

# B-GLAD'S MOST

## SUSPECT NO. 1: CARL CLARK

Congress conservative offers retreat from bias, feel-good platform

**I**n the pantheon of neo-fascist bogeymen in Student Congress, Carl Clark has long occupied a privileged position.

He voted to place restrictions on the CGLA budget last year. He voted again last fall to retain that censorship rider on B-GLAD's budget. He joined only four others in congress in voting against censuring Eric Pratt for his "You're all a bunch of faggots" outburst.

It was, then, with both a deep dread and a vicious glee that many queer positive folks viewed the news that he was running for Student Body President.

Carl Clark, far more than any other candidate for student government's highest office, has come to symbolize the kind of homophobic grandstanding which has made Student Congress an embarrassment to this school.

His candidacy becomes, inevitably, a sort of referendum on hate, but what Carl Clark symbolizes and what he actually is are not necessarily the same. He isn't Hitler, he isn't Helms and he isn't Tim Moore.

He means *really* well.

He said he conducted a phone survey of some 200 people last semester to let students identify the important

issues. He's identified campus safety, not the conservative quasi-issue of student fees, as his number one concern.

And he isn't smirking when he says that "as Student Body President, I will not allow any biases or prejudices that someone may think that I (have) hinder my priority on this campus to represent all students on this campus. I want to be as unifying as I can be as student body president."

Carl Clark is homophobic.

He talks of "coming from a small town, a conservative town ... where I was not exposed to people of that persuasion. From a religious sense, I'm taught that this is wrong. There are reasons why I believe that." He goes home to

Fuquay-Varina every weekend to volunteer at a rest home and play piano for morning worship services.

Does he believe homosexuality is wrong?

"To be very honest with you, yes. But I don't let that determine my friendships with people, or my relationships with people."

Clark voted his first year in congress to approve CGLA's budget. And last year, when a last-minute maneuver to

defund CGLA fell short by a single vote, Clark voted against the defunding. "I'm not a mad dog after the CGLA," he said.

He's trying to say the right things about tolerance and diversity. He told me at least half a dozen times in the space of an hour how he's got lots of friends who are gay. He now calls

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Pratt's infamous comment "non-productive." He mentioned repeatedly how diverse his campaign staff was, his two white male Student Congress representative campaign managers notwithstanding.

It is easy to make Carl Clark look ridiculous. And when he talks about sports nights and pizza parties at Lenoir, about all his best friends who are gay, about the "several girls involved in student government," about



being a "go-getter" and a "real people person," it is difficult to escape the conclusion that he is a lightweight.

But he is painfully sincere and he is pain-

# AND THE POSSE...

## Lloyd leads a surprisingly

**T**he field of candidates that is emerging in the race for student body president is a surprisingly encouraging one for lesbian, gay and bisexual students.

At press time, the following candidates were campaigning: Jen Lloyd, Kevin Ginsberg, Adrian Patillo, Jim Copland, Jim Ryan and Stuart Hicks.

Jen Lloyd, current speaker of Student Congress, combines a singular sense of moral outrage at the treatment of sexual minorities with the energy and the experience to do something about it.

Responding to B-GLAD's treatment by congress in recent years, she said: "That's just so wrong. There should be no plea for justice. It should be understood that they have a right to fair treatment."

If elected, she will name one person to specifically address minority sexual orientation rights, a sort of Queer Czar.

"I'm in a post now where I understand the system so well, the way it works, the dynamics. I know how it has been used in the past to hinder student initiative, and for bigotry. This is why I ran for congress."

Lloyd might be painted as a scheming politico, tainted by her insider status. Don't believe the hype. Believe a cynic. Jen Lloyd is for real.

Kevin "Cooter" Ginsberg would also be a