

## national notes

Compiled by Dan Van Mourik  
Q-Notes Staff

### New gay youth statistics

MINNEAPOLIS—According to a newly released study, gay male junior and senior high school students in Minnesota are seven times as likely to try to kill themselves as heterosexual students.

Researcher Dr. Gary Remafedi said that sexual orientation is not, however, the cause of the high risk for gay youth, and that it is more likely due to the social stigma attached to "gender non-conformity," or "appearing different from other people." "There also is substance abuse, family dysfunction, keeping sexual orientation hidden from others, being in conflict with others about sexual orientation and coming out at a very early age," he said. Remafedi said that sexual orientation was ruled out as the basic cause because if it had been central, the suicide rate would have been the same for young lesbians. "There was no significant difference in suicide attempts between lesbian and heterosexual females," he added.

### Faircloth drops gay pollster

NEW YORK—*The New York Daily News* reported that Sen. Lauch Faircloth (R-NC) had dropped conservative pollster Arthur Finkelstein "out of fear that his gay lifestyle would become a campaign issue."

Earlier this year, Faircloth hired Neil Newhouse and his firm Public Opinion Strategies to be his campaign pollster for next year's re-election campaign. Faircloth hired Newhouse because "he has a lot of experience in North Carolina." Finkelstein had been the pollster for past Helms campaigns and for Faircloth's 1992 campaign.

### Gay bill defeated for 3rd time

LOUISVILLE, KY—For the third time in five years, the Fairness Amendment, a proposal designed to protect the citizens of Louisville against discrimination based on sexual orientation, has been defeated by the board of aldermen (city council). The vote was three in favor and seven against with two abstentions.

Immediately following the vote and a large outdoor rally across the street, nearly 125 supporters of the ordinance stepped into Sixth Street, a four-lane thoroughfare in front of venerable City Hall, to stage a brief sit-down protest. When asked by city police to leave, all but 52 did so. As the crowd took up a noisy rendition of an old civil rights song, "We Shall Not Be Moved," police arrested the rest on charges of obstructing a highway.

### Gay school opens in Dallas

DALLAS—Walt Whitman Community School in Dallas is the nation's first private school for homosexuals, though a few students are there not because they are gay themselves, but because a parent is. Walt Whitman Community School — all three teachers, seven students, one building and three classrooms of it — is the dream of Becky Thompson, who is lesbian, and Pamala Stone, who is not. The veteran educators had observed students harassing others at the Walden Preparatory School in the north Dallas suburb of Addison, which they both left in January.

Tuition at Whitman is \$7,000 annually. Ms. Thompson said all seven students are receiving financial assistance from people who want the school to succeed. The school also is seeking grants from private foundations.

Although they anticipated attracting dropouts a few credits shy of graduation, only two students are seniors. That shows the earlier age at which people are becoming aware of their sexuality these days, Ms. Thompson said.

### Village to register gay couples

OAK PARK, IL—In the village Ernest Hemingway once described as a place of broad lawns and narrow minds, trustees have adopted a measure establishing a domestic partnership registry for same-sex couples. The registry in Oak Park, Hemingway's home town just west of Chicago, will allow gay and lesbian couples to register at Village Hall and receive a certificate acknowledging their commitment.

In 1994, a similar proposal was rejected by trustees after it was paired with an ordinance

that gave family benefits to gay partners of village employees. The measure adopted by the village provides no specific benefits, but supporters say the same-sex registry will recognize gay couples' committed relationships as similar to marriage and give those couples a tool to fight discrimination.

### Abuse in gay partners detailed

BOSTON—It wasn't until he was hospitalized with a broken jaw, ruptured spleen and punctured intestine that Dennis decided to leave his lover. But it wasn't until years later that the Boston accountant put a label on what he'd been through: domestic abuse.

Gay victims of domestic abuse make up a large population but attract little mainstream attention, according to Curt Rogers, executive director of the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project. The nonprofit agency conducted a survey in June of 2000 gay men in Boston and found that one in four had been a victim of domestic violence — about the same number as for heterosexual women. The survey, conducted during Gay Pride Week, helped validate something gay activists say they have known for years.

Eighty percent of the men surveyed could not list a single resource for domestic violence victims, Rogers said, adding that the survey showed victims cross all age, income and ethnic boundaries. The most important hurdle in fighting gay domestic abuse, much like in heterosexual domestic abuse, is publicizing the problem so victims know they are victims, Rogers said.

### Drag shows pass a hurdle

CHARLESTON, WV—The Charleston Municipal Planning Commission voted in favor of a new ordinance that would allow male and female impersonators in legally operating bars and nightclubs and in local theaters. The 9-3 vote came after Boyd Mynes, owner of The Broadway, was twice turned down for drag shows under an old ordinance which lumped male and female impersonators in the same category as strippers and other sexually explicit forms of entertainment.

The recent vote would remove impersonators from the city's adult entertainment ordinance, which requires special permission, and create a new category that permits impersonators without any kind of special permits. The proposed change to the city's ordinances must still be approved by the planning committee of City Council and the full council.

### Ellen finally comes out in Birmingham

NEW YORK—The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced that Birmingham, AL's ABC affiliate is planning to air the highly anticipated fall season of the television sitcom *Ellen*. This past April, Birmingham was the only ABC affiliate in the nation that refused to air the historic *Ellen* "coming out" episode, although the recent rebroadcast of that episode aired there without comment.

### MN Supreme Court rules same-sex harassment illegal

ST. PAUL—Sexual harassment between two men violates the Minnesota Human Rights Act, the state Supreme Court ruled in its first case on whether same-gender harassment is illegal. The court ruled 6-1 that harassment can take place in the office even if no women are present and neither party is sexually interested in the other. The case involved Richard Cummings, who was hired by S & K Trucking and Landscaping of Rosemount in July 1992 as a seasonal truck driver. Cummings alleged that his direct supervisor and the co-owner of the company, Charles Koehnen, repeatedly made lewd sexual comments and routinely put his hands on Cummings' hips, simulating a sexual act. Cummings said the harassment occurred nearly every day during the two years he was employed at the company.

Koehnen claimed that he was just having fun and because he isn't gay, his actions shouldn't have been taken seriously. A district court agreed with Koehnen, ruling that the claim did not fall under the law because Koehnen wasn't sexually interested in Cummings. The law prohibits sexual discrimination, including unwelcome sexual advances in the workplace.

See NATIONAL on page 23

# September 26



## Sasha Valentino

## Alicia Kelly & Monica Mithcels

### October 3



Tiffany Bonet



Tracey Stephens

w/ special guest Amanda Korday



Tyler Kole

### October 10



Shannon Dee

w/ special guest

# Vintage

on the Blvd.

4220 E. Independence Blvd. • Charlotte

Doors open at 10pm • Showtimes at 12 Midnight • 704.536.7566

For the safety of our patrons, security is tight • ID Required

Charlotte's Newest Alternative Dance Club • 18 and over



For booking information,  
contact Tracey Stephens 704.535.6713