

Pride Weekend Schedule of Events

October
1 - 3, 2004

www.ncpride.org



Friday, October 1

Durham

All weekend - **Pride Prizes** - Drawings for Prizes at sponsor and select businesses during the pride weekend. Sign up for Pride Prizes at: **Madhatter's Café, Bakus/Club 9, Craven Allen Gallery, Nancy Tuttle May Gallery, Joe & Jo's Grill, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, Fowlers Food, Regulator Books, Elmo's Diner, Dog Star Tattoo, Specs on 9th, Blue Korn Cafe, Cinelli's Italian Café, and Books do Furnish a Room.**

6:00 pm - 11 **First Annual Pride Promenade on Ninth Street & Broad**

Activities at local businesses in Durham with entertainment, prizes, drawings and more. Art Gallery shows and displays.

6 pm - **Shabbat Potluck for queer Jews** and friends in Durham. Contact: rachelanna@exchangeofamilycenter.org

7 pm - 9 pm **"The Body Show"**, 25 artists interpret the human form at **Craven Allen Gallery**, 1106 Broad Street. Refreshments and special art event.

7 pm - 9 pm **"Preview of New Works - Nancy Tuttle May"**, sneak preview of her fall art show at Nancy Tuttle May Gallery, 806 Ninth St.

7 pm - 11pm **Women's Acoustic Showcase** w/ Emcee **Annette Warner, Someones Sister, Jamie Anderson, Annette Warner and Jess Pironis** perform at **Bakkus/9** on Ninth St in Durham.

10 pm - 3 am **Infusion Dance Party at Sirens Lounge**, With DJ Tony Lopez - **No Cover** - All inclusive. Corner of Broad and Markham St.

7pm - 4am - Official NC Pride Women's Party at **Visions** featuring the **Annual KING of The Triangle Contest**

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Telling Tales for History Month

By **Jesse Monteagudo**
Contributing Writer

When I came out 30 years ago, I learned much of what it is to be gay from older gay men, both Latino and Anglo, who I met in Miami's flourishing gay bars. (There were more gay bars in Miami in 1974 than there are in 2004, but that's another story.) Some of those men told me tales about being gay in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's; in the United States, Cuba, and other Latin American countries. From them I learned how difficult (but possible) it was to be gay back then; how far we have come since then; and how far we still had to go. As the son of heterosexual parents (like most of us are), I did not learn about my community's history from my parents; nor from my teachers or my (heterosexual) peers. Thus my education as a gay man had to come from gay sources, from books written by gay people and from the stories told to me by other gay men.

Thirty years later, I still remember the lessons that I learned from those men, many of who are no longer with us. Now that I am somewhat older myself I want to continue that tradition and teach a new generation of our past, whether in person or through my writing. I find this tradition to be especially relevant in this month of October, otherwise known as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) History Month. (There has been some discussion lately about whether we should use describe our community as LGBT or LGBTQ. Again, this is a topic for another article.) LGBT History Month began in 1994 when Rodney Wilson, a high school teacher in Missouri, decided to do something about the lack of queer voices in history textbooks. He organized other educators and community leaders for the purpose of educating students and the general public about our history; the history that many of us learned from older LGBT people when we first came out.

After much discussion, October was chosen as LGBT History Month, being the anniversary



Annual pride events in North Carolina are the culmination of work that began shortly after a man named Ron Antonevitch -- presumed by his attackers to be gay -- was killed at the Little River, near Durham. This resulted in a number of public protests including the "Our Day Out" March in Durham in 1981, above. Organizers David Ransom and Gloria Fahley can be seen onstage in this photograph. Since 1986, NC Pride events have been held annually around the state. Counting the 1981 event, the 2004 PrideFest is the 20th.

Photo by Marcie Pachina, courtesy *The Duke Chronicle*.

month of both the 1979 and 1987 National Marches on Washington, DC for Lesbian and Gay Rights. October 11, the anniversary of the 1987 March, is also Coming Out Day, which is second only to LGBT Pride Day (June 27, the anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising) as a political holiday for our people. Last, but certainly not least, October 31 is Halloween, which has been a day of celebration for queers everywhere long before we began to organize politically. The advocacy group, Gay and Lesbian Americans, one of the early organizers of LGBT History Month, hoped that it would "help educate the public about the contributions gays and lesbians have made in the arts, sciences, politics and sports." Or as historian William A. Percy put it, "specifying every October as Lesbian and Gay History Month is the first step in reclaiming our heroes and heroines, and our past."

For a long time, what passed for LGBT history was a roster of "great gays in history." This was used by many apologists to "justify" sexual or gender variance: "It is not so bad to be a gay man if

Michelangelo was one." But Michelangelo's sexual orientation, which is still debated, does not do away with homophobia any more than Albert Einstein being a Jew did away with anti-Semitism or Louis Armstrong being Black did away with racism. For every James Baldwin or Gertrude Stein there were countless women and men who struggled anonymously against a hostile society and religious, legal and scientific systems that branded them sinners, criminals or mentally ill. The fact that many of them survived such a regimen to create loving households, supportive social groups and flourishing communities say a lot about their survival skills. We are here today because of them.

There are many books written about Oscar Wilde and Natalie Clifford Barney. What about the "anonymous" LGBT women and men who lived their lives as best as they could? Since 1990, our histories have gone beyond "great gays in history" to study the lives and times of our "ordinary" ancestors. They include books like *Coming Out Under Fire* by Allan Bérubé;

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