

# The Front Page

Dec. 6-19, 1983

Vol. 4, No. 21

## N.C. Fundraisers for AIDS-Related Causes

by Lee Mullis

Benefit nights at North Carolina bars have raised more than \$5,000 for AIDS-related organizations in the past six months. During a summer benefit, the Scorpio in Charlotte raised more than \$2,500 which was given to the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York.

On October 2, 42nd Street in Durham raised \$750 for the North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Health Project. Sponsored by the Dukes Levi-Leather Club, the event had little publicity except for a news release in *The Front Page*. Nevertheless, approximately 350 people attended the event. One dollar of each admission was donated to the Health Project, and \$70 in extra donations at the door brought the total to \$420. In addition, bartenders and performers contributed their tips of \$330 to the Project.

On October 9, the Capital Corral in Raleigh also held a fundraiser for the Durham-based Health Project. Patrons were asked to contribute \$3 at the door, and Project staff collected \$372.

Recent Charlotte events have benefitted the newly-formed Charlotte AIDS Relief Fund (CARF). An auction held at the Brass Rail on November 13 raised roughly \$800, and a November 16 benefit at Scorpio raised some \$1,200 (portions of which may go to Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York and/or the Duke University Medical Center in Durham).

Funds raised for the North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Health Project's AIDS program will be used to finance an informational brochure on AIDS and a touring community education program. (The Project would also like to use the money to establish a support service for people with AIDS that would include counseling and

housing and emergency financial assistance.)

The Health Project's volunteer staff has already taken their AIDS community education program on the road. Presentations have already been made to the Carolina Gay Association at UNC-CH and to the Gay Men's Folk Dancing Group in Durham. Dates will soon be set for presentations to St. John's MCC in Raleigh and to the Gay Academic Union in Greensboro.

Project staffers hope to carry the program to interested groups across the state. Any groups interested in hosting the program should contact David at (919) 929-9769, or write to the address provided below.

The two-hour presentation is divided into

two parts. The first consists of factual and theoretical information about AIDS and a discussion of the social and political issues the disease raises.

The second part is facilitated small group discussions of the impact AIDS and the fear of AIDS is having on our lives. Some of the presentations will be facilitated by a gay man with AIDS who has been very active with the Health Project.

In addition to the AIDS program, volunteer staff are compiling the health survey forms distributed (in *The Front Page* and elsewhere) over the summer. The Project held a general meeting in November for everyone who had ever expressed interest in volunteering. Organizers hoped that the November general meeting would be a time to match skills and the interests of people to carry on the present programs. They also hope to set up a physician referral service, initiate a newsletter, and expand fundraising.

For more information on the North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Health Project, write: P.O. Box 11013, Durham, NC 27703.

## THE NEWS

### NC Human Rights Fund Decides To Take Duke Gays' Lawsuit

The North Carolina Human Rights Fund agreed November 12 to fund a possible lawsuit by the Duke Gay and Lesbian Alliance (DGLA) against the Associated Students of Duke University.

Acting on a request by DGLA President Robert Bright, the NCHRF board of directors voted at its monthly meeting in Greensboro to take on the case.

The DGLA, which had been chartered by the Duke student government for each of the last 11 years, lost its charter October 6. Bill Bruton, president of the Duke student government, vetoed the charter on the ground that Duke could not support groups that violate state law.

At issue is a provision of the DGLA charter that one purpose of the organization is "to provide a social outlet for gay people of the Duke University academic community." Bruton contends that this provision violates North Carolina's crime against nature law, which prohibits persons of any sexual orientation from engaging in oral or anal sex.

A spokesperson for the NCHRF said the

organization did not know whether Duke would settle the case or a lawsuit would be filed on behalf of DGLA.

In other business the NCHRF board heard a report that mediators had been trained for the group's mediation and arbitration service for lesbians and gay men. The service is designed to give lesbian and gay couples—and others within the community—a sympathetic forum in which to settle their disputes without having to go to court.

The group's discrimination documentation committee said that three more persons have outlined cases of anti-gay discrimination. The committee is collecting such cases to provide concrete evidence that lesbians and gay men do face discrimination in North Carolina. The NCHRF hopes that the evidence will assist political groups in pushing for gay civil rights legislation sometime in the future.

The NCHRF, the state's largest statewide gay organization, can be reached at P. O. Box 10782, Raleigh, NC 27605. The NCHRF phone (which was out of order for several weeks due to a change in location) is back in service at (919) 828-2077.

### Press Clippings:

This is a grab-bag survey of clippings that we have kept on file for the past several months (and — oh, yes! — years), but that should still be of interest to our readers.

#### Parents Of Gays — Two Approaches

According to the Columbia, SC, *Record* (8-29-83), Harriet Hancock, the mother of a gay son, is organizing a local chapter of the Federation of Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. (Parents FLAG). The group, which has 80 chapters nationwide, provides support for people trying to understand their gay children and friends. It also aims at educating the public at large about homosexuality.

Those interested in the Columbia chapter can call (803) 772-7396; or write Parents FLAG, St. Jude's Metropolitan Community Church, 2601 Seminole Road, Columbia, SC 29210.

Hancock, a native of Columbia who was raised a Baptist, does not see homosexuality as a threat to the family: "Our organization would be dedicated to the unification and stability of the family structure." The real tragedy, she says, is society's mistreatment of gays. When her son came out to her, "I cried, not because I was ashamed of him, but because I was so afraid for him. ... I had seen the terrible way that society treats gay people, and I hated for all the aspirations I had had for him to go down the drain."

Hancock asserts, "The bottom line is that you don't stop loving your child just because he or she happens to be gay."

Of course, not every parent feels this way. Sometimes religious belief overcomes parental love. In a letter to the *Fayetteville Observer* (9-18-81), Mitchell L. Watrous defends his homophobia with the usual biblical quotations, and then adds: "Much as I love my children, if one of them would 'turn,' I would be sorely tempted to take him/her out and knock them in the head with a ball-peen hammer."

continued on page 3

### ADVERTISERS WELCOME

The *Front Page* is always on the lookout for new advertisers. **Some rates:** Full Page \$162; Half Page \$87; Quarter Page \$50; Eighth Page \$32; Sixteenth \$19. Other sizes are available. In many cases, there are small production charges in addition to the cost for space. **Terms:** payment by certified check or money order in advance. Credit only to established, approved clients. Call us for a complete rate card, or for further information. **Better yet, call us to place your ad. Thank you!**

Next Issues	On The Streets By	Ad Deadline
Dec. 20-Jan. 9	Tuesday, Dec. 20	Friday, Dec. 9
Jan. 10-Feb. 6	Tuesday, Jan. 10	Friday, Dec. 30

(919) 829-0181

### DON'T MISS AN ISSUE!

If you don't pick up *The Front Page* by the weekend, you might not get one! A year's subscription (22 issues), mailed in a plain, sealed envelope, costs only **\$10.00 (bulk rate)**. If for some reason you desire speedier service or extra protection, you can opt to pay **\$18.50 (first class postage)**. A subscription guarantees you won't miss a single issue!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to *The Front Page* and mail to P.O. Box 25642, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Sorry, we cannot invoice for subscriptions.