



**NC PrideFest 2002  
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## NC PrideFest 2002 best yet

DURHAM/ RALEIGH NC — Finally, a Pride parade without ponchos!

The parade was twice the size of last year's. And we were true "rainbow coalition" under rainbow flags, banners, posters, stickers and tatoos — worn, waved, carried, painted and pasted.

The Pride Fest committee designed and hosted a memorable, flawless event.

This year's dignitaries included Mayor William Bell, Senator Ellie Kinnaird, Jimmy Creech, Chapel Hill Council Mark Kleinschmidt, Raleigh City Council Janet Cowell, NC Representative Verla Insko, Mexican Consulate Official, Bo Dean of Out Wilmington, Wesley Mancini parade marshal and Sharon Thompson, Keynote

Speaker.

Public servants back domestic partnership benefits, family protections and adoption rights. They promised to do their part — if we do ours. *Vote. Vote. Vote.*

The musical entertainment was superb. Every LGBT and LGBT= affirming group was represented and there were plenty of vendors and artists.

Durham hosted the daytime festivities. After the parade, everyone moved on to Raleigh for a night of revelry and dancing. Sunday offered services and brunch.

Citizens and cities of Durham, Raleigh and Chapel Hill, thank you for the warm welcome and enthusiastic support.

## NC Dyke March in Chapel Hill begins a proud tradition

*The first Annual NC Dyke March took place in Chapel Hill on the tenth anniversary of the first national Dyke march and during North Carolina Pride Fest Weekend*

by Leah D. Sepsenwol

NC PrideFest the day before was orderly, organized, and recognized by local and regional government officials; politicians and national/regional LGBT organizations. It was easy and popular to support the previously unacceptable multitude smiling, sipping and supping, seated before them.

The NC Dyke March was promoted as the antithesis to the "corporate culture" of gay pride parades. Nationally, the Dyke Marches have been loud — whistles and noisemakers abound to attract attention — with edgy signs and men who were asked to support from the sidelines while women-empowered took to the streets. No comfort zone or safety net here.

And from my own jaded vantage point, I envisioned a bunch of bold, bare-breasted community peripherals with big mouths spouting old adages and diatribe.

Anyway, aren't we all getting along these days? Isn't this gay-lesbian rope pull over yet?

see MARCH on 8

## Team Alliance hits road for AIDS



RALEIGH / WASHINGTON, DC — Several weeks ago, Justin Leach — Public Relations Director of Alliance of AIDS Services — Carolina, alluded to an upcoming major announcement of a new alliance which will provide major funding for this North Carolina AIDS/HIV outreach.

While he could not divulge the information, he was very excited at the

prospects. And now we know: AAS-Carolina is one of three groups in three cities who will benefit from the newly-formed Washington DC group, Tour de Friends.

Tour de Friends, Inc., a new nonprofit organization created by Food & Friends officially opened its doors in late September,

see ALLIANCE on 21

## Cut-A-Thon has raised over \$100K



One of Cut-A-Thon's original 5 organizers, Jack Ward of Spa South demonstrates his technique

GASTONIA — The 10th Anniversary of the Grooming for Life Cut-A-Thon took place at Gaston Mall in Gastonia.

In ten years, the Cut-A-Thon has raised over \$100,000 for the Patrick Fund, an emergency assistance program for HIV positive adults and children. This year alone, The Cut-A-Thon, its auction and raffle raised over \$12,700. The event is sponsored by the Gaston Cosmetology Association and the AIDS Council of Gaston County.

Five of the hairdressers involved in organizing the very first event continue to participate annually: Glenda Carpenter, Doris Partlow, Karen Raily, Patsy Walters and Jack Ward. Disturbing calls and threatening notes were aimed at the organizers of that original Cut-A-Thon in 1992. Fortunately, not only has the prognosis for those newly diagnosed

see CUT-A-THON on 20



Brave new world. We're here ...