

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

UNCA HOSTS NATIONAL QUEER CONFERENCE

UNCA's first gay and lesbian studies conference, "Queer Geographies: Community and Place in History," will be held March 27-28 on the UNCA campus. The conference is sponsored by UNCA's Office of Academic Affairs, GLARE, and UNCA's Sociology Department.

Noted writer Frank Browning, author of five books including the recent "A Queer Geography: Journeys Toward a Sexual Self," will be the keynote speaker. Browning's talk will be held at 8 p.m. March 27 in Humanities Lecture Hall. Browning's articles and essays have appeared in the Washington Post,



Keynote speaker Frank Browning

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QUEER GEOGRAPHIES
CONFERENCE

the New York Times, the Village Voice, Tikkun, Mother Jones, Ramparts, the Saturday Review, Les Temps Modernes, Les Nouvelles Littéraires, Health, Out and other publications. Many know Browning as a former NPR correspondent.

"This conference is an opportunity for UNCA faculty and students to gather with scholars and students from across the nation to investigate the latest schol-

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CO-CHAIR'S CORNER

BY JESSICA BRITTON

Spring is here! Well, almost...that means we're that much closer to Pride 98, and things are really beginning to shape up towards a festive weekend. By now, you should have seen and heard about the

house being raffled by Clyde for our benefit. So far as I know, no Pride anywhere has ever attempted anything like this and we thank Clyde for spearheading this



effort. Remember, only 1000 tickets will be available for this, so get yours soon! Coming up also is the Reach for the Rainbow Prom on March 21, and the Pride Extravaganza on May 2. Tickets are still available for both. And don't forget, the Traveling Drag show puts in an appearance at the Metro on Friday, February 27th at 9 pm!

One of the things I'd like to talk about this time around is how members of our community who are still closeted can participate and help with Pride. I realize that there are many of our community who would like to be a part of Pride, yet for one reason or another have to remain closeted. Believe me, I know how it feels. Many of you would love to be able to march with us, to celebrate, but can't at this time. No matter what the reason, family...job security, whatever, you are still part of our community and you can be a



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HRC SETS GOALS FOR '98

BY CRISSY STEWART

On February 14 the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) hosted the Human Rights Campaign 1998 North Carolina Gala Dinner in Cary, NC. The purpose of this dinner is "to build an even stronger relationship with our members, supporters, community-based HRC leaders, and partnership organizations" states Elizabeth Birch, HRC Executive Director, in a letter drafted for the event. Birch also states, "this year we are working even harder to mobilize a membership campaign and to poise for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in the 105th Congress."

There were over 500 people in atten-

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Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director HRC, Betty DeGenaras, and WNC Lambda Youth Representative Crissy Stewart at the '98 HRC Gala Dinner in Cary.