

SPECIAL D.C. MARCH PHOTO SECTION

Q-Notes

Switchboard, Charlotte 704/525-6128

AIDS Hotline, Charlotte 704/333-AIDS

PFLAG Hotline, Charlotte 704/364-1474

AIDS Hotline, Columbia 803/779-PALS

Call Line, Wilmington 919/675-9222

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TO ADVERTISE:
704/339-0679

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See
Special
March
Section
pages 4
& 5

650,000 March on Washington



The largest demonstration in Washington history.

Mr. SE Leather Comes to FACES in Savannah

Queen City Coordinators (QCQ) will be holding the first Mr. Southeast Leather Contest at FACES in Savannah, GA, on Saturday, November 21. The Mr. Southeast Leather contest is an official preliminary to the International Mr. Leather Contest to be held in Chicago over the Memorial Day weekend. Contestants for the IML regional preliminary do not have to be residents of the region.

For information on entering Mr. SE Leather call (704) 339-0679. A hotel has been booked for all those wishing

to attend the event from out of town; call (912) 233-9251 and ask for the QCQ Conference special rates. "We are still working on some of the other events to happen during the weekend," said Robert Sheets, coordinator of the contest for QCQ, "but people can come out and expect a good weekend for MEN. For more up-to-date information, call (704) 339-0679 after November 1st.

QCQ is also sponsor of the Regional Mr. Carolina Drummer contest which will be held May 17-21, 1988.

Governor's Awareness Week?

Gay activist Leo Teachout is asking gay men and women and interested parents and friends to call Governor Jim Martin during the week of November 8-14 to express their concerns about the lack of state response to the Aids crisis in North Carolina and what Teachout sees as an unwillingness on the part of the state to address the issue of Aids prevention within the Gay community. Teachout is asking that people call the GOVERNOR'S OF-

ICE OF CITIZEN AFFAIRS TOLL-FREE NUMBER 1-800-662-7952. The office is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

"It is especially important," says Teachout, "that persons with aids (PWA's) and friends and families of PWA's let Governor Martin know about the problems they are confronting as they live with aids — and the harassment and discrimination they have endured."

Reflections on the March

WORKING TO MAKE GAY LIFE BETTER

If there is any lesson to be learned from the march on Washington, it's that unity through our diversity can make life better for all of us. From our participation in organizations and activities (over 25 organizations in the Charlotte area alone) we are allowing lesbians and gay men to participate in areas that interest them.

We range from the couples who have been together for many years, to those just coming out, from the 40ish activist willing to help with anything positive in our community, to those who only entertain a few individuals in their home.

As a gay male or lesbian living in the Charlotte area, with its heavy influence of religion, PTL and others, it is not always easy to live the open lifestyle often seen as the norm in other large cities. There will always be people who think they can live your life better than you can, everywhere, but there seems to be an overabundance of them around here.

But there is truth in the statement that "there is strength in numbers." We are a strong and vital part of the fabric of the city. There are also the ones who say, "Don't rock the boat" when it comes to the disease that has decimated our community in the larger cities, and the laws that make it not just a crime but a felony to love and seek happiness with other like persons, with some preachers, who make us out to be the skum of the earth, though we know we are not. To those who say, "Don't rock the boat," I say, "If not now, when? If not here, where?"

We, as a people, will not be taken seriously until we demand to be taken seriously.

Let us leave the hatred and negativism to the persons of narrow minds and learn to give praise and encouragement to any and all of those trying to better our community. We don't have to like each other as individuals, but by recognizing the efforts of anyone to better our community, we can enhance life for all of us. The March on Washington has taught us that "together" we can achieve greatness. Now let's put it together.