

Q-NOTES

November 1989

■ PRIDE IN PRINT ■

(704) 338-1138

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

Troy Perry To Speak In Winston-Salem

By Nancy Campbell
Q-Notes Staff

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, the Founder and Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), will be the featured speaker at the Gulf Lower Atlantic District (GLAD) Fall Conference Nov. 3-5, 1989, at the Hyatt-Winston-Salem Hotel.

Rev. Perry will conduct a workshop Saturday morning (9 am) on the conference theme, "The Priesthood of All Believers: The Moderator's Perspective." He will also preach at the worship service Saturday night (7-9 pm).

The UFMCC is a denomination with 249 churches in 12 countries, and a confirmed

membership of 11,806 (with average attendance of 22,296).

The Fellowship was born Oct. 6, 1968, in Rev. Perry's home in Los Angeles, CA. There were 12 persons in attendance that first Sunday service.

Rev. Perry tells his story: "The Lord was dealing with me. I had been taught by my previous church that you couldn't be a Christian and a gay person, too. I kept this up until one day God got a word in edgewise and said, 'Don't tell me what I can do. I love you, Troy, and I don't have any stepsons or stepdaughters. Reread My Word.'" And reread God's Word I did."

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, GLAD's Liaison Elder, will also attend the conference. She will be conducting a workshop on "The Priesthood of All Believers: Biblical Chal-

lenges." This will be a study of the Scriptures, its words and phrases, that speak to the topic of the conference.

Other workshops will address "Caring for Children with the HIV Virus," "Human Spiritual Interaction as a Factor in Health," and "Clergy Taxes and Church Finances."

The Conference will also feature elections for a new District Coordinator and 10 other district positions, three worship services and the ordination of the Rev. Christine Oscar from St. Mary's MCC in Greensboro, NC.

Other North Carolina churches represented will be St. John's MCC (Raleigh), and MCC Charlotte and New Life MCC from Charlotte, NC. There will be delegates from churches in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee as well.

BEST BETS

Nov. 1 7:30 pm Hearing on Anonymous HIV Testing, Town Hall, Matthews

Nov. 3-5 GLAD District Conference in Winston-Salem (Rev. Troy Perry to speak)

Nov. 4 Flea Market for MAP at Freedom Mall (Every Sat. in Nov.) 4 pm Gay/Lesbian Overeaters Anonymous

Nov. 7 **VOTE!!!!!!**
(or you deserve who you get!)



Nov. 9 Gay Parents, PFLAG

Nov. 10 10 PM Closetbusters on Cablevision Ch. 33

Nov. 12 Integrity

Nov. 18 Fun and Games Night

Nov. 23 2PM Thanksgiving Pot Luck Supper, MCC Charlotte

HAPPY TURKEY DAY!!



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Military Brass Rejects Report

By Elaine Sciolino
New York Times

WASHINGTON — A draft report by a Pentagon research center — but rejected by military officials — concludes that the military should allow homosexuals into the services.

Calling it biased, flawed, offensive and wasteful, a senior official said in internal Pentagon correspondence that the report went far beyond its task. Instead of determining security risks posed by homosexuals in the military, it examined the broader question of the suitability of homosexuals for military duty.

The unclassified report and the Pentagon correspondence were made available by members of Congress who believe that homosexuals should be permitted to serve in the military.

The report, "Non-Conforming Sexual Orientations and Military Suitability," was completed 10 months ago by the Defense Department's Personnel Security Research and Education Center in Monterey, Calif.

The Pentagon created the center in 1987 after a spy network was discovered operating in the Navy. The center's purpose is to study behavioral aspects of personnel security and analyze what kind of people make good custodians of classified information. It has no authority to make policy recommendations.

The report states that the Pentagon should rethink its policy of barring homosexuals from military service. The Pentagon has long held that the presence of those who engage in homosexual conduct in the military under-

mine "discipline, good order and morale." In 1982, that policy was broadened to include men and women who demonstrate a "propensity" to engage in homosexual activity.

The report dealt only briefly with the security issue, concluding that there was no evidence that homosexuals were any greater security risk than heterosexuals and no more likely to be liable to blackmail.

The Pentagon said in a written statement Friday after being asked about the study: "The report was merely a draft recommendation, which was not accepted by the Department of Defense because it was not responsive to the original research request."

Reprinted from *The Charlotte Observer*, Sunday, Oct. 22, 1989

Readers Respond to AIDS Article

by Linda A. Berne, Ed.D.
Professor, Health Education
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

As one not intimately familiar with the gay community, my perspective on "AIDS As Apocalypse" may be different from other responses. However, as a health professional, I am concerned with the health and quality of life for all persons, and from this perspective, I make the following observations.

It is not surprising to find the gay community obsessed with AIDS. Moving from the newly charted territory of the "out of closet" Stonewall years to the ecstasy of uninhibited sex of the late 70's only to be plunged into the deadly burden of AIDS in the early 80's could have produced little other response. The mobilization of the entire subculture to AIDS in the face of nonresponse from government, medicine and media was nothing short of remarkable, but it has taken a heavy toll on energies and psyches, personally and collectively. I have seen the reaction in the health care professionals who have worked close to the epidemic as well.

Recent developments, however, should begin to mitigate this fatalism. Gays have been more effective in prevention through lifestyle modification than other risk groups, and the percentage of new cases continues to decline. For those who are HIV positive, the success of AZT as a reverse transcriptase inhibitor, although expensive, holds great promise. Advances in treatment such as aerosol pentamidine for PCP have continued to reduce the case-fatality ratio from 100% in 1981 to 29% in 1989. Most clinicians believe that AIDS is rapidly becoming more like a manageable chronic disease such as diabetes than a deadly infectious disease.

I believe AIDS has been a double edged sword for the gay and lesbian community,

both internally and externally. AIDS rapidly forced fragmented groups into a cohesive unit with a common mission. The years spent working together on the AIDS battlefield have forged relationships useful in fighting for other mutually beneficial goals.

AIDS forced the taboo topic of homosexuality out in the open, for better or worse. Families and friends have had to face the reality of their loved one's "other" life as well as their death. The society in dealing with AIDS also has had to rub elbows with homosexuality on a personal basis for the first time. Rather than a great naive and apathetic middle, AIDS forced us into a bimodal distribution, some moving toward greater tolerance and empathy while others toward a greater and more overt bigotry.

Since promiscuity and high risk sexual behaviors are not exclusive to gays, the fear of AIDS grips gays, bisexuals and straights alike. Although media and the government feigns modesty in their reluctance to address promiscuity and high risk behavior (even reluctance to survey a sample of American adults to determine the prevalence of specific sexual behaviors!), individuals know their own behaviors, and the potential behaviors of their adolescent children. When the call came for AIDS education, gays could have easily adopted a "kiss off" attitude toward heterosexuals and their risks to AIDS. Instead, gays volunteered their expertise developing AIDS education curricula, community education projects, care giving, resource acquisition and support groups which did not discriminate.

Darrell Yates Rist suggests that the time has come for the gay community to catch its breath and re-evaluate the broader context of dying and living. I agree. If I were homosexual, I believe the following issues would be equally as important to me as coping with

AIDS:

1. The right to be understood. Homosexuals should be more persistent for the inclusion of homosexuality as a topic of empirical study in public education than homophobics are to have it excluded.

2. The right to legitimize committed rela-

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Be There or Be Square

A new law has been passed in North Carolina making HIV reportable. This means test sites will become confidential rather than anonymous, as they are now. That means that the names of those who get tested can be kept.

The Legislature is considering designating 9 to 15 sites in North Carolina for anonymous testing. We need to let them know that we support keeping anonymous testing; that many people simply will not go for testing under circumstances of "confidentiality" rather than anonymity.

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!!! There will be a public hearing Wednesday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m., at the Matthews Town Hall, 224 North Trade Street in Matthews. It is extremely important that we show up. We need speakers as well as an audience. There is no need to pre-register. Just show up. The opposition is really gearing up for this one. We MUST be there and hoot when the crazies make homophobic statements.

If you are reading this after November 1, please take the time to write to your state legislator and insist on anonymous test sites. The lives of those you love — and maybe even your own life — depend on it!