

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SERVING WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY

## PWA'S QUESTION WNACP LEADERSHIP

"You Just Don't Get It Do You Joe  
Connolly and WNCAP?"

You simply do not have any foggy idea of what all the belly aching, frustration and in your face anger is all about. Well, it must be a director's sort of thing, Brenda Youngblood and Laurie Parker did not get it either.

Each time I write or speak on behalf of the HIV/AIDS community and the many that have died in this struggle, it is as though my breath had been knocked out of me. I am so overcome by the past struggles, injustices, dehumanizing agony that many had to experience, adjust to and die with. They died without voice, with no real input into the

services that were or were not provided. The same struggle continues today, the voiceless HIV+/PWA, a base monetary element at most, used statistically to perpetuate the existence of organizations like WNCAP, whose second most important goal should be to work themselves out of existence, second only to the very reason for their existence, the HIV+/PWA and their needs. There are examples all around us of one group of people knowing what was best for another group of people. This all knowing attitude is reflected heavily by WNCAP's agendas and their approach to everything regarding HIV+\PWAs.

The current elements of Us vs Them, is

not new, it has always been. One director at WNCAP was power hungry and ignored the individual, one knew and felt the anger and hurt but had no idea what to do, and our current director is cowering under his comfortable chair with his self-righteous finger pointing at the HIV+/PWA as his enemy, while refusing to acknowledge his short comings and ineffectiveness.

How cold and heartless can an organization be, after listening to heart wrenching testimony of Stephen McDonough and his experience with HIV+/AIDS and how it has torn his family completely apart. Are you not concerned about what

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## CO-CHAIR'S CORNER

BY NANCY BAKER

I would like to thank the many readers who sent in donations to Pride '98. Even with these, we need many, many more.



Pride '98 week-end is beginning to come together through much hard planning. We are going to have some wonderful speakers for the rally and GREAT entertainment on Friday night.

Make sure you put this date aside for a fun filled week-end. Don't forget if you would like to volunteer for Friday, Saturday, or Sunday of Pride week-end, let us hear from you.

As you keep your eyes and ears open - the upcoming months are going to hold many fund raisers. You will see the details in the Mountain Express, Asheville Citizen-Times, radio, and event calendars around town. We will also be putting flyers for all upcoming events in different businesses. Please come out and support YOUR Pride '98.



I would like to thank St. Joan of Arc for letting us use their facilities to hold our yard sale. This event was a big success and to all of you who came out and shopped, we send our thanks. It took many hours putting this together and from the two co-chairs, we say Thanks for a job well

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## WNACP MAKES GOALS CLEAR

### An open letter to the community

Local media coverage of recent public meetings sponsored by the Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP), and Letters to the Editor of the Community Connections, have left the impression that the organization is not being responsive to the needs of the local HIV/AIDS community and that the current leadership is improperly managing the agency. Simply put, this is not true. I would like to take the opportunity to provide important factual information about the programs and operations of WNCAP.

The Western North Carolina AIDS Project provides service to people living with HIV/AIDS in our five county service area (Buncombe, Henderson,

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\$100.00 house? see pg 28 for details

PRIDE '98 FUND RAISER