

¡Para Todos!

Los activistas dicen que PRD 12 discrimina contra gays

Charlize Theron stars in 'Monster.'



21

Resolutions for 2004 — what's yours?

Readers share vows for the new year

by David Stout
Q-Notes staff

Making a New Year's resolution is a time-honored tradition in our culture.

Ever wonder why do we continue to make these vows when past experience says we probably won't keep them? According to Charlotte-based psychotherapist Miki McDonough, "There are lots of reasons. For some people it's habit, for some it's the fact that everyone else is doing it, for others it's simply because they think they should. But underneath everything else, I think it comes down to hope — hope for doing better, for just having a positive attitude about our lives." We're betting this bunch will stick to their goals!

Q-Notes is always interested in the hopes and aspirations of our readers, so we asked a few to share their New Year's resolutions with us.

Kasey King, 46, is a much-beloved Charlotte female impersonator who has entertained countless thousands during her longstanding career.

The lessons from a heart attack suffered last September fuel her 2004 resolution.

"Stress nearly killed me, so I'm trying to live stress free this year."

King felt sick on the day of her heart attack, but assumed it was a bad case of heartburn. "After work I drove myself to the drug store to buy some heartburn medicine. Before I could even pay for it I broke out in this cold sweat and knew something was wrong."

She drove herself to the hospital where doctors diagnosed her condition right away and began treatment.

King says she has made some important lifestyle changes recently to lower her stress level. "I've had to cut out some friends who do drugs and run the streets because I can't be a part of that anymore. I'm not perform-



Kasey King

see CAROLINIANS on 11



Showtime's 'L Word' debuts

27



Gay Games: FGG's Kathleen Webster and Roberto Mantaci debate host city for 2006

15

At home & around the Globe: Canadian's prime minister says he'll veto Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriages in church

13

North and South Carolina

Equality NC announces new leaders

08

Democratic Presidential candidates to address Columbia, S.C.

09

ONLINE
Q.POLL
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Do you think Howard Dean could win in the 2004 Presidential race?

. yes . no

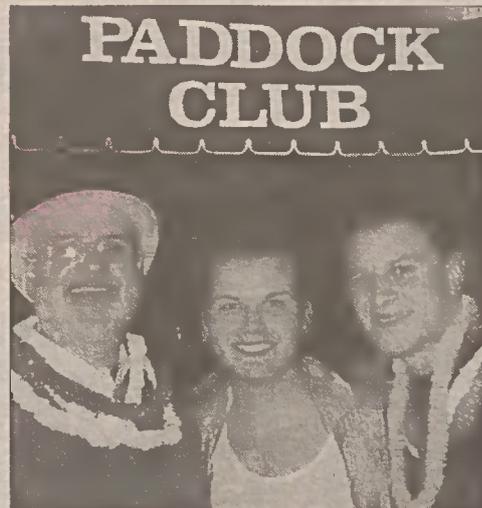
Q.POLL RESULTS: 22

Historic gay club closes

Greenville, N.C.'s Paddock closes doors after more than 30 years in business

by Mark Donovan

GREENVILLE, N.C. — For many in the quiet gay and lesbian community in Greenville, N.C., the opening of The Paddock nightclub in the early 1970s was like a beacon of light shining across an otherwise dark social and cultural terrain. For just over 30



Remember the good times: Glen Haddock (left), Keith Smith (center) and Jeremy Jordan at The Paddock.

years, the club provided the LGBT community in the small college town a place to call home.

After countless rounds, endless dances and non-stop drag cabarets, that light went out on the evening of Dec. 26, when the Paddock closed its doors.

"This place is really going to be missed," says Jeremy Jordan, a patron and employee of the club. "A lot of people came through those doors over the years and had a lot of interesting experiences."

"I get attached to a place, you know? It's like home. Especially since I spent a lot of time here doing repair work over the years." According to Jordan the bar is closing because the building is set to be demolished for an incoming road and the club's owner is nearing retirement age.

The Paddock's odyssey began when William "Bill" Brock changed the former country and western nightspot to a gay club on July 1, 1973. Three decades ago in a small southern town, there was no question about the risk his effort posed — not only financially, but socially, as well. Prior to that time scant few social outlets existed for gays and lesbians — save for a handful of clubs in larger cities like Charlotte and Raleigh. But that still wasn't an answer for queers in Greenville. Brock's efforts were.

Five years later, Glen Haddock would come on board to lend his efforts with the venture and he remained with the club until its closing. Patrons and employees alike point to Haddock, the former club general manager and also a promoter for the Miss Greenville Pageant, as a staunch ally for the LGBT community in Greenville and the embodiment of what the Paddock was all about — someone who made you feel like family.

"From the onset the Paddock was a place that made you feel wanted, and welcomed all

Tammy Faye and Tammy Sue headline AIDS benefit

Icon's "Surreal Life" unfolding on The WB

by David Stout
Q-Notes staff

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Millions of television viewers are watching The WB's kitschy reality show "The Surreal Life II" to see how the show's six participants — celebrities of varying popularity and distinction — are adjusting to living together 24/7.

The show debuted Jan. 11 with an eclectic group that includes former porn star Ron Jeremy, rapper Vanilla Ice, '70s pinup Erik Estrada ("CHiPs") and the housemate who probably connects strongest with gays, Tammy Faye Messner.

The Charlotte-based icon is already home from taping the show. Reflecting on the experience, she told Q-Notes, "I was just looking back through the pictures the other day and realizing what fun we had."

Among the cast, Messner said she was "most surprised by Ron Jeremy. I didn't even know who he



Tammy Faye Messner

see TAMMY on 7

see CLOSING on 4