

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Asheville, NC

Serving the Southern Appalachian Gay/Lesbian Community

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Asheville Gay and Lesbian
Information Line:

253-2971

A project of the Asheville Gay and Lesbian
Community Council

Gay and Lesbian Youth Hotline:

1-800-347-TEEN

Thurs.-Sun. 7 p.m.-12 a.m.

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

Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council:

253-1656 / 252-4713

U.S. Department of Justice toll-free:

1-800-347-HATE

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Our new personals
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Gays and Lesbians in the Military What You Can Do

Community Connections has received a number of phone calls requesting the addresses and phone numbers of officials one could contact regarding the ban on gays in the military. Here they are:

- President Bill Clinton at the White House: (202)456-1111.
- Senator Jesse Helms: US Senate, 728 Dirksen Building, Washington DC 20510 (202)224-6342;
- Senator Lauch Faircloth: U.S. Senate, 716 Hart Building, Washington DC 20510 (202)224-3154;
- U.S. Rep. Charles Taylor: R-N.C., 11th District, U.S. House of Representatives, 516 Cannon Building, Washington DC 20515 (202)225-6401;
- U.S. Rep. Cass Ballenger: R-N.C., 10th District, U.S. House of Representatives, 2238 Rayburn Building, Washington DC 20515 (202)225-2576
- General Colin Powell: (703)697-9121
- House Armed Services Committee: (202)225-4151
- The Pentagon: (703)697-5737
- Secretary of Defense Les Aspin: (703)695-5261

MARCH!

The April 25 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation is more than a gigantic party for the gay community. Much more.

While there is no doubt that the community needs, for any number of reasons, this show of unity, socializing is the least of it.

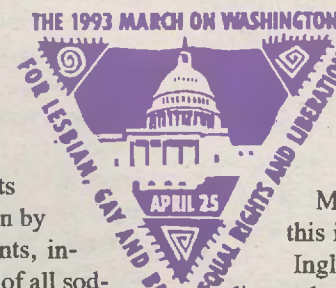
Organizers say they expect one million people--including lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgenderists and advocates--to turn out in an unprecedented show of strength to insist on civil rights and liberties long overdue for the last group in this country which can still be legally discriminated against: gay Americans.

Ultimately, the Committee for the March on Washington, Inc., sponsor of the event, demands passage of a federal

gay and lesbian civil rights bill; an end to discrimination by state and federal governments, including the military; repeal of all sodomy laws, such as those which exist in North Carolina; recognition for gay and lesbian families; a huge increase in AIDS funding; and inclusion of gay issues in educational curricula.

"This March is the single most important political action we as a community will take this year," SALGA member Carlos Gomez noted at the March 7 SALGA meeting in Asheville.

Chris Ingle, North Carolina coordinator for the March on Washington, also attended that meeting. Ingle came bearing a wealth of information from the national committee, including a calendar of events



for the entire March week beginning Wednesday April 21 and continuing until Tuesday, April 27 (see March on Washington calendar this issue).

Ingle also noted two civil disobedience demonstrations which will take place during that period.

According to Ingle's sources, hundreds of individuals, politicians, celebrities, organizations, cities and businesses have officially endorsed the March.

Organizers for the event in the nation's capital are more well-prepared than ever before.

For example, the MOW Committee has designed and produced "Rainbow Wrist-bands," a concept which will, in part, determine the official count of those who attend the event. Each person who attends the March can acquire a wrist-band "embroidered with a unique number from 1 to 1,000,000." This idea is based on the need to have an accurate count, the Committee notes, so that "the Park Service can't lie this time" about the numbers of marchers participating in the event.

Wrist-bands are \$6 each (postage included) and can be obtained by mail from

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Cynthia Janes Steps Down as Community Connections Editor

Community Connections has a new editor--Deb Self--effective March 31, as Cynthia Janes steps down. Janes founded the paper in 1989, while serving as chair of both SALGA and CLOSER.

Begun as a newsletter, *Community Connections* accepted its first advertising in the April, 1989 issue. The following month, it was printed in its current tabloid format for the first time--a 12-page issue with a distribution of 1,000 copies. Since then, it has grown to 20 pages with a circulation of 7,000, and it is now widely distributed around the region.

Janes began a new full-time job over a year ago and has slowly been relinquishing her responsibilities with *Community Connections*. Several individuals have stepped in to handle the variety of tasks inherent in publishing the paper.

Ron Huskins, who began selling the advertising in April, 1989, took over business management, which includes payroll, billing, paying the bills, and taking the finished product to press each month. Laurel Ferejohn took over the

editing in February, 1992, along with electronic layout and production of the pages. Janes continued general coordination of the paper. When Ferejohn's other job became full-time, the search began for another associate editor. After interviewing several applicants who had responded to an announcement in the paper, the staff and Board chose Deb Self for the position. She now assumes the role of full editor, handling the recruitment and editing of articles and coordinating volunteers. Ferejohn and Huskins will continue their roles in the areas of layout, production and ad sales.

In her letter of resignation, reprinted below, Janes expresses confidence that *Community Connections'* Board and the community will continue the work and financial support necessary to keep our paper alive and growing.

Dear Board:

It is with a mixture of sadness and joy that I hereby submit my resignation as editor of *Community Connec-*

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SALGA to Sponsor Anti-Hate Rally

The Southern Appalachian Lesbian and Gay Alliance will sponsor "Hate Free in '93" with a "Rally Against Hate" on Saturday, April 3, from 7pm to 9pm at the City-County Plaza in downtown Asheville. Come show your support for an end to hate-related violence.

The rally will include speakers from a wide variety of local organizations and religious groups. In addition, local musicians will perform. A candlelight vigil will conclude the rally as a symbol of hope for a hate-free Western North Carolina. Come share the light of love and justice. For more information please contact Ellen Hines at 252-7491.