

LAMBDA

Carolina Gay Association Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 3

June 1981

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"Our Day Out"

Lesbian/Gay Pride March Planned for Durham

An ad hoc committee of lesbian and gay activists from the Triangle Area are planning a gay pride march in downtown Durham on Saturday, June 27.

Plans include a rally, march, and celebration during the daytime and free admission for march participants to 42nd Street on Saturday night. Other activities include a CGA dance, an art gallery open house, and a picnic.

March planners are calling the activities "Our Day Out: A March and Celebration of Lesbian and Gay Rights" and say they are timed to commemorate the June 2, 1969, police raid on The Stonewall Inn; the resulting Stonewall riots began the modern day gay liberation movement.

Organizers say the Durham events are "to protest anti-gay violence, to celebrate lesbian and gay culture, to break stereotypes of us, and to let us feel our strength." Planners are seeking endorsements of the events from various groups to widen participation in the march. A spokesperson said such endorsements "will help us find our support from other folks."

The Durham march will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a rally of singing and chants at Five Points (intersection of Main and Chapel Hill Streets) in downtown Durham.

The march will proceed up Chapel Hill Street, stopping at the court house where the Little River incident will be commemorated. Marchers will then follow Main Street back to Five Points, where a celebration with gay singers, short speeches, and an "open mike" will take place.

An afternoon picnic will follow at the West Point on the Eno park at about 3:00 p.m. There will also be folkdancing, "new games," and music.

Special gay pride buttons will be sold during the day, and access for the handicapped is being planned. Signing for the hearing impaired will be provided.

Forty-Second Street, the only gay bar in Durham, will open its doors Saturday night with free admission to people wearing march buttons.

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Little River is Scene of Queerbashing

On April 12, two men carrying guns and clubs attacked four sunbathers at the Little River north of Durham. The Little River is a scenic and popular sunbathing and picnicing spot for gays and non-gays.

One of the victims, Ronald Antonevich of Mebane, sustained critical injuries to his head and a kidney. The attackers beat him with a club and then held his head under water. Antonevich died in Chapel Hill on April 16. He was married and the father of one child.

Three other men were beaten, and two of them robbed. The three were treated for injuries at a Durham hospital and released.

The assailants reportedly shouted to sunbathers, "We're going to beat some faggots."

Mark DeMarais and Darrel Jones were leaving the area when they were stopped by the attackers. DeMarais said, "They told us we were dead." Jones was injured when the men swung at his head but hit his arm and wrist. DeMarais and Jones escaped when they threw a knapsack at their attackers.

Earlier, J. Michael Penny had been stopped by the two assailants. When he turned away from them to leave, one of the men struck him across the face with a club. Penny lost several teeth, but staggered to his car without assistance. He said several other men watched the incident without helping him.

(LITTLE RIVER, cont. p. 2)