

Q-NOTES

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Baxter Is 'Carolinian Of The Year'

Jim Baxter, editor and publisher of *The Front Page*, is QCC's "Carolinian of the Year."

Queen City Quordinators announced the award and made the presentation at the Pride Week banquet June 25 at Fortuna Restaurant in Charlotte.

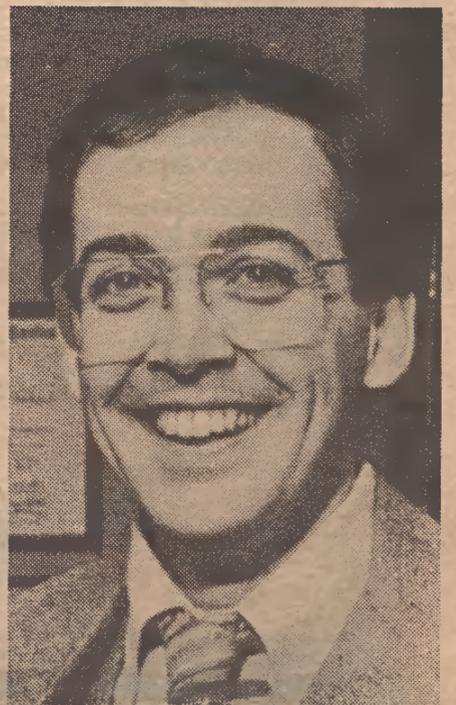
Baxter is the witty, charming man — in conversation as well as writing — so many people throughout the Carolinas call or write when they have news for the twice-monthly newspaper headquartered in Raleigh. Baxter founded *TFP* almost seven years ago with a loan from a

business man he worked for.

The Maryland native who came to North Carolina to attend college and stayed has lost two jobs because of his refusal to hide his gayness: 1975 by the Greensboro Youth Council after a television appearance, and 1985 by *The Spectator*, a Triangle magazine.

Last year's job loss occurred after Baxter was severely beaten by two strangers who came to his apartment at 2:30 a.m. on Sept. 1. The two had pounded on other doors at the Raleigh apartment complex where Baxter lived and Baxter, groggy with sleep, let them in, thinking he might have talked with one of them previously. As the minutes passed, they paid little attention to his requests for them to leave, noticed gay publications in his apartment, and attacked him. He suffered facial injuries that required stitches, a broken finger and severe bruises where they had kicked him and hit him with a broom handle.

The story appeared in a Raleigh newspaper. The day he returned to work following hospitalization, his superior at *The Spectator* told him he would have to give up working with *TFP* to stay employed. A week later, the second in command told



JIM BAXTER

him the magazine was letting him go. He had worked as an open gay man for five years at *The Spectator*.

He now supports himself with a small salary from *TFP*, by writing an entertainment column for a progressive Triangle newspaper called *The North Carolina Independent*, and by freelance jobs involving graphics and writing.

Baxter is the opposite of so many North Carolina gay men. Instead of growing up in the state and moving to a larger urban area, he came to North Carolina from a Washington, D.C., suburb and stayed.

Guilford College near Greensboro was the lure. After a year commuting to American University in Washington while living at home in Hyattsville, he visited Guilford at

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Ed DePasquale, who attended Oleen's the first night it opened, and Mr. Carolina Drummer Butch Stevenson present plaques to Oleen Love.

Tea Dance, Beach Party Added

A 4-8 p.m. tea dance on the patio with music by Les has been added to the Pride Week Carnival at the Scorpio parking lot Sunday, June 29. And Charades is holding a beach party that night with cover charges to the Metrolina AIDS Project (MAP).

The Carnival, free except for food and beverages which will be sold, begins at 12 noon. Sales booths will include jewelry by a local lesbian company, an Atlanta T-shirt retailer and possibly White Rabbit Books of Greensboro.

Several organizations will have booths including the Gay Parents Coalition, MAP, the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard of Charlotte, the North Carolina Gay/Lesbian Health Project and QCC.

Surprise entertainment is also planned.

Beer sales will begin at 1 p.m.

The first weekend of Pride Week brought a crowd to Oleen's on Saturday, June 22, (see picture elsewhere) and to Bryant Park on Sunday, June 23, for softball, volleyball, horseshoes, sunbathing and food.

Two other events you still have a chance to make — if you've picked up Q-Notes early — both on Saturday, June 28:

The final performance of "Bent" at Spirit Square at 8 p.m. (tickets were to be sold at the door the night of the play); and the North Carolina Gay/Lesbian Pride March in Durham.

If going to Durham, assembly for

the march is 11:30 a.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 404 Alexander Ave. The finish line: West Durham Park (corner of Hillandale and Hillsborough Roads).

A tea dance on the Scorpio patio has also been scheduled 4-8 p.m. Sunday, July 20. Cost is a \$1 donation to QCC. Alcoholic beverages will be sold, and the VIP room will

be open.

Oleen Love and her bar were honored by QCC on June 21 at the first event of Pride Week. Oleen received two plaques, one designating Oleen's as Charlotte's "Mother Bar"; the other citing Oleen for her contributions to the gay/lesbian community. Oleen's was the first of Charlotte's current gay bars.

Mr. Charlotte Contest Is July 13

A man representing Charlotte is going to win a free trip for two to the Hotlanta River Expo — formerly the Hotlanta Raft Race — next month.

All he has to do is win the Mr. Charlotte Contest sponsored by QCC at Charades on Sunday, July 13. It's a preliminary to the Mr. Hotlanta Contest, an event that has become a nationally sought title.

Contestants for Mr. Hotlanta will come from Hawaii, Canada and many states including Texas, Illinois, California, Minnesota, Colorado and Massachusetts. Last year's winner was from Boston; the first runnerup, Houston.

This is no leather contest.

"They're looking for an all-American type," said Rick Walkup of the Mr. Hotlanta committee.

"This is a contest for an all-around person. They want good body definition, well-proportioned. A person with a huge chest and small legs

To Enter Mr. Charlotte

To enter the Mr. Charlotte Contest, ask for Steve Freeman at Charades; contact Robert Sheets, 375-7315, or write QCC, P.O. Box 221841, Charlotte, N.C. 28222. Deadline is Saturday, June 12.

probably wouldn't make it."

The Charlotte winner will receive registration for two to the entire River Expo weekend Aug. 1-3, accommodations for two, plus money for gas and incidentals. The weekend includes a huge opening party called "Fusion" Aug. 1, a carnival, the Mr. Hotlanta Contest at the Fox on Aug. 2, and the Aug. 3 trip down the river.

Categories for Mr. Charlotte will parallel those for Mr. Hotlanta:

■ Presentation, in which the con-

testant wears clothing for the image he wants to project.

■ Formalwear.

■ Swimwear.

Talent displays or "fantasy" acts are not required.

QCC officials said the Mr. Charlotte winner would get a sitting with a photographer, paid for by QCC.

Registrations for the entire Expo weekend are limited to 1,000, and have not been filled. The cost: \$80 per person, payable by check or money order to Hotlanta River Expo, Inc. A T-shirt costs an additional \$10.

Packets for those who register in advance will be available at the Colony Square, headquarters hotel for the weekend. To register, send check, name and address to Hotlanta River Expo, P.O. Box 8525, Atlanta, Ga. 30306.

There is no limit to events other than the river trip itself, and tickets will be sold separately.