

'talkback'

Letters to the editor and comments from Q-Notes Online. Web comments are not edited for grammar or punctuation.

Ted Haggard

If Ted Haggard had not been "outed" by the one with whom he spent his time and to whom he gave money fresh from the collection plate, he would still be engaged in those very sinful activities that he himself acidly denounced in others. He did not seek forgiveness for his sins until after his sins became common knowledge. Now he's sorry; I say he's many years too late to go that route.

— Phil Tevlin, web, April 23

I hope that he is sincere in his apology. Most of us had to deal with some sort of internalized homophobia when we were coming to terms with who we are — we just didn't make it so public. I guess all we can do is wait and see and give him a chance to prove himself.

— FemmieGirl, web, April 23

CDC AIDS campaign

What makes this even harder is that promoting safer sex has to be combined with reducing what public health folks call the "background prevalence" of HIV. It isn't that the disparities between groups are because of differences in sexual behavior, it's that the proportion of already existing cases of HIV is higher in some communities (due to all kinds of healthcare access and economic reasons) and thus the risk of transmission is higher. Until those problems are addressed, media campaigns will do little to reduce disparities

between sexual minority men, racial/ethnic groups, and straight folks.

— Joseph Lee, web, April 22

Murder in Fayetteville

I had the pleasure of knowing Jimmy Ali McCollough bka Miss Imaje Devera for a couple of years..He helped me when I found out that I was HIV positive..It is such a sad thing for that to have happened to him..To the family of Jimmy, I pray that you all will gain all the comfort, love, & peace that God is MORE than able to give to you all during your time of bereavement..To ALL the friends and EVERYONE affected by this who knew Jimmy, we have to come together and stop all this hating on each other because we're here today and can be gone tomorrow..Life isn't promised to no one..To the individual or individuals involved I pray that God has mercy on your soul..For the battle is not your's it's the Lords'..God is going to have his hands full now..Rest in peace my friend.

— J.A.Y., web, April 17

I knew Mr. Jimmy and he was a down to earth, keeping it real kind of man. He had such a kind heart and would do anything if you asked him. I'm going to miss seeing him at the hair shop, and walking around the school campus with him. He always knew how to put a smile on my face. I'm going to miss him and for the person that did it I wish they would turn themselves in.

— stacie, web, April 18

I think that everyone has the right to be

who they are.No MATTER WHAT!!!! And who has the right to take a life or to even judge anyone...all men was born in to sin and must live out there own soul salvation. He did not deserve to be killed for choosing his own lifestyle....People are so quick to throw stones.....Like they are perfect BUT NEWS

FLASH they not perfect. And i hope that they find this >>>>>>>> and hang his ass out for the vulture to eat on.I am representing the house of CHANEL and we send our our CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY!!!! AND REMEMBER LIVE YOUR LIFE FOR YOU.....

— Chi Chanel, web, April 19

'guest commentary'

by Matthew L. Adams, Greenville, N.C.

Have we become too gay?

Have we become too gay? Almost every gay male role in the movies and on television is portrayed as stereotypically feminine. When did men who like to sleep with other men be so feminine? Everyone's personality is different and that's what makes our world such an interesting place; but just once I would love to see a gay actor's role be a man who is perhaps just a little more masculine. There is nothing wrong with being feminine and I dare not suggest someone change the way they behave just because of the way we are portrayed in the media; however a vast majority of the population happens to be masculine and for those of us who are being portrayed as being "sissies" is somewhat insulting. No one ever said in order to be gay you had to be fem.

Look at the gay characters which became household names. Jack from "Will and Grace," Stanford from "Sex and the City" — these characters are portrayed by comical actors who no doubt are full of talent, but both characters are feminine.

You don't have to sacrifice humor or being

fabulous to be masculine. Perhaps people don't want to see masculine homosexuals on television. Would the lack of femininity take away from comical value or is it easier for non homosexuals to view and tolerate characters who are obviously gay and not "hidden?" Many people are still homophobic and may fear the fact that you can't always identify a gay man by the way he walks or talks. How many producers of these movies and television shows are gay themselves?

It is important for people to be who they truly are. We should celebrate our sexuality and never be ashamed of who we are. Homosexuals should never have to hide or be ridiculed for expressing themselves. Many will probably think I am participating in gay bashing myself. I am not insulting anyone who is feminine I would just like to see a few roles portrayed in a more masculine way. Call it equal representation if you will. ♦ Q-Notes strives to provide the Carolinas LGBT community with an open forum for discussion and commentary. The views of guest commentators do not necessarily represent the official views or positions of Q-Notes, its editorial staff or publisher.

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