

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Asheville, NC

Serving the Southern Appalachian Gay/Lesbian Community

Circulation 7,000

Vol. VI No. 2

February 1994

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

Right Wing Attacks "Tales of the City"

WASHINGTON, DC--Even before the three part television production of Armistead Maupin's "Tales of the City" completed airing on public television stations around the country, representatives of national right wing organizations have already begun to attack the program and are threatening to pressure Congress to restrict gay and lesbian content in programs shown on public television.

At a public hearing held by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) in Washington on January 12, Robert H. Knight of the Family Research Council, an anti-gay organization headed by former Reagan Administration official Gary Bauer, and Reid Irvine and Joseph Goulden of the right wing organization Accuracy in Media, sharply criticized the series, based on the novel set in San Francisco in 1976.

"Tales of the City" is "a slick piece of gay propaganda," Knight told a panel which included Sheila Tate, Chair of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. He objected that "taxpayers are hit up to pay for a national

propaganda exercise glorifying homosexual promiscuity."

Goulden, in his testimony, showed clips from the film showing a male character attempting to pick up a woman in a heterosexual bathhouse. Goulden objected that the bathhouse scene did not focus on homosexual sex clubs. He called for the CPB to air "The Gay Agenda," an anti-gay film produced by a West Coast hat group which has been widely distributed to churches throughout the country.

Two openly gay representatives testified before the panel, Cathy Renna of the Washington, DC chapter of GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and Gregory King of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). Renna called on CPB to continue its commitment to lesbian and gay programming and urged greater funding for the production of programs. She noted that the majority of programs with gay and lesbian themes and characters are funded independently or overseas, including "In the Life," the monthly gay series which is entirely

funded through private contributions.

King charged that the right wing attacks on "Tales of the City" are part of a larger anti-gay campaign of hate and distortion, "designed to de-humanize us, to suggest that we threaten America, the American family and America's traditional values."

"The real threat to America," King said, "comes from those who argue that some Americans are not members of the general population, that some Americans should be silenced, and that some Americans are sub-human and are undeserving of human rights simply because they are different."

The HRCF is encouraging individuals throughout the country to contact their local public television stations in support of programs such as "Tales of the City," and is urging phone calls and letters to Capitol Hill to counter an expected flood of mail from the far right. "We need to let Congress know that small number of gay and lesbian films shown on public television should not be blown out of proportion by the extreme right."

Women's Health Addressed

The Lavender Web and Pack Place will co-sponsor "Taking Charge: A Women's Health Day", at Pack Place on Saturday, March 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This free event is the first of its kind to feature a diverse group of women health care providers who will present information, experiential exchanges, and open discussions on a wide range of women's health topics.

Topics to be covered include: Life Cycles of Women, Choosing a Health Care Provider, Body Image, Birthing Options and Menopause, among others.

Brief consultations will be offered to women at no charge. Without offering diagnosis or treatment, M.D.'s, Acupuncturists, Chiropractors, Homeopathic Practitioners and others will discuss their different approaches to specific, individual health concerns.

This event gives women the opportunity to take charge of their own physical and emotional well-being. For more information, please call 704/254-3968.

Scandals Hosts 1993 Applause Awards

The 1993 Western North Carolina Applause Awards were held on January 23. The Awards is an annual event that recognizes people and organizations who have made exceptional contributions to the community.

Each year a different bar hosts the awards, with this year's host being Scandals Nightclub. Before the awards, cocktails and dinner were offered at Cahoots Restaurant. The 1994 Applause Awards are scheduled to be held at O. Henry's.

The following is a list of nominations in each of the 15 categories, with the winners listed in italics:

Charitable Event of the Year
Loving Food Resources Benefit at Scandals
WNCAP Auction
Southern Country-Asheville AIDS Benefit
O. Henry's Christmas Benefit

Event of the Year
Loving Food Resources at Scandals
Miss Asheville USA
Jackie Steele's Farewell
WNCAP Auction
Opening of Hairspray Cafe
CLOSER Camp Drag

Outstanding Show of the Year
Aurora Borealis Benefit for America

Miss Lounge Lizard Show
O. Henry's Christmas Show for WNCAP

Fundraiser by an Individual
Art Fryar-Loving Food Resources Benefit
Chris Stroup for Crown Pins
Michael Harney for Freedom Rings
Bob Rodney
Aubrey Gibson

Most Worthy Charitable Organization
WNCAP
Mountain Area Hospice
Loving Food Resources
CLOSER

Outstanding Contribution by an Individual
Ron Huskins
Art Fryar
Steve McKain

Most Significant Political Contribution by an Individual or Organization
Chris Peterson
Ron Lambe
Art Fryar
SALGA

Outstanding Employee of a Social Club
T. J.

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