

Notes

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The Carolina's Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper — FREE

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tells his story

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Mandy Carter comes to town

Durham activist looks to the future

by Frank Dalrymple
Q-Notes Staff

On October 1, Mandy Carter came down from Durham to be guest speaker at Charlotte's First Tuesday monthly meeting at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Carter, who directed North Carolina Senate Vote '90 (the political action committee to defeat Jesse Helms) was in town to define the work of NC/LGPAA (North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Political Action Agenda) and to

help chart the political course for the state and local gay and lesbian community for the coming years.

Standing before a group of about 70 people (mostly male) in the church basement, she educated and persuaded the attendees to activate their energies on a variety of issues, events, and elections.

Carter's public persona is closely matched to her private one: intelligent, informed, witty, and inspirational.

Because of the very specific guidelines afforded a political action committee (PAC), she was quick to clarify that NC/LGPAA is not a PAC.

Due to the fact that it was already October, Carter touched lightly on 1991 events still at

hand, namely the establishment of the NC/LGPAA office in Durham; the re-election campaign of Joe Herzenberg to Chapel Hill Town Council; and the formation of a state PAC, still to be named, to raise and distribute funds to chosen political candidates.

Looking ahead to 1992, Mandy expressed a great enthusiasm for the challenges to be found in both state and national elections.

To address the statewide agenda, Carter has helped form North Carolina Vote '92 ("which will NOT be a PAC") to initiate a community-building, voter-registration drive within the lesbian and gay community at precinct, county and state levels.

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Young men on the sexual fringe



A look at the hustlers of North Charlotte

by David Stout
Q-Notes Staff

Editor's Note: This article is neither an endorsement nor indictment of hustling, it is merely an examination. All the young men interviewed are using assumed names.

Openly gay film director Gus Van Sant is making waves with his new film *My Own Private Idaho*. The feature is about the lives of a group of male prostitutes (hustlers), with a focus on two of them. These are played by River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves. The movie explores the life of a hustler, something most of us have no idea about, with thoughtfulness and surprisingly tender insight. This non-sensationalized approach has been rewarded with three major film festival awards, two for the film itself and one for River Phoenix's portrayal of a young hustler who suffers from the sleeping disorder, narcolepsy.

While the movie involves the hustlers of one particular town in Idaho, in real life they can be found in practically every metropolitan city. The adage that prostitution is the world's oldest profession doesn't just apply to the female variety; there have been male prostitutes throughout history, even given society's added biases against male/male sex. Clearly, hustling is a phenomenon which will not "just go away."

Q-Notes decided to take a closer look at this perpetual, yet unknown, underworld by interviewing several hustlers about their lives and experiences.

To acquire these interviews, we went to North Charlotte where hustling is a way of life for many of the younger males in the area. Even though the majority of the hustlers are heterosexual, they have been raised in an environment where they see themselves strictly as businessmen making some money. Captain W. C. Hilderman, of the Charlotte Police Department - Special Information Bureau, commented about the proliferation of male prostitution in North Charlotte, "It's almost like a rite of passage, you have to do it (hustle) to become a man."

Although recent police crackdowns have slowed the hustlers, they have by no means eradicated them.

On the street

The following profiles were compiled from in-depth interviews with four hustlers taken on the street over the course of two months.

"Brian" is seventeen (he has no identification to prove this and looks younger) with shoulder length brown hair and a small, slim build. He says that he was raised in North Charlotte by his mother, who now resides in

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Straight Talk hotline opens Blue ribbon panel announced

by Dan Kirsch
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE — As reported in the October issue, Straight Talk, a new teen hotline that provides accurate, unbiased information on a variety of topics facing teenagers, including drugs, sex and peer pressure, opened in Charlotte on October 1 without information about homosexuality.

According to Julie Braswell, state coordinator for the Straight Talk project, the homo-

sexuality tape was one of several scripts the "blue ribbon panel" has sent back to the University of Wisconsin for review. The U of W developed the project.

The project is sponsored by the Telephone Pioneers of America and The Relatives, Inc., the oldest youth shelter with counseling in the state. In addition, the project will have local sponsors in each county as the project expands statewide.

Gay and lesbian activists have been concerned that once the homosexuality tape was eliminated from consideration from the opening of the hotline, that it may be in danger of ever being included. Braswell reaffirmed that new messages will be added in the future, but there is no timeline for approval or addition of any message under consideration.

In a press release issued on September 30 about the project, Jo Ann Greyer, executive director of The Relatives, stated "before we add [a message] to the Straight Talk line, it will be reviewed by a blue ribbon panel of parents, physicians, counselors, religious leaders and legal experts. The panel's job is to ensure that the messages are unbiased, factually accurate, relevant to North Carolina and in accord with state law."

Members of the Blue Ribbon Panel include Barbara Allen, Manager-Community Relations, Carolina Power & Light; Dr. (Sister) Mary Thomas Burke, Chair-Dept. of Human Services, UNC-Charlotte; Gary E. Carlton, President, Southern National Bank; Dr. Gwen Chunn, Director, N.C. Division of Youth Services; Charles Dunn, Deputy Director, State Bureau of Investigation.

Also, Dr. Dudley Flood, Executive Director, N.C. Assoc. of School Administrators; Dr. Jonnie McLeod, Retired pediatrician, Professor-Dept. of Human Services, UNC-Charlotte; Sen. Helen Marvin, State legislator; Dr. Edwin Moore, President, N.C. Medical Society; L. Richardson Preyer, Retired business executive; and Justice Willis Withard, N.C. Supreme Court.

When this project began in Miami as The Link, it generated 400,000 calls the first year, with masturbation and homosexuality the top two topics selected. The number in Charlotte/Mecklenburg is 344-1111. Straight Talk is free and requires the use of a touch-tone phone. Currently callers are given a choice of 70 topics.

R.A.G./Tag sale part of Lambda Business Expo

by Dan Kirsch
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE — A giant rummage/attic/garage/tag sale will be part of the Lambda Connections Winter/Holiday Business/Craft Expo on November 2 and 3. The Expo will be held at Masters Inn, 3815 N. Tryon Street in Charlotte.

Kimberly Melton, owner of Lambda Connections said the following businesses will be in attendance: Home Bodies (pet service), Family Estate Services, Security Travel, Rising Moon, Wild Zone Enterprises, Out of the Dark, Stained Glass by Nash, Books and Beyond, and White Rabbit. Other vendors will also be in attendance.

In addition to the many not-for-profit groups that will have booths with information, three groups plan a giant r.a.g. tag sale as a fundraiser. Black and White Men Together, First Tuesday and ONE VOICE will have booths filled with all kinds of junkie for interested browsers and buyers. The "Bear Men of Charlotte" 1992 calendar will also be on sale, with models available to sign autographs at different times over the weekend.

Hours for the Expo are 11:00 am-6:00 pm Saturday, and 1:00-5:00 pm Sunday. For further information, call Melton at 704/535-8435.