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## **NC PrideFest Draws Regional Support**

RALEIGH, NC – August 24, 2001 – NC PrideFest 2001, scheduled for September 29 in Durham, is attracting attention from well beyond the state borders and continues to create reasons for thousands of LGBT North Carolinians to parade and get involved.

Two particular out-of-state draws come to North Carolina by way of Atlanta.

First, Atlanta Pride is lending a 100-foot-long rainbow flag to NC Pride, which needs 50 people – preferably from around the state – to carry it. The flag is actually one piece of the famous mile-long rainbow flag that graced a New York City pride parade in the 90s.

Second, the Atlanta Freedom Marching Band – a gay and lesbian group – is making its North Carolina debut at PrideFest 2001. NC Pride organizers are looking for another 24 marchers to parade in front of Atlanta Freedom, carrying rainbow flags as a gesture of welcome to the band.

“Pride is all about pulling our community together, celebrating our uniqueness and diversity, making an impact beyond the LGBT world – and having fun,” says NC PrideFest co-chair John Short. “The parade is really shaping up, and more people get involved every day. We’re on track for creating something really special this year, and I’d like to set some records for statewide participation.”

The theme of this year’s parade is “embrace diversity,” and NC PrideFest has created clubs to meet at and march in the parade, including a veterans group, a Latino/Latina group, and Asian group and an antique car club. Dozens of people are involved and space remains for more.

PrideFest has also struck a deal with a company that rents parade floats. For a fee in the low hundreds, any group can rent a float through the parade committee, which charges no entry fee for appearing in the parade.

The website [www.ncpride.org](http://www.ncpride.org) contains all contact information any participant needs.

The schedule of activities for NC PrideFest is still growing but pivots around the Noon p.m. rally and parade in Durham on Saturday, Sept. 29 and an evening of events at the night festival in Raleigh.

Current supporters of NC PrideFest 2001 include U.A. Air, *Curve* magazine, Adam Male, The Capital Corral, Legends, Insomnia, Flex Club, Visions, and White Rabbit Books. Media Sponsors include *The Independent*, *The Front Page* and *Q-Notes*. The designated hotel for NC PrideFest 2001 is the Clarion State Capital Hotel in downtown Raleigh.