

Q-NOTES

September 1991

PRIDE IN PRINT

(704) 531-9988 Vol 6, No. 9

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Switchboard, Wilmington (800) 732-5461

MAP controversy continues Board agrees to meet with gay leaders

by Dan Kirsch
Q-Notes Staff

Meetings, discussion and rumors continue in the wake of the July 8 forced resignation of John Conley, former executive director of the Metrolina AIDS Project. After a unanimous vote of no confidence in Conley, the Board of Directors has begun a search for a new executive director. In addition, a group of volunteers has started a group called SAVE MAP, and is circulating petitions calling for the resignation of Board president Sister Mary Thomas Burke. The petition also asks for "a reorganization of the policy-making body of MAP to reflect the interest of and accountability to the community it serves."

Over 30 concerned community persons attended the July 12 MAP Board meeting. The Board did not discuss the firing or its aftermath, but did introduce Ed Nadelman as Interim Executive Director. Nadelman is past executive director of United Family Services. At the end of the meeting, David Parsons, a MAP volunteer and donor, asked to be recognized. Reluctantly, Burke allowed Parsons to begin speaking, but when she realized the information being shared, asked Parsons to stop and submit his thoughts in writing. After additional posturing, Parsons was allowed to finish his statement.

Parsons said that he was involved "for the best interests of the clients. How can we overlook that?" Parsons' statement included a history of the events surrounding the situation, starting with a July 1 letter that appeared in *Q-Notes* from MAP volunteer Charles Foesch. The letter was in regards to decisions made by the Board that affected education, client information, and raised the question of board honesty.

The statement also included information about the hiring of an "administrative consultant" [to replace Conley] (worked nine days for \$2,550, or \$73,000/year); that volunteer coordinator Dan Van Mourik resigned his position; that the MAP newsletter has ceased publication; and that there was still no letter of explanation sent to clients and volunteers, only to donors. Parsons went on to say "The board's ability to raise money and make contacts must be recognized, but not when that takes precedence over clients and education. If you can provide one valid reason for such a drastic action, I urge you to come forward. If not, I fear no resolution will be forthcoming. It is time to explain your actions and clear the air concerning these charges."

Letters add fuel to the fire

At that same meeting, Michael Meredith, a client, volunteer and donor, distributed a scathing letter to board members and the press, saying that "in the past year or longer, I have been insulted, threatened and sexually harassed by select members of the MAP Board." The letter outlined Meredith's personal run-ins with board members over several issues, and concluded by telling the board he could "only deliver a vote of 'no confidence' to you as well! We need to move past this to begin a process of healing."

Following the meeting, the board went into closed executive session. Board member Dr. David H. Moore resigned during that

meeting, and released a statement to *Q-Notes* about his resignation to "underscore the pettiness, mean-spiritedness and small-mindedness of a gay community of which I used to be so proud, but which now fills me with disappointment and pain." The letter thanked the board for their dedication to the organization, and then questioned how the gay community at large could think the board "remotely homophobic?"

Moore continued, "In seven years of living with this virus, and in over three years of living with AIDS, I've been blessed. No friend, family member, neighbor, co-worker or employee has turned against me. Now,

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Singing Sisters Carolina-bound Twins bring special blend of snap, crackle and pop

by The Dalmatian
Q-Notes Staff

As she was preparing to leave for the Michigan Women's Music Festival, Washington sister Sandra graciously took the time to talk with me about her and sister Sharon's upcoming Charlotte appearance, their background and their music.

These twin sisters of color are originally from Columbus, Ohio, but now reside in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Not only have they excelled in education (one has a master's degree; the other a Ph.D.), they have also perfected the art of eclectic music. Theirs is a cornucopia of Caribbean, gospel, a capella, swing, and pop (pigeonhole them? Don't even try it!).

In a career that dates back to 1982, the Washington Sisters have continuously toured a circuit that primarily plays universities, women's music festivals, and numerous folk and cultural festivals.

By the time they arrive for their Charlotte appearance, September 28, at the Unitarian Church, Sandra and Sharon will have released their second LP, entitled *Take Two*.

Both *Understated*, their long-play debut, and the new set of tunes were produced by singer/songwriter Teresa Trull (a fine artist in her own right).

When I asked Sandra what it was like working with Trull, she simply replied "a blast," adding, "she can keep fifteen things (musically) in her head at once."

From having endured the painstaking pro-

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delegates to one another. Chambers takes the description for the Diamond jewel, twisting its meaning to suit his purposes. According to Chambers, "Diamonds are going to be worn to designate those looking for social contacts (sexual activity)," when in fact, the Diamond is for single parents attending who wish to attend dinner or workshops along with other single parents.

Chambers goes on to say "They are using our city symbol with an inverted triangle as their promotional logo. The inverted triangle has long been recognized as a symbol of the occult, frequently denoting the 'unholy trinity' of Satan, the Antichrist and the false prophet."

National PFLAG leaders have lawyers researching this latest letter for possible legal action.

In the meantime, Chambers has called for a "March For The Family," 9:30 am-Noon on Saturday, September 14. "Bring your kids in strollers and/or wagons and come join in the fun. We need every Concerned Charlottean family to come and march with us as we say to Charlotte, 'We Love and Support Our Families.'"

Chambers tells followers of conventions plans for 'sodomy sex'

by Dan Kirsch
Q-Notes Staff

Another letter filled with misinformation about the PFLAG Convention has been sent to members of Concerned Charlotteans by their president, Joseph R. Chambers. The letter also praises Senator Jesse Helms for introducing "the most sane legislation to start controlling the spread of AIDS," and asks his followers to send a letter to encourage the continuance of "existing restrictions against letting AIDS victims and HIV-carrying immigrants into our country."

The International Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Convention will be held at the Charlotte Omni Hotel October 11-14. Earlier in the summer, Chambers had sent his followers pre-addressed postcards, which asked the Omni to cancel the convention as they should not support homosexuality. The Omni declined, and plans for the convention

have continued.

Chambers now tries to discredit the motives of PFLAG by telling his supporters that "PFLAG is not a benign Father and Mother support program. How can you claim to preserve the family when you encourage and champion marriage and sex between two homosexual men or two lesbian women? It is illegal in North Carolina and immoral according to Holy Scripture. The chief agenda is to fool the public and hide their immoral deeds behind a facade of preservation of the family. A 'support group' image is just what they need to squeeze dollars from tax money and corporations."

More numbing is Chambers description of how the convention has "a slick plan so homosexuals can make contact for sodomy sex." Convention planners have created a crown-shaped name tag with places for 'genuine imitation jewels' in order to help identify

Out & About Meetings, Social Highlights, Community News, Etc.

▼ Tuesday/3

First Tuesday will learn all about the PFLAG Convention from Marcia Solomon, 7:30 pm, St. Peter's Episcopal Church (corner of 7th and Tryon). Info: Dick Woodhouse, 704/334-1886.

▼ Thursday/5

Can you hear the chorus singing? ONE VOICE returns for its second full season. New members are welcome tonight and next Thursday. A busy year of singing and fundraising is planned, all to culminate in Denver next July at the GALA Festival IV. Rehearsals start at 7:00 pm promptly at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1900 The Plaza. Info: Dan, 704/536-1372.

▼ Saturday/7-Sunday/8

Bold Moon Womyn's Gathering — workshops, a marketplace, hearty vegetarian fare, games, campout, with music by Tracy Drach and stories by Louise Kessel. Net proceeds will benefit Spiral Womyn's Land Trust. \$12.50-\$21.00. Info: 919/375-3764.

▼ Sunday/8

Richmond, Virginia, holds its Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival, with a parade, awards, a keynote address by Mandy Carter, and entertainment by the Flirtations. Noon-5:00pm. Info: 804/353-4133.

The *Our Family Celebration* community chorus has the first of its five Sunday night rehearsals, leading up to its October 12 performance. All are welcome to come learn/sing 2-3 numbers. 7:30-9:00 pm, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1900 The Plaza. Info: Dan, 704/536-1372.

▼ Monday/9

The Central District of the Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services (PALSS) is recruiting volunteers to work directly with persons with AIDS or to answer the 24-hour crisis line. Training sessions begin tonight. Info: PALSS, PO Box 12124, Columbia SC 29211.

Free bowling (and general meeting)! The Queen City Rollers, Charlotte's gay/lesbian bowling league, gets together tonight to prepare for the official league start up in one week. Meets 9:00 pm Monday's at Brunswick Coliseum Lanes. Info: Billie Rose, 704/545-0801.

▼ Tuesday/10

Monthly meeting of the Charlotte Gay/Lesbian Leadership Coalition, 7:00 pm, place to be announced. Info: Matt Chila, 704/532-8484

▼ Wednesday/11

Bear Men of Charlotte? A new 1992 calendar is unveiled at the newly renovated Bloomingdeal's (formerly Legends Menswear). Meet some of those hot men you've seen around town. A fundraiser for ONE VOICE. Free. 7:00-9:00 pm, 3949 E. Independence Blvd. Info: Larry Hahn, 548-0771.

▼ Friday/13

Mama mia! Thatsa some meatball! Those folks at First Tuesday are in the kitchen again cooking up another batch of tasty spa-

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