

SNAPSHOT -
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limits of Longveiw, another town adjacent to Hickory, similar to Woodfin in the Asheville area. Lenny and company went in and fixed the place up a little, only to be rejected by the City of Longveiw for a permit, because it was a gay bar. "We're not having a gay bar in this town," the city said. "We're not!"

Lenny told them they could not constitutionally refuse him a permit to open his bar, and hired an attorney who jumped at the chance to take the City of Longveiw to court.

They did take Longveiw to court...and won! Longveiw was not happy

at all when Centaur--Phase II did indeed open. Rednecks would drive by and throw rocks at patrons' cars. This only happened a few times, however, because Lenny had a machine gun and would hide in the parking lot. When someone drove by throwing rocks, Lenny would step out and take the top of their car off with that machine gun. They wouldn't come by anymore after that.

Centaur--Phase II remained open until Buddy Brendle, presently the owner of the Cabaret and the man responsible for bringing the Royal Court to North Carolina, moved his Asheville bar, Treetops, to Hickory on Springs Road. Raymond managed Treetops for Buddy, and said they had nothing but trouble at that location.

Treetops later moved to the Windy

City section of Hickory, and then downtown. Buddy changed the name of the bar to the Cabaret, and it has operated at that location ever since.

Recently Raymond got his chance to return to school, but not for an art degree. Instead, he studied journalism at Catawba Valley Community College.

Currently, Raymond has his own rubber stamp company and does "whatever Buddy wants [him] to do" around the Cabaret. He also serves as treasurer and Emperor V de North Carolina with Empress V de North Carolina, Nancy Newton, in the N.C. Royal Court. The Royal Court is a non-profit group that works closely with AIDS Leadership-Foothills Area Alliance (ALFA) in Drexel (Burke Co.), raising money for PWA's. ▽

MACT Forms In Greensboro

There is a new group in the state, Men of All Colors Together--Greensboro/Triad (MACT-GT), in Greensboro. MACT is a gay interracial organization committed to fostering an environment of support for men of all races, so that barriers can be overcome. The group encourages friendships and supports relationships. It may also serve educational and political functions in the greater community.

The group replaces Yadkin Black and White Men Together (BWMT), which operated out of Salisbury, 40 miles from Greensboro. "Men complained about having to drive to a little town so far from Greensboro," said Jonathan Fritz, who is spearheading the reorganization. Members wanted to meet in a bigger city, so that they would be closer to services and entertainment.

The first meeting of MACT-GT was held January 24, with ten men (six white and four black) attending. All were very enthusiastic, and many ideas were brought up about what they would like to do. "The group can be as flexible as members want it to be," said Fritz. "The members can make the group as active politically, or socially, or educationally as they want it to be."

The group provides "an opportunity to increase harmony, understanding, and equality among all races. It gives men of color an environment where they can meet men of other races in a non-threatening environment," Fritz explained.

According to Fritz, the first interracial group for gay men in the United States was founded in 1980 by Michael Smith, a white man living in San Francisco, called Black and White Men Together. There are now 24 chapters of BWMT/MACT in the United States.

The Greensboro group may decide to join the national organization. There are two other BWMT/MACT groups in North Carolina, one in the Triangle area, and the other in Charlotte.

For more information, write: Men of All Colors Together--Greensboro/Triad, PO Box 3434, Salisbury, NC 28145. ▽

Dykes To Watch Out For:

The Slideshow



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When: Saturday, March 2 Time: 8:15 PM Cost: Sliding Scale \$4 - \$10
Where: Medcenter Inn (formerly Ramada Inn), 600 Kings Dr., Charlotte, NC
 Tickets will be available at door. Tickets bought in advance will have reserved seating.
 Produced by Lambda Connections
 PO Box 12072, Charlotte, NC 28220 (704)535-8435


