

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Asheville, NC

Serving the Southern Appalachian Gay/Lesbian Community

Asheville Gay and Lesbian
Information Line:
253-2971

A project of the Asheville Gay and Lesbian
Community Council

To report anti-gay/HIV+
discrimination/violence:
253-1656

U.S. Department of Justice toll-free:
1-800-347-HATE

Vol. IV, No. 2 February 1992

Leap Year Night Festivities to Kick Off New Political Group in Upstate

by Roger Bell

A leap year night gala party with live entertainment, celebrity guests, and sumptuous food and beverage will kick off the formation of an upstate South Carolina political organization of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and friends. Organizers have named the group Voters United for Equality (VUE).

The party will be held at 26 Mills Avenue in Greenville, on February 29, beginning at 7:30 p.m., casual attire.

We currently have commitments from

two gifted local musicians who will perform live at the party. Additionally, Cathy Woolard of the Atlanta office of the Human Rights Campaign Fund will make a presentation. (Cathy may also lead a lobbying workshop on the afternoon of February 29. Call 803-843-1070 after February 15 for specific information on this workshop.) Finally, efforts are underway to have one of the individuals who was fired by Cracker Barrel to relate his or her experience at the party.

The party is open to all interested people. Although not required, individuals planning on attending the party should call 803-843-1070 or 803-235-5019 and leave a message so the organizers will have some idea of how many people to expect.

Anyone interested in participating in the early, pre-party, planning activities or in making a financial contribution or pledge should call 803-843-1070 between 5-10 p.m. or leave a message on the machine.

See VUE, page 6

Cruisers...

Please call *Community Connections* and let us know your views on the current noise issue:
704-252-4037

Gay PAC Formed

by Ron Lambe

A political action committee, PRIDE PAC, has been organized in North Carolina. It was formed by North Carolinians from across the state to further the legal and political rights of lesbians and gay men through the electoral process.

The PRIDE PAC's goal is to elect candidates to public office who are supportive of lesbian and gay issues by offering them financial and volunteer support.

See PRIDE PAC, page 7

WNC Applause Awards

The Third Annual WNC Applause Awards were presented January 20 at O.Henry's in Asheville. Many people from throughout the community were present for an exciting two hours of festivities. Entertainment was provided by Lee Ramey, Aurora Borealis, Southern Country Asheville, Marsha Mellow, Kymber Raines, Cousin It, Cookie LaRue, and Tiffany Stone.

After the awards were presented, John Griffin, owner of TRAX Nightclub, gave a heartfelt speech about Asheville's three gay bars. Griffin said that even though rivalry and competition is intense at times, when it is time to pull together for the good of the community one would have a hard time finding another town the size of Asheville that could get the job done as well. Resounding applause followed. A shorter but equally moving speech was given by Art Fryar, owner of Scandals Nightclub. The evening ended with all the bar owners, managers, employees, and friends standing arm in arm singing "United We Stand, Divided We Fall."

Nominees are listed below, with winners marked with an asterisk.*



L-R: Lee Ramey of TRAX, Aurora Borealis of Scandals, and Bob Rodney of O. Henry's.

Charitable Event of the Year
Paris is Burning (Benefit showing for *Community Connections* and *Loving Food Resources*)

*WNCAP Auction

Event of the Year

*Miss TRAX Pageant, 1991

Gay Pride Festival

Outstanding Show of the Year

Miss Asheville World at TRAX

*AIDS Benefit Christmas Night at Scandals

WNCAP 70's Show at O.Henry's

Fundraiser of the Year by an Individual

*Bob Rodney: WNCAP Christmas Tree

Brandy Alexander

Lee Ramey
Most Worthy Charitable Organization
Loving Food Resources
All Souls Parish
*WNCAP

Outstanding Contribution by an Individual

Cookie LaRue

*Mark Swann

Ron Huskins

Entertainer of the Year

Tiffany Stone

Marsha Mellow

*Aurora Borealis

Newcomer Entertainer of the Year

Nola St. James

*Aurora Borealis

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