

QNotes
noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues

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QNotes 15 . OUT OF THE PAST

Election results in NC a mixed bag
Viatical companies targeted by state
Pride march breaks records

Nelson win big for State GLBTs

The lead story in the December 1995 issue reported that Carrboro Alderman Michael Nelson was successful in his mayoral bid, defeating two opponents by a 2:1 margin. The victory kept Nelson as the only openly gay elected official in NC and one of five openly gay mayors in the nation. After his victory, Nelson reiterated his long held position that he is not a gay politician but a politician who happens to be gay, and credited his win solely to his stand on the issues.

The same article revealed that Charlotte GLBT activist Sue Henry received two percent of the vote in her symbolic write-in campaign for mayor. Henry joined the race just three weeks prior to the election to show her disappointment with both of the major party candidates. The effort and the vote totals were seen as a success by Henry and her supporters.

A third article in the issue announced that Amnesty International, the world's largest grassroots human rights organization, was set to kick off a major campaign to raise funds and awareness for its work on behalf of GLBT prisoners of conscience around the globe.

Brothers Foundation closes

The January 1996 edition offered coverage of a public hearing sponsored by the NC Department of Insurance to discuss proposed legislation to regulate viatical companies that conduct business in the state. Representatives of the viatical industry expressed concern that stringent restrictions might drive companies out of the state and ultimately hurt the terminally ill citizens they were enacted to protect.

Another front page story reported on the closing of The Brothers Foundation, Charlotte's only AIDS service organization focused solely on housing. The article noted that the closing was a cost cutting measure and would not affect the agency's two housing programs since each already operated independently to qualify for federal funds.

Candidates square off for big race

February's top story dealt with the choice facing GLBT Democrats in the upcoming Senate primary between Harvey Gantt and retired pharmaceutical executive Charles Sanders. The stakes in the race were high with the winner set to square off against powerful incumbent Jesse Helms. According to the report, Gantt offered a better record of support on GLBT issues, but most believed that Sanders could mount a better challenge in the general election. The primary was scheduled for May.

Additional articles detailed NC Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality Executive Director Kenda Kirby's bid for a seat on the Durham County Board of Commissioners, confirmed that anti-gay men's group Promise Keepers planned to hold a rally at Charlotte Motor Speedway in June, and revealed that President Clinton had reluctantly signed the Department of Defense Authorization Bill containing a provision to remove all HIV-positive enlistees regardless of their health status.



HIV bill
builds strength

Following up on the military HIV ban, in the March edition it was reported that a bill to overturn the measure was already gathering support in both branches of Congress with the President's full endorsement.

Also included in the issue was an exclusive interview with outrageous comedian Judy Tenuta — whose second album was titled *Attention Butt Pirates and Lesbyterians* — and a look at NC Mobilization '96, a statewide campaign to help elect a GLBT-friendly senator to replace Jesse Helms. Charlotte arts council embroiled in battle

The lead article in the April edition detailed the compelling controversy that engulfed Charlotte Repertory Theatre's production of the Tony-winning *Angels in America* and garnered national attention in the process. Anti-gay Rev. Joseph Chambers was outraged by the play's themes — which include homosexuality, the AIDS crisis and mormonism — and sought to have it shut down by the Charlotte City Council and the Performing Arts Center board. In the end, and after some last-minute legal wrangling, the play enjoyed a sold-out run that shattered all box records for a Charlotte Rep production.

HIV-positive military ban repealed

Ending coverage that began a few editions earlier, the top story in the May issue announced that the ban against HIV-positive enlistees had been repealed by Congress. The repeal measure was attached to the Omnibus Rescissions and Appropriations Act which funds federal agencies. The bill was overwhelmingly approved.

Another story announced that the SC Pride March and Festival had set a record for attendance drawing 4000.

Q-Notes hits number 10

The June issue was a milestone for Q-NOTES. It was our 10th anniversary issue, it inaugurated the change to a biweekly publishing schedule and it also featured a new logo and layout design. A lengthy front-page feature from editor David Stout fondly recalled the paper's past and optimistically anticipated its future.

This turning point is where we end our year-long look back. We hope you enjoyed these recollections as much as we did.