

Q-NOTES

April 1990

■ PRIDE IN PRINT ■

(704) 364-1467

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

BEST BETS

Apr. 7 7:30 pm Mature Gay Men

Apr. 8 10:30 am One Voice performs at Unitarian Church

Apr. 8-14 HOLY WEEK (See schedule of church services on page 14)

Apr. 15 EASTER SUNDAY

Apr. 18 7:30 pm WOW Video, Discussion

Apr. 25 7:30 PM Queen City Friends

Apr. 28 MCC Charlotte Potluck Supper



INDEX

Business Cards	Page 18
Calendar	Page 2
First Tuesday	Page 5
It's My Opinion	Page 2
Letters	Page 14
Mark Drum	Page 9
Organizations	Page 18
SE Conference Picture Spread	Page 10
Soft Spot	Page 3
WOW - 5,000 Lesbians	Page 8

Quilt Display Moves People At Conference

By Don King
Special To Q-Notes

There was the gray-haired lady, using a cane, reading every one of the 800 or so panels sent to Raleigh by the Names Project.

She had come from Florida to add her dead son's panel to The Quilt, and she was honoring other people killed by AIDS by spending hours in the Raleigh Convention Center. She liked for people to call her "Charley."

For more than 4,000 others, The Quilt was what brought them to this part of downtown Raleigh — a football field's expanse of brick and stone and planters and benches flanked by office buildings, hotels and the Convention Center.

Hundreds came to see the laying of The Quilt on Thursday night, March 22. Hundreds more witnessed the closing ceremonies on Sunday, March 25, when Charley's son's panel and a handful of others were added to the thousands that represent some of the people killed by AIDS. So many have died that less than a tenth of the panels could be sent to Raleigh, and the Wake County Health Department paid the \$3,000 cost.

The Quilt was the quiet part of the 15th Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, the oldest regional gathering of its sort in the country.

The busy part buzzed for three days at the Radisson Plaza Hotel just 100 yards distant, and attracted more than 400 people to attend workshops, hear nationally prominent speakers, and be entertained.

A snapshot: leading off the last night of entertainment was the 35-person choral group, One Voice, from Charlotte. They

performed "Meow," a take-off on opera; and "Edelweiss," and other numbers. And they were so good after only two months of practice, that the audience stood to applaud and cheer.

Another snapshot: Charlotte's Nila and Stokley Bailey, both in their 60s, conducted

Continued on page 8



Kooyman Steps Down As Head Of MAP

By Tim Moore
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE — Les Kooyman made a promise to himself when he founded Metro-Lina AIDS Project in August 1985 — he would use his every resource to educate the public about AIDS, and offer support to those afflicted with the disease.

Five years later, Kooyman has fulfilled that promise and plans to fight a different battle in the nation's war on AIDS. He resigned his position as Executive Director of MAP effective June 1 to pursue a Master's degree in counseling.

Kooyman is leaving an organization which began with a handful of volunteers. Today, MAP's annual budget is close to \$200,000.00. Six full-time and two part-time employees are on staff; the volunteer ranks recently topped 200, and MAP's client caseload is expected to reach 400 this spring.

"I feel good that I'm able to leave while MAP is in good shape," Kooyman said. I've known from the beginning one day I'd need to pass the reins onto someone else," he admitted, "and I'm leaving knowing that this (counseling) is the path I need to follow."

Last summer, times weren't so good for MAP, however. Financially strapped, the organization was forced to lay off its paid volunteer coordinator, and a volunteer filled the post until grants and contributions made a rebound in the fall.

But, by far, Kooyman confessed, raising the general public's awareness about AIDS and its effect on society has been the most difficult task to undertake.

"How do you convince so many people that this is not a moral issue?" he asked. "One of the most frustrating things about this job is trying to prove to people that this is a health-care issue affecting all human beings, not just gay men that some people insist we should not be helping in the first place."

But Kooyman has made good on his promise to educate the public. While MAP has grown drastically, the organization's acceptance in metro-Charlotte has broadened.

Republican County Commissioners Carla DePuy and Jerry Blackmon have consistently voted for funds for MAP, as has Democrat Bob Walton.

Kooyman attributes the Commission's fairness and commitment to MAP to the public image it projects.

"These Commissioners look at MAP as providing a service that we need in our community. As opposed to looking at who we're serving, they are looking at the quality of work we're doing, and supporting it."

While he's maintaining a high profile in Charlotte's media, Kooyman is modest about his part in MAP's success as a non-profit

organization. He attributes the success to a strong board of directors, and to what he calls "the backbone" of the organization — volunteers.

Ironically, Kooyman will be joining MAP's "backbone" as a volunteer counselor while working toward his Master's this summer.

And, while Kooyman admits any major change in an organization as large as MAP may be difficult, he's certain MAP's strong commitment to those affected by AIDS will continue.

"I'm not too concerned about the future of the organization because I know it's going to grow tremendously out of need, but most importantly, out of support from the community," he said assuredly.

"A lot of people see me as the founder of MAP, so that makes it hard to step away. Moving on can be exciting and challenging, but also very painful and scary," he confessed. "But, MAP is ready for a change," he said with a smile, "and I'm ready to help in a bigger way."



Les Kooyman

HRCF To Help Organize Charlotte Against Helms

The Human Rights Campaign Fund, a national political action committee and lobbying group for gay and lesbian civil rights, has assigned a staff member from its Atlanta office to assist Charlotte in organizing votes against Jesse Helms in this year's U.S. Senate race.

The first meeting of HRCF's Charlotte field committee will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, at the Unitarian Church of Charlotte. The church is at the corner of Hardwicke and Sharon Amity a block north of Cotswold Shopping Center.

HRCF's Cathy Woolard, a lesbian activist from Atlanta, will help motivate gay and lesbian voters through house parties, a method the National Abortion Rights Alliance has successfully used to elect pro-choice candidates.

"We urge any gay man or lesbian who wants to defeat Jesse Helms to come to the

May 15 meeting," said Don King, an early volunteer for HRCF's Charlotte action.

"HRCF's program has been tested and well thought out," he said. "Cathy will have very specific things for all of us to do the night of the meeting and later."

King praised HRCF for committing time and resources to the Dump Jesse movement. "For this national group, which gave \$100,000 to pro-gay candidates last year, to target Charlotte for action shows how determined lesbians and gay men all over the country are to retire Jesse to his cottage on Topsail Island where he can spend the rest of his days with his grandchildren."

King also said he expected Charlotte to organize fully behind the state's new gay/lesbian-organized political action committee, N.C. Senate Vote '90.

Continued on page 5