



The March meeting of the Southern Appalachian Lesbian and Gay Alliance was held March 3 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Asheville. Framed Certificates of Appreciation signed by SALGA Chair Carlos Gomez were presented to the Executive Officers of 1990-91: Teri Gibbs, Chair; Nancy (Curry) Snead, Secretary; and Ron Huskins, Treasurer. Peter Kendrick, Vice-Chair, was presented with his later.

In conjunction with the release of the 1990 statistics on hate crimes against gay men and lesbians by the NC Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality, Cynthia Janes reported that she has contacted experts on the legal, religious, and psychological aspects of anti-gay hate crimes, and is sending press advisories with their names.

Cynthia also pointed out that, although there is now a federal hate crimes law, the Asheville Police Department and the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department have no formal mechanism for collecting data on hate crimes against gay men and lesbians. She suggested that SALGA approach the Police Department and request that they 1)

keep statistics on gay-related hate crimes, and 2) offer sensitivity training to police officers. Asheville Mayor Ken Michalove had promised last fall that he would ask the Police Department to keep these statistics.

Nancy McWilliams visited the SALGA meeting as a representative of the Land-of-the-Sky Chapter of the National Organization of Women. She announced that NOW wants to reactivate the chapter, which was very active in the early 1980's, and that she has assumed interim leadership of it. The chapter wants to bring updates on legislative action, as well as acting as an information resource. Nancy enumerated the issues espoused by NOW, namely, choice, anonymous AIDS testing, domestic violence and rape-crisis funding, warrantless arrest for scene of domestic violence, and health insurance coverage for mammograms and pelvic examinations.

Nancy also reported that NOW is exploring the feasibility of forming a new political party.

Organizers said everyone involved with SALGA's Valentine's Dance worked

really hard, and the dance was a success.

It was decided that SALGA will endorse Asheville's bid to become the site of NC Pride '92.

Ron Huskins reported on the Documentation Project, and Charlotte Goedsche reported on the Speakers' Bureau Workshop.

After a spirited discussion, it was agreed that the ten minutes devoted to each meeting to anti-racism be devoted to the topic of diversity, instead.

The first meeting of SALGA's Board of Directors was held March 4. The Board discussed the budget and planned the tentative schedule for the retreat which will be held April 13-14.

The next SALGA meeting will be held Sunday, April 7, at the Unitarian Universalist Church (lower level), 1 Edwin Place, corner of Charlotte Street, Asheville. We will begin the meeting promptly at 4:30 PM. We will have potluck, so please bring a covered dish to share, and drinks for yourself. To help our environment we ask that you bring your own plates and eating utensils. ▽



CLOSER members Why Don't Ya Rider (above, alias John Rider), and Rose (below, alias Bill Allen) perform at CLOSER's annual Camp Drag Variety Show





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OUR HOUSE -
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of "footwork" on this committee. "I think there is a lot this committee can do," Latharus continued, "but it sounds like the Executive Committee is taking some responsibility away from us. Maybe they feel as if this is their problem and they will deal with it instead of the Housing Committee. We know the history and have been involved with the policy-making, and now we feel that the Board is saying to us that this committee isn't important." Nolan concurred. When she had reported to the WNCAP Board that there were some "emotionally charged" feelings about problems at Our House, Nolan explained, Melissa Hicks, Board President, assumed responsibility for the Board in an effort to relieve the committee of dealing with these problems. "I will be glad to talk with Melissa about this," Nolan said.

"I suggest that you do," Youngblood replied.

Nolan, who had only recently become Chair of the Housing Committee, added, "I told the Board that we were still confused about what the Housing Committee was supposed to be doing." In spite of that, the committee continued to

discuss policy concerning the house for some time. Nolan commented that it looked as if they were coming up with a lot of questions that should be dealt with, but said "I don't want to deal with anything until we get some clarification of our duties and responsibilities." The committee then agreed to adjourn until early April.

Major questions have been raised by former residents and by two PWA's in the community about the need for, and the desirability of, Our House as it is presently operated. How much attention should be paid to compatibility of residents? How far should WNCAP go to insure that there is no alcohol and drug use? Can people from very different backgrounds live in relatively close quarters harmoniously? Should residents from other states be allowed to live in Our House? How strict should cleanliness rules be? For what should residents rely on the manager? Are Our House policies applied equally to all residents? Would Our House be more attractive to PWA's if it were converted into three separate apartments? Should Our House be used for temporary housing for people in transition? Is there an unavoidable stigma attached to living in a PWA facility? Is living in Our House good for the physical and mental health of PWA's?

Who will decide these issues? *Community Connections* will report on future developments as they unfold.