

Q-NOTES

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County Delays MAP Decision

by
Dean Gaskey

Mecklenburg county commissioners have put off until their February 15th meeting, their decision on the funding of Metrolina AIDS Project (MAP).

One of the reasons the decision was delayed, is to give the county board more time to look into the operations of MAP in a more detailed manner.

Sources close to Q-Notes have informed us that they believe the county commissioners wanted to put off the decision in order to keep from making a "knee jerk" decision about the organization, and that MAP has generally good support on the county board.

The county commissioners have been asked to defund MAP by the Reverend Joseph Chambers, pastor of Paw Creek Church of God, who claims the AIDS organization is "a gay club" being funded with tax dollars, and that the group (MAP), through its safe sex literature, promotes homosexual practices that are felonies in the state of North Carolina.

On January 14, Rev. Chambers held a news conference demanding that the county defund MAP, and to bolster his

point he produced a card that had been distributed by MAP as part of MAP's outreach to Charlotte's gay community. On the card was printed what could be described as graphic and explicit descriptions of safe and unsafe sexual practices.

Believing that county money had been used to buy the card, Chambers demanded that the county defund Metrolina AIDS Project.

But according to MAP officials the January 14th news conference was not Chambers' first meeting with MAP concerning the card.

On January 5, county commissioner Rod Autry asked for a meeting between himself, Rev. Chambers and MAP representative Les Kooyman. In that meeting the card was discussed in detail and MAP agreed to stop distributing the card. Believing the issue settled, MAP went back to business as usual, sans the card.

Then the January 14th news conference hit like a bombshell and MAP found itself in the middle of a media battle with the Rev. Chambers. MAP went into a damage control mode and tried to minimize the effect of the

Chambers media campaign against them being led by Rep. Autry, former proponent of county funding for MAP.

In its January 19th meeting, county commissioners heard from Marion McGinnis, president of MAP, who again stated that the card could have offended some people and that the card would not be distributed by the agency. McGinnis agreed to allow county health director Basil Delta to review all literature, and to remove any language that is found to be offensive.

Metrolina AIDS Project served 61 clients while also answering 709 calls on its AIDS hotline. The agency also provides Risk Reduction seminars and conducts workshops for industry concerning AIDS in the work place.

For further information on MAP and its services, call the AIDS Hotline at 704/333-AIDS, 7:00-10:00 M-F.

QCQ Vote January 31st

By Joel N. Smith

The five-member nominating committee for Queen City Quordinator's 1988 board held its final meeting on January 17. It was the third meeting for the committee, which included two members of the current board and three persons representative of the local lesbian and gay community, and was appointed in accordance with QCQ's by-laws.

Eighteen persons were nominated by QCQ's nominating committee, including two nominations for each of QCQ's four offices. The remaining ten nominations are for the eight at-large or general positions available on the board. Nominees for offices are also eligible for these at-large positions. QCQ's current by-laws also provide for a thirteenth board position of Immediate Past President, but only if the current year's president is not re-elected.

To maintain the privacy of the candidates, their names are not released for print, but the nominations are available by calling the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard at 525-6128 between 6:30 and 10:30 pm nightly. Election results will also be available from the Switchboard after Jan. 31.

QCQ's elections will be held on Sunday, January 31, 7:30-9:30 pm, at the Carolina Community Project Center. Votes may be cast anytime during these hours. The Center is located on the corner of 7th and Laurel.

Anyone in the gay/lesbian commu-

Raleigh City Adopts Pro-Gay Law

by
Dean Gaskey
Q-Notes Staff

On January 5th, the city council of the city of Raleigh adopted a city ordinance that amends city laws to make discrimination based on one's "sexual orientation" illegal in the city of Raleigh.

The measure was soundly voted in with a 7 to 1 vote, with only the city's mayor voting alone to keep the rules the way they were. It might be added that the mayor has no veto, and there is no provision in the city rules that permit legislation to be recalled once enacted. The new rules took effect immediately upon adoption.

The new city policy had teams from newspapers, radio stations, and television talking about the city council action all day. One local AM station went so far as to do a 1 hour special on the issue. WLLE broadcast news every half hour with a 1 hour special edition news report in the evening explaining to the public what effect the new law would have on Raleigh.

And the effects will be sweeping. The new city ordinance states that people may not be discriminated against because of "sexual orientation." This means that if you do business with the city of Raleigh you would have to adopt the same policy of non-discrimination, said Willie Pilkington, a chief proponent of the policy.

According to Pilkington, the city ordinance is the result of many hours of work on the part of Raleigh area activists, and was the outgrowth of public hearings held in the capitol city area late last year. "I was celebrating in November ... I knew it would work (then)." Pilkington told Q-Notes, "Currently, this is the strongest policy in the south-east."

As a result of the public hearings held late last year, a list of 11 items were drawn up. They included:

(1) Suggest that Raleigh city council adopt a non-discriminatory policy for gay and lesbian persons.

(2) Appoint a gay or lesbian to the city community relations committee (a city advisory committee).

(3) That the city collect pertinent data as to the violence directed toward persons because of sexual orientation.

(4) That relations with the city police

department be improved.

(5) New police reports be developed that report anti-gay crime in a "blind manner."

(6) New police training procedures be adopted, so as to sensitize the city police department to lesbian and gay issues.

(7) Train a crime victims' advocate for gay related crime.

(8) Establish a 24 hour hotline for counselling and information (Raleigh has no gay community information telephone line at this time.)

(9) Compile and maintain a list of resources for gay and lesbian persons, including a list of outside agencies that follow a no-discrimination policy.

(10) That the city of Raleigh find some way to assist in the implementation of the above objectives.

(11) That the city of Raleigh support the repeal of Section 14-177 of the North Carolina penal code (North Carolina Crime Against Nature Laws).

The new policy is bearing fruit close to press time. Q-Notes learned that item number 2, requesting that a gay or lesbian be appointed to the city's community relations committee, has been fulfilled.

John H. Voorhees, longtime gay rights activist, and former assistant city planner for the city of Raleigh, has been appointed to the Raleigh city council's advisory committee for community affairs.

CGLA In Funding Fight

Two representatives to the student congress of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have gathered more than 2200 signatures on a petition to the student congress, requesting that the university defund the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association (CGLA) on the grounds that CGLA "promote(s) homosexuality, a felony in North Carolina."

CGLA representatives see the defunding as nothing more than outright homophobic behavior on the part of the two representatives, and as an attack on the rights of lesbian and gay students.

The two representatives, David McNeil, a senior and H.F. Watts, a fifth year senior, see the drive as merely an exercise in the democratic process. However, no other organizations are targeted in the defunding debate.

In articles published in "The Daily

Tarheel," the student newspaper of UNC, Rep. Watts stated that CGLA "promotes the spreading of AIDS." Watts also said, "It (homosexuality) is immoral to all religious beliefs, and it's disgusting." Watts in the same article claims not to be homophobic.

CGLA serves as an outreach organization to more than 2000 gay and lesbian students a year.

Here in Charlotte, Susan Furr, a faculty advisor for a similar support group on the UNCC campus sees no effect on the Charlotte group as a result of the UNC action, as the group has no university charter and receives no university funds.

If you want more information on the UNCC student group, please contact Susan Furr at 547-2104.

BEST BETS

Cabaret At Charades . Feb. 4
Queen of Hearts Pageant at O'Leens Feb. 5
Political Action Meeting at CCP House Feb. 9
Valentine's Dinner at Steven's Feb. 14
Skating Party at Roll-A-Round on Delta Rd. Feb. 18
Miss Charlotte World at Scorpio Feb. 24
Show starts at 9:30 p.m. NTE Dancer's at O'Leens Feb. 27

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