

Mr. Charlotte Also Mr. Gourmet

Few people know when Paul Smith serves Lites and kamikazes from behind the bar at Charades that he could also serve them one of the finest gourmet meals they'll ever eat.

The 27-year-old who won the Mr. Charlotte title in July at Charades plans eventually to pursue a career in fine food preparation by attending La Cuisine Cooking School in Los Angeles, possibly as early as late fall of this year.

"I really don't remember what

started my interest in cooking," he said. "I've cooked since about the age of 13 and I love it.

"I've recently gotten into Cajun cooking. You can do so much with that style. There are so many ways to fix seafood. And it's a style that really surprises people."

Paul grew up in Lancaster, S.C., moved to Charlotte with a lover when he was 19, and started working at the old Odyssey when he was 21.

Most recently, he lived in Florida

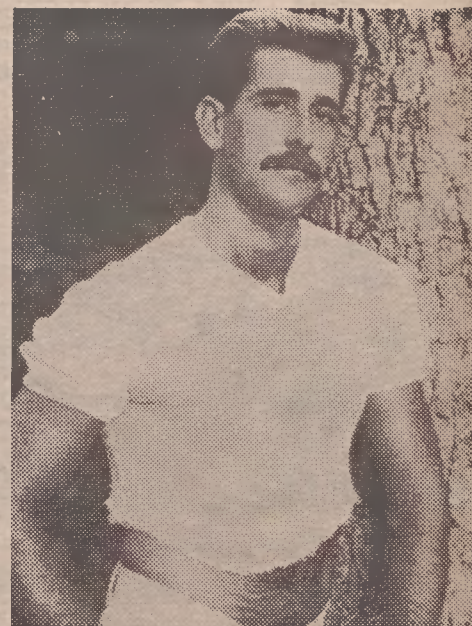
for two years where he was a bartender at the Copa in Ft. Lauderdale. He returned to Charlotte this spring.

As Mr. Charlotte, Paul participated in the Mr. Hotlanta Contest during River Expo Weekend in Atlanta as one of 14 contestants. A San Francisco policeman won the event and got the biggest round of applause from the audience when his occupation was announced. Second and third places went to contestants from Columbus, Ohio, and Miami. Entrants also represented New York, Philadelphia and other major cities.

Paul had never been in a contest like Mr. Charlotte or Mr. Hotlanta previously.

"I wanted to go to the River Expo," he said, "and I thought I could represent Charlotte well. So I just had a good time in the Charlotte contest and I think that came through to the judges. I had modeled for several years and that really helps when you're on stage."

But the biggest thrill of Paul's summer was attending the Gay Pride Parade in Los Angeles. "There were more than 100,000 people there," he said. "It made you really feel proud."



Mr. Charlotte, Paul Smith

Health Project Ends '85 With \$5,103 Balance

The North Carolina Lesbian & Gay Health Project finished 1985 with a balance of \$5,103.22, according to its annual report.

The organization received \$10,157.98 during the year from grants, donations, fundraisers and other income. It disbursed \$7,415.64, including \$2,132.26 for printing that included educational material; \$1,494.48 for telephone service and \$650 for emergency financial assistance.

Of the totals, \$4,619.65 was received for AIDS and \$3,275.17 was disbursed for AIDS.

The group's Healthline answered 150 calls per month, mostly about AIDS; and provided physician referrals for callers from all over North Carolina.

For physician referral or other assistance, call 919/286-0079 Monday-Thursday 6-10 p.m. To send a donation, mail to P.O. Box 3203, Durham 27705-1203.

CORRECTION

The August Q-Notes travel column was in error about bars in Key West.

According to Sandy Best, who lives in Key West nine months of the year and Charlotte three months of the year, the bars stay open until 4 p.m. The Monster has been closed for 3 years; Green Parrot is not a bar that gay men would want to patronize; and the Copa is, as stated, a good place to go.

Additional good bars include #1 Saloon (western-levi with disco), Papillon (tavern and pool bar), Michael's (piano bar), and the Old Plantation (disco).

Charades To Host Meeting

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

the sponsor of the highly respected Vigil for Truth & Decency that was held to oppose the July appearance in Charlotte of one of the nation's most antigay lecturers, Dr. Paul Cameron of Nebraska.

At its Aug. 18 meeting, ONI appointed a steering committee and

approved these actions:

- Immediately writing a letter-to-the-editor of The Charlotte Observer about the Charlotte Police Department's exclusion of gay men and lesbians.

- Immediately seeking a meeting with Mayor Harvey Gantt.

- Immediately drafting a questionnaire for political candidates asking their position on an antidiscrimination ordinance for Charlotte and repealing the sodomy law in North Carolina.

And, of course, the decision to hold a Town Meeting was made.

Other possible actions mentioned included networking with the ACLU, N.O.W., People for the American Way, Jewish groups and black groups to support their goals in return for support of gay/lesbian goals; organizing Charlotte participation in the National March on Washington scheduled for next summer; and establishing a clearinghouse of gay/lesbian businesses and professionals so gay men and lesbians can spend money with other community members.

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