

# Q-Notes

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# Musings

Thoughts from the Editor

## You've got to be carefully taught

Music has a very powerful way of speaking to people. I find songs I've heard in the past come back to haunt me when their message is needed for a current situation. Recently all the talk in our community about education of our children, juxtaposed against the hate espoused by Joe Chambers, has led me to "rediscover" the following song from Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II's musical *South Pacific*:

You've got to be taught, before it's too late,

Before you are six or seven or eight,  
To hate all the people your relatives hate,  
You've got to be carefully taught.

Joe Chambers is calling for a "March For The Family" on Saturday, September 14. What does he plan to tell children that day? 'God loves you, but hates homosexuals. Trust your mom and dad, but they will not be allowed to love you if you become homosexual. Homosexuals will hurt you, they are Satan.' Great Joe. Fill their heads with hate and fear instead of love and the power of positive thinking. Destroy the self-esteem of those likely to grow up to be gay, and encourage the "straight" people to pass on their ignorance to another generation.

Of course, Joe Chambers doesn't have an exclusive on this sort of diatribe. An acquaintance recently relayed that she saw on the television news that a group has started in Oregon to "save Jeffrey Dahmer" because "he only killed homosexuals."

Nationally, the debate is raging about homosexuals in the military, and we will hopefully see a change in policy soon. The debate continues about allowing gay boys (and girls want in, too) in the Boy Scouts of America. They exist to teach future leaders, but what is the message by excluding someone who is gay?

Locally, undercover police have recently arrested a minister, a former state senator, and a former police officer for soliciting sex (from men) under the Crimes Against Nature statute. Thanks, officers, for protecting me from

this victimless crime while murder, rape and other violent crime continue to plague us.

### Teach them well

So, where is the education going to begin? We all have a responsibility to teach people about our lifestyle. Some people wonder why they should discuss their sexuality — why it should be an issue. That's the point — it shouldn't be an issue! But if we are not open, free about it, if we feel someone will use it against us, to hate us, to discriminate against us — then we will always live at some level of fear and guilt.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has a new superintendent - welcome, John Murphy. It will be interesting to me to see what kind of policies are developed towards homosexual teachers and homosexual students. I'm sure we have homosexual administrators, and I know homosexual parents. What will students be taught about this subject/issue/lifestyle? We are lucky to have a new gay/lesbian youth support group going in Charlotte, Time Out, but the organizers are having difficulty gaining open, active support from the straight community for fear of being criticized/chastised/condemned by their ignorant peers.

There are a lot of gay-related issues in the newspaper these days. When conversation swings around to one of those topics at work, at home or at a club meeting, what do you do? If someone tells a joke about Jeffrey Dahmer, what will you do in the future? Talking honestly about your opinion might change help to change someone's erroneous perceptions.

I know it's not easy — in fact, it can be extremely difficult. But we're the ones who have to teach if the future will be different.

National Coming Out Day is Friday, October 11. If enough gay/lesbian people or organizations are interested in having their names appear, ads might be placed in the local media to celebrate the day. If you are interested in participating, call the Q-Notes office for more information.

— Dan Kirsch, Editor

# SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
10:45A MCC Charlotte Fish GROW Brunch Buddies - Wilmington 1-5P Bryant Park Social Club 5:45P 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	11:00A MAP-PWA Support Group 6P GALA-UNCC Students 7PONE VOICE Rehearsal 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 First Tuesday Mtg. 334-1886	4	5	6	7 7:30P Mature Gay Men Call 882-1747 8P BWMT Game/Bar Night 9P Tradesmen Night Out
8 S.A.L.G.A (Asheville) 5P Lutherans Concerned	9	10 7:00P Charlotte Gay/ Lesbian Leadership Coalition 532-8484	11 7P Gay Parents 7:30 WOW Mtg. (535-8435) 7:30P Queen City Friends	12 7:30P PFLAG Mtg. 364-1474	13	14 9A - MCC Charlotte Grief Workshop 563-5810 1P Safeskills Workshop 535-8435
15 1p SafeSkills Workshop 1P WOW Mothers Gp. 6:30P Integrity	16	17 7P First Tuesday Board Meeting	18	19 8P Gay/Lesbian Film Series 376-9563	20 7:30P Lutherans Concerned/ SC 803/736-1648 9P Tradesmen Club Night	21 Fall Begins
22 1P O.W.L. Meeting at Liaisons 376-4745 8P Covered dish at New Life MCC	23	24	25 7:30P Queen City Friends	26	27	28 8:15P The Washington Sisters 535-8435
29 MCC Charlotte Pot Luck after morning service @ 12:30 563-5810	30					