

4th Annual WNCAP Auction August 10

by Barry Ward

One of the most important events of the year--especially for clients of the Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP)--is the annual auction. All proceeds from the auction go directly for financial support for clients.

This year, the auction is being held on Saturday evening, August 10, beginning at 7:00 PM, in the Earth Guild Building at 35 Haywood Street. A sneak preview of auction items will be available on Friday evening from 7:00 until 9:00 PM at the same location.

In past years, the auction has been managed by O.Henry's and held at the nightclub. Because the auction has grown tremendously, O.Henry's turned it over to WNCAP this year. O.Henry's has been, and continues to be, one of the strongest supporters of both WNCAP and Persons With HIV/AIDS, raising nearly \$60,000 through shows, benefits and other events over the years. O.Henry's has also assisted WNCAP in obtaining matching

grants.

A wide variety of auction items are up for bids on the 10th: original art, antiques, original photography, jewelry, handwoven wearables, dinners for two, tickets to major theme parks and attractions, weekends for two, individual and group services, and a special dinner with a celebrity. Cash, check, Visa and MasterCard will be accepted as payment. Auctioneers Johnny Penland and Tom Tuten are contributing their services.

WNCAP is still seeking additional donated items for the auction, and they will be accepted right up to the first call for bids. If you have items to donate or would like more information about the auction, please contact WNCAP at 252-7489.

Come out on August 10 and raise your hand to bid at this very important event! Since all auction items and services have been donated, every penny of your purchase will help someone in need--perhaps someone you know and love.

AIDS Hearing Announced

On August 12, the North Carolina Health Services Commission will hear testimony in Asheville on a proposal for a new regulation for accidental exposure to HIV.

The new proposal changes dramatically the procedure for ordering an HIV test without consent for a health worker after an accidental exposure, and would make it much easier for a physician to order an HIV test without the person's permission. Under the proposal, consent would not have to be requested, and the patient's risk status would not have to be evaluated.

The proposed rule adds new language

to try to define what constitutes a risky exposure: "a needle-stick or nonsexual non-intact skin or mucous membrane exposure to blood or body fluids that poses a significant risk of HIV transmission." The existing regulation just says "nonsexual blood or body fluid exposure."

Hearings are also scheduled in Wilmington, Raleigh, Winston-Salem, and Greenville. The Health Commission will vote on the proposal on August 29, after the Greenville hearing.

The Asheville hearing is scheduled to begin at 7 PM August 12 at the Buncombe County Courthouse.

Gay Spirit Visions Coming to Highlands

Gay and bisexual men from around the country will gather in Highlands, NC, September 20-22 to explore the relationship between their sexuality and spirituality at the second annual Celebrating Gay Spirit Visions Conference, entitled "Invoking the Muses."

"Last year's conference focused on gay men creating and exploring their spirituality on an awakening planet," says Peter Kendrick, one of the organizers. "This year we will both expand and refine that theme, with additional emphasis on ways that participants can take their experience at the conference back to their daily lives."

Well-known poet and seer James Broughton will keynote the conference, speaking on "Man and His Godbody." Broughton will also present a workshop entitled "A Circle of Genital Awareness." "In the urgency of our present situation we should look toward connecting imaginatively with the souls of our brothers," intones Broughton. "How else will we all become soul brothers?", he adds with a mischievous wink.

Author and healer Andrew Ramer will present the second keynote on reclaiming the tribal and archetypal "Stories of Our People." "I would like to see a very clear lineage of story tellers established in our tribe," says Ramer. "This is vital for a people who, for the most part, do not have children. Telling our stories is critical for the continuity of our tribe."

Ramer will also present a workshop that entails 16 chakra awakening meditations and postures. Additional workshops include: Chakra Balancing, Life Mask Making, The Gay Artist, The Warrior Archetype in Gay Spirit Consciousness, Exploring Erotic Brotherhood, The Medicine Wheel and

The Ways of Seeing, Self-healing and Stress Management, and others.

The musical duo Lunacy will perform and there will be an artists' and muse market.

"A panel discussion and a general assembly where we will attempt to forge a common vision for gay men's spirituality in these times will round out the program," concludes conference organizer Ron Lambe. "People were very excited by last year's event and the connections that were made. We have high hopes that this year's expanded program will have an even greater impact on the spiritual lives of those attending."

Cost for the conference is \$169, including food (with vegetarian options) and lodging. For a brochure, write: Conference, 104 Trotter Place, Asheville, NC 28806; or call (704)252-0643. ▼

♪ A CHORUS LINE ♪
by Jerry Conner

Sing, sing a song, sing out loud--that is what we want to do more of next year. I am extending an open invitation to any man interested in joining up with a great bunch of guys and doing just that. The Asheville Gay Men's Chorus is in need of more voices. A large concert season is scheduled and we have lost a few members--so here is your chance. We also need helpers. If you can't carry a note but can carry tickets, props, or posters, we need you. Please contact Stephen Klein at WNCAP, 252-7489. Regular rehearsals will resume in September. ▼

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