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## First Pageant for Gay Queen of Hearts Held

The first pageant for the National Gay Queen of Hearts Pageantry System was held at Bourbon St. Nightclub in Winston-Salem, NC, on August 4. The theme for this debut pageant was "A Tribute To The Silver Screen."

Paris LaBon of Greensboro was crowned the winner. First Runner-up was Tiffany Bonet, and 2nd Runner-up was Shardea Ross, both from Winston-Salem.

Winners in the categories were as follows: Silver Screen Presentation, Neely O'Hara of Greensboro as Mae West; Interview, Shardea Ross; Evening Gown, Paris LaBon; and Talent, Paris LaBon.

Congratulations to Paris, Tiffany and Shardea! ▽



Photo by Mark Swann  
L to R: 2nd Runner-up Shardea Ross, Miss National Gay Queen of Hearts Paris LaBon, and 1st Runner-up Tiffany Bonet



## Joan Marshall Honored

Joan Marshall was recognized for her hard work in support of the gay and lesbian community and of People With AIDS at the Annual Women's Equality Day Celebration in Asheville on August 17. Marshall, who for over 11 years has been involved with CLOSER, the Asheville area's gay and lesbian support group (see page 4), is a deacon at All Souls Episcopal Church, Biltmore. Women's Equality Day is August 26.

Marshall was one of 14 women honored at the luncheon "who have made significant contributions to life in Buncombe County and who have been honored by their organizations." After the presentations, the Zonta Club of Asheville presented a skit called "Women Through the Ages."

The Celebration was sponsored by the Western Carolina Women's Coalition, which consists of approximately 40 women's organizations, with the purpose of promoting cooperation and communication among women and women's organizations for the advancement of women. The Coalition sponsors an area-wide women's conference in even-numbered years. The next conference will be in March, 1992. Any women's organization in WNC is eligible for membership. Contact the Coalition at PO Box 402, 28802 for further information.

## CLOSER Seeks Service Award Nominees

In addition to its Humanitarian Award, CLOSER sponsors three Service Awards to be presented at the Annual Anniversary Dinner. (This year CLOSER will celebrate its 12th anniversary on October 22.) The first award will go to a lesbian or gay man, not necessarily a member of CLOSER, for outstanding service to the greater gay and lesbian community. Nominations for this award can be submitted by anyone. The second award will go to a CLOSER member for outstanding service to CLOSER, and the third to a new member of CLOSER, one who has joined in 1990 or 1991, who has performed outstanding service to CLOSER. Only CLOSER members can nominate people for these two awards.

These awards recognize the work of volunteers, as well as to underscore the need for voluntarism in CLOSER and in the greater gay and lesbian community.

Nomination must include a written statement explaining the choice of nominee(s), and must indicate which type of Service Award would be appropriate. Send nominations, marked "Nomination," to CLOSER, Inc., PO Box 2911, Asheville, NC 28802, by October 1. ▽

## Obituary

Howard Lee Jones II died August 17 of complications associated with AIDS. He was 37. Graveside services were held August 20 near his home in Johnson City, TN. Joan Marshall officiated.

After the service, Lee's parents invited everyone to a luncheon at their home. The home was filled with Lee's paintings of landscapes of the beautiful Southern Appalachian area he loved.

## Humanitarian Award Nominations Solicited

Nominations for the Humanitarian Award sponsored by CLOSER are now being accepted. The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual or individuals who has/have contributed in a very special way to the gay and lesbian community. According to Webster's New World Dictionary, a humanitarian is "a person devoted to promoting the welfare of humanity, especially through the elimination of pain and suffering"; Webster's Third New International Dictionary defines "humanitarian" as "a person actively concerned in promoting human welfare and esp. social reform."

Nominees need not be members of CLOSER, nor need they be lesbian or gay. Anyone, regardless of sexual orientation, can nominate a person or persons, but they must submit a written statement explaining their choice of nominee(s). Nominations should be sent to Richard Pinkerton, 8 Flat Top Mountain Road, Fairview, NC 28730, by October 1. Please write "Nomination" on the envelope.

Because of its special nature, the Humanitarian Award is not given automatically every year. The decision as to the presentation of the award will be made by CLOSER's Executive Committee of 1990-91, who would also be responsible for the selection of the recipient(s).

## ACT UP/Triangle To Sue for Anonymous Testing

ACT UP/Triangle is in the process of filing legal action against the state of North Carolina to maintain anonymous HIV testing.

The group needs sworn affidavits regarding the effects of losing anonymous testing. The group's attorney will help everyone with the affidavits. Health care professionals who know of patients who have been discriminated against due to their HIV status; HIV+ individuals who would not have been tested if anonymous testing had not been available; people who want to be tested anonymously but will not be tested confidentially, including health care workers who have had on-the-job exposure--all are needed to help maintain anonymous testing in NC.

Contact as soon as possible: Steven Harris, ACT UP Coordinator, at (919) 682-5676; or Stewart Fisher, Attorney/Edwin U., Paralegal, at (919) 683-2135; or ACT UP voice mail box (toll-free in Triangle), 9901197. Tomorrow may be too late.--Thanks to Bill Allen