

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

July 1990

■ PRIDE IN PRINT ■

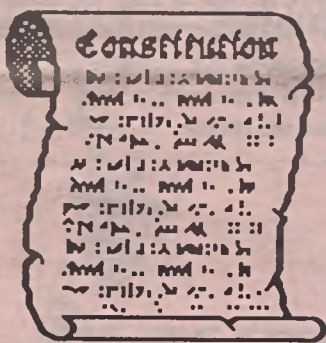
TO ADVERTISE: 364 1467

The Carolinas March Into The Gay & Lesbian 90's

By David Stout
 Q-Notes Staff

BEST BETS

July 3	First Tuesday
July 4	Independence Day
July 7	MENAMORE
July 8	Integrity
July 12	PFLAG
July 14	Yadkin BWMT
July 15	WOW Mother's Group
July 21	NC Senate Vote '90
July 25	Queen City Friends
July 28	MCC Charlotte Pot Luck



INDEX

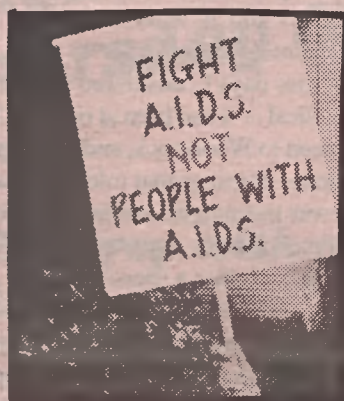
Barbara Kaplan	Page 3
Business Cards	Page 14
Calendar	Page 2
It's My Opinion	Page 2
Letters To The Editor	Page 10
Love We Thought	Page 15
News In Brief	Page 12
Organizations	Page 14
Reflections	Page 9
Silver Screen, The	Page 13
Social Highlights	Page 6
Soft Spot, The	Page 6
Three Charged In Murder	Page 4

The South Marches On

Gay Liberation as a self-perpetuating movement is fast becoming a reality in this country and equally so here in what may be the most conservative region of the nation: the "Bible Belt."

The evidence that allows one to make that point is the proliferation of gay-positive political action committees, self-help groups, publications and social organizations in our area of the South.

However, even though most of these groups have been with us for quite some time now, they are generally known only to members of the homosexual community and not to the population at large. But now that barrier of invisibility is being destroyed by a huge wrecking ball known as the Gay Pride March.



The precepts of a march are ingeniously simple: get as many gays and lesbians as you can to come out for the event and by the sheer undeniable power of numbers, announce to the public and the press that, "Yes, we are here — and no, we aren't going anywhere so just learn to accept us as we are."

Then, as people begin to recognize their doctor, their mail person or their secretary among those marching, it will eventually dawn on them that they don't need to fear the participants because they are persons with whom they have had dealings with for quite some time in the past and may have even considered themselves to be friends with.

This is the true beauty of the March: it allows ordinary, everyday citizens to see and to really (possibly for the very first time) be able to put a face with that many-faceted being — the Homosexual, and in so seeing us realize that the gays and lesbians in the demonstration are as usual and normal as anyone else.

Vigil Brings Shameful Recognition of NC Hate Crimes

The new National Gay & Lesbian Task Force report on violence, discrimination and harassment against gay people included 1,204 incidents in North Carolina. The next closest state, Texas, included over 300 fewer incidents.

A candlelight Vigil Against Violence, organized by N.C. Senate Vote '90, the N.C. Coalition for Lesbian & Gay Equality and North Carolina Lesbian/Gay Pride '90 was held Monday, June 18, at 7:30 p.m. in front of the Post Office on Fayetteville Street Mall in Raleigh.

Participants included Rev. Jimmy Creech of Raleigh, Mandy Carter of N.C. Senate Vote '90, Jim Duley of the N.C. Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Equality, Mab Segrest of

North Carolina Marches

An estimated 2500 people turned out to celebrate the Fifth Annual Gay and Lesbian Pride March in Chapel Hill, Saturday, June 30.

The activities, which began at noon were divided into three sections: first, the march, then a rally and finally a cookout. The march got started on schedule from the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and everyone trekked down Franklin Street to the Town Hall in Carrboro.

This portion of the day took right at one hour from beginning to end. The excellent Pride Marching Band kept time for the whole group and added an upbeat feeling to the parade, as did the float manned by Metropolitan Community Church members who played an organ and sang hymns along the march route.

Once the one mile walk was over, everybody was ready for the rally to begin. The rally was emceed by Lea DeLaria who is one of the nation's top female comedians. She introduced many different types of entertainment to the crowd: singing, dancing, award presentations, a theatre skit and several speakers.

The Lesbian and Gay Community Service Awards were given to Lee Mullis and Mandy Carter by Sonia Lewis for their tireless work in the movement.

Singer Sherri Zann Rosenthal performed for the first time in ten years at the rally and was accompanied by her pianist Delane. The Capitol Cowboys Line Dancers also gave a special performance for the rally attendees.

Others on stage included singer Tracy Drach, the Common Woman Chorus, the Lesbian Thespians, and a speech given by Mab Segrest, who is the Director of NC Against Racist and Religious Violence, about the violence against minorities in this state.

Also, as has become a regular part of the rally, there was the usual ribbon ceremony with each person who was wearing a ribbon representing one person who was lost to the AIDS epidemic. This year there were over nineteen hundred people to be accounted for.

One Voice Chorus sang the closing song to end the rally at about four o'clock and then there was a huge cookout. Lea DeLaria performed a fund-raising comedy routine at the cookout, which ran until about ten in the evening.

the North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence, and Janelle Lavelle of the N.C. Human Rights Fund.

The vigil included readings, songs and a public recitation of the 1,204 incidents in the NGLTF report, compiled by Leo Teachout of the N.C. Human Rights Fund with the cooperation of reporting agencies throughout the state.

The organization chose to hold the vigil outside of the building that houses Sen. Jesse Helms' Raleigh office because of his long history of opposition to any protections for gay, lesbian and AIDS-affected citizens, including the recent, overwhelmingly-passed federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act and bill providing assistance for people with AIDS.

South Carolina Marches

Saturday, June 23, will long be remembered by the citizens of South Carolina for a variety of reasons, but, chief among them, is that that was the day homosexual invisibility was destroyed in that state.

Approximately 1500 people turned out to parade down Main Street in the state capitol, Columbia. It took tons of courage for these people to leave the safety and security of their homes and face the cruel reality of homosexual existence in this country, but there were plenty who were willing to do so.

The participants began to gather around 11 a.m. and mixed and mingled until the march began at about five minutes past noon. The parade members festively played and joked with one another as everyone tried to work out the jitters of being in the first-ever, large-scale display of gay activism in the state's history.

Soon, though, all were chanting and shouting gay-positive and homophobia-negative epithets to the drivers and pedestrians who were watching the marchers. The onlookers simply seemed amused by the whole thing, as no malevolent words or gestures were noticed by this reporter.

At one point in the march a female impersonator who was in the crowd ran over to the side of the street and gave a long slow twirl to the bystanders who chuckled in amusement.

A lesbian in the crowd yelled to a friend on the sidewalk, "Come on, Melissa, you know you're supposed to be out here," which brought roars of approving laughter from the marchers around her.

The march itself took only about twenty minutes but the three-hour rally which followed was a test of endurance because of the heat. But, for those who were able to stay, the rally was worthwhile, for every speaker and every act turned out first-rate.

Jim Blanton, the Pride March co-chair, opened the rally with remarks commemorating the first march ever, and spoke of poignant memories he had growing up as the neighborhood whipping boy. He used a story of finally standing up to a bully during his youth to illustrate the point that South Carolinians were likewise standing up to the oppression of gays and lesbians in their home state.

Singer and humorist Lynn Laver (who passed up going to the New York Pride March to attend the one in South Carolina) performed next and also acted as the emcee for most of the day's announcements.

Next, Robert Bray, spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, gave a rousing speech on the status of the national Gay Rights movement and also on the significance of the first Pride March in South Carolina. He referred to the marchers present as "Hurricane Homo."

Other speeches were given on topics such as: the Stonewall Riots, religion from a homosexual perspective, gay parenting, and gays and lesbians in the military. The final portion of the rally saw Charlotte's own One Voice Chorus perform two numbers. Barbara Embick, the other co-chair of the march, gave the closing speech and then One Voice sang the closing song to end the rally.