

# 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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## ACT-UP Engages Phillip Morris In Protest

By David Stout  
 Q-Notes Staff

On Sunday, January 13, the Phillip Morris Co. brought the Bill of Rights display to Raleigh where they were engaged in a confrontational demonstration by the capitol city's ACT-UP chapter, ACT-UP Triangle.

Phillip Morris is in the midst of a national tour spotlighting the cornerstone of our freedom and are being met with caustic opposition from ACT-UP groups nationwide based on the company's financial and ideological backing of Jesse Helms who is one of the most oppressive and narrow-minded individuals in this country.

ACT-UP Triangle's purpose at the display was two-fold: to reveal the blatant hypocrisy in Phillip Morris being allowed to be the sponsor of the Bill of Rights Tour and secondly, and most importantly, to protest

the Martin Administration's opposition to anonymous testing for HIV infection.

The members of ACT-UP decided before Christmas that they would demonstrate when the display came to the Raleigh Civic Center and would also incorporate members of other ACT-UP chapters to assist them.

Since the national tour began in October 1990, ACT-UP has made its presence felt at many of the sites and has promised that it would continue to do so. Therefore, ACT-UP Triangle organized the demonstration with the help of Michael Petrelis, spokesperson for ACT-UP D.C. and also with members of ACT-UP New York and ACT-UP Richmond.

In total, approximately 25 demonstrators showed up to confront Gov. Jim Martin, as he gave a speech at the opening ceremonies concerning his support for the removal of anonymous AIDS testing.

However, the group was denied admission to the opening ceremonies on the grounds that they were being held on an "invitation only" basis due to limited space within the facility.

Samira Kawash, who was a member of the group at the demonstration, questioned the motivation behind this action since all the other opening ceremonies had been held on a "first come, first served" basis. If the idea was to keep the Governor from being placed into a direct action, it worked, as he was ushered out after his remarks and taken away.

At this point the display was opened to the public and ACT-UP waited in line to get into the civic center. But then another suspicious incident took place. When the group (which was easily identifiable due to members

wearing various gay-positive and AIDS-related t-shirts) got to the door to enter, they were informed by security guards that the building had reached its maximum capacity and they could not go in.

It was at this same time that the media was being taken through the display, after which they were ushered out the back door of the center, thus effectively minimizing coverage of ACT-UP's actions within the civic center.

After the media was gone, the security guards finally did allow the group to enter the display. There they immediately began to chant anti-Phillip Morris and anti-Jesse Helms epithets.

After a few moments of this, a security guard turned to one of the women in the ACT-UP group and forcefully told her to shut-up.

Keith Floyd, one of the core members of the ACT-UP Triangle group said, "It was so strange to hear a security guard tell a woman to shut up for voicing her opinion at the Bill of Rights display when the Bill of Rights is exactly what gives us the right to do that."

Of course, instantly grasping the contradiction between the ideology of the event and the ideology of the guard's command, the group turned the order into a very simple yet powerful chant. One half of the group yelled, "Bill of Rights" while the other half yelled in response, "Shut Up."

After walking the length of the display (during which all members of the ACT-UP group were videotaped by a woman working for Phillip Morris) and exiting the building, the demonstrators were escorted across the street where they received instructions to remain for the duration of the protest.

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### BEST BETS

#### February

- 2 Mature Gay Men  
7:30P Call 882-1747
- 4 Bowling League  
Coliseum Lanes 9P
- 9 1P Carolina Leather  
Clubs meet in Hickory  
  
9P QCF Valentine's  
Dance
- 10 8P Skating Party Fund  
raiser at Kate's  
Central Ave.
- 14 VALENTINE'S DAY
- 15/16 8P ONE VOICE  
Cabaret,  
Theatre Charlotte
- 16 9P BWMT Dance at  
Unitarian Church
- 17 O.W.L. Mtg., Liaisons
- 23 Southern Cooking Pot-  
luck at MCC Charlotte
- 24 1P Bored? Join the  
Bryant Park Social Club  
for Volleyball any Sun-  
day

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Verdict Reached  
 The jury is still out

## PFLAG Couple Issues Convention Funding Challenge

Members of the Charlotte Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) are in the process of raising \$2,500 to match a challenge grant of \$2,500 pledged by Joyce and Dub Rankin by May 9, 1991. The money is part of a goal of \$10,000 needed to finance PFLAG's 10th International Convention to be held in Charlotte this fall.

The CROWN FUND will be spent to make this very special event a real milestone for PFLAG. Considering the hotel site of the convention, The Omni Hotel, a truly luxurious setting, Charlotte PFLAG wants to make everything associated with the convention a first-rate "class act."

That means top quality, multi-colored programs and other printed materials; signs, flags, banners, pins, pens, jewelry, buttons, glasses, mugs; table and hall decorations; awards, prizes, plaques; top drawer speakers, presenters and entertainers. The goal is, of course, to increase visibility and publicity, thus reaching more parents and friends.

About one-third of the \$10,000 goal — \$2,500 — has already been pledged by Phillip Morris, Inc.

Now Charlotte PFLAG challenges its friends everywhere to help them meet the final goal. You can help by sending a contribution to Charlotte Parents FLAG, 5815 Charing Place, Charlotte, NC 28211. Write the words "Crown Challenge" in the lower left hand corner of your check.

The theme of the Convention is "Celebrating the Jewels In Our Crown." Its logo is a crown with a jewel, the crown representing family, tradition, values, heritage, love, strength, power, glory and pride. The triangle "jewel" represents their children.

The Convention will be held October 11, 12, 13 and 14 at The Omni Hotel, Charlotte, NC. For more information or to offer your help at the convention, call 364-1474.

## What You Can Do To Help Preserve Anonymous Testing

By Paul Falduto  
 ACT-UP Triangle  
 Special to Q-Notes

ACT-UP Triangle has organized a campaign to preserve anonymous testing in North Carolina and needs your help.

The Health Services Commission will vote on February 12 and the General Assembly will almost certainly take up this issue in its upcoming session, which begins on January 30.

Letters to both the Commission and your local legislators are very important. Write today! Tell the Commission and your legislators how important anonymous testing is, and urge them to preserve it. Be brief and

cordial, but tell them how strongly you believe that anonymous testing is good public policy. Letters to the Commission should be addressed to:

Dr. Jesse Merideth, Chairman  
 N.C. Commission for Health Services  
 Bowman Gray School of Medicine  
 Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
 Letters to legislators should be sent to the following address after January 30:  
 The Honorable (NAME)  
 The State (Senate or House)  
 The General Assembly  
 Legislative Building  
 Raleigh, NC 27611  
 Your local County Election Board or public library can give you the names and

home addresses of your legislators.

In addition to your local legislators, send a letter to Representative Daniel T. Blue, Speaker of the House of Representatives, at the above address.

ACT-UP Triangle has spent quite a bit of money on the campaign to preserve anonymous testing, but much more needs to be done. Please send any contributions, no matter how small, to:

ACT-UP Triangle  
 P.O. Box 14147  
 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709  
 For more information, write to ACT-UP at the above address, or call the ACT-UP Update Line at (919) 990-1197 (toll-free in the Triangle area).