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Hotline
333-AIDS

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Q-NOTES

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

FROM COUNTY

MAP Gets \$33,000 Grant

By **DON KING**
Editor

Mecklenburg County's board of commissioners on June 16 allocated \$33,613 to Metrolina AIDS Project — possibly the first time in the Carolinas that a governmental body below the state level has fiscally recognized the need to fight the disease that strikes so many gay men.

"To my knowledge, it's the first time the county has ever done anything related to the gay community," said Les Kooyman, MAP executive director. "No other county has given money to an AIDS service organization."

"The effect could be far-ranging throughout the Southeast. It's really saying something that the county commissioners are addressing the gay community's needs for the first time."

MAP will receive the money this summer.

According to Kooyman, the allocation will have sev-

eral positive benefits:

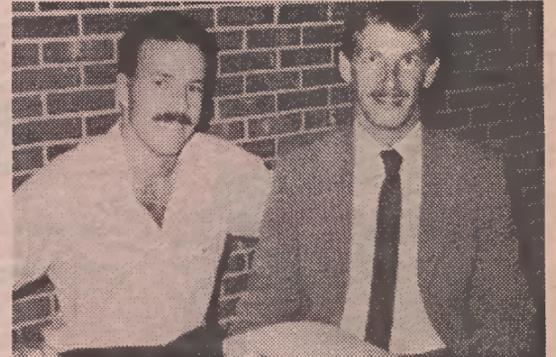
■ **Future funding.** "Usually," he said, "when something is funded one year, it is in future years, too."

■ **Credibility.** The grant introduces MAP into Mecklenburg's established community services network and gives the organization credibility within the county that it didn't have previously. Other grants will be easier to obtain.

■ **Cooperation.** Other agencies will be more willing to work closely with MAP to provide better care, better services and smoother inter-agency working relationships.

■ **Support services.** The county has stipulated that its grant must be used for such services as a full-time director, part-time case manager, a second line on the AIDS hotline, materials for support groups, and equip-

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MAP's Les Kooyman (left), executive director, and Ron Lowe, president of the board of directors.

COLUMBIA PRIDE!

Celebration '87 on Sunday, June 21, at Bell Camp, a University of South Carolina recreational facility.



Members of the Celebration '87 committee: (front, left to right) Robert Youngman of Affairs; Alan Gilchrist of Encore; Bob Harmon and J.J. Johnson of St. Jude Church; Dennis Mayer of Omega, USC lesbian/gay group; Jerry Devlin of Affairs; (back, left to right) Tony Price of DHEC and Omega; Harriet Hancock of PFLAG; Rev. Gil Lincoln of St. Jude; Johnny McBride of Encore; John L. Davis of Affairs; Alex Hollar of TNT Motorcycle Club; Chuck Bagley of TNT.

Little Theatre To Benefit MAP

The July 16 production of "As Is" at the Little Theatre of Charlotte will be a benefit for Metrolina AIDS Project.

"As Is," the William Hoffman play that is a poignant yet funny examination of gay men dealing with AIDS, will run July 9-12 and 16-19. The director: Steve Umberger.

"The unique part of the production is that much of it will be a seminar," said Keith Martin, the theater's artistic director. "The play runs an hour and 12 minutes; then a panel will discuss the play and the issues raised by the performance."

"We want to provide members of the medical, social worker and religious communities a chance to talk about the implications of AIDS."

Normally, Little Theater play tickets cost \$12; for "As Is," the cost will be \$6 with tickets for the MAP benefit priced at \$15.

Hoffman's work won the 1985 Obie and Drama Desk Awards for best play.

Firing Angered New Head Of QCQ

When the Rose's five-and-dime in Hartsville, S.C. fired a shy, hard-working Alabama native in 1981, an angry seed was planted that has now flowered into determined gay activism.

Jim Yarbrough, now 28, was the youngster who received his walking papers from the retail chain headquartered in the small northern North Carolina

town of Henderson. On June 4, Yarbrough was elevated from vice president to president of QCQ when Dean Gaskey surprisingly resigned the head post.

"I feel like I lost my job with Rose's because of being gay," he said. "It wasn't fair and there was nothing I could do about it and I couldn't even prove that was why they fired me."

Gaskey Resigns During 'Watershed Meeting'

QCQ has a new president of its board of directors.

At the June meeting, Dean Gaskey resigned and vice president Jim Yarbrough assumed the post. Gaskey had served six months of his 1987 term.

"That meeting was a watershed meeting," Gaskey said. "There were several schools of thought on the board and I wanted us to come out with a clear understanding of what QCQ is for."

"After having a long talk with the board and everyone telling individually what they thought the organization should do, we arrived at a consensus. I felt we

were finally beginning to focus the organization on the things it does well.

"The reason I resigned was that I was simply burned out, and an organization that had gone through a rebirth like we did that night needed someone strong at the top. And I didn't feel I was that person. So for the good of the organization and the good of the community, I tendered my resignation."

"Jim Yarbrough I believe can fill those requirements. This is his second year on the board and he was treasurer last year."

"I decided to get active in Charlotte in March of 1986 when Robert Sheets called me and asked me to sit on the QCQ board. I felt it was an opportunity to get people together to do something for the community — something for the long run. Maybe we could stop or at least slow down things of that nature."

Yarbrough was raised in Fairfax, Ala., before moving to Duluth near Atlanta and graduating from high school there. He came out as gay in 1981 while working for Rose's in Gainesville, Ga., then was transferred to Hartsville.

Since his Rose's days, Yarbrough has worked for fast food and convenience chains and presently manages a store.

He has plans for QCQ.

"First," he said, "we must be more professional and attract professional people into the right positions. There hasn't been enough organization and profession-

"It wasn't fair and there was nothing I could do about it."

— Jim Yarbrough

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