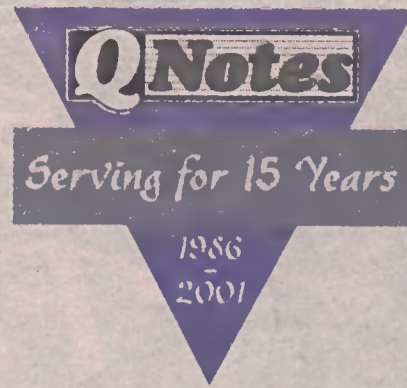


QNotes

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Want to know about Carolina GLBT history? See page 3 inside for more details as we continue our Out of the Past coverage.

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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:

What permanent-relationship status is most important to you?

- State-recognized: domestic partnership
- State-recognized: civil union
- State-recognized: marriage
- Religiously-performed marriage even if not state-recognize
- None
- Other

To participate in our Q-Poll, access www.q-notes.com See our latest poll results on page 12.

Senatorship sinking, Helmsmanship flagging — Jesse bails

by Leah D. Sepsenwol

Senator Jesse Helms is scootin'. Literally. He's got 17 more months to hover 'round hallowed halls amidst hallelujahs in wave-like chorus heard on the corner, across the country, in every continent. The choraleers, with long memories and deep wounds, are not fooled by talk of an "old, mellowed man."

Helms hardly glanced back since he snagged his seat in '72. He has plotted political tack, abandoned tact and torpedoed the softest spots of present and future foe: Democrat Nick Galifianakis' Greek heritage; Jim Hunt's liberal agenda; and Harvey Gantt's black race.

With malice toward all

Helms on: ...the poor: "A lot of human beings have been born bums," as TV commentator. *... a civil rights icon:* 1983, opposed Martin Luther King Jr.'s national holiday because of the leader's "communist ties." *... a US Senate colleague:* 1993, sang *Dixie* to black Senator Carol Moseley-Braun who led the defeat of his proposal to grant a federal patent for an insignia containing the Confederate flag. *... a person with AIDS:* 1988, from the Senate floor, "If he had a father who was worth a damn, he would not have gotten AIDS." *... Hate Crimes Statistics Act:* 1990, proposed amendment that stated: "The homosexual movement threatens the strength and survival of the American family" and "state sodomy laws should be enforced." *... a presidential nominee:* 1993, opposed the confirmation of Clinton's HUD nominee, Roberta Achtenberg "because she's a damn lesbian" and two days later, "Not your garden variety lesbian. She's a militant activist, mean lesbian." *... ailing, indigent patients:* 1995, proposed to amend the Ryan White CARE Act, thereby cutting funds to local gay community health centers caring for men, women and children with HIV and AIDS. *... the New York Times and Washington Post:* 1998 "...are both infested with homosexuals. These people are intellectually dishonest in just everything they say or do. They start by pretending that it is just another form of love. It's sickening."

Second Chance Prom was first rate

CHARLOTTE, NC — Amidst all the serious clamor for marriage rights and civil unions, for equal protection and a safe country for us all; among the heavy headlines that beg for front page placement — it's nice to find something close to home — newsworthy for its quiet simplicity: it made people happy.

The "United in Love: Second-Chance Prom" was just that, an opportunity to go to a prom for the first time or get to take the one you really wanted to go with in the first place.

Sponsored by Unity Fellowship Church See PROM on Page 26



Tiffany Hatcher and Jennifer McCoach

... local schools and education agencies: 2001, introduced the *Better Education for Students and Teachers Act*, denying federal funds to any local school district or education agency that "discriminates against the Boy Scouts of America or any group that prohibits homosexuals." *... the President of the United States:* 1994, warned President Clinton to "bring a body guard" when visiting North Carolina military facilities.

Three decades of diatribe. Five elections won by mere bare-bones majority and the help of "Jessecrats." Those otherwise and not-so-wise Democrats who jumped into Jesse's closet just long enough to vote yes for "Senator No."

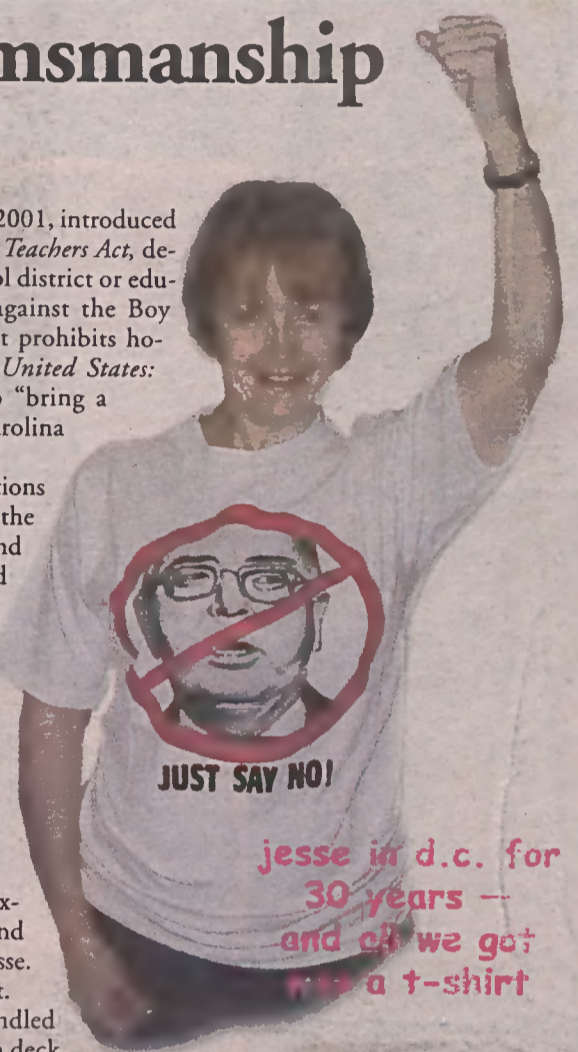
Good ol' boys learn to spit early on. And Helms always aimed for our faces. By bluster, by bombast, Bible-bouyed, but by golly, he lasted. We rallied, we prayed, paraded and fasted.

"All good things come to those who wait"

No one beat him. No one could, except another conscience-less cad — and so he had: Jesse has caught up with Jesse. And there is no contest and no protest.

The legacy ... hmm, let's see: dwindled donations, Dot down home, Dole on deck, and frail, failed feet.

The bad thing will have lasted 30 years. The good thing, all the sweeter for it — we've lived long enough to say, "Amen." ▼ Resource acknowledgement: HRC



jesse in d.c. for 30 years — and off we got with a t-shirt

OutCharlotte Executive Director Dan Kirsch bows out

The Board of Trustees of OutCharlotte has announced that Dan Kirsch, founder of the organization and its executive director for the past seven years, will resign effective at the end of this year.

Board Co-Chairs Vikki Hunley and Tim Mattox issued the following statement: "There are not enough words to express our gratitude to Dan for what he has done for OutCharlotte and for what he has contributed to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. He is certainly leaving a legacy that has made, not only a positive mark on Charlotte, but also on the hearts of all who have had the pleasure of working with Dan."

Kirsch also issued a statement. "I would like to thank the community for giving me the privilege of creating something from the ground up — something valued by this community, something that has helped change attitudes and perceptions, something that has brought many new voices to the table. In the twelve years I've lived here, and in my seven years as Executive Director of OutCharlotte, I've seen remarkable changes in our community.

"I have loved doing this work. It's been very rewarding. I choose to leave now because I recognize the signs of burn-out in myself. Rather than see even the slightest impact on the effectiveness of this great organization, I decided to step away and allow OutCharlotte's important work to continue on course.

"It's been an honor to serve the community in this way, and the support and friendship of donors, volunteers and participants has been in-

valuable in making OutCharlotte what it is today. I hope the community will continue their support in order to keep OutCharlotte successful and strong, so future needs and issues can be addressed with creativity and integrity."

Kirsch has no plans after he leaves OutCharlotte except to take a break. He will continue work on the seventh annual cultural festival, scheduled for October 3-7 at various locations around the city.

Kirsch started OutCharlotte in January 1995 with other community members as an outgrowth of the successful statewide North Carolina Pride Celebration held in Charlotte in June 1994. His background in not-for-profit arts management has included stints with North Carolina Dance Theatre and the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

The mission of OutCharlotte is to give positive voice and visibility to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people by celebrating our cultures through the arts, entertainment and learning opportunities. OutCharlotte produces an annual cultural festival in October, presents the Charlotte Gay & Lesbian Film Series, is producing the new LGBT soap opera *Southern Disclosure* for airing on public access, and this year is hosting the Gill Foundation's OutGiving InCommunity program of ten free fundraising trainings, open to any not-for-profit organization in the community.

The OutCharlotte Board of Trustees is developing a transition plan, which includes the formation of an Executive Director Search Committee. ▼



Dan Kirsch