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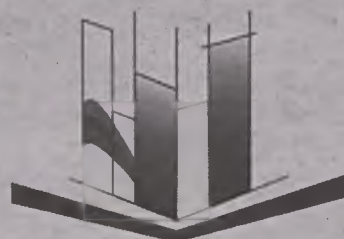
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History

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Fall 1985 — Five organizations in the Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point area charter the Triad Gay and Lesbian Network. Richard Gray and LGBT historian John D'Emilio are elected as the group's first officers.

October 1985 — Project H.O.P.E., an HIV/AIDS service organization, is established in Asheville. The group changes its name to Western North Carolina AIDS Project in summer 1986.

1986 — Charlotte's first PFLAG chapter is established.

Feb. 4, 1986 — Piedmont Gay and Lesbian Association, the LGBT student group at Clemson University, claims they are being censored after editors prohibit the group from placing advertising in *The Tiger*, Clemson's student newspaper.

June 1986 — Queen City Coordinators establishes *Q-Notes* as a monthly print newspaper and the first issue is published, after an almost three-year run as the organization's newsletter.

Summer 1986 — Triad Health Project is established in Greensboro to combat the HIV/AIDS crisis there.

July 25, 1986 — For the first time in Charlotte, media is allowed unrestricted access to cover an LGBT community event. WSOC-TV, WBTB and *The Charlotte Observer* covered the 105-person demonstration "American Vigil for Truth and Decency" in response to a Charlotte visit by anti-gay researcher Paul Cameron.

Dec. 22, 1986 — The first local cable show in Charlotte about gays and lesbians airs its first episode on a public access channel. The "Gay/Lesbian Forum" was produced by activist and *Q-Notes* editor Don King's Closet Buster Productions. ▽

— Information compiled from the public archives of The Front Page, *Q-Notes* and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill GLBTSA's Lambda.

T-Notes

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ognize the essential nature of individuality and both chose to marginalize and eliminate that which they neither understood nor tolerated.

Yes, Stonewall is history and celebration is in order. Lest we forget the lessons of history, however, we'd be wise to pay closer attention. As much as has changed over the past 40 years, we still face the *very same* bugaboo — the "ick" factor, the problem some straight persons have when they allow visceral "gut" feelings to fester in the stew of denial. The innocent and natural behavior expressed in gender diversity is just too much for some. This mindset allowed events such as Stonewall to transpire.

What is most appalling 40 years later, however, is that we are still hearing the same assimilation tack, a variant of the "ick" factor, from many in the LGB community. In the guise of incrementalism, this same old bigotry tells us to be patient, wait our turn while we continue to educate (as if no efforts have been made heretofore). The implication is that the world is not ready yet for our blatant and deviant gender transgressions. If we would only tone it down, try to blend...

Regardless of the degree or substance of such bigotry, or its basis — assimilation or religious intolerance, Mattachine or Family Values Coalition — the inability to abide by a "live and let live" model amongst these hypocritical so-called judges of societal behavior has the same net result: Intolerance, Inequality, Injustice.

The lesson, for today, of Stonewall, Compton's and Dewey's is that, for all the progress we have made, the world is still neither a very prosperous nor safe place to live in if you are a gender transgressor. Maybe its time to take to the streets again — I still have my copy of the Stones' "Street Fighting Man!" ▽

— Comments and corrections can be sent to editor@q-notes.com.

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