

Because we felt so much stronger we attempted to change our trail names to Artemis and Demeter (two of our favorite goddesses). It was to no avail, however, as our reputation as "the gum sisters" both preceded and trailed behind us. For some reason, other hikers knew they had found the gum sisters (could it be our matching hair cuts?).

After two weeks, it was time to climb the Stechoahs--allegedly the roughest part of the trail. We had, by then, hooked up with John from England, Sumiko from Japan, and Joan from Florida. We all hiked at approximately the same pace and camped well together. It was the toughest thus far and we did it with little water. Tempers got a little short as our physical drives overtook our social graces! It was fun being with the others but none knew we were gay. We were less than carefree with affectionate touches or words and it began to grate on us. We decided to take some time alone and got grounded again. It's working and we think before long, all will be in the open and reactions will be what they will be. We are at Fontana Dam taking a three-day respite and visiting with friends. We will go through the Smokies next, and we are sure to encounter some bears. Andi wants a bear story to go along with her lady slipper sighting! We really are having a wonderful time out here, getting refreshed and in tune with our true needs; besides, it beats working any day.

Love,  
Ann & Andi



## Local Lesbian and Gay Demonstrators Get Arrested

In certain people, information on AIDS passes directly into a vestigial part of the brain that stores homophobia.

One North Carolinian who has this defect is our senior senator Jesse Helms. He believes homosexuality causes viruses. He believes gays deserve to die. He wants no money spent on AIDS education that gives potentially life-saving information to gay men.

Helms' Raleigh office is managed by a Mr. Caudle. Members of the Direct Action Working Group (DAWG) of TLGA<sup>\*</sup> visited the office in early June and found that Caudle, like Helms, is incapable of reason on the subject of AIDS. Instead of discussing the senator's policies, he offered this advice to relieve us of our political naivete and our ignorance about AIDS: we would not change Jesse Helms' mind; and every case of AIDS is a result of sodomy. He raised his voice over ours in an impressive display of authority--especially after one of our guests identified himself as a person with AIDS.

Of course we won't change Helms' mind! That's why his presence in the U.S. Senate is dangerous for this state and for the country: anyone whose mind is made up without considering important truths has no business influencing legislation.

After DAWG's visit, Caudle apparently told Helms that we had "threatened to disrupt the office." The federal marshal in charge of the building, with whom DAWG members discussed details of the legal protest and possible civil disobedience we were planning, tried to discourage the group. He said that Helms had told him the group's members were not welcome in the office because we had threatened to disrupt it, and should be arrested (on federal charges) if we entered the building and approached the door of the office. A representative of the Federal Protective Service,

<sup>3</sup> \*Triangle Lesbian + Gay Alliance





in response to our query, told us that the maximum penalty if we were arrested under these circumstances and convicted would be 30 days and \$50, and he implied that, with the senator as serious as he was, we'd be likely to get the maximum!

On the Monday after the Pride march and rally, in which 2000 of us marched through Raleigh, about 15 of us gathered at 10 a.m. outside Helms's office. Our signs read "Helms, Your policies are killing people," "Fight AIDS, not People with AIDS," "You won't shut us out; you can't shut us up." We stayed outside the building because we didn't want to risk the threatened penalty. We wanted the press to report Helms's questionable tactics, but they chose not to.

During the demonstration, three of us sat down in the street, blocking traffic, until Raleigh police--wearing rubber gloves--arrested us. We knew that without arrests, there would be little or no publicity for the cause. As it was, the media did report the event (with the exception of the Durham Morning Fishwrap) but most did not explain the reasons behind it. The Raleigh News and Observer ran the photo that accompanies this story. Its caption described "gay activists" arrested, etc., but made no mention of AIDS, and there was no

accompanying story. Of the three TV news shows that covered it, WRAL did best: after footage of the demonstration and arrests, they showed a clip of Helms from a couple of years ago talking about quarantining people with AIDS.

Perhaps Helms and the fed were bluffing. After all, how could they distinguish us from anyone else approaching the office? Whether they were lying or not, the fact remains that they used their authority to intimidate us. They wanted us to keep out of the building, and for now they succeeded.

Is this a violation of our constitutional rights? Is it legal for Helms to instruct the marshal to arrest us for walking toward his door? Aren't court orders required for that sort of thing? Is it the political mistake it should be for someone in elective office to threaten and intimidate constituents? We may eventually have the answers.

In the meantime, our hearings are set for August 23. We will need to raise money for our fines. We'd like to thank all those who bought our message-to-Helms postcards at the Stonewall dinner; the cards were our modest attempt to let the senator know we're still thinking of him.

-- Laurel F. and  
Elizabeth E.

#### Quotes of the Month

(Armistead Maupin): "If Dukakis is elected, we'll finally have a Lesbian in the White House--his family is from the isle of Lesbos."

"There's a major positive side effect to coming out--once you tell someone you're homosexual, there is no dish that they feel they can't tell you."

Q. from audience: "When can we expect your father to join PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)?"

Armistead: "When Jesse Helms freezes over."



# The Newsletter

July 1988  
Vol. 7, No. 19

## The World According to the Herald

"Common Sense Advice in the AIDS Dilemma" is the headline that the Durham Morning Herald put over syndicated columnist Walter Williams's recent offering (June 3). If one knows the rag, one might predict on the basis of this headline that the mass of words below it contains nothing sensible, and no advice at all. One would be right.

Williams is peddling Dr. David Pence's pamphlet, "AIDS: A War We Can Win," at \$2 per (Box 10517, Minneapolis, MN 55458), saving the good doctor a bundle in advertising costs. Here is the gist of the "common sense" Williams attributes to Pence:

"Communities with the highest incidence of the disease have been the most reluctant to apply stringent public health measures to prevent transmission... Another paradox is the labeling of legitimate concerns ... as AIDS hysteria. Therefore, individuals who might advocate traditional public health measures are silenced lest they be portrayed by the media as fascists, homophobes, or rightwingers... While the major beneficiaries of good public health policy are homosexuals, the homosexual lobby is opposed to it... Adding to this irrationality, the homosexual lobby has gotten Congress and the state legislatures to appropriate millions of dollars for a cottage industry under the banner of AIDS education. Taxpayers' money is handed out to men who not only engage in the behavior which spreads the AIDS virus but who publicly and proudly proclaim their lifestyles as a virtue..."

Williams at last reveals to us what he and the doc mean by "good" or "traditional" public health policy: "... individuals testing positive for AIDS must forego all penetrating sexual activity and

must disclose all sexual contacts to public health officials. Carriers who will not ... must be isolated or quarantined as recalcitrant carriers." He wraps up this public service announcement with the self-congratulatory, if ironic, comment, "Who needs experts for AIDS public health policy?"

Williams is a respected conservative economist whose columns are published by newspapers all over the country. Things are getting worse. People believe this kind of extreme disinformation because they're so ready to latch onto anything that justifies their homophobia. Williams uses the word "fascist" pretty lightly, but it is an appropriate label for his brand of "common sense." One is certainly reminded of the Nazis, and the resulting fear really is a matter of common sense.

-- Laurel F.

On June 13, one of the Triangle's most energetic AIDS activists, Scott Husted, died of AIDS related illness. Until his death, Scott was an AIDS educator for the state, and prior to that he had worked for the Lesbian and Gay Health Project and Wellspring Grocery. Many members of the lesbian and gay community gathered to mourn and remember Scott on June 15 in Duke Gardens. I will always remember his irreverence and good humor. He loved dinosaurs, and kept a stuffed one on his cash register at Wellspring. His and Lester's home is filled with silly toys--he had a real joy for life. We miss him.

Memorial donations should be made to the AIDS Services Project of the Lesbian and Gay Health Project. We have to stop AIDS because it's killing our family.

-- Sarah P.



# Dialogue With the Enemy: Gay and Lesbian Activists Talk to *The Durham Morning Herald*

The Durham Morning Herald has a new editor, a smooth talking, snappily dressed, closely bearded, thirtysomething go-getter straight out of the midwestern plains--Rick Kaspar. Recently he and Jack Adams--the Herald's notorious, viciously anti-gay editorial writer--agreed to meet with representatives of the lesbian and gay community to exchange views.

About a week prior to the meeting, Mandy and I decided on a list of issues, which I typed and sent to Kaspar. In retrospect, it's hard to say whether such advance preparation got us fuller answers, or less candid ones. As you may detect in what follows, the two men's answers were less smooth on the surprise questions than on the pre-arranged ones.

The following participants met in the library of the 604 Chapel Hill St. building on Thursday, August 18, at 5:30, and we started off by stating our names and respective group affiliations to Kaspar and Adams:

Mandy C., War Resister's League, Triangle Area Lesbian Feminists, Triangle Alliance of Black Lesbians and Gays; Meredith E., Triangle Lesbian and Gay Alliance (TLGA); Nancy W., TLGA; Carol A., Durham Human Relations Commission and the 1986 mayoral anti-recall effort; Joe H., member of Chapel Hill Town Council, TLGA, and a reader of the Chapel Hill Herald (an arm of the Durham paper); and Laurel F., a coordinator of The Newsletter.

Pre-arranged questions are indicated by asterisks (\*). Rick Kaspar and Jack Adams are identified by their initials; no attempt is made to identify the rest of us except in a few cases where comments were made. Since we did not have a tape recorder, much of the discussion is paraphrased from fairly comprehensive notes.

**Q\***: How can we find out who wrote a given editorial so that we may respond to that person? Is there such accountability for unsigned editorials, or does each one accurately represent the views of the entire editorial staff?

**JA**: Our policy is not to sign editorials. Readers are welcome to call me--the buck stops with me on editorials. If my handling of a reader's comments is not satisfactory, the reader can call the executive editor (William Hawkins) or the editor (Kaspar). I might sometimes refer a reader who wants clarification to the actual writer. Three people write editorials--Jerry Gentry (a woman), Don Wall, and me.

**RK**: Editorials represent the opinions of the entire editorial staff. The editorial board meets once a week to discuss our editorial agenda. We have an editorial philosophy, and all the writers know what it is.

**JA**: Some editorials are run without unanimous approval of the editorial staff; I'm the one who has to approve.

**Q**: There seems to be an inconsistency between Rick's comment that editorials represent the views of the whole staff, and Jack's comment that some are printed without unanimous approval. Can we assume an editorial has to agree with the Herald's editorial philosophy? Who is the person most responsible for setting that philosophy?

**RK**: Yes, it has to agree with the philosophy, and I'm responsible for that.

**Q**: For example, let's look at this editorial from June, 1987: "Let Klan, Gay Activists Pay for Their Parades." The members of our community had good reason to be outraged by this; the Herald equated us, a peaceful group advocating tolerance and equal rights for all citizens, with the Klan, a group that advocates intolerance, hatred and violence. It was particularly disturbing since



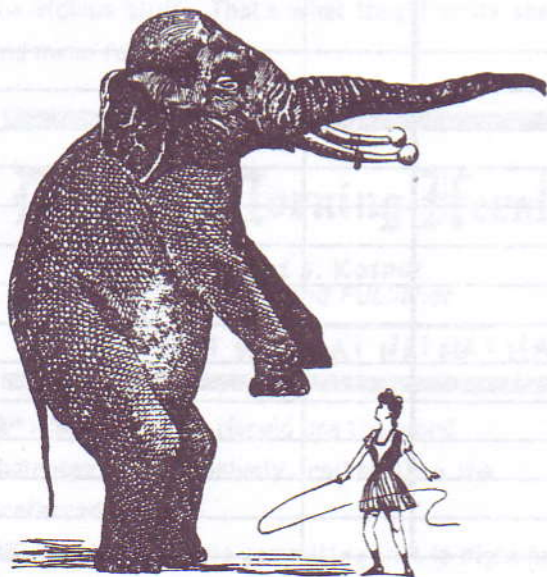
shortly before this was published, Klan members went into a bookstore here known to be frequented by gay men, took the three men they found inside and lined them up face down on the floor and shot them in the back of the head. The sort of viciousness used in this editorial makes one think of the Klan or Nazis. It encourages their way of reacting to gays and lesbians. How does this editorial reflect your editorial philosophy?

**JA:** Our views haven't changed, but probably the way in which we'd present that editorial today would be different. We wouldn't use the inflammatory language. No editorial is perfect. Sometimes I wake up in the morning, read what I wrote the day before, and wish I had said it differently.

**RK:** Our philosophy is different in some ways. For example, the Herald used to publish the names of rape victims. Recently I got a call from a lawyer who said his client would be unable to testify against a rapist if the Herald would not agree to withhold her name. I called a meeting of the editorial board and right then and there we decided to discontinue that policy.

**Q:** Did you know that concerned members of the Durham community have been trying for at least twelve years to get the Herald to stop publishing the names of rape victims?

**RK:** No, I didn't realize that. The reason behind their policy was the public's right to know.



**Q:** Speaking of the "right to know," why did you decide not to mention the first statewide march and rally for lesbian and gay rights, that took place in Raleigh June 25th?

**RK:** Because it happened in Raleigh.

**Q:** Out of 180,000 residents of Durham County, there are probably 18,000 gays and lesbians; why do you continuously marginalize us?

**RK:** That number seems way too high.

**Q:** The march took place in Raleigh because it was a statewide march. People came from all parts of the state to participate. It should have been covered in your state news.

**RK:** Possibly the assignment editor on that day wasn't aware it was happening.

**Q:** You did publish an article on the press conference that took place in Raleigh announcing the march and outlining TLGA's demands to the state legislature. That happened in Raleigh, and that also indicated you were aware of the march.

**RK:** Possibly the assignment editor knew about it, but didn't think it was newsworthy. Also, reporters tend to be very independent people.

**Q\*:** What is the Herald's policy on letters to the editor? Who decides, on what criteria, which ones will be published? How is it determined on a given day which letter will be headlined? Let's look at this letter, for example: it's the first of several on this day, and across all 3 columns is the headline "Don't Give Homosexuals VIP Treatment" (6/28/88). It criticizes you for publishing the account of the TLGA press conference that we just discussed. If this letter had claimed that Blacks had no right to voice demands before the state legislature, would you have printed it? Would you have headlined it "Don't Give Blacks VIP Treatment"?

**JA:** I usually try to lead with letters that are important or provocative. Obviously, this one's an untenable political position, but people have a right to say what they believe.

**Q:** Do you publish all letters, then?

**JA:** No, there have been some pretty awful ones that I haven't published. For example, I always



reject letters from Klan members.

**Q:** What about this inflammatory headline? It's as though you're agreeing with the writer's view that gays and lesbians should not be allowed to address the legislature.

**JA:** I choose headlines that reflect the view of the letter writer.

**RK:** We have to walk a line between leading and reflecting the community. We can't get too far out.

**Q\*:** A neutral position would be "not too far out"; your paper actively promotes a dangerously negative view of us. Do you see that changing at all?

**JA:** We have run some editorials supportive of the AIDS situation—for example, one that said it's good to have the AIDS research at Duke.

**Comment (Joe H.):** There have been some good editorials, and especially some good editorial cartoons. But, if you care about your own obituaries, and most people do, you need to change your paper's policies and stop running the awful ones. In Jackson, Mississippi, in the '60's, there were two newspapers that everyone now makes fun of because of their opposition to the civil rights movement. The Jackson Daily News and the Clarion Ledger are a laughing stock because of the pieces they published. One day people will look at the Durham Morning Herald that way for its opposition to gay and lesbian rights. What really catches readers' eyes, and historians' eyes in the future, is the vicious stuff. That's what they'll write about and make fun of.

---

## Durham Morning Herald

Richard J. Kaspar  
President And Publisher

---

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

---

**Q\*:** Why does the Herald use the word "homosexual" exclusively, rather than the preferred "gay"?

**RK:** We have a style committee that is right now

considering that matter. "Homosexual" has been the Herald's style, but if the committee decides to start using "gay," that's what we'll do.

**Q:** Are you aware that when you use the phrase "homosexuals and lesbians" you're being redundant?

**JA:** Jerry Gentry is chairman of the style committee, and this question is on their agenda. If anyone would like to let her know of their concern, they could call or write to her.

**Q\*:** Does the Herald as a business have a policy on employment of open gays and lesbians? Would the paper hire such applicants? Does the paper employ any open gays or lesbians now?

**RK:** Yes, we do employ gays. We have several on staff that I know of. One of the worst phone calls I've had since coming here was one where a guy—obviously a redneck—attacked the Herald for having a gay man answering phones. Of course, it depends on what you mean by "openly" gay. If you mean public displays of affection, well, we wouldn't want heterosexuals to do that at work...

**Mandy:** No, "open" just means someone who doesn't hide the fact that they're gay or lesbian, who will tell you.

**RK:** No, we don't discriminate against that. I don't believe in it. I have had gay friends.

**Q\*:** What do you see as the editorial direction of the Herald over the next five to ten years?

**RK:** I haven't been here long enough to determine that—only a couple of months—so I can't really say. But if I'm really going to be honest with you, there are certain things with respect to gays that I wouldn't encourage. This is probably going to make you angry, but I don't think they should be in role model jobs.

**Q:** What are "role model" jobs?

**RK:** Such as teachers.

**Mandy:** We're there. We're in every occupation there is.

**RK:** I also supported the Supreme Court's recent decision upholding the Georgia sodomy law (sodomy

... Continued on p. 8

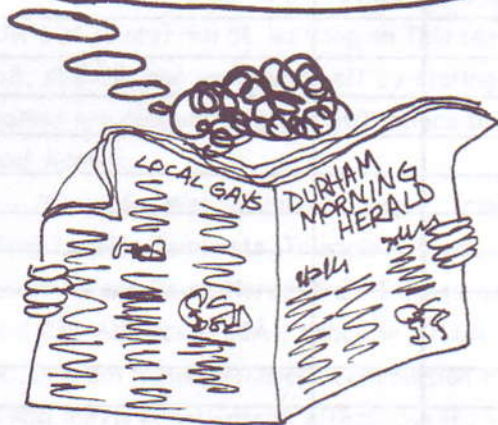


## Enemy (cont.)

illegal between consenting gay adults). But I do question the enforceability of such laws, and I do question having the targeted population. I also question the government's right to interfere in the bedroom, for anyone.

**Comments from various participants:** In my ideal world, the Herald would never write editorials like that Klan one, and never use the "Gulley is brain-damaged" kind of political stuff again (referring to the Herald's opposition to Mayor Gulley's signing an anti-discrimination proclamation that included gays and lesbians)... I'd like to see you discourage homophobia, as many papers discourage racism... You again used gay baiting against Mayor Gulley when he was running for re-election; gays were used... People like the "redneck" who called you to complain about your

...MAYBE THEY CAN CHANGE...  
... WE'LL SEE....



gay phone-answerer are not that rare; that's the kind of person who responds to your vicious editorials by feeling that his homophobia has been justified for him. Particularly now, when some politicians are using AIDS to gain themselves a homophobic following, your views of us are very dangerous. The whole situation is reminiscent of the Nazis... I'm glad we put a human face on each other with this meeting. Now we're not just "those

faggots" or "those dykes," we're real people with real concerns, who care about the Durham community.

**RK:** I hope you get the word out; I want to listen to everyone--the disenfranchised as well as the enfranchised. I know the paper's not where it needs to be to reflect the community.

-- Laurel F.



## Campus Watch

A newly formed political action group, **Campus Watch**, wants to ban the use of mandatory student activity fees by homosexual groups on University of North Carolina campuses, and is asking General Assembly candidates to consider enacting a law to that effect. Ed Cottingham, acting chair of the group, said his organization wants to "balance" what he sees as "the pervasive political radicalism on university campuses."

Other matters of concern to Campus Watch include: a CIA recruiter being chased out of Chapel Hill in February by "radical students;" the Duke University administration's failure to criticize a sign--"Hinckley Had the Vision"--which appeared during President Reagan's visit to Duke in the spring; and the Duke administration's reluctance to vigorously refute charges that Duke is "racist" during a controversy over the school's hiring of minorities this spring.

-- from DMH 8-28-88

Editor's note: We'll try to keep up with any further activities.