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Carolina Gay Association Newsletter[®]

Volume II, Number 2

November/December 1984

Gay Awareness Week Nov. 26 - 30

By the time this issue "hits the streets," Gay Awareness Week will be underway.

On Monday, Nov. 26, at 7 p.m. in the Carolina Union, Elizabeth Gurley of Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays will be speaking on "Coming Out to Parents." Anyone who attended the panel discussion after the film "Word Is Out" in October will remember Ms. Gurley for her humorous and well-informed comments.

The major speaker for the week will be Tom Chorlton of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs. Chorlton will be speaking on post-election gay political strategies on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in Gerard Hall.

Other programs include presentations and facilitated discussions by the North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Health Project on "Sex in the 80s," Rev. June Norris of St. John's MMC on "Gays and the Gospel," the Triangle Area Lesbian Feminists.

The social highlight of the week will be Thursday evening with Charlie Cochran at the Savoy Restaurant in University Square. The door will open at 9:00, and the cover charge will be donated to CGA.

Don't forget the dance on Friday, Nov. 30, at 8 p.m. in Craige dorm basement. A donation will be requested at the door.

Event times and locations are listed on the Calendar page of this issue.

-Richard

Harassment on Campus A Gay Catamount Speaks

Those of you who are attending UNC-CH should consider yourselves extremely fortunate. Not only are you attending one of the finest schools in the state, but your campus community is rather liberal towards homosexuality compared to the campuses of other schools in the state.

I was not so fortunate. After my graduation from high school, I promptly enrolled at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee. I know what you're thinking. How could Cullowhee be thought of as liberal? Actually I didn't expect WCU to be liberal, but after living for many years in a small Western North Carolina town, I looked forward to any college campus as being more liberal than my hometown.

At any rate, my life as a freshman at WCU was not any better than it was as a high school student. Secrecy and unlimited discretion was the common practice of the almost non-existent gay community. There was no organization which could come close to resembling the CGA. I was one of the very few gays on campus who was out of the closet.

Those of us who dared to be publicly gay paid dearly for that openness. Membership in fraternities and other social groups was, of course, out of the question. Public ridicule was extremely common. I learned very early of the virtues of eating my meals during uncommon hours (see GAY CATAMOUNT on page 4)

Southeastern Conference Returns to its Roots April 11 - 14, 1985

"The only annual regional gathering of lesbians and gay men in the United States." That's the way Virginia Apuzzo of the National Gay Task Force characterizes the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, which will be returning to Chapel Hill next spring. The CGA will host the three-day confab which planners hope will draw 800 people from throughout the 14-state region.

The CGA last hosted the Conference in 1979, and 600 people attended.

The 1985 gathering will be the 10th anniversary of the Conference, which began in Chapel Hill in 1976. Entitled "Here Today and Here to Stay!" the 1985 Conference will in part focus on affirming our presence in the South and on our determination to continue organizing for (see CONFERENCE on page 2)