

# Letters



## More Kind Words

Dear Editor:

In the past year, *Update* has struck a number of exchange agreements with local Gay community newspapers. Our goal has been to back-up our local news staff with the local news staffs of other local papers across the nation.

The assumption has been that local Gay community newspapers are here to stay and grow, and that as a collective association, are the best possible source of news on a national scale.

In this regard, I have been genuinely proud to credit *The Front Page* with the news stories of national significance that *Update* has reprinted from your pages. *The Front Page* has chosen to respect its readers as a public trust, not to be manipulated or abused, and to report news as facts in as balanced a manner as possible.

It is my personal belief that it is on such solid rock foundation that a well informed Gay public will forge its path toward human rights, dignity, and personal happiness in the 1980's.

Congratulations on your first half-year of publication.

Cordially,  
Pat Burke  
Managing Editor  
San Diego *Update*

Dear Friends,

As a previous resident of your beautiful state, I want to acknowledge you for the fine job you are doing as the "gay voice" for North Carolina. We need responsible journalism more than ever, and to have it in the South, is a terrific win for all gay people.

Best regards,  
Corrine Gearhart  
Assistant Publisher,  
*The Advocate*

*(Wow. The Front Page, since it first began some months back, has received quite a number of such compliments and they have been extremely gratifying. Needless to say, we no sooner got these letters, than we threw all false modesty to the wind and printed them for all to see.)*

*But, right now, The Front Page would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous debt we owe to the many other gay publications around. The Front Page leans—and, make no mistake, leans heavily—for support upon the many fine Gay newspapers published around the country.*

*Most of these publications, like us, are run on tight budgets of time and money, and for most the production of each issue amounts to a minor miracle (labor of love category).*

*What with the problems of finding the time and the staff (mostly volunteers, mind you) to write, research, compile, typeset, layout and correct... along with the problems of finding advertisers, and learning (the hard way) to separate the advertisers who will pay their bills from those you will ultimately have to take to court in order to collect... it's a compliment indeed that several of these papers should take time to send us kind words of encouragement and support.*

*But The Front Page owes its debt not merely to those who have written kind letters. We rely on many Gay newspapers for the news and information we bring to you in each issue. We also try, although we don't always succeed, to keep our writing up to the quality of their papers.*

*In summation, then: when you consider that The Front Page is doing a good job, consider also the papers we use as source materials and as standards by which to judge our own work. When you praise us, you praise all of them as well.*

—Ed.)

*The Front Page welcomes comments, criticisms, and information from our readers. We love getting mail! Typed, double-spaced letters are ideal, but not mandatory. It is mandatory for letters to be signed. Unsigned letters will be disregarded. Names are withheld upon request, and considered confidential.*

## No Association With W.A.S.G.

To the Editor:

It has come to my attention that a group of females are meeting regularly and calling themselves the "Women's Alternative Sexuality Group (W.A.S.G.)." The most recent evidence that this is still true is a new version of the triangle area *Women's Resource List*.

W.A.S.G. was co-founded by myself and another woman (who is no longer in the area) in January 1979, to be the women-only subdivision of the Duke Gay Alliance. Since then, W.A.S.G. has been linked to my personal reputation and the reputation of the D.G.A., and linked CLOSELY.

I would like to state, for the record, that my affiliation with any group of women using this name ceased in early February, 1980—when it became clear to me that the females calling themselves W.A.S.G. were acting in a manner directly contradictory to the support group format under which W.A.S.G. was formed. I am personally aware of breaches of confidentiality and intentional hurting of other members within group meetings by members of this group.

I want it known that I do not believe they have the right to call themselves the "Women's Alternative Sexuality Group," as the use of that name endangers my personal reputation and the reputation of the Duke Gay Alliance. I was once the sole active link between that organization and the D.G.A. That link no longer exists, as I no longer ally myself with those females.

I have already requested that they take a different name. Since they seem to have ignored my request—a request that stems from my desire to protect my personal reputation—and since I did not trademark the name, and hence see no available legal action to force them to discontinue its use, I write this to make the situation more clear to your readers. I assume no personal responsibility for any injury that someone going to this group may sustain, whether due to gossip, breaches of confidentiality, or emotional attack.

Further, I would like to personally caution women who are seeking support from becoming active in this group.

Thank you for allowing me a forum for these feelings. Let it be known that I speak only for myself.

Sincerely,  
Carol D. Mortimer  
Durham, NC

## COME TOGETHER

Dear Editor:

It is very encouraging to pick-up a copy of *The Front Page* and read about our very existence.

I feel that the North Carolina Gays and the like should unite in a tight-knit formation to oppose the hostile pressure we are receiving from such cuties as Anita Bryant, Jerry Falwell, Born Again Christians and other ethnocentric fascists!

The straight world needs to be educated on Gay Life in every aspect in its highest regard.

There are Black History and Womens

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oh shit

We forgot to remind you... your membership expired April 30th. Unless you were in the club recently you may not be aware of this. Stop by soon and renew yours before they're closed again.

The Capital Corral & Glitter Gulch Disco!