

# 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

May 1989

PRIDE IN PRINT

TO ADVERTISE: 339-0679



## Chambers' Banquet Draws Protest

by Richard Epton-Nelms  
 Q-Notes Staff

Approximately thirty protesters from First Tuesday, the gay and lesbian political action group, were joined by members from both PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays) and NOW (National Organization of Women) in picketing the fifth annual banquet of Concerned Charlotteans and its president, Reverend Joseph Chambers.

This year's guest of honor was Vice President Dan Quayle. The visit to Charlotte by the vice president was arranged by Senator Jesse Helms. First Tuesday made no effort to inform Quayle about Chambers' extremism. However, in a letter to the vice president, Joyce Rankin of Dallas, N.C., director of PFLAG's South Atlantic Region stated, "I am deeply concerned that you may not be aware of the true nature of this group self-styled as 'Concerned Charlotteans.' Do you really want to associate your name and office with a group which espouses love, peace, and brotherhood, but whose policies in practice have resulted in hatred and violence against our innocent gay and lesbian children?"

"As you enter the banquet hall in Charlotte," the letter said, "there will be a group of us . . . silently standing outside with signs protesting the consequences of some of the actions of Concerned Charlotteans. We want you to look into our faces and know how much you will be hurting us and our children."

"We want the vice president to know that the views of Joe Chambers are his own and don't represent Charlotte," said Don King, media representative for First Tuesday. Chambers, minister of the Paw Creek Church of God, is a founder and president of Concerned Charlotteans. The conservative citizen's group has continued to stir controversy with its attacks against homosexuality, pornography, and AIDS education.



In a February 1988 issue of the Concerned Charlottean Update, the group's newsletter, Chambers said "One of the most powerful forces in America against Judeo-Christian traditions and values is the homosexual/lesbianism organizations. Pornography, homosexuality, molestation of children, and rape are intimately tied together."

In March of this year Chambers took exception with the report of the United Way Study Committee on AIDS. The committee was created by the Mecklenburg County Commissioners and made up of some of Charlotte's leading citizens. It was formed last year after Chambers and Concerned Charlotteans attacked Metrolina AIDS Project for distributing explicit "safe sex" cards.

Chambers said "The report sounds like it was either written by a homosexual or written by a person who was a pawn in the hands of a homosexual." Where the report called for a compassionate community that doesn't see AIDS as "God's punishment for one's homosexual orientation," Chambers said "We will oppose any effort to neutralize the moral consequence of the homosexual lifestyle."

King cited reasons for the picket including violence against gay men and lesbians.



"When a person in the public eye so falsely characterizes a segment of the population, he should accept responsibility for the consequences of his statements," King said. "Chambers' remarks help perpetuate the view that human beings who are gay are fair targets of harassment, violence, and discrimination."

King said that Chambers represents two  
 See Protest on page 8

## Charlotte Will Host The 1991 International P-FLAG Convention

By Douglas Randolph

On April 1, the 18-member National Board of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays held its mid-year board meeting at the Washington, DC, head office to consider future convention sites along with other business. Detroit will host the 1989 convention in October. Orange County, California, was selected for the October 1990 meeting, and Charlotte has been designated to host the October 1991 conclave.

Representatives of the Charlotte chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays accepted the honor and took note of the fact that 1991 will be the Parents Federation's

10th anniversary year.

One of the national board members, Joyce Rankin of Dallas, North Carolina, is the Regional Director of P-FLAG's South Atlantic Region which covers North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands.

Joyce reports that the board chose Charlotte for a number of important reasons. First, the national body tries to strike a balance between the east and west coasts and the heartland in selecting the convention site from year to year. An eastern or southern location was needed for 1991 and Charlotte was specifically chosen because it is generally regarded as having the most activist P-

FLAG chapter in the southeast with a strong core of dedicated parents capable of hosting such a large undertaking.

Second, the Parents Federation continues to explore various ways and means of combatting the anti-gay thrust of the conservative movement. Said P-FLAG vice-president Tom Sauerman of Philadelphia: "By choosing Charlotte, we are declaring guerrilla warfare against Jesse Helms and others of his ilk who seem bent on destroying our gay children. We are sending a message and making a statement that we intend to strike a blow against homophobia by taking our

See PFLAG on page 8

## New Restaurant To Offer Variety In Charlotte Dining

By Bill Allen Goad  
 Q-Notes Staff

Two Charlotte women have decided to open a new restaurant to serve the growing Charlotte Gay and Lesbian community. Pat Sizemore, former bartender at the Scorpio Lounge, and Linda Swenson have obtained a lease on the property at 311 Rensselaer Ave., presently occupied by Steven's Cafe and Bar.

"Gay people here deserve better than they've been given," said Pat Sizemore, who said she was one of the new partners. "Our intentions are to see to it that they get it."

Sizemore, a longtime employee of the Scorpio, recently resigned to pursue this project along with Swenson. Sizemore said the business, with new name, will be a restaurant with an upstairs bar.

Present Steven's owner and manager, Ken

Groniger, refused to talk to Q-Notes about the restaurant. Groniger opened Steven's 2 years ago as Charlotte's only gay/lesbian restaurant in the 1980's.

Sizemore said there will be changes to make the restaurant a nice place to go before a night on the town. "Our main thing right now is to get it cleaned up, get things in order and try to make these people happy," she said. "They deserve it."

As quickly as possible, the menu will change to include light appetizers and entrees. Servers will be properly dressed. Bar music will no longer be played in the restaurant portion of the building. Decor will change. Eventually, new kitchen equipment will be installed. Improving service is a primary concern.

"The presence of management means a lot," Swenson said. "It's hard for one person

to manage a place like that and be expected to be there; there are just too many hours. We plan to make arrangements for one of us to be there all the time."

The new restaurant's owners say they are committed to community support similar to that of Steven's benefit bingo games.

"We want to show that we want to help," Sizemore said. "We haven't decided what yet, but I'm sure we'll get help with ideas. If clubs or organizations want our help, we'll be glad to give it."

"I've seen gay people abused so much, and treated so wrong for so long," she said, "if there's anything I can do about that, I'm going to do it."

Swenson and Sizemore ask that people keep an eye open for advertisements announcing the grand opening in Q-Notes and The Front Page in the near future.

### BEST BETS

- May 7 *Bingo at Steven's*
- May 10 *Queen City Friends*
- May 11 *PFLAG*
- May 12 *GIL Forum Cable Ch. 33*
- May 19 *Male Impersonation, Hide-A-Way, Rock Hill Anniversary Show, Charades Boom-Boom Latour, Oleens*
- May 20 *MCSP Casino Night*
- May 23 *Closer Asheville*
- May 24 *Talent Show Scorpio*
- May 27 *MCC Charlotte Pot Luck Supper*
- May 28 *Coco Vega, Tracy Morgan, Brooklyn Dior, - Scorpio*

### INDEX

- Animersons, The *Page 5*
- Ask The Pastor *Page 11*
- Business Cards *Page 11*
- Calendar & Organizations *Page 2*
- Horoscopes & Classified *Page 8*
- Inside Washington *Page 10*
- It's My Opinion *Page 5*
- News In Brief *Page 4 & 11*
- Social Highlites *Page 7*
- The Soft Spot *Page 3*