

**AIDS
Hotline
333-AIDS**

AIDS And Reconciliation

The heart-wrenching story of a loving family and their son, who has AIDS. In the first of three parts, the family tells of the hostility that flamed when Bobby, troubled and 15, announced he was gay.

Page 4

**Charlotte
Switchboard
525-6128**

Q-NOTES

FEBRUARY 1987 □ Vol. 2, No. 2

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

Gaskey Elected QCQ Head

The new president profiled: Page 6.

Dean Gaskey was the surprise choice during elections Jan. 8 to be president of Queen City Quordinators in 1987. Gaskey did not campaign for the position, yet won the post over 1986 president Robert Sheets.

Gaskey had served on QCQ's board of directors three times, the most recent in 1986 when he chaired the rules and Q-Notes committees. He has long been a behind-the-scenes worker for gay/lesbian activities and organizations.

Others elected to the board were 1986 treasurer Jim Yarbrough, vice president; Allen Saxon, secretary; and at-large

directors Shawn Alexander, Ben Bagby, Lynn Cantrell, Rick Carter, Steve Haney, Tim H., Tim Irby, and Linda L. Sheets as past president is an ex officio board member.

"After losing a re-election bid like this," Sheets said, "some people might take their marbles and go home. But we are not children playing with marbles; we're adults dealing with human rights and pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

"I will be one of QCQ's strongest supporters because we need to work together as a community. There are enough people in this world who will put us down without our doing it to each other. QCQ is not there for just any individual or for itself. It's there to help benefit the gay/lesbian community."

GREAT '86!

9 New Groups Founded In Charlotte

By DON KING
Editor

A remarkable year, 1986, for Charlotte's gay/lesbian community.

Consider merely the nine new groups:

■ One Nation Indivisible, the first political activist group since the Lambda Political Caucus folded in 1984.

■ Queen City Friends, the first lesbian social group not birthed by an MCC church.

■ A group for persons who call the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard and are experiencing ambivalence about sexual orientation.

■ The Tradesmen, the first organized group of levi-leather men.

■ PFLAG, the city's first chapter of the national organization of parents and friends of lesbians and gay men.

■ Gay Parents Coalition, a group for gay men and lesbians who have children.

■ Closet Buster Productions, which had its first "Gay/Lesbian Forum" on Cablevision of Charlotte's local access channel 3.

■ Charlotte Lambda Chorale, the city's first secular choir formed out of the gay/lesbian community.

■ New Life Players, under the auspices of MCC/New Life, who produced the wrenching drama "Bent" for public consumption at Spirit Square and roused Acceptance with a Christmas comedy production.

The state of North Carolina also had remarkable developments: a march in Durham that drew 1,000 participants and an avalanche of favorable publicity; the hiring of uncloseted David Jolly as the state government's primary AIDS educator; and the defeat of homophobic forces in Durham trying to recall the city's mayor, Wib Gulley, for supporting the Gay Pride March.

Back to Charlotte:

Consider that the Metrolina AIDS Project, founded mainly by gay men in 1985, matured to become the Charlotte metropolitan area's strongest entity in educating the gay and nongay population about AIDS. And MAP founded weekly support groups for persons with AIDS and for persons who have tested positive to the HTLV-3 virus. MAP's AIDS Hotline also reached five-nights-per-week staffing in 1986.



IT HAPPENED IN '86: WPCQ's Peter Combs (right) was just one of the television journalists covering the start of "Gay/Lesbian Forum" on cable channel 3.

Consider that QCQ burst back onto Charlotte's gay/lesbian community scene after a near-dormant 1985, sponsoring a preliminary to the national

Drummer contest and resurrecting this newspaper. QCQ also held Charlotte's first-time gay skate nights and started a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

QCQ Party At Charades On Feb. 12

Get your Valentine's weekend started early. Party out on Thursday, Feb. 12.

It's Lincoln's birthday. But QCQ is scheduling a big Valentine's Party on that date at Charades.

Wear your stovepipe hat or your heart on your sleeve — it doesn't matter.

Anyone 18 and older is invited at \$2 for Charades members and \$3 for nonmembers.

Some of the best female impersonators in town promise to make it one very hot night: Boom Boom Latour, Geri O'Neal, Tina Terrell, Buffle DeMareau, Grand Prix and Kasey King. The show starts at 11 p.m. with doors opening at 9.

Charades deejay Lynn Benfield will be in hand to provide dance music.

Charades will donate all door proceeds to QCQ.

Roller Skate For The Switchboard Thursday, Feb. 19

A mid-winter roller skating party to benefit the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard of Charlotte will be held Thursday night, Feb. 19, at Roll-A-Round Skate Center.

The event is the first fundraiser of 1987 organized by QCQ. Proceeds after expenses will be paid immediately to the Switchboard.

The skating begins at 9 p.m. at the Delta Road rink just east of Delta Road's intersection with Albenmarle Road. Cost per person is \$3.50 and that includes skate rental.

Business Responds To Protest

A protest by Q-Notes editor Don King got positive results from a business in late January.

"I saw an ad in the Jan. 17 Charlotte Observer for Paw Creek Church of God," King explained. "Paw Creek's minister is Joe Chambers, a man who has spoken publicly more than anyone else in Charlotte against gay men and lesbians. Text at the bottom of the ad stated that it had been paid for by Men's Name Brand Shoes."

Jimmy Guy Jr. is president of the retail organization operating Men's Name Brand Shoes, The Athletic Supermarkets, Shoe Horn and Self-Service World of Shoes.

"Last year I bought three pairs of shoes at Name Brand and two at Shoe Horn," King said. "It burned me up to think that the profits from me and other gay and lesbian customers were helping to pay for an ad for Charlotte's most vocal homophobe."

King wrote a letter of protest to Guy.

"I delivered the letter on my lunch hour on Jan. 21," he said. "When I got back to the office, there was a note that Jimmy Guy had called. So I called him back. He was sincerely sorry that his business may have offended anyone by paying for Paw Creek's ad."

"He told me that he had never paid attention to Chambers's opinion about gay people and that the connection between Chambers and antigay actions never once occurred to him. He said that he knew he had several gay people working for his stores and that he certainly has no prejudice toward them.

"What pleases me most is that he said he called Chambers and said he wouldn't be able to make that kind of contribution to Paw Creek again. Mr. Guy asked me to please accept his apology."

King said that any gay man or lesbian who has a complaint about businesses should voice them to the business.

"I think it would work almost every time if it's approached maturely.

"The key to Mr. Guy's apology was that my letter assumed the best — that he didn't know Chambers is so homophobic — and therefore didn't back him into a corner. I also told him our estimate of the number of gay/lesbian adults in the six-county Charlotte market and the fact that a national magazine estimates gay people command 19% of the country's discretionary consumer income. It's just not good business for a retailer to alienate gay men and lesbians.

"He was really contrite about it and emphasized that he meant no offense to anyone."