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others drew up the bylaws and filled out the appropriate forms, obtained three advisors (Seymour Halleck, Barry Nakell, and Betty Cogswell), and submitted all this material to the Office of Campus Life. Much to our surprise, the group was recognized by the administration without hassles--just the usual bureaucratic slowness. (I think the administration saw us coming a long way off and knew that such a group was inevitable.)

That fall we put up posters on campus about the first CGA meeting. They were like frat rush posters but had a lambda across the top and bottom and read "Rush to the first Carolina Gay Association meeting in the Craige Green Room on...."

Mike G. served as the first president, and I believe that Gary G. was the first treasurer. Meetings were held on the first Monday of the month in Craige.

Consciousnness raising groups met each Tuesday evening at the Lutheran Student Center. One group I lead included such notables as Bill O'N., Mike O., Tom C., "Wolf," and Howard F. The other group was led by David H., who was a graduate student in clinical psychology, and included Ken H. and others.

Through the good graces of Dean F. and Kevin G., who were resident managers of the Lutheran Student Center) and the Lutheran campus minister, the center was also used for coffeehouses on some Friday evenings. One of the early ones had live entertainment with Mike O. singing country and western songs, including "A Boy Named Sue," and Steve L. and myself doing a reading from "Boys in the Band." We also listened to Teressa Trull singing songs from the then popular repetoire and some of her own works.

Mark H. and Steve G. came on the scene about this time and almost immediately formed the Social Action Committee. Mark had been involved in the Gay Youth of New York before coming to Carolina as a graduate student in English.

In the fall of 1975 after Tom C. and another man were asked to leave the He's Not Here bar for dancing together, the Social Action Committee staged a modestly successful informational picket there that continued until the weather just got too cold for standing on the sidewalk and passing out leaflets.

-Dan Leonard

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Gay Republican

(continued from page 11)

Whatever my misgivings about Sen. Helms--and I have some--I have far more about turning the Senate back over to the liberal Democrats and the failed policies they represent. I will vote for Sen. Helms as much to keep the Senate in Republican hands as for the Senator.

I realize that my conviction puts me between a rock and a hard place. I get flak from the gay community for being an outspoken conservative and making known my contempt for Democratic policy, and clearly many North Carolina Republicans will be ill at ease with gays and lesbians, however conservative, in their midst, especially the new rightists who seek to transfer homophobia into legislation. But both camps fail to realize that a large number and perhaps a majority of gay men and lesbians believe in traditional notions of family. Even though it is an option unavailable to the 10% of the population who is gay, it is a value to be achieved for it is a good part of the

"WHAT THE HOMOPHOBES FAIL TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT GAYS AND LESBIANS POSE NO THREAT TO THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY . . ."

basis for the health of American society. Gay conservatives don't wish to mimic straight society, yet we also realize that radical change brings unwanted consequences. What the homophobes of all political persuasions fail to understand is that gays and lesbians pose no threat to the traditional family and those who are productive members of society deserve to be treated as such.

If my sole interest was in seeing the passage of federal gay rights legislation, then perhaps I would consider being a gay Democrat. There are other issues, though, critical to the survival of the country and requiring solutions that the liberal Democrats are unable or unwilling to provide. I shall thus proudly remain a conservative Republican who happens to be gay.

-B.T.