

QNotes

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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
Distribution Nolan Jones
Jeff Habbestad

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
212-242-6863

Contributing Writers: Lynn Davidson, Miss Della, Doug Detwiler, Jim Grigg, Lamond Hart, Robert Kirby, Charlene Lichtenstein, Joseph Mercer, Lainey Millen, Brian M. Myer, Clay Ollis, Randy Siegel, David Stout, Trinity, Kat Turner, Jim Yarbrough

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Index

Articles

Black And White Men Together Convention set for July in New Orleans 20
Court Victory sets new precedent on discrimination against health-care workers 12
Helms holds schools hostage 1
Home Depot management adds sexual orientation to employee non-discrimination policy 11
Jazz funeral planned during Southern Baptist Convention 10
Massive demonstration marks twentieth year of AIDS crisis 1
Queen City to host national Catholic GLBT conference 1
Widow's sex change may not invalidate her marriage 4

Features

Charlotte's Pride weekend was a Gay old time 16
Gay parents, straight kids 22
Group therapy: Issues to consider 8
How to survive the loss of a partner 5
Marshall Park is bursting with pride 16
Off Tryon Theatre Company offers fairly fairy fare 21
Proud music of the night 16
Q-Notes 15: Out of the Past 3
RAIN walkers are biggest givers ever 16
Stress management: taking care of ourselves, body and mind 26
Thanks, Bill 16
The sweet smell of leather 16

Columns

Curbside 30
The Drag Rag 20
Editorial 6
Gayla Word Find 29
Money Matters 13
News Notes 25
Out and About 30
Out in the Stars 28
QFYI 29
Q-Poll 1
Q-Poll results 28
Tell Trinity 14

Advertising Deadlines

Issue Date	Deadline
June 9	Mon., May 28
June 23	Mon., June 11
July 7	Mon., June 25

editorial

"Pride: the quality or state of being proud: as in a reasonable or justifiable self-respect or a delight or elation arising from some act, possession or relationship." (*Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary Unabridged.*)

The most important part of this definition is the use of "self-respect." Pride is something that we must have within ourselves before we can expect anyone else to be proud of us, to have respect for us or to understand that we only want equal rights.

I would like to say that I have great pride in the fact that this paper has served the GLBT community in the Carolinas for 15 years. This issue, V. 16, No. 1, marks this proud moment in history.

In celebration of our 15 years, we will be looking back in time at important news covered in Q-Notes. Each issue this year will highlight a news item from a previous issue. Check it out, take a look at history and let us know if you have a topic of special interest that you believe would be good for Q-Notes 15: Out of the Past.

I am proud of the many people who have been a part of this paper over the years. Most readers don't know what these dedicated and hard working people put into this paper, all for you. I am also proud of our advertisers. If it were not for them you would not be reading this now. Please support them and let them know you appreciate them.

I'm also very proud of the Charlotte Pride Committee and their recent Charlotte Pride

Festival. The first since the 1993 Charlotte Pride Committee held a festival and covered dish at The Van Landingham Estate on the Plaza and the Q-Notes Pride picnics at Bryant Park from 1989 to 1992. Charlotte Pride 2001 was the best regional or city Pride event ever held in the Carolinas. It rivaled many of the NC and SC State Pride Events. The committee, pictured on page 16, put together a great event in a relatively short time. Most notable was the level of corporate sponsorship — the three largest being G&L Bank, US Airways and Coors Light and all a first for the Carolinas. I would like to suggest, however, that all Pride Events document the number of participants and dollars spent like NC Pride '94 did in Charlotte. We need to show numbers to our politicians.

I am also very proud of the countless volunteers throughout our two states who gave so much of their time, money and energy for the many different Pride events, ASOs, churches, political organizations and social groups. We all must give back to our community in some way. Just think what progress could be made if each of us gave one dollar and one hour each week. That would be millions of dollars and service hours per year. Remember your one dollar and one hour can make a difference. No matter your age, race, gender, religion, national origin or anything else, if you will choose a cause and give your dollar and hour, I promise your acts will be noticed and you will develop some great relationships. Most of all, your own self-respect will magnify and you, too, will experience an unbelievable amount of PRIDE. ▼

— Jim Yarbrough
Publisher

letter

The right to be

I want to take the time to first say, "Thanks so much!" to Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory for keeping an open mind and allowing the Charlotte Gay Pride event to occur in Charlotte.

I believe it shows people that Charlotte is a diverse and culturally rich city. It was in my opinion a well planned event, and went very well.

I believe everyone in this century has a right to their own beliefs and orientation. According to most recent polls, top corporations in America feel the same way. You can see it in their corporate and human resource policies everyday. Major automakers recently announced their stance as well by adding to their policies. Just the other day on the way to my downtown Charlotte office, I glanced over to a newspaper stand and a front page article read, "Domestic Partner Benefits on the Rise." It's evident Charlotte is becoming more diverse. It's also true in life that people will not always be

fair. As of last August, according to the Human Rights Campaign, more than 1700 US companies, colleges and universities, state and local governments and federal agencies had nondiscrimination policies that include sexual orientation. More than double that number — over 3500 — offered domestic-partner health insurance.

To that end, I feel the need to respond to missing the Reverend Mr. Dan Burrell of Northside Baptist Church and to Mecklenberg County Commissioner James for recent letters they issued.

First of all I do not consider my life to be "immoral, illegal and self-destructive". I am a moral, legal, very constructive individual — not to mention very well educated. My parents, friends and others are very accepting of who I am. I choose not to engage in a religious debate with you, because I know and believe that there is a God who loves me for who I am, no matter what!

And Mr. James, Charlotte will grow to be a more diverse city whether you are on board or not. As for your discussion of promoting activities which are "clearly" against the law, perhaps rather than simply talking about the law, See LETTER on Page 16

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Carolina Funeral & Cremation 4	Homosexuality & The Scriptures 10, 29	Sharon Memorial Park 23
Center for Positive Living 13	Independence News 24	Sheraton Airport Hotel 13
Central Records 27	InTouch Body Therapy 23	Sir Speedy Printing 13
Central Station 5	J&W Communications 7	Sleepy Poets Stuff 30
Charlotte Realty Group 28	Jemsek Clinic 10, 26	Joel Smith, Hair Designs 27
Jeff Childs, Broker/Realtor 26	Klutts Property Management 28	So Very Divan 2
City Dog USA 14	Jeffrey Grant Koenig, Attorney 4	Summer 2001 15
Closet & Storage Concepts 8	Robin Langley 27	Summit Grandview Apartments 19
The Cove 19	Liaisons 21	Triad Pride Men's Chorus 20
The Cove II 19	Markham Landscape Products 27	Scott Thompson, Hair Design 27
The Crowbar 22	The Melting Pot 27	Thrailkill Counseling 26
Dance Lessons 20	Menu by Melissa 27	Tile Impressions 27
Dependable Cleaning 26	Z.L. Metz Homes 10	Timberfell Lodge 24
Doug Detwiler, Psychotherapist 26	Miss Mecklenburg 5	Time Out 24
Connie DeVersa 26	Bruce Moyer 12	The Tradesmen Leather/Levi Club 27
M. A. Dixon, Law Office 26	NC Dance Theatre 20	Trish Works 27
Downtown 12	New Life MCC 27	Connie Vetter, Attorney 27
Equality For All 26	Newsstand International 8	Warehouse 29 32
Equality Mortgage Services 27	Joe O'Connor, Realtor 25	Vinson Washburn 4
Edwin G. Farthing, Attorney 26	Parliament Social Club 23	Nan Walker, Counselor 27
Ricki Geiger, Psychotherapist 26	Parkview Video & News 23	White Rabbit Books & Things 19