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VOTE FOR THESE CANDIDATES

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GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

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Charlotte
Switchboard
525-6128

Q-NOTES

NOVEMBER 1986 □ Vol. 1, No. 6

TO ADVERTISE, CALL 704/332-3834



Scorpio DeeJay Doug Neems

Doug Neems: Dean Of Deejays

When Doug Neems stepped into a disco booth for the first time at Durham's Blueberry Hill in the fall of 1975, he was petrified. He had never before performed as a deejay in a dance club. He had no two-turntable equipment at home for practice.

"It was intimidating seeing those people hinging on what would be played next," he said. "I had no plan. I just tried to go for a lot of new stuff."

"It was very important to me that I sound different and try to distinguish myself. Back then, it was so much easier to be an individualist in selecting music."

"There were no 12-inch discs. You'd play obscure 45s that you had sought out in New York record places. I had been to New York and D.C., and was very impressed with what they did. I felt I could do it."

Doug did indeed impress a lot of people. He went from Durham to Raleigh's Mousetrap, then to the Scorpio in 1978. He's been there since except for a two-year stint at the Stone Castle in Greenville, S.C., and he is the dean of Charlotte's gay-club deejays. Matter of fact, only Ronnie Matthews at Panamas has played as long at any dance club in Charlotte.

Doug grew up in Chapel Hill and attended the University of North Carolina, earning a journalism degree. During college, he started bartending at the Chapel Hill's famed Electric Company, one of the nation's first monster bar outside of major cities.

"I had been into music since I was a little kid," he said. "The Electric Company would hold 2,000 people. People came from all over the East Coast."

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Strong Vote Can Swing Senate, House Elections

See list of recommended candidates on Page 2.

By DON KING
Editor

This year's major political races will be so close that gay and lesbian votes could determine who will represent us in Washington and Raleigh.

Terry Sanford and D.G. Martin are running neck and neck with their opponents. Sanford, if elected, will counter some of Jesse Helms's right-wing fanaticism in the Senate; Martin could help turn the North Carolina delegation in the House of Representatives into a more progressive group.

In 1984, Martin lost by only a few hundred votes to his conservative Republican opponent, and polls showed them only a percentage point apart two weeks before the Nov. 4 election.

In other races that will be on Mecklenburg County ballots, the gay/lesbian vote could have strong bearings because of the small voter turnout expected during this nonpresidential year. Traditionally, elections draw more voters when the U.S. presidency is at stake.

Concerned individuals in Charlotte's gay community announced their election choices in a flyer printed Oct. 21. The flyer is essentially reproduced on Page 2.

In making the recommendations, they considered past statements and activities of candidates, the questionnaires sent to candidates by One Nation Indivisible and the Charlotte chapter of the National Organization of Women (N.O.W.), and information printed or broadcast in news reports.

They also recommended that gay men, lesbians, and nongay persons who support gay/lesbian civil rights show that Charlotte's gay community is gaining political knowledge and power by writing "gay vote" in one of the write-in slots. (See the information at the bottom of the recommendations list.)

They pointed out that electing Ruth Easterling in District 58 to the N.C. House of Representatives was paramount because her opponent is so stridently anti-gay. In his reply to the ONI questionnaire, her opponent said he would do anything he could to oppose extending civil rights to gay and lesbians persons.

He said: "The fact that such deviance is tolerated at all only shows to what extent our society has become dominated by a sick liberalism and decadent spirit."

In most cases, the recommendations are a choice of the lesser of two evils. None of the candidates replying to questionnaires came out squarely in support of gay/lesbian civil rights. One, Martin's opponent, is so ignorant on the issue that he feels the 1964 Civil Rights Act covers gay men and lesbians.



Tina Terrell celebrated her 12th anniversary as a female impersonator with an all-star performance at Oleen's in late September. The boisterous show brought 'em out for a grand time at the bar where so many female impersonators made their debut.

Fall Time Clock Hits Bars

North Carolina's see-saw alcohol sales hours sawed back to 1 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 27 ... er, Sunday, Oct. 26.

Well, see, here's how it was:

Saturday night, Oct. 25, you could buy right up to 2 a.m. Sunday morning. But Sunday night, you could buy only until 1 a.m. Monday morning.

And that's the way it'll stay until next spring when it's back to 2 a.m. again.

Confused? Wondering why?

Well, when North Carolina's alcoholic beverage control people wrote the current rules, they established 1 a.m. Eastern Standard Time as the cutoff for sales. So during Daylight Savings Time from spring to fall, 2 a.m. under DST equals 1 a.m. under EST, so we get that "extra" hour.

Now the bars will be closing earlier, so we can all get more sleep. Good night, folks.

When To Vote

Tuesday, Nov. 4
6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where To Vote

At the polling place for your precinct. If you don't know where your polling place is, call the Elections Board at 336-2133. To avoid busy signals, call BEFORE Nov. 4.

How To Vote

Carry three things with you: 1) a pen or pencil, 2) the Q-Notes list of recommendations, and 3) any form of identification. Go to your polling place as early as possible during the day to avoid waiting in line. Look for signs pointing to the room where voting machines are located. In the room, you'll be asked to show identification so your name can be found in the registration books to assure that you are a registered voter. Then you'll go into a voting booth, which has a curtain to guarantee that your vote is in secret. Registrars are very helpful and will assist if you ask. Once in the booth, take the list of recommendations from your pocket. Pull the levers indicated. Follow instructions at the bottom of the recommendations list to write in GAY VOTE, using the pen or pencil you brought with you. (If you forget, just stick your head out the curtain and tell the registrar you need a pencil to write in a candidate. You need say no more.) Finally, vote your conscience in elections for which the list has no recommendations. Or, you may choose not to vote in those elections — it's your choice. Then, after pulling the levers you want to pull, activate the large handle to record your vote. The curtains open automatically and you're finished!



It's one of the most important assets for Charlotte's gay/lesbian community as well as for travelers and visitors. It's the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard. See Page 4.