

The Front Page

December 7 (Happy Birthday, Mom!) — December 21, 1982 Vol. 3, No. 21

NCSU Gays March

RALEIGH—The NCSU (State) Gay Community participated in another first for them when the organization marched in the N.C. State Homecoming Parade on Saturday, November 13 in Raleigh. The S.G.C. marched under a banner which stated: "In solidarity, Duke Gay/Lesbian Alliance and the State Gay Community." Holding the banner was John Stanley, Asst. Coordinator, Florence Vickers, and Gary Woody. They were followed by S.G.C. Coordinator Boy Hoy wearing an N.C.S.U. jacket, and Matt Perry wearing a Duke jacket. Following them were two cars, the first one carrying "Miss State Gay Community" (Elmer Rielly) and the second the Rev. June Norris who is co-advisor to the State Gay Community.

"I think by participating in the Homecoming parade we were being visible like all other campus organizations, and not confrontational" stated Bob Hoy. "It made me feel very good to know that we Gay people are unified. It was just like the parade I marched in in Washington, D.C.," stated Jon Stanley.

The reaction was somewhat mixed, both cheering and boo's by the estimated 2,000 people who saw the parade. The State Gay

Community was the sixth unit of over 70 units which took part in the parade. Members of the State Gay Community such as Judy Boothe feel that it is very important as part of the educational process for Gay organizations to be active and to remain visible. "You would be surprised how few straights actually realize that Gay people exist or care to acknowledge that fact," she stated. The State Gay Community is composed of students and non-students who range from being "very out" to those who are known only to the organization's members.

Upcoming Event

The State Gay Community will be holding its annual Christmas Party Saturday December 11 in the Packhouse, Basement Student Center. The public is cordially invited. The S.G.C. is also soliciting funds in any amount to help defray the costs of the educational, counseling, and other services which the organization offers. Funds are also needed for this year's Gay Awareness Week which will be held February 21 thru 28, and will feature the Rev. Troy Perry as the main speaker. Donations are tax-deductable and may be sent to the following address: S.G.C., Box 33494, Raleigh, N.C. 27606.

Statewide Conference

Planning is underway for a statewide conference of lesbians and gay men next spring reports CGA's *Lambda* newsletter. Planners hope that the North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Conference will become an annual meeting to unify the state's diverse gay community and share information among groups and between individuals.

Last July, representatives from the CGA, the State Gay Community at N.C. State University, and Duke Gay & Lesbian Alliance and some organizers of the 1981 gay pride march in Durham met to discuss the proposed conference. The group has met twice since to discuss conference theme and workshop ideas to arrange logistics for the weekend conference slated for early March.

Our member of the group said the workshop topics will be diverse, with some sessions for people who may be dealing with issues of coming out and other groups for politically active and experienced people. Planning group members have been of diverse opinions on conference theme and have not

chosen a focus yet. They are particularly seeking more lesbians from the Triangle Area to be involved in the planning sessions.

CGA members, at the regular CGA business meeting in September, agreed to co-host the Conference with other lesbian and gay groups in the Triangle Area and to hold it on the UNC-CH campus. Conference finances will be independent of CGA, and no CGA monies will be used for the gathering.

Planners began publicizing the Conference to the general public with brochures and an information table at the Festfall street fair in Chapel Hill on Oct. 3. A staff person said he distributed about 150 Conference brochures and had received good reactions from most people.

Organizers would like ideas on workshops, speakers, and format. They are also asking for contributions of money. Both can be sent to: N.C. Gay and Lesbian Conference, P.O. Box 3624, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, (919) 929-7190 (Terry)

Don't mess with Mr. Benson: A letter from & to John Preston

Dear Michael Baker:

I was infuriated to discover a reprint of part of my article "Good-bye to Sally Gearhart" in *The Front Page*.

You had no right to print that excerpt. If you had asked, you would not have been given permission to do so without payment.

I was assured by Chuck Ortleb that you were not given permission by *Christopher Street*. It's a moot point in any event. Reuse of material is clearly a matter under control of the author; the copyright law is very explicit on the issue.

Please be aware that I think this is a matter of great importance. I am a writer by profession, not avocation. I do not intend to allow my work to be demeaned by this kind of exploitation. I believe in this principle so very much that I have every intention of suing *The Front Page* if you do not meet the following demands:

1. I want an immediate payment for the article's use.
2. I want an apology printed on the front page of the next issue of your newspaper.
3. I want a written assurance that your newspaper will never again illegally use my work.

Again, I do think this is a matter of principle and am fully prepared to take you to court no matter what the expense.

John Preston
Portland, Maine

Dear John:

Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa!

Here's your apology, right smack on the front page, like you asked. The check for your payment should be in your hands by the time you read this, and you have our assurances that this will never happen again.

If I tell you that it was our intention all along to pay you, I don't expect you to believe me. Except. . . If I wasn't already a tremendous fan of yours, having read your articles in numerous magazines and newspapers, then I wouldn't have noticed your address in *The Advocate* pink pages.

And if I had any intention to rip you off, I wouldn't have sent a copy of *The Front Page* to that address, would I? Certainly not the issue which had the excerpt of your article.

This paper has often neglected our writers, but we have never been dishonest. Letters may sit for months before being answered, photos may not be returned for as much as a year, payment may be slow or payment may be prompt but the article doesn't appear for months and months. None of this is anything to be proud of, but it's a long way from dishonest.

The Front Page has worked with a number of professional writers — Daniel Curzon, Steve Warren and John Rowberry in San Francisco, Allen Young in Massachusetts, among others. Some of them have found reason to be angry with *The Front Page*, but we've always made good. Do you think there's any chance that we can kiss and make up?

For the benefit of our readers, I would like to explain that often — in the interest of furthering the "movement" — gay publications and their writers often allow other publications to pick up stories in exchange for lavish credits and no money. In the early days, *The Front Page* existed on such articles. . . we could never have paid for anything. Nowadays, we can pay for some things, but we still take whatever we can get for free.

It was never, however, our intention to print your article and not pay you. Creeping deadlines and my own lack of organization made it impossible to contact you before the deadline on our "Pornography" issue. Very well, you might say, then you shouldn't have printed the article. And you're right, of course.

But I would like to tell you that the article in question, condensed from your excellent essay in *Christopher Street* "Good-bye Sally Gearhart," has gotten more positive response than anything else we've done, except possibly an interview with Armistead Maupin. Perhaps the outrage in your letter stems, in part, from the very hard work and thought you put into this important article.

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