

Q-NOTES

Switchboard, Charlotte 704/525-6128
 AIDS Hotline, Charlotte 704/333-AIDS
 PFLAG Hotline, Charlotte 704/364-1474
 AIDS Hotline, Columbia 803/779-PALS
 Call Line. Wilmington 919/675-9222

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■ PRIDE IN PRINT ■

TO ADVERTISE: 339-0679

BEST BETS

- April 1
*Good Friday Services,
MCC Charlotte*
- April 3
*Easter Sunrise services
New Life MCC and MCC
Charlotte*
- April 5
*First Tuesday meeting
Carolina Community
Project House*
- April 8
Foreign Film Society
- April 10
Carmen Del Rio, Scorpio
- April 17
*Bingo at Steven's
Miss Charlotte Pageant
Scorpio*
- April 23
*MCC Charlotte pot luck
supper*

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We Were Wrong

A headline and story about Metro-lina AIDS Project in the March edition of Q-Notes was in error. United Way of Charlotte will not oversee the operation of MAP. United Way will survey other cities and how they are dealing with the AIDS crisis and ascertain what types of support services they are currently offering. United Way will also survey the services offered in the Charlotte area, and will probably report they're findings to the Mecklenburg County Commissioners.

MAP still remains an outside agency with some county funding.

Protesters Greet Concerned Charlotteans

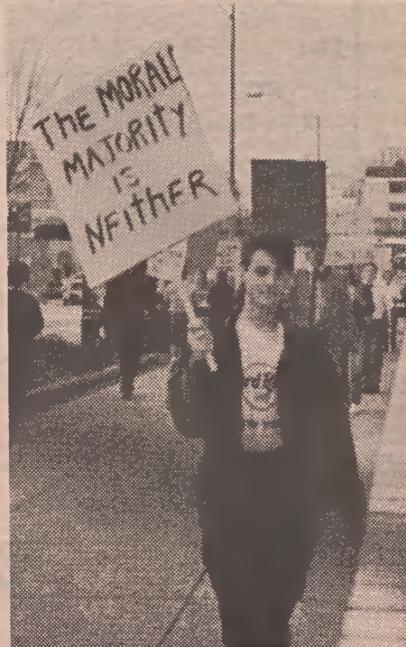
"Pornography, homosexuality, molestation of children and rape are all intimately tied together." Those words, attributed to the Rev. Joseph Chambers, founder and chairman of Concerned Charlotteans, appeared in the February 1988 issue of the Concerned Charlotteans newsletter.

Concerned Charlotteans, a group of very conservative fundamentalists, has, over the past few years, strongly opposed various issues, including pornography, public school sex education programs, AIDS education and homosexuality.

In 1988, the group picketed the Miss Gay America Pageant, picketed local convenience stores that sold Playboy and Penthouse magazines, this past January unsuccessfully tried to stop funding for the Metrolina AIDS project on the grounds that it is "a club for homosexuals," and most recently (Feb. 6, 1988) picketed a concert by Cris Williamson, a feminist entertainer.

On March 21, the Concerned Charlotteans had their annual banquet at the Charlotte Convention Center. In attendance at the banquet were members, guests, local and state level politicians, including Charlotte mayor Sue Myrick and Gov. Jim Martin.

Those attending the banquet were greeted by picket lines at points of entry to the facility. The picketers and spectators peacefully avoided responding to occasional comments and smirks from those passing on the street.



Pickers throw line around the Charlotte Convention Center to protest Rev. Chambers' stand on gays.

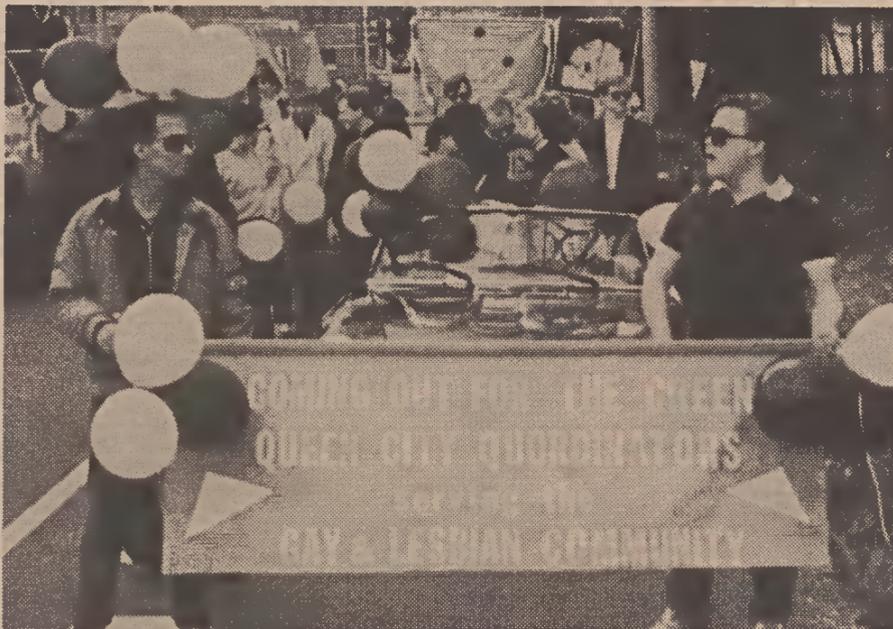
Also on hand for the occasion were representatives of the major media, including the Charlotte Observer, WSOC TV, WBTV, WPCQ and a local radio station.

Media coverage of the picket was generally positive towards the picketers.

Pickers remained in place until the banquet was well under way.

After the picket dispersed many of those involved in the demonstration gathered at Stevens Cafe for an impromptu wind down party and compared notes on the events of the evening.

St. Patrick's Parade A Big Success



Parade participants prepare to 'step off' in Charlotte's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

by Christopher Barklay

On Saturday, March 12, history was made on a local level, both for the gay community and for the community at large. For the first time in the history of Charlotte's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, the gay community not only participated, but were invited to participate by the Central Charlotte Association, the

governing body of the parade.

A group of about 25 people marched, holding the banners of their various organizations, all under the QCQ name. Organizations represented included MCC Charlotte, GLS Bridge Players, QCQ, Students at UNCC and Closter Buster Productions.

An estimated 35,000 people were there to see the parade, which in-

cluded the first organized mainstream appearance by Charlotte's gay and lesbian community. Although each of the groups received a favorable response, a car in which two men living with AIDS rode drew a great deal of attention, provoked much thought as the spectators were struck with the daily battles that these men live with.

The parade was about one mile and lasted for about an hour. The walk began at Ninth Street and Tryon and ended at Stonewall.

After the parade broke up, all the participants and spectators from the gay community returned to Steven's Restaurant, to indulge ourselves in the cookout spread Steven's prepared for the "Coming Out Party."

There were no unpleasant incidents except for many stunned looks and a little girl who referred to us in popular slang, much to the embarrassment of her mother. Many spectators cheered us on; some cheered very quietly or waved just a little, so that no one around would notice.

All in all, a good time was had by everyone and our gay and lesbian community gave Charlotte a good thing to think about.

A very special Thank you goes to those who participated, who watched, who cheered, and who gave us those knowing smiles and the thumbs up.