

(MARCE, cont. from p. 1)

The Carolina Gay Association is tentatively planning a dance and social in Chapel Hill on the evening of June 26. The site has not been finalized at publication time, but people can watch for local publicity or call the CGA contact number (929-4997) nearer the date.

The Art Loft, a gallery above the Plaza Restaurant also at Five Points in Durham, will be displaying works by lesbian and gay artists on June 27. The gallery is located at 104 1/2 Morris Street and will be open throughout the day. People wishing to display their works are encouraged to call Allan Troxler at 688-8167 (day phone) before June 15.

Planning for the gay pride activities began shortly after the beatings at the Little River. At community meetings -- some with an attendance of 70 people -- people expressed interest in events "to take back the River as gay space," to raise funds to aid the family of the murdered man, to publicly declare our presence in the Triangle Area, and to celebrate gay pride.

Consideration was given to the fragile ecology of the Little River area, and it was decided not to hold a large public event there.

In planning a downtown event, march planners had to satisfy City requirements of a community survey by informing businesspeople in the area about the

march. After the original survey had been completed, planners were told they had to obtain the signatures of the businesspeople.

The City has also said organizers must purchase insurance against property damage. The question of risk category is as yet undecided. Debbie Swanner, a march organizer, said, "If we get put into a high risk category, we'll definitely contest it legally."

In meetings with Durham Mayor Rodenhizer and other city officials, march organizers asked about the process for obtaining a gay rights ordinance. Debbie Swanner said, "Their reply was, 'This isn't Chapel Hill.'" Organizers did not ask the mayor to declare June 27 lesbian and gay pride day.

"Our Day Out" is being co-sponsored by the Triangle Area Lesbian Feminists, Triangle Area Gay Scientists, State Gay Community, Duke Gay Alliance, the Carolina Gay Association and other gay and non-gay groups.

March planners are estimating that "Our Day Out" will cost \$500, and they are soliciting contributions from individuals and businesses. Checks should be drawn to "Our South," earmarked for the march, and mailed to:

Our South
Post Office Box 1832
Durham, N.C. 27702

(LITTLE RIVER, cont. from p. 1)

The two attackers then went down stream where Antonevich was sitting alone on a rock in the middle of the shallow river. They ordered him across the river, and when he told them he was handicapped they attacked him. In the past, Antonevich had undergone heart surgery.

The two attackers, both residents of Durham, have been arrested and charged with murder. Two women who were with them at the time of the incident have been charged with robbery. All four have been released on bail.

In a hearing for the two men, Judge Karen Kalloway found probable cause for a charge of second degree murder. District Attorney Dan Edwards, Jr. has indicated he will press for convictions on charges of first degree murder. Jury selection will likely begin in early July.

Community reaction to the incident was swift and strong. Newspaper, radio and television coverage of the incident was comprehensive. The **Durham Morning Herald** called for "severe punishment" in a lead editorial on April 16.

"The Act evokes revulsion. It was nauseating, contemptible behavior -- beyond the pale of human decency," wrote the **Herald**.

On the Friday following the incident, 125 protestors gathered for a noontime vigil in front of the Durham County Judicial Building. The vigil was called on 24-hours notice through a telephone tree organized by a wide range of community groups.

In a collectively-written leaflet for the vigil, the Little River incident was put into a national context, "At a time when Congress is diverting the federal budget towards weapons wildly, and crying out for the simple-minded retribution of capital punishment, hostility becomes almost patriotic. But we say to Sunday's assailants

-- and to others who might be inspired to similar acts -- that it is not acceptable to kill people because they are gay. It is not acceptable to kill people at all."

The following Friday, April 24, 150 people gathered in Chapel Hill on the University of North Carolina campus for a CGA-sponsored rally, candlelight march and vigil. Marchers listened to several lesbian and gay speakers, including Michael Penny, one of the victims.

Penny said he pleaded with his assailants, "Please don't hit me anymore. But these people did not seem to be conscious that I was flesh, that I had family, friends, feelings."

Marchers then began chants of "No more gay bashing," and singing "We Shall Not Be Moved," as they lit candles. After marching across campus, protestors circled for a silent vigil which ended with spontaneous singing by various individuals and by the group.

Ongoing activities had been organized by a group of representatives from gay and non-gay organizations across the Triangle Area. Court-watching and a telephone tree covering the area have been instituted.

The court watchers have kept in close touch with the District Attorney but have expressed reservations about the possibility of a death sentence for the convicted.

Carl Wittman said many of those at the Durham vigil are opposed to the death penalty. He said that many persons felt that the attackers should be "taken off the stret."

People wanting to stay in touch with the network of people working on the Little River incident may call:

Chapel Hill -- Jim at 942-1416
Durham -- Bob or Dan at
688-3791
Raleigh -- Wayne at 828-3535