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# LAMBDA

## Carolina Gay Association Newsletter<sup>®</sup>

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And  
**LESBIAN**

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### \*\*\*\*\* CGLA Is Born \*\*\*\*\*

After 10 years of existence, the Carolina Gay Association has voted to change its name to the Carolina Gay & Lesbian Association. The change came after more than a year of controversy which began last winter when a member said she felt the CGA name excluded women in the minds of the community.

should be added to the present name in order to maintain our established name recognition. The committee recommended the name be changed to CGLA or left at CGA.

At a Jan. 18 business meeting, CGA co-chair Cathy Labyris said, "I'm tired of always having to say, 'Yes we do have women members,' whenever I talk about the group."

#### \* Name Change Passes \*

Supporters of the name change emphasized the semantic shift of recent years, arguing that "gay" connotes primarily male images to most people today.

Action was not taken on the idea of a name change until last fall when a committee was formed to investigate the issue. This committee, composed of 4 women and 4 men, sought suggestions for a name change with articles in The Front Page and Lambda.

Those opposed argued that the word "gay" was not exclusively male. "The inclusion of the word 'lesbian' only divides us into two factions," one opponent said. Notably, all the opponents were men.

Suggestions included not changing the name, changing it to CGLA or CLGA, or changing completely to, for instance, Gay People at Carolina.

Members voted to change the name to CGLA. Because this was a change in By-laws, a second vote was required for passage. This second vote on Feb. 13 upheld the first.

The committee felt the last option should be dismissed and that "lesbian"

-Jim Duley

### Anniversary Tales — Part Two

## CGA Comes Into Her Own

In January 1978, I decided I just had to meet some other gay folks. Being "newly out" as well as new to Chapel Hill, I didn't quite know how to go about meeting people. But when I saw a poster announcing a CGA meeting, I left the confines of Coker Hall and made my way to the Union.

I have several distinct memories of that evening. The first was that the meeting was rather boring; it was, after all, a business meeting. But the closeness and sharing among the 15 or so folks was obvious. Even in disagreement there was respect. I don't have the vaguest memory of what the topics of the day were. But I did feel that this group

of women and men shared a strong bond and knew that what was happening was important.

I was immediately taken under wing by a woman, who appeared, to naive me, to be the "head lesbian." She made sure I met folks and knew about upcoming events, and she even helped arrange transportation for me. I later learned that Susan wasn't the "head lesbian," but rather the contact dyke. My experience was not unusual; there were people here who really cared about others finding a place to belong.

The following May, I became chair of CGA. What a transition.

My experience with CGA reflects some (See CGA ANNIVERSARY, on page 4)