

# Q-NOTES

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## It's 21-And-Over For Bars On September 1

The Labor Day weekend is the last for 19- and 20-year-olds to get into Charlotte's gay bars, and state alcoholic control agents, according to one bar owner, intend to enforce the new age limits very strictly during the first few weeks.

Beginning Sept. 1, North Carolina law will exclude anyone younger

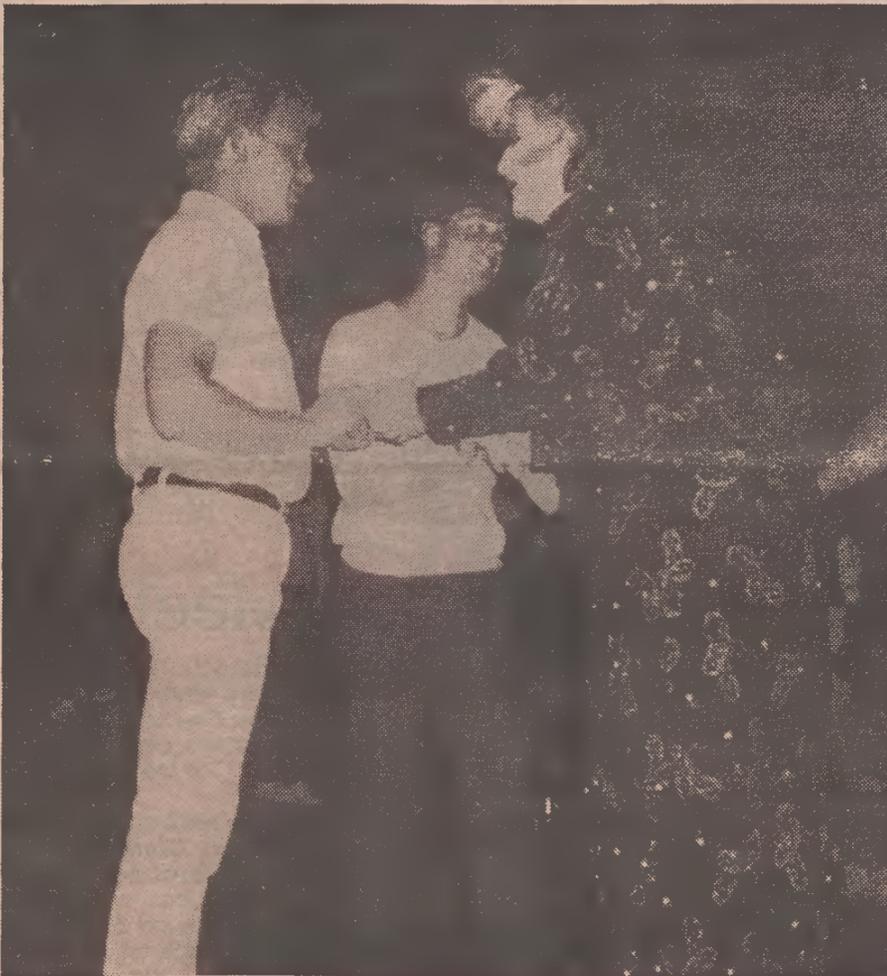
than 21 from entering an entertainment establishment that serves alcoholic beverages of any kind, bringing North Carolina into line with many states which already have such laws. The 21-and-over policy was initiated by the federal government in the early 1980s and states were threatened with a 5% reduction in federal highway funds if they

didn't comply before 1987.

Some bars are anticipating strict enforcement by reminding patrons that they must have membership and identification with them at all times while in the bar. Undercover state agents are expected to be in bars any time they are open.

No Charlotte entrepreneurs have

announced nonalcoholic nights or a gay/lesbian bar that would serve no alcoholic beverages, creating a void for 19- and 20-year-olds who are used to attending bars. Their only legal alternative will be to attend nongay nonalcoholic clubs such as Glory Days near Charades, but same-sex dancing is usually not allowed in such clubs.



The crowd poured onstage to tip Boom Boom Latour during the roast in her honor at Scorpio in mid August. Roasters included Brandy Alexander of Jacksonville, who pointed out that she was "Witch of the East" and Boom Boom "Witch of the West," David Wright of Greensboro, Tags owner Danny Follis, Charades owner Steve Freeman and many others.

## Town Meeting Called To Fight Charlotte Battle

Special To Q-Notes

A town meeting hosted by One Nation Indivisible has been called for Charlotte's gay/lesbian community at 8 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 15.

The meeting — to be held at Charades with every member of the community asked to come at no charge — will be the first of its kind in Charlotte.

The purpose: to decide how Charlotte's gay men and lesbians should respond to the increasing oppression evident here; to register to vote; to join ONI; to be heard on an open mike about instances of job, housing and police discrimination.

According to Don King, a member of ONI's steering committee, no alcoholic beverages will be sold, no disco music will be played, and no media will be allowed.

"I appeal to every gay man and lesbian who is angry about what's happening in Charlotte and North Carolina to come to this meeting," King said. "This is a private meeting for gay men and lesbian women to decide what we want to do about

Want to start working with ONI right now? Meetings are scheduled for these Wednesday nights at 7:30 at New Life MCC: Sept. 3 and Sept. 10. New Life is located in the Labor Building, 2121 Commonwealth Ave. Go up the steps in the rear of the building.

At its Aug. 27 meeting, ONI was scheduled to review the political questionnaire, set goals for a meeting with the mayor, set up a Legal Process Committee to take advantage of the skills of persons who have worked in passing legislation, and set up a Research Committee to document cases of abuse and discrimination.

the increasing oppression of our people in Charlotte.

"There are a lot of angry gay and lesbian people here — angry about the police department's policy of excluding us from being hired, angry about Mayor Harvey Gantt's failure to follow up on his campaign promise of two years ago, angry about bigots like Concerned Charlotteans and the Ku Klux Klan march coming on Sept. 6, angry about the oppression of the adult bookstores.

"There are some very strong things we can do, and some of the milder things have already been implemented. Now we have to determine as a community just how determined we are and how many of us are willing to work to keep the bigots from taking away more of our freedoms.

"We want our bars and our organizations to continue to exist. We don't want any action taken in Charlotte to quarantine gay men. We need to start working seriously on an antidiscrimination ordinance in Charlotte and on repealing the state antisodomy law, and on electing people who will help us do that."

One Nation Indivisible, at an organizational meeting on Aug. 18, has become Charlotte's latest human advocacy group with emphasis on gay/lesbian activism. It was

SEE CHARADES, NEXT PAGE

## Skating Resumes; Bowling Starts

Skate parties for gay men and lesbians resume at Roll-A-Round Skate Center on Thursday, Sept. 18.

Monthly gay/lesbian skating was started in Charlotte at Roll-A-Round in March by QCQ.

The center is located at 5417 Delta Road, just east of Albemarle Road at the intersection where Harris-Teeter and Shoney's are located. Skating is 8 to 10:30 a.m. at \$3.50 per person (skate rental is included).

QCQ's bowling league for the gay/lesbian community also starts this month. The first night is Monday, Sept. 8 at Coliseum Lanes on Independence Boulevard. League bowling will be held each Monday for 35 weeks at 9 p.m. at a cost of \$6 per night. Shoe rental is an additional 85 cents.

Teams are still being formed and may be added at any time up to Sept. 8. Individuals who need to be

assigned to a team are also welcomed. To sign up, call Tim H., 537-9607 after 9 p.m.

Persons who work until 9 p.m. may still bowl because they can arrive late and make up their frames.

Events coming up this fall that are sponsored by QCQ include these:

■ **Atlanta Chorale concert**, Saturday, Oct. 4, at 8 p.m., Unitarian Church of Charlotte. The chorale is made up equally of gay men and lesbians. **Tickets** (general admission, no reserved seats) are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. Send check payable to QCQ to P.O. Box 221841, Charlotte, N.C. 28222.

Chorale members need **places to stay** the night of the concert and possibly the night before. If you wish to house one or more members, write to QCQ and indicate how many you can host.

■ **QCQ Auction**, Sunday, Oct. 19, Brass Rail. **Items are needed** for the auction. Donors may retain up to 80% of the purchase price of items sold; or may donate the entire selling price to QCQ. To donate items, write the QCQ box listed above.

■ **QCQ Halloween Ball**, Thursday, Oct. 30, Charades. The start of a long party weekend in Charlotte. Charades and other bars will be holding their own Halloween parties Friday and Saturday.

■ **QCQ Cabaret**, Saturday, Nov. 22, Entertainment Place at Spirit Square. Features gay/lesbian musicians (singing or instrumental playing), comedians and dancers performing before a gay/lesbian audience. **To perform**, contact QCQ at its post office box. Ticket information will be announced in October's Q-Notes.