

LATEST CONFERENCE NEWS

We are hoping to have the following speakers at the 2nd Annual Southeastern Gay Conference. Arrangements are still being finalized.

Elaine Noble	Jane O'Leary
Rita Mae Brown	Vito Russo
Karla Jay	Alan Young
*William Burroughs	*Peter Orlofsky
*Alan Ginsberg	(*indicates possible speakers)

Conference co-ordinators are Hoagy Gaskins and Karen Peterson. The next planning meeting will be Saturday, JANUARY 8th, 1977, from 1-4 PM in Manning Hall, Room 214.



*** ARE THEY REALLY WORTH IT? ***

by Tom Carr

Every once in a while I have an experience that causes me to re-examine my commitment to gay activism. Such feelings were aroused on Sunday, December 5 at the NATIONAL TEA DANCE at the Capital Corral in Raleigh. As you may already know, the Tea Dance is a nationwide fundraiser for the NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE. At participating bars around the country patrons give a \$2 donation that entitles them to dance to superlative disco music (shipped directly from NYC) AND at the same time support the struggle for gay rights. Local organizations (i.e., CGA) help publicize the event and thus earn a small slice of the pie.

One of the highlights of the evening was becoming acquainted with Wayne Bardy, the originator and driving force behind the TEA DANCE. He's currently touring the country to promote the concept and offer his advice on how to make the TEA DANCE a success for everyone involved.

Before I go any further, let me say that the overwhelming majority of the people there realized the great importance of making a small contribution to the drive for gay equality. Some made the contribution a bit grudgingly, but these were more than balanced by the enlightened persons who gave enthusiastically. These people are to be commended and very gratefully thanked for their support.

What angered me though was the small group of people (certainly not more than 10) who for one reason or another refused to make any donation. I'm by no means including in this group those who genuinely could not afford to give. My full disgust is aimed at some persons that I recognized from numerous Saturday nights at other bars; the same people that mechanically and unquestioningly pay their \$2 cover charge every Saturday but refused to give any money at all to the cause of gay rights. What can be said about someone like that? Do they exist in a vacuum with no political awareness whatsoever?

I began my tirade with the question, "Are they really worth it?" My answer is a reluctant (a very reluctant) yes. I can look back on the evening and say that it was very successful. I am glad that I helped and I am looking forward to the next TEA DANCE on December 19th.