

White Rabbit Raleigh hops to temp location

Bookstore exits longtime space in preparation for planned summer move

by David Stout . Q-Notes staff

White Rabbit, which for nearly two decades has been the communal and commercial heart of queer Raleigh, has pulled up stakes from its well-known retail space at 309 W. Martin St. and moved to a temporary location. It was a short trek, though — right next door to 307 W. Martin St., which already houses Stuff Consignment.

The two businesses will share space until White Rabbit moves into its new permanent digs this summer. The address of the final destination remains under wraps pending completed lease negotiations.

[Ed. Note: Q-Notes publisher Jim Yarbrough and this writer co-own the White Rabbit chain.]

Former owner John Neal opened Raleigh's "gay and lesbian everything store" in 1991, six years after establishing the now-closed flagship store in Greensboro. The Charlotte store trailed Raleigh by a little more than a year.

St. in the city's warehouse district was prompted in part by the presence of popular gay nightclub Capital Corral (now known as The CC) one block away and the area's relatively low rent prices.

Another critical factor in the decision was that "the landlord was willing to accept a gay and lesbian bookstore," Neal said. "That was very much an issue, of owners not wanting to rent to a gay and lesbian store."

In addition to offering Triangle patrons a wide range of LGBT books, magazines, cards and gift items, White Rabbit quickly became a crucial community resource for disseminating news and publicizing events. The store's massive bulletin boards teemed with flyers trumpeting this fundraising event or that organization.

Further cementing the establishment's local ties, then-store manager Jim Baxter produced his popular, long-standing LGBT newspaper *The Front Page* out of the store's back room for about a decade until the publication merged with *Q-Notes* in 2006.

"White Rabbit has been intricately woven into the fabric of the Triangle LGBT community for nearly two decades now," said store co-owner Jim Yarbrough. "This relationship is greatly valued and our high-



est concern is nurturing it to become even stronger. While negotiations are ongoing at this time, we are very excited about the possibilities of the permanent move we're planning. If all goes as expected, by mid-summer we'll be serving the region better than ever before."

When asked for any final remarks, Neal pointedly told *Q-Notes*, "In many cities larger than Raleigh, the gay and lesbian stores are no longer there. Raleigh has a resource that many cities don't have anymore. Everyone should go into the new location and shop to make sure it stays around." ▀

When Neal was ready to expand into a second market, he settled on Raleigh. He said the decision to set up shop on Martin

LGBT community gets included

from page 11

university, but he is hopeful the vote will help to make LGBT students and faculty feel more accepted and appreciated on campus.

"It's powerful in the sense that people know the university is serious about protecting their rights," he commented. "We're not going to move away from our founding tenants — we're going to be fair and accepting... We're not going to stand for our workers and our students being discriminated against."

Senior Brandon Hughes says he appreciated the gesture. Hughes, a business administration major, serves as president of the Gay/Straight Student Alliance, which was formed on campus late last year.

"We're very excited about having the res-

olution passed; it's a big step for Winston-Salem State," declared the Charlotte native.

"I hope that it will galvanize (the LGBT community) more and help them realize that you have a right to be who you are and there are consequences for someone who discriminates against you on campus... you don't have to sit silent."

Hughes says he is glad to attend a school that is willing to take a stand on the issue.

"It really has restored my faith in how things are done here," he said. "It makes me proud to be a Ram." ▀

— This article was originally published on March 26 by The Winston-Salem Chronicle. It is reprinted with permission.



KEELEE J. MACPHEE, M.D.

**SPECIALIZING IN
MALE, FEMALE AND
TRANSGENDER
RECONSTRUCTION
OF THE
FACE, BODY
AND
BREAST.**

RENAISSANCE

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, PA

KEELEE J. MACPHEE, M.D.
919.341.0915
REX MEDICAL PLAZA
RALEIGH, NC

RALEIGH'S ONLY
FEMALE PLASTIC SURGEON

www.renaissanceNC.com



Protect 'n Play

MASH

Men's Attitudes on Sex and Health

RTI International is working with meth-using gay/bi men to help them reduce their risk for HIV/STDs.

You may be eligible to take part in this confidential study if you:

- Are male aged 18 or older
- Live in North Carolina
- Are sexually active
- Have used meth

Reimbursement provided for time and travel

www.mashstudy.com

1-866-354-4989