

# QNotes

Vol. 15, No. 15 - December 9, 2000

Mailing Address:

PO Box 221841

Charlotte, NC 28222

Phone: 704-531-9988

Fax: 704-531-1361

E-mail: editor@q-notes.com

Website: http://www.q-notes.com

**Publisher & CEO** ..... Jim Yarbrough  
**Managing Editor** ..... Clay Ollis  
**Associate Editor** ..... Lainey Millen  
**Administrative Asst** ..... Brian M. Myer  
**Advertising Sales** ..... Jim Yarbrough  
**National Advertising Representative**  
**Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.**  
 212-242-6863

**Contributing Writers:** Annette Brands, Peg Byron, Dan Cullinane, Rachael Clark, Lynn Davidson, David Elliott, Rachel Gold, Stephanie Horrath, Charlene Lichtenstein, Miss Della, Lainey Millen, Brian M. Myer, Clay Ollis, David Perry, Jerry E. Price, Jr., Eddie Ratliff, Shev Rush, Laura Montgomery Rutt, Veronica Schwartz, Stephanie Simon, Trinity

Q-Notes is published every other week in Charlotte, NC by Pride Publishing & Typesetting.

Advertisements are published with the understanding that the advertisers are fully authorized to publish submitted copy; having secured any necessary written consent for all copy, text, photos and illustrations, and that no ad submitted is in violation of a patent, copyright, first right of publication, or a right to privacy. The advertiser assumes all liability for claims of suits based on the subject matter of its ad, and agrees to hold Pride Publishing & Typesetting and Q-Notes harmless from any such claim.

The Publisher assumes no liability for typographical errors or omissions beyond offering to run a correction. The entire contents of Q-Notes are copyright © 2000 by Pride Publishing & Typesetting, and may not be reproduced in any manner, either in whole or part, without the express written permission from the publisher. All rights reserved.

Publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles or advertising in Q-Notes is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization.

The views of this newspaper are expressed only in editorials. Opinions expressed in columns, letters, articles and cartoons are those of the writers and artists and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Q-Notes.

## Index

### Articles

Britain equalizes age of consent .....	1
British study finds no problem with gay military personnel .....	8
Columbia area HIV-infected rate ranks fourth in US, says study .....	1
Creating Change Conference brings together racial, sexual, justice groups .....	3
Denny's accused of discrimination .....	10
Generation Q: Report looks at issues facing GLBT elders .....	17
Judge rules in favor of Project Inform against ACT-UP/SF violence .....	15
Lambda Legal Fund issues World AIDS Day Report Card .....	1
Marge Adam, Kerry Lobel project to fuse culture and community .....	18
Merger planned by Gay.com and PlanetOut .....	11
Protest nets 100 plus arrests at Catholic Shrine .....	24
Roanoke urges national financial relief to assist shooting survivors .....	3
UNC students seek GLBT center .....	1

### Features

A community divided .....	4
Queer as a three dollar bill .....	10

### Columns

Between the Covers .....	19
Classifieds .....	25
Community Cards .....	22, 23
Curbside .....	26
The Drag Rag .....	19
ePlay .....	25
Editorial .....	6
GLAAD Alert .....	13
Letters to Editor .....	6
Money Matters .....	22
News Notes .....	5
Out and About .....	26
Out In The Stars .....	20
Poll Question .....	9
QFYI .....	26
Tell Trinity .....	23

### Advertising Deadlines

Issue Date	Deadline
Dec. 23	Mon., Dec. 11
Jan. 6 (TBD)	Tues., Dec. 26
Jan. 20	Mon., Jan. 8

## editorial

### Use it or lose it...what's the voting thing anyway?

Do you remember the first time that you voted? I certainly do. I can recall a winter afternoon, all bundled up in my coat and mittens, along with a hat - and, even more so, the sensation of my mother's hand as it cradled mine as we entered the voting precinct at the university school located in my hometown.

I was a little small at the ripe old age of four. I could barely see over the tables lined up there with poll workers assisting voters with registration. One of the workers gave my mother a ballot. This was in the early 1950s and the election's ballot was graced with General Dwight David Eisenhower. He was such a legend, with his gallant military service. He brought a sense of balance to the aftermath of World War II and the Korean conflict.

Anyway, I digress. Back to focus! I was very curious about the process that was taking place there. I can still see my mother dressed up as her usual polished self, studying the sheet of paper that had the candidates names on it. I was my parents "active" child. I was always into something. And I asked enough questions to satisfy even the most inquisitive person. So when I asked my mother about what she was doing, it did not surprise her in the least. She explained that, as an American, she was exercising her right to cast her vote for her favorite candidate. You might well suspect what came next. I left my mother's side and went to one of the registration tables. I looked one of the ladies square in the eyes and asked, "I want to vote like my Momma!"

In those days and in a small town, people knew each other. To quench my thirst for participation, one of the workers gave me a "ballot" and I voted! Then they had me place my ballot into a "special" box, reserved for young voters. I really beamed with delight. My mother, of course, thought that this was "so cute." Then we left.

Many years later, when I was an adult, I was afforded the responsibility of voting "for real"

for the first time. In the entire time that I have had voting privileges, I have only missed, at most, a dozen elections. I even worked for a US House of Representatives candidate in the early 70s.

Then, in the early 80s, I became affiliated with the Libertarian party and ran for State House. Of course, I lost, but not without capturing around 2000 votes from a field of 12 candidates. Not bad for someone who was an unknown and did not actively campaign. I simply ran to show support for a third party. And, many of the principles of the party were ones that I shared.

Now, it is 2000! And, what a year. The dawning of the new millennium has brought with it an unique set of election results. Without actually endorsing one candidate over another (to avoid telling you whom I voted for - because you're not supposed to ask, right?), I must say that I completely agree with Vice President Al Gore. We live in the United States of America. We do not live in one of those countries that allow you to vote and not really pay attention to the outcome. We have rights. And, we do need to know that if we take our valuable time to engage in the voting practice, then, by gosh, let them count. Don't set aside votes - unless there is clearly a reason to do so - and deny someone the rare privilege of being involved in the election process. In my opinion, the Florida state legislature was remiss in not immediately calling itself into emergency session to handle the issues surrounding the election. And, it would not have taken too much to mobilize the state to allow all voters who were on the voting rolls for this election, the opportunity to recast their votes in a more technologically sound method. There are enough states around to loan them voting machines for all of the counties in Florida.

I was born in and grew up in Tennessee. Al Gore, Sr., was a tremendous public servant. His legacy can easily be seen in his son. Gore Junior is a champion of rights for all people. I sure would hate to see him be a "bridesmaid" instead of a "bride" because he has diligently worked and served his whole life to earn the vote of confidence and respect of all Americans. Whether he eventually wins or loses this campaign, I must say that I admire his determination and grit. His father would never have rolled over and played dead either. ▼

—Lainey Millen  
Associate Editor

## Support Our Advertisers

They keep Q-Notes free for you

300 Stonewall .....	12	Jemsek Clinic .....	9, 22
American Express Financial .....	4	Klutts Property Management .....	14
B. B. Collins Fashion Design .....	22	Jeffrey Grant Koenig, Attorney .....	10
Behavioral Change .....	24	Leah's Bookkeeping & Tax Service .....	22
Blue Ridge Trust .....	14	Liaisons .....	11
The Brass Rail .....	20	MCC Charlotte .....	13
CSA Real Estate .....	20	Mad Nutcracker, The .....	19
Carolina Funeral & Cremation .....	17	Markham Landscape Products .....	22
Central Records .....	23	Menu by Melissa .....	23
Central Station .....	4	New Life MCC .....	23
Charleston Beach B&B .....	23	Newsstand International .....	15
Charlotte Business Guild .....	18	Norman Russell Salon and Spa .....	13
Charlotte GLBT Community Ctr .....	21	Joe O'Connor, Realtor .....	16
Charlotte Realty Group .....	21	Parliament Social Club .....	14
Chasers .....	10	Parkview Video & News .....	14
Jeff Childs, Broker/Realtor .....	22	Phat Burrito .....	5
Club Cabaret .....	14	Posh Pets .....	11
Club Myxx .....	4	Q .....	15
Computing Essentials .....	23	Queen City Antiques .....	5
The Cove .....	7	Carol Reinard, Realtor .....	22
The Cove II .....	7	Repo Records .....	7
Crazy Jane's .....	3	Scorpio .....	2
Connie DeVersa, Mercedes-Benz .....	22	Scott Lawn & Landscaping .....	17
Divas .....	24	Sharon Memorial Park .....	19
Doug Derwiler, Psychotherapist .....	22	Joan Simpson, Psychologist .....	22
M. A. Dixon, Law Office .....	22	Sir Speedy Printing .....	13
Edwin G. Farthing, Attorney .....	22	Sleepy Poet Antique Mall .....	13
Fool for Love .....	19	Joel Smith, Hair Designs .....	22
Ricki Geiger, Psychotherapist .....	22	Sub Station II .....	5
Genesis .....	27	Summit Grandview Apartments .....	10
Georgetown Body Works .....	25	Scott Thompson, Hair Design .....	23
Good Ol' Days .....	5	Thrillkill Counseling .....	22
Good Year Tire .....	23	Tile Impressions .....	23
Lisa Griffin, Family Therapist .....	17	Timberfell Lodge .....	16
Hair Club for Men and Women .....	8	Time Out .....	17
Home For Sale .....	8	The Tradesmen Leather/Levi Club .....	23
Home Resources .....	22	Trish Works .....	23
Independence News .....	16	Unitarian Universalist Church .....	14
Insomnia .....	8	Connie Vetter, Attorney .....	23
InTouch Body Therapy .....	7	Nan Walker, Counselor .....	23
Innovations .....	26	Vinson Washburn, Realtor .....	4
J & W Communications .....	28	White Rabbit Books & Things .....	9, 18

## letter

Dear Editor:

On December 5, 2000, I will complete eight years of public service as a [Mecklenburg] County Commissioner. I want to express my deepest appreciation for all of the support I have received from Q-Notes over the years as you have written about my actions and my support for the gay & lesbian community.

I am proud of the service and support I extended to the gay and lesbian community. I was proud of my actions, no matter how futile they were, in defense of the arts and the right of each individual to see whatever movie, show or dance performance [they choose].

I can remember ... that when my son and I met with the gay & lesbian community at the MCC Church, I was informed I was the first elected official to have done so. My only regret is that it took me seven years to meet with the

group.

I am proud that I might have played a small part in the Gay & Lesbian Political Action Committee [MeckPAC] being formed. Each of you has played an important part in the make-up of the city council and county commission the past two elections. It is my hope that the community remains active and continues to play major roles in local politics.

My plan is to continue to be active in the community through committees and boards. I have met with the director of Time Out Youth about starting a home for runaways or those teenagers who are thrown out of their homes because of their sexual preference [sic].

I would like to express my thanks to all of you for your help and support over these eight years. I do know my political life is not over yet. I will come and ask for your support sometime in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Lloyd Scher

Mecklenburg County Commissioner

## Subscribe!

Subscriptions are by 1st and 3rd class mail in sealed envelopes mailed in Charlotte, NC. Subscription rate for one year (25 issues) is \$52 (1st class) or \$28 (3rd class). Subscription rate for six months (12 issues) is \$25 (1st class) or \$15 (3rd class). To subscribe, mail this form to Q-Notes, PO Box 221841, Charlotte, NC 28222. Make checks payable to Q-Notes or provide credit card information below.

25 issues:  1st class, \$52  bulk, \$28 • 12 issues:  1st class, \$25  bulk, \$15

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card (circle one): MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_