

PRESIDENTIAL NOTES

-- Howard Fradkin

Welcome to our second issue of LAMBDA! We hope you'll enjoy reading this issue and will benefit from the information we're passing onto you.

I'm really excited about the year ahead. We've had a lot of new people join us already, and I'm hopeful to reach many more, too.

The evening of October 1 marked one of our most successful dances in a long time. Over 50 men and women danced the night away 'til 1:30 AM in the Craige coffeehouse. The publicity for the dance was greatly aided by a front page DAILY TAR HEEL picture of our side of the cube announcing the "Maximum Sex" Dance!

"Does God Love Gays?" was the topic for our September regular meeting, attended by about 30 inquisitive folks. Two ministers from the area, Tom Palko (Newman Foundation) and Bob Phillips (Baptist Campus Ministry), greatly added to the discussion by providing support, information and their interpretations. Several members of the newly formed St. John's Metropolitan Community Church of Raleigh (Study Group) spoke of the importance of having a separate church for gays at the present time. Others contended that it was more important to try to stay active in your own church/synagogue in order to help bring changes in church policy.

Gays have been portrayed a lot lately on the tube. One show, "Family," was aired to coincide with one of our weekly Tuesday night Gay Awareness Rap Sessions (Friends Meeting House, 9-11 PM, every Tuesday). About 20 of us watched the very realistic and positive presentation of a gay friend of the "Family" come out to them and his dad. Reactions ranged from homophobia (with the "Family's" teenage son, the "best friend") to warm support and love from the parents and little sister. Unfortunately, his dad turned away from him at a time when he most needed paternal support. It was good to see "Zeke," the gay friend, portrayed as a muscular, basketball-playing teenager rather than the typical limp-wristed fellow the media has presented before.

In addition to the above events, we also have two consciousness raising groups in full swing, led by Dan Leonard and Allen Gray. I feel these CR groups are one of the most important ways we provide support to newcomers as well as anyone else who has been out but not actively involved.

At our first meeting of the year we reviewed "Boys Beware," a short film produced by one of the California police departments to warn little boys about the "sick" men that may try to pick them up at the basketball court or public bathroom. The film (unfortunately) is available for free viewing from the North Carolina state public library collection.

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