

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

Asheville, NC

Serving the Southern Appalachian Gay/Lesbian Community

Circulation 7,000

Vol. V, No.5

May 1993

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Update

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



photo by

One Million (Or More) March

The Washington, D.C. mayor's office estimated the crowd at the April 25 March on Washington at one million, according to the *New York Times* (4/26/93). But the Metropolitan Police Department put the figure at 1.2 million (McNeil/

Lehrer, 4/26/93). People present at the March are talking one million plus, some even over two million.

The Park Service, whose estimates are always low, regardless of which group is marching or demonstrating, set the figure

at 300,000. It was reported on National Public Radio on April 28 that march organizers had spoken with representatives of the Interior Department, who promised them that a recount would be taken.

Asheville State Representative Stands Up for Sodomy Reform

On April 19 N.C. State Representative Marie Colton (Asheville) introduced a bill into the NC General Assembly changing the state's sodomy law to make sex between two consenting adults legal if occurring within the privacy of a home. After surviving one House judiciary committee vote, the bill was killed in a second vote within a week of being introduced.

North Carolina's so-called crimes against nature (CAN) or sodomy law outlaws sexual contact other than sexual intercourse between a married couple. Colton said she believes that individuals should have the right to choose with whom they have sex as long as it is kept in the confines of the home.

The law is often used as the basis for arresting men frequenting gay cruising areas, but not applied to persons who frequent heterosexual cruising areas. Gay

rights advocates object to laws on two grounds: that it basically outlaws gay and lesbian sexual expression and that its enforcement is selective.

According to the *Asheville Citizen-Times* Merrimon Avenue Baptist Church Reverend Billy Cline appears to agree. Cline was quoted as saying, "What two consenting adults do in the privacy of their own home that doesn't hurt anyone should not be the business of government." This is the same Rev. Billy Cline who organized the 20,000-participant anti-gay "Family Values" March last June.

Colton said that the bill is dead for this session of the General Assembly. The bill's supporters do not expect it to be introduced in the Senate.--Compiled from the *Asheville Citizen-Times* (4/19/93 and 4/23/93) by Cynthia Janes

Minnesota Outlaws Discrimination Against Gays

Minnesota became the eighth state in the union to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. The bill, which passed the House of Representatives on March 31 and the Senate April 1, was authored by the state's two openly gay legislators, Democrats Allan Spear in the Senate and Karen Clark in the House of Representatives. Supporters worked for 20 years to get the bill passed. Governor Arne Carlson, a Republican and longtime supporter of the measure, withstood criticism from his party's right-wing, and signed the measure into law April 2.

The other states with laws prohibiting such discrimination and the year legislation passed are: Wisconsin (1982), Massachusetts (1989), Hawaii (1991), Connecticut (1991), New Jersey (1992), Vermont (1992), and California (1992).--Excerpted from *The Washington Blade* (4/9/93)