

# Q-Notes

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# Musings

Thoughts from the Editor

## Psst!...have you heard?

It was the hottest news around for about a week — “did you hear about what happened at MAP?” A cacaphony of voices all discussing the ramifications of the Board’s action, how the staff was reacting, what community members should or shouldn’t do, and finally (and most importantly), how did this action affect the clients?

While the dust has not yet settled, I hope for a speedy resolve to this situation. The scuttlebutt around is that the Board - or certain members - are homophobic. Very serious charges for an organization, that while serving everyone, serves a higher percentage of gay clients.

Rumors abound about the July 8 board meeting — did Fred Sackett really tell his board colleagues that he was going to commit suicide (he died on July 10)? Was there really a call for Sister Mary Thomas Burke’s resignation by more than one board member? The board has remained unified in not discussing the events of the meeting, or why they gave former executive director John Conley a vote of no confidence. Conley has also refused to comment publicly, although several people have shown up at community meetings “representing” him.

I realize that Conley wants to continue working in this field (or so I’ve heard), but it would help the community if he or the board would, as tactfully as possible, let the real reason be known for Conley’s departure. Then we could begin the healing and move on.

### Gotta love that Jesse

He is, after all, one person who brings most of our community together. His latest volley of hatred has been lobbed at the medical community, under the guise of an AIDS-control measure. The Senate recently voted 81-18 on Helms bill to jail HIV-infected health-care workers for 10 years if they knowingly perform “invasive physical procedures” without telling patients of their condition.

The Charlotte Observer reported after the vote how Helms was savoring how he’d turned

back one of his most frequently invoked adversaries. “The homosexual lobby was putting on the full-court press,” said Helms, and went on to say that homosexuals are responsible for much of the spread of AIDS.

“Maybe one of these days, the people are going to rise up and say, ‘Stop protecting homosexuals,’” Helms said. “I’m motivated by a sincere concern about the trend in the country to accept a repulsive lifestyle as just another lifestyle. But we know it’s not. What we are talking is sodomy.”

Need I say more?

### On sympathy and postcards

Joe Chambers also brought our community together by attacking the PFLAG Convention coming to town in October. His attack led to the following editorial comment by *The Charlotte Observer’s* Ed Williams, “I have never encountered those mincing queens who flaunt their sexual preference to shock the straitlaced. But over the years, I have known many homosexuals, and my most common feeling about them has been sympathy.”

Well, thanks Mr. Williams, but no thanks. I sincerely appreciate the editorial (which went on to question “where do these presumptuous guardians of Charlotte get the idea that they are serving God by tormenting the parents of gays?”), but it seems sympathy is a bit demeaning. There seems to be a prevailing attitude among many in the Charlotte corporate world that they will tolerate a person being gay in private, but it is not okay to be your true self in the workday world.

We need your help, Mr. Williams, to say that you respect and care for gay people as people, and to accept that we were born that way and can’t change. Your leadership is crucial into changing Charlotte’s attitude about what is more than a lifestyle; it is who we are.

Many thanks to that group of anonymous donors for getting us postcards to mail to the Omni and AT&T. I hope one day you won’t have to be anonymous donors.

- Dan Kirsch, Editor

# AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
10:45A MCC Charlotte 1-ish GROW Brunch Buddies - Wilmington 1-5P Bryant Park Social Club 6:45P New Life MCC 7P MCC Hickory 7:30P MCC Charlotte	7P GROW - Wilmington 7:30P Time Out Youth Group 9P Bowling League Coliseum Lanes	7P Closer - Asheville 7:30P MAP - FFP/PWA support group (MAP) 1st & 3rd weeks 7:30P MAP - Bereavement support group 2nd & 4th weeks 8P Acceptance AA	4P Women and AIDS Support Group (MAP) 7P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group 7:30P NAMES Project Panel-Making (Summer hours 1st/3rd weeks)	11:00A MAP-PWA Support Group 6P GALA-UNCC Students 7:30P MAP-HIV-Positive Support Group 8P C.A.R.E. Group (Gay/ Lesbian AA) 875-1482 or 336-3067	8P Acceptance AA	4P Gay/Lesbian Overeaters Anonymous
				1	2	3 7:30P Mature Gay Men Call 882-1747 8P BWMT Game/Bar Night 9P Tradesmen Night Out
4 S.A.L.G.A (Asheville) 5P Lutherans Concerned	5	6 7:30P First Tuesday Mtg. 376-6352	7 7P Gay Parents 7:30 WOW Mtg. (535-8435)	8 7:30P PFLAG Mtg. 364-1474	9	10
11 1P WOW Mothers Gp. 6:30P Integrity	12	13 7:00P Charlotte Gay/ Lesbian Leadership Coalition 532-8484	14 7:30P Queen City Friends	15	16 7:30P Lutherans Concerned/ SC 803/736-1648 9P Tradesmen Club Night	17
18 1P O.W.L. Meeting at Liaisons 376-4745 8P Covered dish at New Life MCC	19	20 7P First Tuesday Board Meeting 7:30P Business Owners Meet at Liaisons 535-8435	21	22 8P Gay/Lesbian Film Series 376-9563	23	24 7P MCC Charlotte Pot Luck 563-5810 (may move to after service on Sunday, call for info).
25	26	27	28 7:30P Queen City Friends	29	30	31