

# Q-NOTES

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## If it's June, it must be Gay Pride

by Dan Kirsch  
 Q-Notes Staff

Whatever your pleasure, you're sure to find it in June by participating in one of many Pride events around the Carolina's. There are parades, picnics, marches, speeches, dances, concerts, theatre, and films. You can get your gay pride fix in Asheville; Chapel Hill; Charlotte; Columbia; Durham; Greenville, South Carolina; or Raleigh.

The month's activities begin on Friday, June 7, with the opening night of the Lesbian Theatarians' production of *Cinderella: The Real True Story*, a comedy by Cheryl Moch. The opening weekend is sponsored by and a benefit for Pride 91.

Charlotte's gay and lesbian chorus, ONE VOICE, will strut their stuff in an evening of light entertainment on June 14 and 15. The concert will include the music of Sondheim, Bernstein, Thompson, and some Big Band numbers.

Q-Notes and Charlotte's First Tuesday Association for Gay and Lesbian Equality will host the Sixth Annual Gay Pride Picnic on Sunday, June 16, from 2:00-9:00 pm at Bryant Park. A program will begin at 4:30 pm and include Joan Miley and the Fitout trio and guest speaker Martha Wilson (co-chair, NC Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality), and

will be followed by a dusk dance at 7:00 pm with music by D.J. Fly. Outdoor games, free food (hot dogs, hamburgers, vegetarian food), beverages (iced tea, soft drinks, lemonade, beer), and desserts by PFLAG will be available all day.

*Before Stonewall* is the Pride entry of the Charlotte Gay & Lesbian Film Series. Rita Mae Brown narrates this 1986 film, a history of homosexual America, from the roaring twenties through the McCarthy Fifties, to Stonewall.

Saturday, June 22, is the big day in Columbia, South Carolina. The march down Main Street to the State House begins promptly at noon. Speakers at this year's rally include Karen Thompson, a lesbian who continues to fight for guardianship of Sharon Kowalski, her disabled lover; Tim McFeeley, Executive Director of The Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest gay and lesbian rights and AIDS lobby organization; Mandy Carter, who chaired Senate Vote '90 which led the fight against Jesse Helms' reelection; Jim Sears, author of the recently published *Growing Up Gay In The South*; and Dale McCormick, openly lesbian state legislator from Maine. Entertainment includes Charlotte's ONE VOICE, and Les Cagelles and the cast from *La Cage Aux Folles*, the gay

pride musical currently in production at Columbia's Workshop Theatre.

The countdown to the end of the month begins on Friday, June 28, when the Lesbian and Gay Health Project holds a Pride Dance at the Sheraton University Center in Durham.

The 6th Annual Lesbian and Gay Pride March and Celebration will be held in Durham on Saturday, June 29. Thousands will gather to march and rally. The rally, in a shaded area with many vendors and information tables, includes entertainment from Die Yiddische Bande, ONE VOICE, the Capital Cowboys, and Tracy Drach. Speakers include Mandy Carter, and individuals from ACT-UP and the NC Anti-Homophobic Violence Project. Charlotte's First Tuesday group want people to "Ride with Pride" — a chartered bus will provide a convenient way to travel and party.

Lastly, the North/South Carolina lesbian and gay Volleyball Tournament will be held in Raleigh on Sunday, June 30, at Kiwanis Park. Teams from all over the Carolina's will compete for the annual championship.

If all this activity isn't enough, you could go to Atlanta (June 22 and 23), New York City, San Francisco or a myriad of other happening places. But nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in June!

## Pride Notes

### ▼ June 7-28

Various dates. *Cinderella: The Real True Story*. Durham. Presented by the Lesbian Theatarians. Durham Arts Council, 8 pm. Tickets: 919/286-1168 or 919/682-3672.

### ▼ Friday/14, Saturday/15

*ONE VOICE Chorus*. Charlotte. "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness Concert." Unitarian Church, 234 N. Sharon Amity Road, 8:15 pm. Tickets: \$5-\$10 sliding scale; 704/536-1372.

### ▼ Sunday/16

*Sixth Annual Gay Pride Picnic*. Charlotte. Sponsored by Q-Notes and First Tuesday. Bryant Park, 2-9 pm. Free. Info: 704/531-9988.

*Asheville Gay & Lesbian Pride Festival and Asheville Gay Men's Chorus Cabaret*. Asheville. Pride Festival at Memorial Field. Info: 704/258-3318.

*Greenville Pride Picnic*. Greenville, SC. Sponsored by the Palmetto Gay/Lesbian Association. Timmons Park off East North St., 11 am-3 pm. Info: 803/271-4207.

### ▼ Thursday/20

*Before Stonewall*. Charlotte. Gay & Lesbian Film Series. Sponsored by First Tuesday, MCSP, Wesley Mancini and Zay Kittredge. Duke Power Theatre, Spirit Square, 8 pm. Tickets: \$5, 704/376-9563.

### ▼ Saturday/22

*South Carolina Gay/Lesbian Pride March*. Columbia. Assemble 11 am at Richland and Assembly Streets. March begins at Noon, Rally to follow. Gala Party to follow at Club New York, corner of Blanding and Barnwell. Info: 803/782-2912.

### ▼ Sunday/23

*Annual Pride Potluck Picnic*. Raleigh. Sponsored by St. John's MCC. Pullen Park, Western and Ashe Avenues, 11 am - 3 pm. Info: 919/851-0315 or 919/836-2611.

*3rd Annual WOW Pride Picnic*. Charlotte. Hornet's Nest Park, 1 pm. Info: 704/535-8435.

### ▼ Friday/28

*LGHP Pride Dance*. Durham. Sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Health Project. Sheraton University Center, 9 pm - 1 am. Info: 919/286-4107.

### ▼ Saturday/29

*6th Annual Lesbian and Gay Pride March and Celebration*. Durham. Gather 11 am at School of Science and Math on Club Boulevard & 9th Street. March begins at Noon up Ninth Street to Main Street to the Duke University East Campus. Rally to follow. Post-Pride Party at the Episcopal Student Center on Alexander Avenue on campus, and Our Own Place Open House for women. Info: 919/942-3858.

"Ride with Pride" from Charlotte to Durham on First Tuesday bus. Leaves 7:30 am. Tickets: \$20, 704/567-8006.

### ▼ Sunday/30

*Volleyball Tournament*. Raleigh. Kiwanis Park. Info: 919/942-3858.

## Write to life

By David Stout  
 Q-Notes Staff

*Freedom doesn't come easily for me,  
 though often I feel its sheltering warmth.  
 I wage my battle in solitude;  
 certain that no one else fights my demons.*

*Locked in deathgrip with formidable foes:  
 anxiety crushing me,  
 fear debilitating my very spirit...*

*As I lay my head to rest each night  
 I pray for the strength to win yet another  
 victory over my own imagination.*

*Freedom doesn't come easily for me,  
 the knowledge that I could be the master  
 of my own destiny frightens me.  
 That I must learn to care for, nourish and  
 protect myself before all others is anathema to me.*

*If I had only one path to follow,  
 life would be a child's playground full  
 of wonder and surprise.*

*I would banish stress, anxiety, greed and corruption.*

*And when I banished my own fears,  
 I would be free.*

—Mark Drum

### Freedom Doesn't Come Easily For Me

While growing up in Mankato, Minnesota, Mark Drum said that he always felt different from other people. He didn't really understand what the difference was, only that it was wrong. "I was wrestling with a hurt that came from nowhere. I suffered deep cycles of depression and thoughts of suicide."

As a result of this internal turmoil, he became an extremely shy, introverted adolescent who had difficulty relating to others. He endured numerous incidents of harassment and teasing by his peers. "One terrible afternoon, a vicious member of the cross-country team dragged me into a closet and threatened me repeatedly with words that had no meaning to me. I don't even remember what he said, but he hated me with a deep and frightening loathing."

Mark couldn't comprehend the reality of his burgeoning homosexuality because there wasn't enough information available to identify it. The only time he ever recalled the mention of homosexuality was from a coach in high school who had given a cautionary speech to the students. The speech was about a man who sold drugs and got a former student addicted and then forced him into male prostitution to continue receiving the narcotics.

This image of male-to-male sexuality, as the result of depraved and sadistic circumstances, horrified Mark to the point that he was convinced being gay was an intrinsic evil. He decided to subjugate his feelings and live a "normal" heterosexual lifestyle.



It was at this point in Mark's life that he met Jenny. Her family had just moved to Mankato when Mark noticed her in church. A quick friendship formed because they were alike in many ways. Jenny was as shy and reserved as Mark was and they found acceptance in each other. "I ran home one day after spending an afternoon at her house playing poker to tell my mother that I was going to marry her. I had found unconditional love for the first time in my life."

Mark graduated high school in 1968 and attended Mankato College for two years before transferring to Kansas University at Lawrence. Jenny also came to attend KU at L.; and for the first time, Mark's life was going well.

He won a coveted role in the university's production of "The Three Penny Opera," playing opposite George Rose (Tony-Award winning actor), was doing great in his classes, and was beginning to assert himself socially.

Mark had a deep love for Jenny and asked her to marry him. He sincerely believed that all men got married and raised families. "When I was eleven years old I went to the local public swimming pool with my best friend and memorized the days that my favorite lifeguard was working. We followed him from station to station around the pool and even managed to strike up an acquaintanceship with him. In my eyes he was everything I wished I could be: tall and handsome, married with a young daughter and wife. What else could anyone dream of?"

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