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news notes

Compiled by Clay Ollis
Q-Notes Staff

Carolinas

Articles draw strong response

GREENSBORO — *The Greensboro News & Record* recently published amiable articles on two successful businessmen who are gay and who have adopted twin Vietnamese babies. In response, the paper has received strong responses, both positive and negative. A December 12 letter-writer opposes the adoption because of alleged ulterior motives. The letter accuses the couple of "trying to show a sense of responsibility as the price of their fun." But others have written in support, noting that anyone who adopts "hard to place" children should be commended.

National

NTAC inducts first lifetime member group

WASHINGTON, DC — The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) announced that the Houston-based Gulf Coast Transgender Community (GCTC) has become the first transgender organization to become a lifetime member of the fledgling civil rights group. GCTC contributed \$200 in initial seed money to NTAC in 1999. NTAC's announcement followed GenderPAC's decision to shift focus from transgender rights to a gender expression group.

P&G ads target gays

CINCINNATI, OH — Household products company Procter & Gamble is solidly entering the gay market and the advertising giant has identified what gay consumers want — to look fabulous. In January, the nearly year-old Physique line of hair-styling products began advertising on PlanetOut, and in the spring tooth-whitening product Crest Whitestrips will be advertised in OUT magazine. While countless alcohol, travel, fashion and financial services brands are well established in the gay market, there has been only one tooth care product advertised to the queer market, Unilever's Mentadent in 1988, and only Aussie hair products the same year — both in *The Advocate*.

Gay MDs more effective with HIV positive patients

NEW YORK — Doctors who are gay may be more effective at communicating important information to their HIV-positive patients, study findings suggest. In a survey of 264 HIV-infected patients and their physicians, doctors who were gay or female scored higher on a 100-point scale when it came to discussing important issues such as sexual behavior, alcohol use and drug use. And the longer the doctor's visit, the better the HIV-related communication between physician and patient. According to the researchers, effective communication can have a positive influence on the health and the lives of HIV-positive people.

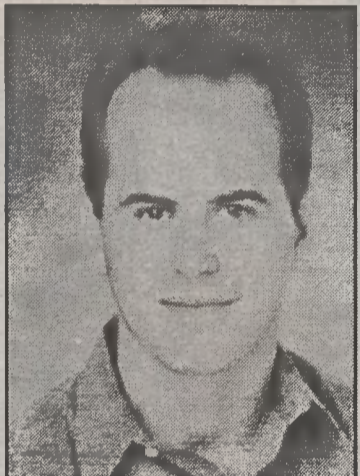
Dobson: Feminism hurts women

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — Feminism Is 'Hurtful To Women,' Charges Charles Dobson's *Focus on the Family* (FOF) radio program, according to a report in Church and State Magazine. Dianne Passno, executive vice president of FOF, asserted in an interview in *Focus on the Family* magazine (September 2000) that the feminist movement is "hurtful to women" because it encourages them to give up their natural roles as mothers, homemakers and nurturers. Passno, who claims she was once a feminist, said the women's movement has gone awry because it has supported abortion and lesbianism.

Norton defended anti-gay law

DENVER, CO — *The Advocate* reports that former Colorado attorney general Gale Norton, nominated by George W. Bush to be Interior Secretary, was the leading defender of Colorado's antigay Amendment 2 and used the publicity she received from her defense of the

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