

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

March 1991

PRIDE IN PRINT

(704) 531-9988 Volume 6, No. 3

Commission Votes To Limit Testing

Amid angry protests by members of ACT-UP Triangle, the North Carolina Commission for Health Services voted on February 12 to severely limit anonymous testing for the HIV virus.

The Commission voted to eliminate anonymous testing at all but sixteen (16) county health departments on September 1 of this year, and to eliminate such testing altogether on September 1, 1994. The Commissioners also ordered State Health Director Ron Levine to report back to them every six months, and to evaluate the change the February 1993.

The radical policy change followed months of debate on the issue and was approved despite overwhelming opposition from almost everyone directly involved in fighting the AIDS epidemic in North Carolina. In a series of six public hearings held around the state last month, 90% of the

approximately 130 people presenting oral testimony supported the continuation of anonymous testing in all one hundred (100) county health departments.

Immediately after the vote, ACT-UP member Jerry Salak read a statement to the Commission asking them "to vote again . . . and this time to bravely take a stand against those who choose to treat AIDS not as a disease caused by a virus, but rather as a political issue . . ."

When the Commission refused, ACT-UP member Julie Boler stood up and shouted, "Your decision is totally unacceptable. Mr. Chairman, ACT-UP Triangle chooses to block this meeting until an acceptable vote has been rendered by the Commission."

At that point, about 25 ACT-UP members rushed toward the meeting platform, waving placards and chanting, "Your politics are killing us!" and "Confidentiality is a lie!"

As Commission members left the room, the activists followed them out, shouting "Shame, shame, shame!" The demonstration continued outside. "They went out of order, so we went out of order," said Boler.

Unfortunately, the situation may worsen if the General Assembly takes up the issue. The Joint Committee on Legislative Operations recently recommended that the General Assembly pass legislation to immediately end all anonymous testing in the state.

ACT-UP members vowed to continue the fight. "This is a public health issue and shouldn't be decided on the basis of politics," said Carol Hammerstein.

Added Salak, "We'll target the legislature or anybody else who we see as thwarting our efforts to stop the AIDS epidemic in North Carolina."

BEST BETS

March

- 2 8:00P "Dykes To Watch Out For"
- 7 7:00P Last night to join ONE VOICE Chorus
- 12 7:30P Fun & Games Night - 220 E. Park Ave.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 7:30P Business Owners meet at Liasons
- 26 7:00P Charlotte Gay/Lesbian Leadership Coalition Meeting at Unitarian Church
- 28 7:30P Passover Seder at MCC Charlotte
- 31 Easter

Coming April 6/7: Gay Business/Craft Expo



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National Lesbian Conference Takes Shape

The last steering committee meeting for the National Lesbian Conference, to be held in Atlanta April 24-28, occurred in early February at the national office in Atlanta.

A core group of almost 30 lesbians focused on the final design of the Conference and the specific tasks still to be accomplished. The mood of the meeting was purposeful and directed, with only a few digressions into the policy discussions that have characterized these meetings in the past.

Program Coordinator Angela Acevedo presented a revised workshop and plenary

Killers Of Gay Man Sentenced

By David Stout
 Q-Notes Staff

The two boys who shot Jeffrey Langston to death last May 27 as he left a Charlotte gay nightclub were sentenced to life in prison February 8, after pleading guilty to the charge.

Richard Hoey and Lawan McGill, both 15, pleaded guilty to shooting Langston in the chest after he refused to cooperate with their robbery demands. Court records show that Langston, who lived in Cabarrus County, came to Charlotte to go to the Scorpio nightclub. After 2 am, as he returned to his vehicle alone, he came upon Hoey, McGill and Anthony Hamilton (who was 13 at the time), trying to break into his car.

As related by Hoey, the three boys had gathered at a friend's house to go rob people in the neighborhood. Hoey was carrying a sawed-off shotgun that belonged to all three boys that night when the three ended up behind a building on Freedom Drive. Then they saw Langston walking toward his car and confronted him. Langston refused to give up his car and Hoey shot him at point blank range.

The boys were caught within a week and Hamilton was sent to a maximum security juvenile detention home until he turns 18. Hoey and McGill sat in jail since early June awaiting trial. Hoey was originally charged with first-degree murder and four counts of armed robbery, facing a potential life plus 80 years in prison. McGill faced charges of first-degree murder and ten counts of armed robbery, which could have brought him a maximum sentence of life plus 200 years.

In a plea bargain with the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's office, Hoey pled guilty to second-degree murder and two counts of armed robbery while McGill pled guilty to second-degree murder and five counts of armed robbery.

Within minutes of hearing their guilty pleas, Judge Shirley Fulton sentenced both Hoey and McGill to life in prison. They will be eligible for parole in ten years.

schedule that was reviewed in detail to assure conformity to the original commitments made at the first national meeting in Durham, North Carolina, two years ago.

Logistical concerns were also addressed in terms of workshop capacities, scheduled breaks, permanent on-going space requirements, and the overall cohesiveness of the plan. It was approved and accepted. The daily schedule begins with anti-oppression training in the morning, particularly anti-racism and anti-ableism.

After lunch will be general workshops encompassing a broad range of lesbian concerns including sexuality, legal and religious/spiritual issues, personal growth, health and relationships. Also in the afternoon the pre-plenaries will facilitate the creation of a national lesbian organization.

Current confirmed workshop presenters include: Wilmette Brown, Julie Dorf, Elana Dykewomon, Joyce Hunter, Terri Jewel, Adrienne McGantt, Kimberly Melton, Bonnie Morris, Torie Osborn, Lavinia Pinson, Uzenzile Poindexter, Sadie Rakushin, Zantua Rose, Kate Rosenblatt, Patricia Tavormina, Vera Whise and Barbara Zoloth.

The Marketplace for craftswomyn and vendors will be open daily. Spaces are still available. Contact Amoja Three Rivers at (703) 789-4257.

Other daily events include a Showcase of lesbian performers (contact Deborah Pagett at the national office); a Juried Art Show (Gail Mayes at 404/521-2502); a special exhibit of Native American lesbian art (Janice Command c/o the national office); a non-juried art exhibit (Susan Fuchs c/o the national office); a Postcard Art Show (Rainbow Williams, 2854 Coastal Highway, St.

Augustine, FL 32095); and a Lesbian Film and Video Festival. Exhibits in the various art shows may be sold with a 75% artist/25% NLC split.

The evening sessions will include general addresses, plenary reports and panels. Special events on Friday and Saturday not included in the registration fee are a dance and concert respectively. The concert will feature Karen Williams, Lea Delaria, Sue Fink, Teresa Trull, Alix Dobkin, the Native American Dance Troupe and others.

The NLC has almost 40 operating committees and urgently needs coordinators for a few and volunteers for all of them. Coordinators are needed for Security, Transportation, Volunteers, Alternative Medicine/Womb, Elder Dependent Care and Troubleshooters. Also, a work exchange policy has been developed for the Conference itself — 15 hours in lieu of registration.

The most serious controversy of the weekend occurred over the issue of anti-ableism advocacy. Debate ensued over the question of fundraising in inaccessible spaces and finally resulted in the development of the following statement:

The NLC appreciates all efforts for fundraise on our behalf. Any effort to incorporate our principles regarding accessibility would be greatly appreciated. Please allow us to utilize this opportunity to educate your organization regarding a broad range of accessibility issues.

Deadlines are upcoming for most of the art exhibits and program book advertising. The pre-registration deadline is March 31. For more information, please contact the national office at 404/373-0000 (v/tdd).

Q-Notes Acquires New Editor And Office

By David Stout
 Q-Notes Staff

Everyone involved in the Q-Notes family is happy to announce that in the past few weeks two major voids in the smooth operation of the newspaper's publication have been filled: the newspaper has taken on a new Editorial Director and a permanent office has been leased in which to house the entire clerical and production operations.

In response to an ad placed in the January issue of the paper, calling for interested persons to interview for the position of editor, there were very qualified applicants.

But unfortunately, the position (and the miniscule salary) was designed with one person in mind, so a difficult decision had to be reached by the staff and then approved by the publisher. After meeting with each indi-

vidual, the position was extended to Dan Kirsch.

Kirsch, 37, moved to Charlotte in July 1989 to accept a job with the Charlotte Shakespeare Company as Managing Director. Upon his arrival in Charlotte, one of the first things Dan noticed was the glaring absence of any type of community-wide gay and lesbian musical organization. And having been involved in a gay choral group in Philadelphia, Kirsch decided to put one together himself. Now, ONE VOICE, as the chorus is called, is a major force in the gay community on a statewide level. The group has performed at both the North and South Carolina Gay Pride Marches, presented a Christmas cantata and most recently held a cabaret show.

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