

Q-Notes

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It's My Opinion

By Richard Epton-Nelms

Editorial (April 22, 1990)

Recently, while reading the *Concerned Charlotteans Update* (March 1990), I ran across a small article that I would like to share with you and comment on:

South Carolina Rest Stops May Be Dangerous To Your Health

The following statement as reported in a recent news release is scary. '1,000 homosexual acts a month occur at two rest areas off I-26 near Ladson close to the Charleston County line' (*Charlotte Observer*). The man who did the research, George Exoo, suggested that condoms should be made available to help stop the spread of AIDS. Since condoms, even if they are used, have a 10% chance of failure in heterosexual acts and at least 30% chance of failure in the violent homosexual act, and most homosexuals have 10 to 20 partners per day when partners are available, that reduces their chance of getting AIDS to 3-6 times per day.

Of course, this report and article said nothing about your tax dollars supporting a homosexual brothel disguised as a Rest Area or the danger for you and your children should you happen to unwittingly stop at that location. The germ from the body fluids would unquestionably get on the floor and fixtures and would constitute a health hazard to anyone in the building. One small sore on your hand or body could cost you your life.

It is not surprising that Joe Chambers or his band of "Concerned Charlotteans" would say or print this barnyard fertilizer — as a matter of fact, this kind of disinformation has come to be expected of them. I do not wish to spend any amount of time or effort responding to them. However, George Exoo, a gay AIDS activist in Charleston, I have come to realize, continues in his misguided, irresponsible ways to hurt the cause of AIDS education and in the meanwhile provides fuel to the likes of Joe Chambers.

Neither I, nor this publication, condone public sex in any way, shape, or form. But we can no longer sit back and allow people like George Exoo to paint the picture of who we are. I would not even pretend that public sex does not take place — it does. Nor can we afford to pretend that the public health issues surrounding public sex need not be addressed — they do. However, to inflame people, or to pass off half-truths as the answer does nothing to deal with the root problem.

On the contrary, it only acts to fuel the fires of prejudice and bigotry as is demonstrated in this case where Concerned Charlotteans is quoting George Exoo against us.

We must continue the battle to educate ourselves and our friends in the danger of high-risk behavior and continue to promote changes in behavior that reduce the risk of the spread of HIV and AIDS. This is a responsibility that the gay/lesbian community has been first in accepting and our community continues to lead the rest of society.



Check it out — our community's getting busier all the time!!

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 6P GALA-UNCC Students 7P Closer - Asheville 7:30P FFP/PWA support group (MAP) 8P Acceptance AA 8P First Tuesday Mtg. CCP House	2 4P Women and AIDS Support Group (MAP) 7:00P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group 7:30P MCC Charlotte Bible Study	3 11:00A MAP-PWA Support Group 7:30P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group	4 7:30P One Voice Benefit for Names Project at Van Landingham Estate 8P Acceptance AA 9P Tradesmen Club Night	5 4P Gay/Lesbian Overeater Anonymous 7:30P Mature Gay Men Call 882-1747
6 11A MCC Charlotte 6:45P New Life MCC 7:30P MCC Charlotte S.A.L.G.A. (Asheville)	7 7P GROW - Wilmington	8 6P GALA-UNCC Students 7P Closer - Asheville 7:30P MAP - Bereavement Support Group 8P Acceptance AA	9 4P Women and AIDS Support Group (MAP) 7:00P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group 7:30P MCC Charlotte Bible Study 7:30P Queen City Friends	10 11:00A MAP-PWA Support Group 7:30P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group 7:30P PFLAG	11 8P Acceptance AA 10P Closetbusters on Cablevision Ch. 33	12 4P Gay/Lesbian Overeater Anonymous 3P & 10P MENAMORE
13 11A MCC Charlotte 6:45P New Life MCC 7:30P MCC Charlotte 8P Integrity MOTHER'S DAY	14 7P GROW - Wilmington	15 6P GALA-UNCC Students 7P Closer - Asheville 7:30P FFP/PWA support group (MAP) 8P Acceptance AA	16 4P Women and AIDS Support Group (MAP) 7:00P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group 7:30P MCC Charlotte Bible Study 7:30PWOW, Video/Discussion	17 11:00A MAP-PWA Support Group 7:30P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group	18 8P Acceptance AA	19 ALL DAY - Trip to the Asheboro Zoo w/MCC Charlotte (Call for details) 4P Gay/Lesbian Overeater Anonymous 8P Yadkin BWMT, Spencer
20 11A MCC Charlotte 1P WOW Mothers Gp. 6:45P New Life MCC 7:30P MCC Charlotte	21 7P GROW - Wilmington	22 6P GALA-UNCC Students 7P Closer - Asheville 7:30P MAP - Bereavement Support Group 8P Acceptance AA	23 4P Women and AIDS Support Group (MAP) 7:00P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group 7:30P MCC Charlotte Bible Study 7:30P Queen City Friends	24 11:00A MAP-PWA Support Group 7:30P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group	25 8P Acceptance AA 10P Closetbusters on Cablevision Ch. 33	26 44P Gay/Lesbian Overeaters Anonymous 7P MCC Charlotte Pot Luck Supper
27 11A MCC Charlotte 5P Tradesmen 6:45P New Life MCC 7:30P MCC Charlotte 8P Integrity	28 7P GROW - Wilmington MEMORIAL DAY (OBSERVED)	29 6P GALA-UNCC Students 7:30P FFP/PWA support group (MAP) 8P Acceptance AA	30 4P Women and AIDS Support Group (MAP) 7:00P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group 7:30P MCC Charlotte Bible Study MEMORIAL DAY	31 11:00A MAP-PWA Support Group 7:30P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group		