

Offer By Bookstore Elicits Praise

Two truisms I've learned through the years.

■ There are no free lunches. You pay for everything one way or another sometime or another.

■ Everyone, and I do mean EVERYONE, has an opinion. They're like noses (this is a clean newspaper; I usually use a different term). They come in all shapes, sizes and colors.

The first truism: there are no free lunches. It takes time, work, money

and sweat to put out the newspaper you're holding right now. Nobody gives us the newsprint, computer time, paste-up sheets, pictures and ink. They all have to be bought with the same hard earned cash we all strive for every day. Ads help pay the cost, but they didn't cover the full amount of the first issue. You see no price tag on this newspaper because QCC doesn't think you ought to have to pay to be a better informed person.

But you can help pay for this paper in another way. SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS. And when I say support, I don't mean just go there when they have a special. Advertisers are like any other business: they need your continuing patronage on a week-to-week basis.

Which brings me to the second truism: opinions are like noses.

QCC needs money for this and other projects for our community. We get this money through fundraisers either at a bar or other places. It's these other places that I speak to now.

A local business in May told QCC that it would donate 25% of all profits on a given item rented for the month of June. Interested? Read on. This business is an adult bookstore — those much maligned ventures we've been seeing on the evening news.

Now I don't know how you feel about the situation, but it's my opinion that people ought to be able to read or see anything they want to see or read, be it the King James Bible or the latest issue of *In Touch*. Like I said, opinions and, to a great extent, tastes come in all shapes and sizes.

It was the opinion of the board of QCC that other people shouldn't make decisions as to what people read. If you're over 18, you can make that decision for yourself.

A note in passing: I've not seen ANYONE being beaten over the head with a baseball bat and being drug into an adult bookstore. People seem to go in quite willingly. It is because of this opinion of the board of QCC that we accepted the offer of this business.

If you've been with me this far, you're totally hooked and I love it.

Now for the good stuff. The guys name who made that offer is Richard Wilds, and he's the manager of the Joy Adult Books at 1301 East Independence. Richard promised to give to QCC 25% of all the profits on the rental and sale of gay themed tapes for the month of June. And he did.

Whether you like the idea or not, it's good policy and good neighborhood — not to mention good brother/sistership — to return to the community some of the money that you make from that community. It's like a renewable resource. So if you're of a mind to

check out Richard's place now that he's made that donation, please do so. And thank him for it.

Could be he just might want to do that same thing again sometime. With your patronage, you'll be letting him know how much you appreciated his helping out the brothers and sisters all across this town we call home.

— DEAN GASKEY
QCC Board Member

Baxter Feted As 'Carolinian Of The Year'

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the invitation of a high school friend. He liked the small-college, small-town atmosphere and the freedom from home, and stayed, quickly involving himself in the community, particularly the arts.

"When I graduated in 1975 with an English major," he said, "there was a recession and I could afford working at the Pizza Hut and living in North Carolina while trying to get my career off the ground. Going back to Washington was too expensive and there were no jobs. After awhile, North Carolina became home."

While still at Guilford, he had written for an underground newspaper called *The Greensboro Sun*. In a 1974 article, he wrote, "Gay liberation, true freedom, is not in the bars, the baths, or other such places. It is in the streets, in the courts, on the job, in the family and among friends."

He was out of the closet and living his own philosophy even then.

His only concession to the closet came when he founded *TFP*. He was working at the time for the man who lent him the money to start the paper, and agreed to use a pseudonym, Michael Baker. But when fag bashers killed a man they thought gay near Durham in 1981, he dropped the pseudonym with the blessing of his former employer.

Jim is continuing to look for a well-paying job that will allow him to continue working with *TFP*. But his determination to be himself shows in his resume where he states forthrightly that he has been editor and publisher since 1979.

As is his wont, he even found a silver lining in the assault.

In an October, 1985, issue of *TFP*, he wrote, "One very touching aspect of this incident has been the response of my friends. The parade of visitors through my hospital room was incredible. I knew that my friends were my friends before this happened, and there was no need to put them to any test; still, it is enormously gratifying to know that they would respond so quickly and strongly."

"Perhaps my favorite experience of this sort involves a close friend who is, for several reasons, not entirely out of the closet. The idea of attending the Southeastern Gay Conference in Chapel Hill last April (1985), for example, terrified him. But when he heard what had happened to me, he put on his bright purple conference T-shirt, a gift from me, drove the 50 miles from his house to the hospital, and insisted on being allowed to spend the night in my room. And so he did. Every time I woke up that first night in the hospital, he was there."

That's Jim Baxter: activist, humorist, finder of something good even in the bad, lover of humankind. Someday, perhaps, he'll find time to write a book about it all.

— DON KING



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