

THANKS

From Salga to:

Patsy Keever, and congratulations on becoming a new Buncombe County Commissioner.

All the gay men and lesbians who volunteered at the Democratic Headquarters.

Kay Ponder, David Hope, Liz Peacock and Lillian Powell for participating in the Leadership Asheville Conference on Hate Crimes and Discrimination.

NOTE TO READERS: Due to the time lapse between our layout of *Community Connections* and receipt of the newspaper by readers, it is advisable to submit a month early any calendar events that occur within the first seven days of the month.

Community Connections is a monthly news publication serving the Southern Appalachian gay and lesbian community, and dedicated to helping improve the lives of lesbians and gay men.

Community Connections focuses on the gay/lesbian community and gay/lesbian issues. Gay-related news, commentary, and letters to the editor are welcomed. Letters must be limited to 250 words, and must be signed.

Deadline for submission of all materials is the 15th of the month prior to the issue. We reserve the right to select manuscripts and to edit for length, clarity, and pertinence to gay and lesbian issues.

Call Cynthia at 704/252-4037, or send material to Editor, PO Box 18088, Asheville, NC 28814.

Publication of names or photographs of a person or organization in articles or advertising is not to be construed as an indication of the sexual orientation of the person or organization.

The opinions expressed by letter writers, commentators, and cartoonists are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Community Connections*.

We cannot be responsible for claims made by advertisers.

Classified ads are printed on a space-available basis and are free.

Board of Directors: Michelle G., Karen Lockee, Amy Springer, Barry Ward, Mark Goldberg

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To underwrite,
call Ron at 258-3318
or Laurel at 649-9439

or write to *Community Connections*,
PO Box 18088, Asheville, NC 28814.

Donations to *Community Connections* are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

PLEASE NOTE

HIV-related studies recruiting patients

The National Institutes of Health is currently recruiting patients for HIV-related studies. The studies evaluate new therapies and diagnostic strategies for people infected with HIV, as well as evaluating potential HIV vaccines. For more information call 1-800-243-7644.

Quilt on display in Greensboro

A portion of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, an international memorial to those who have died of AIDS, is currently on display in Greensboro, at the Greensboro Coliseum Exhibition Hall.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt began in San Francisco, in June of 1987, as a personal response to the seemingly endless tragedy of the AIDS epidemic. Today the Quilt continues as a powerful international symbol of the health crisis in our midst. About 22,000 individual panels -- each one remembering the life of someone who has died of AIDS-- represent people from each state in the U.S. and 29 different countries.

Having opened on November 30, the Greensboro Quilt display will continue on December 1 (World AIDS Day) with a 10:30 a.m. symbolic unfolding of a portion of the Quilt, followed by short ceremonies again at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The display will be open December 1 and 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on December 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with a closing ceremony beginning at 5:30 p.m. where local panels will be officially dedicated to the NAMES Project Foundation.

The display is free and open to the public. For more information call (704) 294-6330.

Gomez Chosen for Foundation Board

Asheville gay community organizer Carlos Gomez has been selected to serve on the Board of Directors for Fund for Southern Communities, a progressive foundation in the Southeast. Gomez has been active in the gay and lesbian community since he was a student at Warren Wilson College. He has served as president of CLOSER, chair of SALGA, and chair of *Community Connections'* board of directors. He has contributed organizational and programmatic leadership to WNC's gay and lesbian community for many years.

Lavendar Web celebrates first anniversary

The planning circle of the Lavendar Web is pleased and proud to invite all women to our One Year Anniversary Celebration. On Friday, December 11, at 9:30 p.m., a women's dance will be held at Stone Soup as a benefit for Lavendar Web, and as a celebration of ourselves. The dance is co-sponsored by Be Here Now, a recently opened smoke-free dance and entertainment spot on Broadway.

Our focus is on women's solidarity, and caring about what happens to women in our culture. If you are a woman and you care, then you are a part of the Lavendar Web.

Come to our dance in December, and to our monthly meetings held the third Friday of every month. Come and contribute your energy and ideas to an expanding Web of consciousness concerning women's lives. For more information or to subscribe to the Lavendar Web Newsletter, call 258-3968.

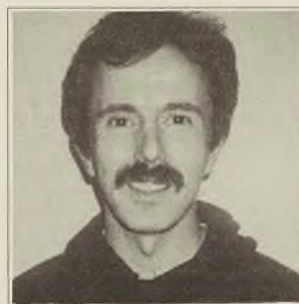
CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Two rental situations on nice tree-scaped 1/2 acre lot with garden in Oakley, near Biltmore Village. Quiet residential neighborhood:

1. Charming older home with hardwood floors, wood-stove, washing machine, 2BR, 1BA. \$475/mo.

2. Comfortable and cozy 380 sq. ft. cottage. 1 BR, 1 BA. Ideal for one person. \$250/mo. Detached wired workshop. Call Teri at (704)254-7266.

Male to Female pre-op transexual, 36 years young, wanting to make female friends, bi or lesbian, on my path to becoming a complete woman. Contact Terri Duncan at P.O. Box 5081, Conover, NC 28613.



Subscribe to *Community Connections!*

To receive *Community Connections* for one year (11 issues), sent in a sealed plain envelope, send \$15 for first class, \$11 for bulk mail, to: POBox 18088, Asheville, NC 28814. Note: Memberships in SALGA and CLOSER include bulk mail subscription.

Name _____
Address _____
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Community Connections Looks Ahead

For the past two and a half years *Community Connections* has proudly served the Gay and Lesbian Community of Western North Carolina. The community and the newspaper have grown together and learned much from each other during this time. As 1992 draws to a close, we take time to review where we have been and look ahead to where we would like to be in 1993.

Unlike many other publications of its type, *Community Connections* operates as a nonprofit entity. We have in the past relied on donations from individuals and groups as well as grant programs to cover up to 50% of our operating expenses. This year those contributions were in excess of \$7,500.

At the November Board of Directors meeting a number of ideas were discussed with the hope of eliminating the need for outside financial support, enabling *Community Connections* to be self-supporting. This would allow donations that previously would have been needed to cover production expenses to be made available for other community projects. A self-supporting paper would reduce the fund-raising burden on the staff and allow them to dedicate more time to journalism.

The following are a few of the recommendations from that meeting:

1. Raise advertising rates. Though this would seem the easiest answer, it is difficult to justify the level of increase in rates that would be needed, without first showing advertisers a dramatic increase in circulation. (A slight rate increase due to inflation will take place in early 1993.)

2. Increase circulation. Distributing more papers would make us more attractive to potential advertisers. But, by itself, increased circulation leads to increased costs; as noted above, only a dramatic increase in circulation could justify a significant increase in ad rates.

3. Include a Personal/900 section. Although this recommendation created a most lengthy debate, it appeared to be one of the more promising suggestions. It was proposed that a section be added to the paper to provide advertising space for companies with 900 phone services and personal ads. Advertisers would be required to adhere to specific guidelines for ad content. The section would be boldly marked as to its contents. It was estimated that this one section could significantly increase ad revenues. It was also noted that a majority of the local and national gay and lesbian publications were now turning to this option as a valid source of revenue.

As *Community Connections* has always held the opinions of its readers in high regard, we are asking for your help in planning our future. We ask that you give us a call or drop us a line (see address/phone in box at left), and let us know the direction you would like to see your publication take.

Wishing you the best in the New Year.

--Community Connections