

# STATE NEWS

## Gays Gaining Ground at UNCC

Anti-gay discrimination may be hard to eradicate at some places, but things have been changing quickly for gays at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC). The university has adopted a ban on discrimination against gay men and lesbians, and is apparently on its way to booting out ROTC programs because they discriminate.

On January 25 the Chancellor of the university issued a policy prohibiting discrimination against gay men and lesbians. The policy states UNCC "believes that educational and employment decisions should be based on the abilities and qualifications of individuals and should not be based on irrelevant factors, including personal characteristics, that have no connection with academic abilities or job performance.

"Among the traditional factors which are generally 'irrelevant' are race, sex, religion, and national origin. It is the policy of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte that the sexual orientation of an individual be treated in the same manner.

"Such a policy ensures that only relevant factors are considered and that equitable and consistent standards of conduct and performance are applied."

The policy applies to all students and employees of UNC-C, and charges the Office of the Dean of Students and the Director of Personnel with investigating any alleged discrimination.

On February 5 the UNCC faculty voted 105-55 to hold a faculty-wide referendum, the first referendum in the school's history, on the question of whether Army and Air Force ROTC programs should be banned from the

campus. The military does not knowingly let gay men and lesbians serve. (See U.S. military policy, page 6.)

Chancellor Jim Woodard has said he will abolish ROTC on campus if the referendum passes. Ballots will be mailed to the University's 690 full-time members, and results will be binding if at least half return them.--*ROTC news from The Charlotte Observer, 2/5/91. Thanks to Monroe Gilmour.* ▼

## New Group Forming in Winston-Salem

reported by Martha Wilson

About 25 gay men and lesbians gathered in Winston-Salem on Valentine's Day to discuss the formation of a new advocacy group.

Rick Eveland, who was involved in the Winston-Salem NOW Documentation Project, and Pat Ethers, also of Winston-Salem, called a meeting in the hopes of forming an ongoing lesbian and gay-rights advocacy group in Winston-Salem.

At their first meeting the group discussed the idea of taking over the NOW Documentation Project. The Documentation Project is seen as a bridge to greater understanding by the Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission to gay and lesbian issues.

Also discussed were different types of activities that an advocacy group could do, everything from simple projects like media watch to more involved things like developing victims' services for victims of homophobic violence, discrimination, and harassment.

The group set up a schedule to meet the second and fourth Thursday at St. Ann's Episcopal Church at 7:30 PM.

The February 28th meeting will deal with structure and goals.

For further information, contact Rick at 659-0261. ▼

## NC AIDS Service Coalition Seeking Members

The NC AIDS Coalition is asking individuals, AIDS-related and other supportive organizations to join its ranks.

The Coalition was formed in 1986 by community-based groups providing services, support and education concerning AIDS. It has lobbied the General Assembly and regulatory agencies since 1987. Its newsletter is a timely update and call to action on AIDS legislation and regulation. With no budget or staff, volunteers have done most of the work so far. It is now time to expand and work even harder.

Current objectives are: appropriate state funds for services, support and education; preserve anonymous testing; preserve the informed consent requirement; strengthen the state anti-discrimination law; and develop programs to assure good medical care for those who are infected.

The radical-right has organized as Americans for a Sound AIDS Policy (ASAP). This group has endorsed job discrimination against health care workers, cosmetologists and food service workers, and has proposed mandatory testing of the above plus marriage license applicants, hospital patients, pregnant women, and others. ASAP is well financed and has powerful political connections with the Administration. The State Health Department follows the political instructions it receives routinely.

We must stand up to the powerful radical-right lobby. We have already hired a professional lobbyist. Now we must raise more money, hire an executive director, and launch a year-round drive to work for intelligent AIDS laws and to lobby for state funds for services, support and education.

The Coalition is a registered non-profit corporation engaged in political advocacy (contributions are welcome and are not tax-deductible). To join, contact WNC AIDS Project at 252-7489.



## Religious Network Gets Outreach Grant

The Raleigh Religious Network for Gay and Lesbian Equality (RRNGLE) has received a \$2,500 grant from the '90/Raleigh Steering Committee of the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men. The funds will be used to provide the initial salary for a part-time Outreach Coordinator, whose tasks will be working with area clergy, organizing a speakers' bureau, and providing a comprehensive gay and lesbian resource guide for the Raleigh area.

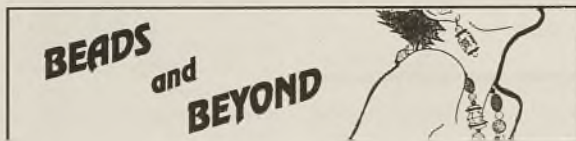
Rev. Jimmy Creech has been chosen to fill the new position. Creech is a United Methodist minister who lost his congregation because of his support of lesbian and gay rights.

RRNGLE also plans to help interested people in other parts of the state form similar networks.--Adapted from *Q-Notes* (Charlotte, NC), 2/91 ▼

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