

# LETTERS

## A Hollow Note

Dear Front Page:

I was glad to read in a recent issue that there will be a second North Carolina Gay/Lesbian Conference. I am under the impression that the original organizers were burnt-out by their efforts, and was happy to see others were picking up the pieces.

I was, however, somewhat surprised to see that the news item in *The Front Page* had come, not from the organizers themselves, but from another publication!

If these organizers — is it just the Lambda Political Caucus? — are serious about wanting "to insure participation from all over North Carolina" in the 1984 Gay/Lesbian Conference, they could start by letting people all over North Carolina know of their existence.

That means publicizing their activities in a statewide medium (i.e., *The Front Page*) and not just in a newsletter (*Q-Notes*) unknown outside of Charlotte.

Under the circumstances, the announced conference theme ("Networking for Community Support") sounds more than a little hollow.

Fred Malone  
Carrboro, NC

## A Warning

Dear Front Page:

This is a friendly warning to all *Front Page* readers who are considering a move to California. Do not expect to find a pot of gold. As a gay male, being raised in North Carolina seemed like cruel and unusual punishment. While I love the state for its beauty and warmth, the strict conservative views of the citizens make it impossible to lead an open life. I, like thousands of other gay Carolinians, longed for freedom to lead a hassle free life. I envisioned California as the perfect place, the land where care-free liberals allowed everyone to live their lives in peace. I, like most other young gays, thought of California gays as being far advanced in the fight for equal rights. So, alas, I packed my bags and took off to California, envisioning all the new freedoms I would experience.

But it was not to be. I am here in San Jose, a large city located about fifty miles from the gay capital of the world, San Francisco. Surely, a city this size located so near San Francisco would have open gay lifestyles and legislation to protect those lifestyles. Wrong! To my surprise, most California cities, excluding San Francisco, are no more open than a Southern city such as Raleigh. As a matter of fact, the Chapel Hill area possesses a limited Gay employment protection law. Here, in San Jose and most other cities, there are none. Since I have been here, I have been denied housing twice and employment once, because of my sexual preference.

This is not intended to be a bitch letter,

regardless of what it sounds like. I just want all my fellow southerners to know what good things exist there and what life for gays is really like here. It has been a total shock to me, and most other California gays will tell you quickly that this state is not what it appears to be.

I hope all you people that happen to read this, and who may have been considering California, will reconsider before you make the same mistake I did. This is the California kid, soon to be Carolina Kid, signing off.

Bill Whitesides  
San Jose

## Applause!

Dear Front Page:

I have just reread the feature article in your August 16 issue by John Rowberry concerning *Querelle* and Fassbinder.

I would like to compliment both *The Front Page* for publishing and John Rowberry for his talent in creating such an outstanding, illuminating article.

BRAVO!

Thanks,  
Warren A. Potas  
Washington, D.C.

## A Plug

Dear Front Page:

Grow, A Community Service Corporation, now in its fifth year of operation, wishes to acquaint you with our programs and services. We strive to provide support, information, and referrals to people with sexual orientation concerns, whether they be gay men or women, bisexuals, or their friends and families. Membership is open to anyone who supports the purposes of the organization.

The enclosed brochure summarizes our aims and programs. If we can be of assistance

to you, your clients, or your acquaintances, we would welcome hearing from you.

Additionally, Grow has instituted a speakers exchange program, the purpose of which is to share information of mutual or related interests with other groups and organizations in the Lower Cape Fear region. We are especially interested in establishing contact with organizations in the fields of health, law, mass media, education, and religion, but are also willing to consider other fields. If this program is of interest to you, please contact Leo Teachout at 675-0715.

We appreciate this opportunity of informing you of our organization.

Sincerely,

Leo Teachout  
Director of Programs  
Wilmington, NC

## A Poke

Dear Jim Baxter:

I agree with Leo Teachout (*Front Page*, 11/22) that the primary focus of *The Front Page* should be North Carolina news. Would he be willing, I wonder, to send you regular reports on the activities of Wilmington's gay community?

So many people are ready to criticize, so few are eager to give their help.

In response to one of his remarks, I like "I Love Lucy" reruns. In fact, I subscribed to cable just so I could get The Lucy Channel. My favorite episode is the one where Lucy, in one of her wacky schemes, enters a drag contest at the Copa Club without Ricky's knowledge. Her Carmen Miranda, however, loses to Fred's Mae West.

They don't make TV like that anymore.

Cordially,  
Tak Loufer,  
Editor, *SLAM*  
Chapel Hill, N.C.

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# The Front Page

"There is not one member of the gay community who hasn't benefitted positively from the changes over the last 30 years. Yet we still hear, 'I don't like the gay community here very much.' To which we must respond, 'But my dear you are the gay community!'"  
Lucia Valeska

"No minority in this country or anywhere else has gained its rights by remaining silent, and no revolution has ever been made by the wary. Or the self-pitying."  
Merle Miller

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(Emeritus' means only here in spirit)

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Comments, criticisms, and information are always welcome from our readers. The aim of *The Front Page* is to represent the whole of the gay community, but that goal is only possible with readership participation. Those readers with the ability and willingness to write, share a responsibility for the growth and development of the gay community through this publication. *The Front Page* strives to be a non-sexist, non-racist newspaper. We encourage unsolicited contributions from our readers: all we require is that your work be thoughtful and sincere, that it make sense, and if it's typed and double-spaced, so much the better!

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