

with what you'd like to bring. Note: if you have food limitations, be sure to include that information so others are aware of these concerns.

**WESTERN**

**Prayer week held**

HICKORY — The 20th Annual Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS was held from March 1-7.

The observance was a collaborative effort between ALFA, formerly known as AIDS Leadership Foothills-Area Alliance, Inc., and several organizations in the Unifour counties. This national mobilization effort was designed to encourage and mobilize faith-based organizations to get involved locally and across the U.S. and its territories.

Special events such as free HIV testing, prayer breakfasts, town hall meetings, memorial services, seminars, prayer vigils and simple distribution of information took place across the country.

HIV/AIDS continues to devastate African-American communities. While African-Americans represent approximately 13 percent of the U.S. population, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that the group accounts for almost half (49 percent) of the nation's AIDS cases. According to State Health Facts (statehealthfacts.org) 2007 Report, North Carolina had a total of 14,915 cumulative HIV/AIDS cases with 9,962 of them being in the African-American community. It also stated that there were 945 new HIV/AIDS cases in North Carolina last year and of that, 657 were African-American.

Schedule:  
March 2 — Morning Star Baptist Church held

a special worship service that included free HIV testing afterwards.

March 6 — Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Lenoir held a special worship service that includes free HIV testing prior to the service. March 8 at 4 p.m., Shiloh A.M.E. Zion, 1115 Salisbury Rd., Statesville, will hold a gospel concert.

March 14 at 10 a.m., a health fair will be held at Catawba Elementary School, 5415 Hudson Chapel Rd. in Catawba.

These events are open to the public, regardless of race or ethnicity. The public is encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Cecilio Orta at 800-473-1447, email prevention@alfainfo.org or visit ALFA's new website at www.alfainfo.org.

**STATEWIDE**

**Calling all intern wannabes!**

RALEIGH — Equality NC (ENC) is seeking several summer and fall interns. This is a great opportunity to become involved and gain experience with North Carolina's statewide LGBT-activist nonprofit.

ENC wants outstanding students who are committed to winning equal rights and justice for LGBT North Carolinians. Interns will gain valuable experience working for a non-profit advocacy organization. Stipends are not available, but ENC will work with university officials to aid in securing course credit.

These are the intern spots that need to be filled: Database; Advocacy; Development; Communications; Conference Planning; Volunteer Management/Outreach; and Transgender Issues.

For a full description of each internship and to learn how to apply, visit equalitync.org.

**Task force launched**

RALEIGH — The Transgender Policy Task Force of ENC met for the first time during the week of Feb. 23. The task force consists of transgender/gender nonconforming identified individuals and allies from around the state who are interested in advocacy. The group grew out of the Transgender Policy Summit that convened last fall during the weekend of the Equality NC Conference and will work to help ENC better address the needs of the transgender community and engage transgender North Carolinians in its work.

Participants of the policy summit along with Ian Palmquist, executive director of ENC, and Stephen Wiseman, intern, worked to develop the task force.

The essential job of the task force is to serve as a means to advise the executive director, staff and board of ENC on policy issues affecting the transgender community. During the first meeting participants brainstormed on ideas of what they would like the Task Force to accomplish and how best to address the needs of the transgender/gender nonconforming community in North Carolina.

Participants spoke about many issues including the need for greater visibility of the community in advocacy work, how to forge connections with ENC, identifying existing policies within the state that affect the transgender community and building a more unified LGBT movement.

"The creation of this task force is an important part of Equality NC's commitment to win-

ning policy victories that meet the needs of the entire LGBT community," Palmquist said. "This is an incredibly talented, savvy group that will help us address the needs of transgender individuals through advocacy and policy and build a state of equality in North Carolina."

The task force will work during the upcoming month to increase participation from trans-identified individuals at the Equality NC Day of Action on March 24. It is increasingly important for legislators to hear from people in their community who identify as transgender and the task force hopes to work to address that need.

**Pack it up, it's camp time!**

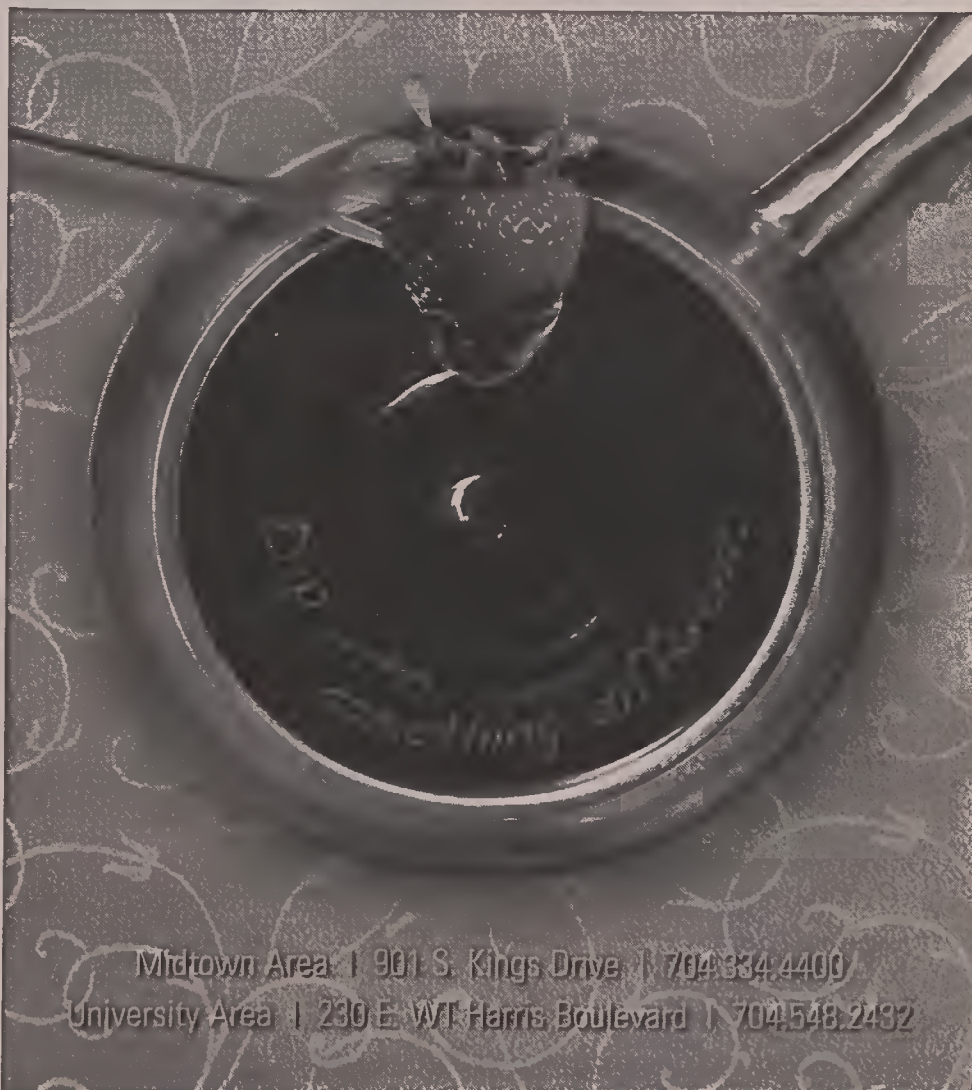
STATEWIDE — The LGBT & Ally Summer Leadership Camp will be held from July 21-26 at Towson University's Glen Complex in Maryland.

The five-day camp experience works to develop stronger undergraduate student leaders and safer, more LGBT-friendly colleges and universities. Participants have the opportunity to learn valuable campus organizing skills, coalition building and strategies for creating change at colleges and universities. Space is limited, so register early. Deadline for Happy Camper rates is April 17.

Enjoy this growth opportunity as you learn how to access premiere faculty and national leaders in social justice, human rights and civil rights advocacy. All this can be achieved in an environment inclusive of identity/expression and sexual orientation.

To register or for more information, visit [www.campuspride.org](http://www.campuspride.org).

**info:** Announce your community event in NC News Notes. email: [editor@q-notes.com](mailto:editor@q-notes.com).



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