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NC Pride 2005 Set for September 24

Organizers Expect "Big" Parade; Asheville Grand Marshal Completes the "Circle of Pride"

DURHAM - The annual North Carolina Gay Pride Parade will take place on Sept. 24, 2005 at Duke University East Campus. Pointing to years of increasing success and popularity, organizers expect thousands of participants and attendees from across North Carolina and from well beyond state borders.

"Holding the parade annually in Durham has a lot of logistical and organizational advantages, but it means we have to work intelligently to ensure that the parade pulls the entire state's LGBT community into a circle of pride," says Keith Hayes, spokesperson for the Pride Committee of North Carolina. "This year, we're delighted to announce that Ira Schultz, publisher of Out in Asheville, is our grand marshal. We hope the entire Asheville family shows up for the weekend!"

The NC Pride Parade has taken place for six consecutive years in Durham, the longest period that the parade - which used to travel the state - has stayed in one place. During that time, grand marshals have come from Raleigh, Charlotte, Greensboro, Wilmington and, in 2005, from Asheville.

In 2004, an estimated 10,000 people from across North Carolina, across the Southeast and as far away as Ohio, New York and California attended PrideFest activities. PrideFest weekend activities and attendance numbers are expected to match or exceed those of 2004.

The weekend's events continue to firm up, but will include:

* Pride Parade Rally and Vendor Fair - 10:00 a.m. - 5 pm, Sept. 24, Duke University East Campus

NC'S 21ST ANNUAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL TRANSGENDERED EVENT



NC PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL

* Pride Parade - 1:00 p. m. - 2:15 p.m., Main St. and Campus Drive through Ninth and Broad Streets, Durham

* NightFest - 7:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m. - Hargett Street area of Raleigh, including "Embrace" parties at Raleigh's nightclubs, The Capital Corral (CCs), Legends, View and Flex.

- Many local organizations events to be co-sponsored by NC Pride
- Other performances and art events to be announced at www.ncpride.org.

"The North Carolina LGBT Pride Parade is a force that can unite all of the gay communities in North

Carolina more than just once a year," says Grand Marshal Ira Schultz. "The spirit, optimism and commitment each of us takes away from a pride parade is one of the things that carries us through our work and lives long after the event. September 24 will be a great day of Pride unity for North Carolina this year, and I'll do all I can to keep that sense of Pride unity strong and constructive in Western North Carolina until the pride parade of 2006."

National Sponsors: Whole Foods, Mitchell Gold, USAirways, AdamMale, Adam and Eve, ID Lubricants and Budwieser/BudLite

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NC Clings to Sodomy Law

Court voids consensual oral sex conviction but refuses to invalidate law

RALEIGH - North Carolina Court of Appeals ruled on August 16 that a heterosexual man's conviction for engaging in oral sex with a woman must be set aside because of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, but that the 2003 high court ruling does not require the outright invalidation of the state's "crime against nature" criminal statute.

According to a report in *Gay City News* (8/25/05), the man was charged with three sexual offenses, including a "crime against nature," for attempting intercourse and performing oral sex on a woman he brought home, together with several other people, from a party.

These events occurred in May 2002, more than a year before *Lawrence*, which declared unconstitutional the Texas Homosexual Sodomy Law. The Supreme Court found that the right of consenting adults to engage in oral or anal sex in private was part of the liberty protected by the 14th Amendment's due process clause.

The man was not prosecuted until after the *Lawrence* ruling and was charged with first degree rape, first degree sexual offense, and a crime against nature. The defendant moved to dismiss all the charges against him, contending that the sexual acts, which he did not deny, had been consensual and thus not unlawful. The trial judge denied his motion, but reduced the first two charges to second degree rape and second degree sexual offense.

The judge instructed the jury that consent was an issue on the rape and sexual offense charges, but not on the crime against nature charge, which was a correct

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Get all the latest Pride info at www.ncpride.org