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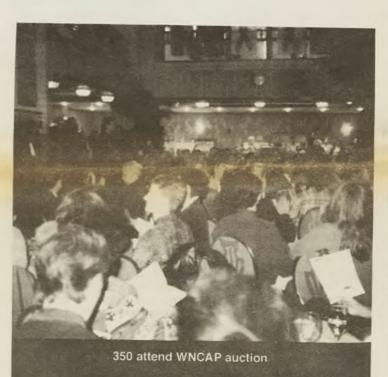
## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS SERVING WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY WNCAP AUCTION RAISES \$60,000

## **BY LESLIE BURNSIDE**

Thanks to the overwhelming support of the community, the annual "Raise Your Hand Auction" of the Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP) was an incredible success. With a record 350 people attending, hundreds of items were auctioned for a grand total of \$60,000 to benefit people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The event held on Saturday, November 14, at the historic S & W Cafeteria in Asheville brought the highest total ever.

The Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of WNCAP extend their sincere appreciation to all contributors, attendees and auction volunteers. The event was truly a community effort and is a success for all affected by HIV/AIDS. For information on free educational programs or client services, please call WNCAP at 252-7489.

One of the events being sponsored by WNCAP and others (see ad page 12) is a holiday dinner for PWA's and their families. The dinner is at Grove Street Cafe, Dec. 16th at 6:00 pm.



## **ASHEVILLE THEATRES JOIN FOR YULETIDINGS FESTIVAL**

## **BY ANDY REED**

Asheville Community Theatre today announced the premier of *Yuletidings*, a special holiday selection of theatre pieces to celebrate the Yuletide season during the last weekend before Christmas. Seven area theatre companies will present short holiday-themed productions in the popular readers' theatre format.

Deborah R. Austin, Managing Director of ACT, expressed the hope that the seasonal presentation will become an annual event, like Montford Park Players' production of *A Christmas Carol.* "Bringing so many area theatre companies together to celebrate the holidays is a wonderful way to show our audiences the strength of the community theatre movement in Western North Carolina. Many of our organizations work together on a one-to-one basis during the year, but *Yuletidings* is giving us an opportunity to offer the whole community a chance to see us at work as colleagues. And what better time of the year than now, when every sector of the community is celebrating."

Participating theatres, in addition to

ACT, are Asheville's Montford Park Players and Smoky Mountain Repertory Theatre, the Brevard Little Theatre, the Licklog Players of Hayesville, Hendersonville's Little Theatre and Belfry Players, and Carolina Theatre Company of Burnsville.

Each company will present a piece chosen to reflect a view of the holidays, ranging from O. Henry's classic *Gift of the Magi* to a script about the pre-Christian solstice celebration. Even Shakespeare will be represented, with a

Festival continued on page 20

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