

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

Community Connections Editor Resigns

Community Connections managing editor Deb Self has recently resigned in order to accept full-time employment at Asheville's Manna Food Bank. (See Deb's letter, page 2 this issue.) The board of directors and staff of this newspaper appreciate the contributions Deb has made and wish her well in her new endeavor.

At the same time, life in the news biz goes on, and we are faced with the process of finding another leader who can fill her chair.

The position of managing editor is a half-time job, involving editing and selecting copy, assigning stories and photos, some writing, overseeing

the production of the paper and some correspondence. Prior experience in such a position would be very attractive, but we can also provide some training.

Are you the person who can make Community Connections continue to happen? Do you, perhaps, know such a person? Get in touch with us; we'll talk. We will fill this position as soon as possible.

Write to us at: Editor Search, PO Box 18088, Asheville NC 28814.

We believe in the necessity for a newspaper in our community and are committed to the continued growth we have experienced in the past few months.

SEX, LIES, AND MILITARY CONDUCT

by Allen McNulty

Through what political analysts called a "no win situation," President Clinton announced on July 19 what he called "an honorable compromise." Clinton told America that the military would allow gays and lesbians to serve only if they abstain from homosexual activity.

A homosexual who reveals his or her sexual orientation would be discharged, unless they could prove that they were not committing homosexual acts or had an inclination to do so.

Sam Nunn, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is opposed to lifting the ban on gays in the military. Although Nunn has been the leader in attempting to legislate the current

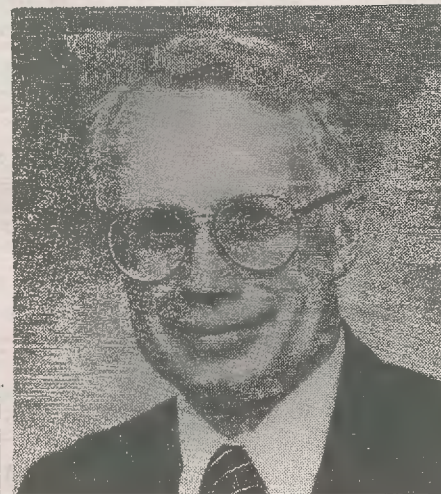
ban into law, he said he would reserve judgment until a Senate hearing is held.

"It is not a perfect solution," said Clinton, facing the opposition. "It is not identical with some of my own goals," he added. "And it certainly will not please everyone -- perhaps not anyone..." Clinton pointed out. "This is an end to the witch hunts that spend millions of dollars to ferret out individuals who have served their country well."

But Thomas Stoddard, coordinator of the gay-rights Campaign for Military Service said, "Under the new policy, homosexuals must still lie and dissemble in order to serve their country."

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Lambe Runs for Council



Announcing his candidacy for the Asheville City Council, Ron Lambe becomes the first openly gay candidate to seek this post.

"Asheville has a great future, and I want to help make that happen," he said. "I believe we have an opportunity to build on Asheville's

remarkable assets to make this a truly wonderful and exciting city for everyone."

Building on his experience and commitment to accountability, fairness, and environmental protection, Mr. Lambe intends to focus his attention on three major areas: Neighborhoods, ethics and accountability in city government, and economic strategies.

"Many neighborhoods are sorely neglected," Lambe feels, and he plans to promote more sidewalks and recreational facilities within the neighborhoods in an effort to enhance their liveability. He is also interested in providing a good public transit system.

He believes that city government must work with business groups to help locally owned mall businesses develop and succeed.

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Colorado Court Questions Amendment's Validity

In an opinion issued Monday by the Colorado Supreme Court, Amendment 2, the referendum that has turned Colorado into a political battleground, may be heading for unconstitutional status.

The Court's statements cast a ray of hope on the gay rights movement in the face of the disappointing announcement, made in Washington the same day, which outlined President Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" military compromise.

The Court seems poised to strike down the amendment, approved last November by 53 percent of voters in the state, saying, "One's right to life, liberty and property...and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections."

The court said the initiative probably violates the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment, which forbids states from denying to anyone equal protection under laws.

The amendment, if enacted, would ban existing state and local

laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. In addition, it would render impotent gay-rights ordinances in Denver, Boulder and Aspen.

There will be no actual ruling on the constitutionality of the amendment until a civil lawsuit filed by the three cities and nine individuals goes to trial in October.

Meanwhile, an injunction preventing Amendment 2 from taking effect has been in place since Jan. 15. In the 6-1 ruling this week, the state Supreme Court refused to lift that injunction.

The Court's posture is encouraging to gay-rights activists in part because it clearly states that Amendment 2 singles out and prohibits a "target class" in order to deny members of that group traditional protection from discrimination.

"No other identifiable group faces such a burden - no other group's ability to participate in the political process is restricted and encumbered in a like manner," the ruling noted.

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