

Front Page

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On A Slow News Day In Eastern Carolina. . .

by Joseph McQuay,
The Weekly News (Miami)

HAVELOCK, N.C.—The banner headline splashed across the front page of *The Havelock Progress* shows how Smalltown, U.S.A. still walks in fear of homosexual activities.

Havelock, the self-proclaimed "gateway to Cherry Point," is such a small town, nestled in the coastal plains of North Carolina. In a town of 5,000, the police chief apparently has devised a formula for how many reported cases of gay child molestings to expect each school year.

"We had a rash of them in a short period of time this year, and it appeared they would continue at a more rapid pace if we didn't do something about it," said Stephanie Hailey, contributing editor of the *Progress*, and author of the banner story.

"Police asked us to get the word out, mostly to alert parents so they will talk to their children," she said.

Since no charges have been filed, the story did not detail any reported incident of child molesting. It did mention a report where a young boy was "tricked into a car and driven some miles from his home. Fortunately, he was able to free himself and get help," the article read.


Hailey said the article was an amplification of usual warnings heard at school: don't accept candy/rides from strangers, etc.

"Citizens are urged to report anything of suspicious nature, such as a car driving around a neighborhood aimlessly or pulling up to a school boarding area and trying to talk to students," the article warned.

The "strangers" are also waiting outside game parlors or football stadiums after high school games, Hailey said.


Election Returns

North Carolina's gay community can be very encouraged by the results of the November 2 elections. Although gay issues were not prominent in any campaign, the religious wing of the New Right clearly suffered a major rebuff in North Carolina. Perhaps the election is best summed up in the words of state Republican Party chairman David Flaherty, who said the results "signal to me that that the people are more interested in bread-and-butter issues than social issues."



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Police Warn of Homosexual Activity

by STEPHANIE S. HAILEY
Contributing Editor

In light of a recent increase in homosexual activity in the Havelock area, local police are asking the cooperation of residents in general, and parents in particular, in an effort to ward off possible future incidents.

Havelock Police Chief Mike Campbell said citizens are urged to

report anything of a suspicious nature, such as a car driving around a neighborhood aimlessly or pulling up to a school boarding area and trying to talk to students.

According to Havelock Detective Lt. Bill Dodson, a young boy was recently tricked into a car and driven some miles from his home. Fortunately, he was able to free himself and get help, Dodson said.

All the reported cases so far have dealt with victims who are young

boys with maturing bodies.

They have been approached at school bus stops, after athletic contests, and at convenience food stores and game rooms.

Dodson asks parents to remind their children (both boys and girls) not to take rides from strangers, not to take money or gifts from strangers, and not allow strangers to bus food or soft drinks or snacks for them.

In addition, Dodson urges

parents to encourage their children to tell their parents or teachers immediately if any of the above occur, so police can be notified.

Parents should instruct their children to describe the person and car with license number if they possibly can.

Children should never allow unknown persons to get the children to follow them behind buildings or into wooded areas for any reason, Dodson said.

And, these rules apply to teenagers just as much as to younger children, Dodson said.

Citizens in the Havelock area, who have school bus stops near their residences, should be aware of any unusual cars or persons who may be showing up when children are waiting for their bus.

"If suspicious about anyone, citizens are urged to contact police, and please get a description and vehicle license plate number, if possible," Dodson said.

"Children are at times easily confused or swayed when confronted with such offers. Every adult in the community should be watchful and help protect and safeguard the welfare of all children from persons who would harm them," Dodson stated.

"We don't want to sound an alarm but we do want the community alerted to this problem," Dodson added.

"Whomever they might be, they are preying on young boys with masculine, developing bodies," she said.

Havelock is located a couple of miles from Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, where about 10,000 Marines and a smattering of sailors are stationed," she said. "Certainly the person or persons who are doing this might come from there."

"Besides being newsworthy, we thought we would let the parents know what's going on," she said. "Under the circumstances with the number of cases reported, running the story was a public service."

She said there was no discussion about where to play the story. Although the second biggest story of the week concerned Havelock getting its own cemetery for the first time, over-dramatization of this gay-related non-story seems a little questionable.

Weekend Retreat with Ram Dass in Chapel Hill

Ram Dass, psychologist, philosopher, and spiritual teacher will be the focus of a weekend retreat near Chapel Hill on Saturday and Sunday, November 27-28. *The Sun*, "A Magazine of Ideas" published in Chapel Hill, has said of Ram Dass that he "has done for religion what the Beatles did for music." Of particular interest to *Front Page* readers is Ram Dass' exploration of his own homosexuality and how it relates to spirituality.

Born Richard Alpert in Boston in 1931, studied psychology at Stanford University, earning a Ph.D., he later served on the psychology faculties of Stanford, University of California and Harvard.

In 1961, while a professor at Harvard, in collaboration with Timothy Leary and others, Ram Dass pursued intensive research with LSD and other psychedelic chemicals. He continued his research until 1967 at which time he traveled to India where he met his guru or spiritual teacher. While with guru, Ram Dass studied yoga and meditation and received the name Ram Dass which means Servant of God.

In 1973, Ram Dass started the Hanuman Foundation which sponsors projects

designed to enhance the spiritual quality of life. Among these projects is the Prison-Ashram Project which helps inmates to use their time for deep inner work. The Hanuman Foundation also supports the Dying Project which assists those with life threatening illness in deepening their spiritual awareness.

Ram Dass has authored several books: *Be Here Now*, *The Only Dance There Is*, *Grist for the Mill*, *Journey of the Awakening*, and *Miracle of Love*.

Asked about romantic and physical intimacy as it relates to the spiritual journey, Ram Dass told *The Sun*: "I can often get incredibly gratified by physical intimacy. There is another person that is involved but there's not one of us, and I slow down enough so that we can hear each other, so that what emerges is the ultimate intimacy, where there is only one of it. It's union, it's yoga, it's union in that sense. And that's the intimacy that I'm going for with other human beings.

"I can experience being locked in physical closeness with somebody and we're not intimate at all, in that most profound sense. We are physically rubbing and all kinds of things and there's arousal but there's no real

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