

QCF Picnic A Success

The Soft Spot
By Ann Michele

Hello Again. Boy, it seems like the year is just flying by and for some reason, when July 4th comes, I feel like summer is half over. I think that goes back to when I was in school and vacation was from the beginning of June till the beginning of September—the July 4th holiday seemed like the midpoint. I still think in "blocks of time," and summer to me is still those three months. Maybe when I grow up...

QCF had their first annual picnic on June 26th and it was very successful. About 100 women came out on a hot steamy day, to a public park, and just had a great time—socializing, eating hot dogs, playing volleyball and participating in some impromptu water battles (to keep cool, naturally). Considering that our community is generally pretty closeted, the show of support for this event was very encouraging. I'm ready to do it again. I wonder if those who spent a very busy month of June organizing the picnic would say the same?

QCF has recently begun selling can-huggers imprinted with their logo. The logo is such that the nature of the organization is not obvious—it's a cartoon of a little girl with a crayon in her hand, laying on the floor in front of a coloring book. She's got a mischievous smirk on her face and the caption reads: Wanna color outside the lines? I think it's a real cute way of publicizing the organization and raising funds for future events.

I had occasion to talk to a few women from the Women's Center recently. They reminded me that they have workshops and support groups meeting on a regular basis. They have a hotline that's open from 6-9 pm on Wednesday (334-9655) and the library at the Women's Center is the best collection of women's/lesbian literature in the area. They're located at 1615 Lyndhurst Ave. in Dilworth. If you've never been there, it's certainly another place to stop by and check out.

The other day I was talking to a good friend who had recently broken up with her lover. She said, "Ann, everybody I run into lately asks who I'm seeing now. Why do we expect that as soon as one relationship is over, you're ready for the next one?" She went on to say that she didn't want to get involved right away, that she needed time to heal. My friend was right. It's an expectation, maybe some peer pressure, maybe even some pressure within ourselves to immediately start looking for the next relationship. Why is it so important for us to get involved with someone right away? Is it a matter of pride? (She didn't really hurt me. See, I can go out and get involved with someone else just like that; she didn't really matter.) Is it avoidance of the mourning process that needs to take place after a breakup? Is it fear of being alone? Is it because you need someone special in your life to feel good about yourself?

Hey, I'm guilty of all the above as well as trying to play matchmaker. However, I think it's real important when a relationship ends for us to take time to grieve, to pull ourselves back together again, to heal and to learn to be comfortable being alone. Short-cutting the process only pushes our feelings inward, buries them, if you will. At some point in time what we didn't deal with will surface again, but maybe in ways that aren't as easy to recognize. It's important that we take care of ourselves—to pay attention to the lonely, hurt and sad part of us, to nurture and love the little girl within, without expecting/need another person to do it for us. It's only after we've healed and we don't desperately need another person in our life that we're ready to get involved again when someone special comes along.

Like the song says—see you in September! Take care, have a good month, and be careful.

First Tuesday Sponsors March Bus

By P. Scott Ferguson
Q-Notes Staff

A first has been established in Charlotte's history of gay pride by First Tuesday. The political action group sponsored the chartered bus to the Gay Pride March in Raleigh on Saturday June 25.

Departing from Scorpio's parking lot at 7:30 am, the American Charters bus transported twenty-five members of Charlotte's gay and lesbian community and nine flags representing our city to Raleigh's Pullen Park where the march began.

According to passengers, the trip was very pleasant, sometimes campy; but always orderly and dignified. "A sense of pride in going as a group of individuals from Charlotte to march representing something we believe in—our lifestyle," was noted by Phil J. The bus driver, who expressed a desire to drive for the group again, safely returned twenty-seven people to Charlotte on time.

The Charter was a project of First Tuesday, an on-going organization formed by members of Charlotte's gay and lesbian community in order to press for gay rights legislation in Charlotte and North Carolina. As sponsor of the trip, First Tuesday suffered a net loss of \$63.50 on collections of \$444.00.

Other projects currently undertaken by First Tuesday include: an elections questionnaire and voter registration drives. Look for more information on both projects in the September issue of Q-Notes.



The Charlotte flag flies in Raleigh.

Pat, the secretary of First Tuesday, expressed a need for volunteers to perform a variety of tasks. The group meets the first Tuesday of every month from 8 to 10 pm at the Carolina Community Project House. For more information, contact Pat at 393-2536.

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HOROSCOPES

by
Korwin

ARIES (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19): Watch your finances to make sure you don't get in over your head. Be careful!

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Now is not the time to be "Bull-Headed," as temperatures rise, so do tempers: calm down and cooperate.

GEMINI (My 21-Jun. 21): Looking at both sides of an issue is all well and good but if you wait any longer the decision will be made for you.

CANCER (Jun. 22-Jul 23): Time to clean out those closets and get rid of all those utterly useless items that have been collecting dust for the past century or so. Being sentimental is nice, but let's get real.

LEO (Jul. 22-Aug. 21): **ASTROPROFILE:** Leonines are generous, creative, broadminded, and are good organizers. Sometimes they tend to be intolerant, snobbish, and conceited. They are often fixed in their opinions but have a flair for showmanship and drama.

VIRGO (Aug. 22-Sep. 22): New responsibilities are thrust upon you rather unexpectedly. Stay calm and handle them in your usual manner. (This does not mean to circle-file them, I mean the other way.)

LIBRA (Sep. 23-Oct. 22): All is Fair..., Right? Wrong! Think how you would feel if the situation were reversed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Romantic interludes and steamy diversions are what you are seeking now. Don't look so hard and they will find you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21): Missing someone can hurt but try to remember all the good times you spent together, then let go of the past and get on with your life. (And yes, I know that's easier said than done.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): Recent changes in your home life are for the best. Enjoy them while you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19): Someone whom you are interested in would like to see more of you. Now that you know, see to it they do.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20): Have you ever wondered....? I thought: so!

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