

The Front Page: 26 years of accomplishment

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in North Carolina stories about local and national news and arts and entertainment.

For Baxter, there have been a number of moments that have stood out in the history of the paper and the state's LGBT community.

"I think the first time we [covered] a statewide gay Pride march was the most memorable milestone for me. I knew then that we, as a community, had really turned a corner.

"Back in the very early days, there wasn't really much local news to cover and almost nobody to interview," Baxter recalls. "I did try to do something special around the time of year when other areas were celebrating Pride, even if we weren't doing anything here. One year it was an article about the *Myrtle Beach Bitch*, one of the earliest gay publications in the

area, and another year it was the story of



Black Mountain College, a very liberal arts and education experiment that took place in North Carolina. The school was remarkable and yet, for all its liberality, was really undone by its own homophobia. Historian Martin Duberman had published a book about it in the mid-seventies, and he agreed to be interviewed."

As for the final years of the publication, Baxter seems matter-of-fact about the eventual merger with *Q-Notes*.

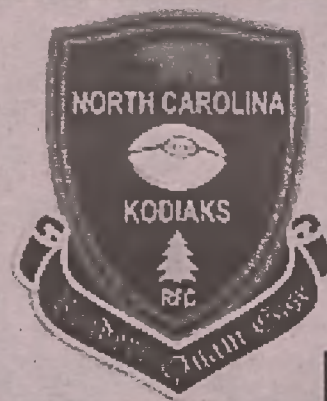
"I think that *The Front Page's* era really ended before this, in the late 1980s or early 1990s, actually. Certainly those were the peak years for the paper in terms of size and quality of content."

A committed community activist to the core — it's easy to discern his reason for the longtime dedication to *The Front Page* when he adds a few final

thoughts about the early days.

"When I started the paper, I thought of it as a community service that would, hopefully, pay its own way and not take away scarce fundraising dollars that were needed elsewhere," he recalls. "That was certainly the only possible model for publishing a newspaper here, back when I started." ▼

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JIM BAXTER AND THE FRONT PAGE!

Thank you for bringing 26 years of great news coverage to the Carolinas' LGBT community.



Carolinas Black Pride Movement (North and South Carolina)