

Q Notes

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QNotes
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The guard changes in our continued coverage of Q-Notes 15. See page 3 inside for more historical news.

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GLBTs in the military in Israel are an accepted norm. See more about this and other issues regarding GLBT life in Israel on page 24.

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See these and more news, editorials and features when you step inside! See the Index on page 6.

Take the latest Q-Poll:

Have you experienced any discrimination based upon your sexual orientation in a faith community?

**Yes, most definitely
No, I never have
On occasion
Never noticed**

To participate in our Q-Poll, access www.q-notes.com See our latest poll results on page 31.

The New Brass Rail moves over to temporary digs

by Leah Sepsenwol
Q-Notes Staff

The New Brass Rail, Charlotte's Levi and Leather legend, has been forced to sell the land out from under its longtime location on Wilkinson Boulevard. The New Rail is not closing — it's just moving — temporarily to Moore's Chapel Loop; and, then, ultimately to its permanent place on Freedom Drive.

Put the rumors to rest. The move resulted from the Planning Commission's aim to improve the what-will-people-think Wilkinson corridor, a main strip (or used to be) entrance to Uptown Charlotte from the Charlotte-Douglas airport. "We had to move. The City of Charlotte bought the property," said Greg Braeford, Brass Rail manager since 1985.

The Rail is situated on part of a 40-acre parcel west of "Uptown" which is slated for urban renewal. Once the city purchased the land, the bar had to vacate by Friday, August 3, 2001.

The deadline-driven search for suitable permanent space has been hampered by Charlotte's restrictive zoning requirements for bars and adult entertainment establishments. That, coupled with reticent real estate brokers uncomfortable with the unique culture the Rail brings to the neighborhood, the search has been very difficult.

The Charlotte's City Planning Commission — responsible for issuing the vacate order — has been helping the Brass Rail in its search for property which meets both zoning criteria and The Brass Rail's desire for a good, visible location. The vacate deadline loomed

while details for the Freedom Drive spot were (and still are) being finalized.

The need for an interim place became apparent. The temporary shelter at 10031 Moore's Chapel Loop will be the Brass Rail address for three to six months. "It's not top notch," Braeford was quick to note.

"But, we have very loyal customers. We appreciate them. It's important to us they have a place to meet during this 'hiatus' between old place and new place."

The Brass Rail earned landmark-status — primarily given its ongoing presence on Wilkinson Boulevard since 1974, when Don Robertson first opened the doors at number 3100. Don died 18 years ago, but his legacy continued. In 1984, ten years after opening, the bar added "new" to its name and moved to its time-honored-now-vacant spot at 3707 Wilkinson.

The Rail is everything you'd expect in a levi/leather bar — and more, which you may find surprising: everyone is welcome and welcomed. And then it's home to a fraternal order of men committed to community involvement — the Tradesmen — whose fundraising efforts on behalf of House of Mercy, an AIDS hospice in Belmont, NC, are reknown and award-winning.

This year the New Brass Rail was voted "Best Local Nightspot" in the 2001 GLBT

Crown Awards. And its resident group, The Tradesmen, garnered several awards: "Best Local Organization," for its ongoing support of the House of Mercy; "Best Local Fundraiser," for "An Officers Ball;" and Honorable Mention for "Best Local Web Site."

The last Brass Rail-on-Wilkinson blast took place Friday, August 3, including a



The Old New Brass Rail



The temporary New Brass Rail

complimentary Sheraton shuttle and special Sheraton room rates. The event was predicted to "...blow the roof off the Rail!" So, that explains the explosion on Friday night/early Saturday morning, or at least part of it.

Reinventing business is so in (think Watchoverya / First Union), so exciting! And now the New Brass Rail is on the road to becoming the Brand New Brass Rail. All hail! ▼

Information and map directions are available on the web:

The Brass Rail: www.newbrassrail.com
The Tradesmen: www.thetradesmen.org

RAIN picked as finalist for leadership award

WASHINGTON, DC — The leadership team of Rev. Deborah C. Warren, President & CEO, Rev. Amy E. Brooks, Rev. Stephanie Speller-Henderson and Rev. Debra K. Kidd, Program Directors of Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN, Inc.) from Charlotte, was named a national finalist for the Leadership for a Changing World awards program which was launched by the Ford Foundation in September 2000. RAIN is one of 36 finalists selected in a highly competitive process from a pool of over 3000 nominations. RAIN is now eligible to become one of the twenty national award-winners who will receive \$100,000 each to advance their work, and an additional \$30,000 for supporting activities. The final winners will be announced on September 13, 2001.

By bringing a diverse range of faith-based institutions together — Protestant, Jewish and Catholic — the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network has created a powerful effort to combat AIDS and its devastating impacts. Through its activism, RAIN has brought the AIDS debate out into the open, while also supporting direct help for those suffering from AIDS in 11 counties in North and South Carolina. RAIN has mobilized 2000 volunteers to develop and deliver more than 700 AIDS prevention programs, reaching 23,000 individuals, with a particular focus on high-risk minority communities. At the same time, RAIN sends teams of congregants into their communities to care for those with HIV/AIDS including the largest number of African American Care Teams in the country.

Leadership for a Changing World is a program of the Ford Foundation in partnership with the Washington-based Advocacy Institute, and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University. The program has three goals: to recognize the achievements of outstanding leaders, to provide finan-

cial and other support for their continued leadership work and to study how leadership is perceived, created and sustained. The program is designed to bring attention to the many resourceful leaders who are tackling tough social problems and bringing about positive change in communities across the country.

"Good leadership abounds in the United States," said Susan V. Berresford, president of the Ford Foundation. "All over this country

we see resourceful individuals and groups bringing people together, tackling tough social problems, and getting results. Now this new Leadership for a Changing World awards program is revealing the dimensions and variety of this leadership. The 3000 nominations in this first year — and the inspiring work of the 36 finalists — should make us all more aware of how many kinds of leaders are making this a better society." ▼

Gay candidate seeks council seat

CHAPEL HILL, NC — Mark Kleinschmidt has filed as a candidate for the Chapel Hill Town Council. Kleinschmidt, a former high school teacher, is an attorney working for the Center for Death Penalty Litigation, a nonprofit law firm that represents death row inmates.

Kleinschmidt's reasons for running are desire to manage growth, commitment to protecting the environment and interest in improving relations between the university and the town.

"Whether one agrees or disagrees with the University's expansion plans," Kleinschmidt said, "the town must work to mitigate the negative impact of growth on the quality of life of all citizens of Chapel Hill."

Kleinschmidt believes the town must proactively create plans that protect the quality of life that makes Chapel Hill a desirable community to live and work.

He is running for town council because he believes the town must focus on affordable housing, storm water management, reducing traffic congestion through improved transit service, protecting creeks and streams and preserving green ways.

Kleinschmidt has committed to work hard

to develop thoughtful approaches that address the tensions between the community and the university. He believes consensus positions can be developed that benefit will all concerned. "I believe the damaged relations between UNC and the town can be repaired," said Kleinschmidt. "The interdependence between the town and the university and the long history between the two tell us that solutions can be developed locally."

Kleinschmidt has had significant community involvement. As an active Democrat, he currently serves as Chair of Weaver Dairy Precinct, on the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee, and on the State Executive Committee of the Democratic Party.

Kleinschmidt served as the first openly-gay Speaker of the Student Congress while in law school at UNC. He serves on the board of directors of the NC GLBT civil rights organization, Equality NC Project.

Mark Kleinschmidt was raised in Goldsboro, NC. He lived in the Chapel Hill community from 1988-1992 and 1997 to present. He is a career Air Force NCO and registered nurse. He has a BA in Education, 1992, and graduated from UNC Law, May 2000. ▼