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Charlotte
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Q-NOTES

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TO ADVERTISE: 704/332-3834 AFTER 6:30 P.M.

Monthly TV Show Begins Dec. 22 On Local Cable

The first monthly television show in the Carolinas about gay men and lesbians will air for the first time on Monday, Dec. 22, at 6:30 p.m. on Cablevision of Charlotte's local access channel 3.

The show, "Gay/Lesbian Forum," is locally produced and taped in Charlotte by a group called Closet Buster Productions and will be scheduled for the fourth Monday in each month as well as at other times unannounced.

The first show, an overview of Charlotte's gay/lesbian community, features the Rev. Lynn Guerra, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Charlotte; Diana Travis, a Charlotte native who became active in gay/lesbian civil rights efforts while attending college in Boston; and Don King, long-time local gay activist.

The January and February shows will be hosted by Guerra and will deal with Biblical scriptures relating to homosexuality.

Panel discussions, taped person-on-the-street style footage and a three-minute national news segment will be part of each show during the first few months. Future shows will focus on groups such as the Charlotte chapter of PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gay Men); gay men and lesbians in history; the effect of harassment in schools and of discrimination in the workplace; gay/lesbian equal rights efforts, and other topics of interest to anyone with a gay man or lesbian in the family.

"We have a very dedicated group of people in Closet Buster Productions," said Travis, who initiated the effort to place a gay/lesbian program on local cable access. "I know of only one other effort like this in the Southeast: Atlanta's gay/lesbian community started a

monthly show at one time, but it discontinued after a few shows."

Travis said the show may be offered to other cable companies in the Charlotte television market for use on local cable access channels.

"We would like to see it as widely

broadcast as possible," she said. "All over the country, people need reliable information about gay men and lesbians and the issues that concern us. So much of what is heard is either distorted or just not true, particularly in places like the Carolinas where so many of us

remain in the closet out of fear of harassment and rejection.

"Cablevision has been very cooperative and available in showing us how to use the equipment and in scheduling time for us to be in the editing room and control room."



Lin Benfield chooses another high energy cut while electrifying the crowd with his music at Charades. The story about Benfield on Page 6 is the second in a series about Charlotte's club deejays. For other musical treats, read Page 5 where Doug Neems' club music column debuts in Q-Notes; and check the Page 4 short story about disco-by-mail from Tommy's Tunes in Atlanta.

Chorale To Premiere

And Boom Boom Will Impersonate Scrooge? Tiny Tim? Santa?

December is a month for marvelous entertainment for Charlotte gay men and lesbians.

Consider this:

■ Wednesday, Dec. 10: "Boom Boom's Christmas Carol" at Scorpio, presented by QCC.

■ Saturday, Dec. 13, at 8 p.m.: the premiere performance of the Charlotte Lambda Chorale, an all-men's choir, in the sanctuary of the Unitarian Church, an excellent performance hall.

■ Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 8 p.m.: the New Life Players present "Get the Dickens Out" at Acceptance, which meets at Park Road Baptist Church.

Mystery surrounds "Boom Boom's Christmas Carol." No one is saying exactly what's going to happen. But rumor has it that Boom Boom Latour, perhaps Charlotte's best known female impersonator, will actually appear on stage in bed. Usual Scorpio cover charges will apply and will go to QCC.

"Get the Dickens Out" is the second performance for the New Life Players who earlier this year premiered the gripping play "Bent" in Charlotte. It's a free performance, this time heavy on the comedy.

The Lambda Chorale premiere is "a ground-breaking moment for Charlotte's gay/lesbian community," said director Art Fleschner, who is also the pastor at the New Life congregation of Metropolitan Community Church.

"This says something about how we're blending as a community. It's a group the community is going to get behind.

"I hope it's a sell-out because I don't think we'll ever have trouble getting an audience once the people hear this concert."

The chorale is an all-male group because not enough women auditioned to provide a balance for the number of men's voices.

The performance will be a "special holiday treat," Fleschner said. "We're doing both traditional and nontraditional Christmas music and Broadway selections.

"There's be a number of solos including a swooning 'I'll Be Home For Christmas,' a Sandy Patty gospel carol called 'Bethlehem Morning,' a rendition of 'No Golden

Carriage' that will bring a tear to your eye, 'O, Holy Night' and 'Jesu, Bambino.'

"This is becoming a very professional-sounding choir. The voices are strong. There is a fine balance of very trained musicians and amateur musicians. We cut up a lot and also do a lot of hard work.

"The sound is very warm and well blended. They're beginning to learn qualities of shading. And something for people who love music is that you don't get to hear much all-male music.

"I'm very excited about it."

■ ■ ■

If you're going:

Chorale — the Unitarian Church is at the corner of Sharon Amity and Hardwicke a block north of Colswold. Turn onto Hardwicke, turn right at the next street and turn right into the parking lot. Tickets (\$5 individuals and \$8 per pair) will be available at the door.

"Get the Dickens Out" — Park Road Baptist Church is about two blocks north of Park Road Shopping Center on Park Road. Turn onto Ashcraft, then left into the church parking lot. Go to the two-story building up the left sidewalk from the parking lot.