parade and Festival. North Carolina PrideFest 2001 will consist of activities in both Durham and Raleigh. The Parade will be on Main Street in Durham, and the Day Festival on the East Campus of Duke University in Durham. The Night Festival will be in Raleigh. Other cities, including Chapel Hill, will host pre-Pride events. Additional participation and help from neighboring Pride organizations and groups in the cities of Atlanta and Washington, DC, is also being planned, according to a February 17 announcement from The Pride Committee of North Carolina, Inc.

Another exciting development for the festival is the change of date. Rather than the usual June celebration, PrideFest 2001 will be held

September 29. The Pride Committee hopes to allow greater participation by the thousands of GLBT students and student organizations attending North Carolina colleges and universities by moving events to September. In addition, concerns with interrupting summer vacation plans, as well as long exposure to June's high heat and humidity by parade marchers were other factors that influenced the Pride committee's decision. Weather in September is expected to be in the mid-seventies and with a less likely chance of rain. Surveys of past Pride participants indicate that a large majority favored the change of date into the autumn of the year. The trend throughout the South is to move these events to either the spring or autumn months.

The theme for this year's celebration, "Embrace Diversity," is the International Pride theme chosen by the Pride Committee at last year's conference of the International Association of Les-

bian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Coordinators. The Pride Committee of North Carolina is a proud member of InterPride, which represents over 60 cities and organizations from 22 countries around the world. In keeping with the theme, the committee intends to reach out to other minority communities.

A complete schedule of events will be posted on the website www.ncpride.org as decided, along with information on sponsorship, vendors and volunteers. June will remain Pride Month with a planned series of events and fundraisers around the State. The Pride committee has issued a general call for participation from all of the cities of North Carolina from Wilmington to Asheville. If you are interested in Pride and are willing to volunteer or organize a small group from your own city please contact the committee at info@ncpride.org or at PO Box 466, Durham, North Carolina 27702. ▼

The latest Q-Poll results

Which gay/lesbian symbol is your favorite?

Rainbow Flag 36% Pink Triangle 18% Lambda 9% Leather Flag 18%
Ruby Slippers 9% Chain Saw 0 We need a new one 9%

To participate in our new Q-Poll, access www.q-notes.com