

## CONNECTIONS

COMMUNITY LIAISON ORGANIZATION FOR SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND REFORM

Asheville, NC

January, 1988

The Holiday Season is upon us, a time for sharing with family and loved ones. Many of us will be able to share this season with non-gay and gay family, together in peaceful harmony. But for others of us in the gay community, the holiday season is a stressful time, a time when we feel pulled in different directions: lovers vs. families. Some will spend it with our parents and married brothers and sisters, leaving lovers behind. We'll watch longingly as love is expressed openly between legally-married spouses. Others of us will spend the holidays with our lovers, rather than joining our families of birth, because we do not feel welcomed and accepted by family. Yet others currently have no lover, but are alienated from family.

Loneliness that is due to the absence of other people is painful, and loneliness due to alienation from others is even more painful, but neither is so painful as the loneliness of alienation from self. And this is at the core of the kind of loneliness felt by many lesbians and gay men, especially at the holiday season. If we are living a life that in some way denies who we are, our denial may be more difficult at this season, when the various non-matching parts of our lives come together and clash. For example, if I take my lover home to unenlightened parents and interact with her or him as a "good friend", how does that make both of us feel inside? I have reinforced everyone's homophobia, including my own, and part of me hates myself for doing that to me, and to us. I am painfully aware that I have been untrue to myself.

This year, let's give ourselves the best present-- self-love, and self-respect. Let's care about ourselves enough to be true to ourselves. What a present that would be!

## MOVES

Jim and George's new address is 111 Cumberland, Apt. 1, Asheville, NC, 28801.

Bill Allen has moved to Montreat. His new address is P.O. Box 124, Montreat, NC, 28757. His street address is 303 Chapman Road, next door to Dan and Joan and Joan's mother, Carolyn. His phone number is 669-9756.

Anita's new address is 36 Lookout Drive, Asheville, NC, 28804. Her phone number is: 252-5344.

## PLEASE NOTE

The CLOSER directory will be updated in February to include members who joined after the October issue was printed, and to make corrections. Additions and corrections deadline: Jan. 31.