



Notes

Vol. 8, No. 7
July 1993

And the
winner is...

...page 4

Handicap
accessible

...page 16

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper Printed on Recycled Paper FREE

CMS begins final assault

Party will give local assistance

by David Stout
Q-Notes Staff

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Clinton is expected to unveil his plans for dealing with gays and lesbians in the military on July 15, and the Campaign for Military Service (CMS) is working feverishly to make the proposal one that allows homosexuals to serve openly.

CMS is the gay community's response to the political battle that erupted after Clinton announced his intention to repeal the ban in January 1993. At the end of that month, the leaders of the country's most powerful gay and lesbian organizations agreed to form a coalition to deal specifically with the ban issue. Represented groups included the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Human Rights Campaign Fund, National Organization for Women and People for the American Way.

From that coalition, CMS was born. Since its inception, the agency has been racing both the Religious Right, and its well-organized efforts to keep the ban in place, as well as its own planned dissolution in August. CMS will be dissolved in late summer because the groups backing it do not want to form another national organization which will compete for members and funds or further overlap services.

In the short time it has been lobbying, CMS has initiated many services and programs.

Glo Ivory oversees CMS's Southern Region, which includes both Carolinas, and says that the organization has been very effective, very quickly. "We have hired professional lobbyists on the Hill, we have our postcard campaign for the individual members of Congress, Senator Sam Nunn [D.-Ga.] and the President, and we have our telephone message line for those who don't want to write a postcard. Also, we have instituted a testimonial campaign. Gays and lesbians who served, or straights who served with gays or lesbians, are being encouraged to write us letters about the duties they performed. We are passing them, generally, to Sen. Kennedy [D.-Mass.] who is reading them into the Congressional Record."

Even though CMS has hit the ground running, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force reports that ban supporters are contacting legislators by a margin of 50-1 and possibly even 100-1 over opponents.

As with most battles, the deciding factor may be the amount of money the opposing sides are able to raise. Ivory says that CMS needs a strong financial base to launch its last, all-out offensive. "We need money to keep this going. There's a lot of 'undecideds' that we have to reach."

One thing that has Ivory optimistic is the grassroots financial support the organization is receiving. "We're very hopeful about the local fundraisers being held for us, such as the one in Charlotte."

The Charlotte fundraiser that Ivory referred to is a benefit party called The M*A*S*H Bash.

Continued on page 5

Columbia extends rights to gays

by Kevin Menken
Special to Q-Notes

COLUMBIA—An addition of "sexual orientation" to the language governing workers for the City of Columbia was adopted June 15 by the city manager's office.

The policy change, which protects some 1,714 permanent and temporary employees of the city's 32 departments, was approved on a recommendation from the Subcommittee for Civil Rights of Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals under the Human Rights Committee. It is the first city in South Carolina to extend sexual orientation to municipal guidelines covering employment.

"Columbia is one of the first Deep South cities to do this and to me it is very important that a city that was on the wrong side of a civil rights issue is now moving quickly to the right side of a civil rights issue," said Pete

Tepley, a member of the subcommittee.

"I think that it serves as an example to businesses in the city of Columbia and other cities of South Carolina that they too can stand up for the civil rights of other people."

The inclusion of sexual orientation in the city employment code underwrites Columbia's commitment to provide a working environment in which employees are free from discomfort or pressure from jokes, ridicule, slurs and harassment relating to individual distinctions, according to a press release issued by city officials announcing the change.

Assistant City Manager Mike West said the city viewed the inclusion as a means of cementing policies designed to insure an open workplace.

"It has always been the city's policy to get the best employee — whether they can do the

job or not is our primary consideration," he said.

Employees with complaints about violations of the new policy can follow standard grievance procedures for redress, West said. "It's obviously our intent to protect our employees from any abuse from the general public," he said.

Although policies covering city employees are determined through city manager Miles Hadley's office, some gay and lesbian activists viewed the victory as the first step in securing legislated rights in employment, housing and public accommodations in the capital city.

"We think it's fantastic that the city of Columbia has shown it cares about all of its citizens," said Debra Brandeis, another member of the committee.

State report on sexual practices released

by David Jones
Q-Notes Staff

RALEIGH—Two important reports on AIDS surfaced recently after being buried during the last years of two Republican administrations.

The first was a report on the epidemic in the United States, released by US Surgeon General Dr. Antonia Novello. Many of the subjects it discusses were taboo under President George Bush's administration. It includes detailed instructions on the use of condoms and clean drug users' needles, the growing threat of AIDS to women and the rising rate of infections in the general population.

The second report that has surfaced late is on a survey of gay men in North Carolina conducted in March of 1990. The survey was conducted in gay bars with the help of local AIDS service organizations. It attempted to determine their knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors about HIV disease.

The basic conclusions of the report are that gay men made significant progress in reducing their risk of infection, but that risky be-

haviors continue to result in transmission of HIV, particularly among men who are young, less educated, live in rural counties, and/or use drugs or alcohol heavily. Further, knowledge of what constitutes risky behavior is not enough to discourage it and efforts are needed to motivate people to become and stay safe as well.

Surveys such as this are considered important by public health experts, first in order to determine a base-line of data on populations at risk. Surveys should then be repeated regularly to determine whether progress is being made. The U. S. Centers for Disease Control required regular surveys when federal money was first made available to states in 1987 for HIV education and risk-reduction. However, several factors seem to have contributed to the fact that North Carolina's first report is six years late.

Activists recall that there was resistance within the administration of Governor Jim Martin to even conducting a survey, and one state official recently remarked to this reporter, but off the record, that "we needed to

ask questions that nobody wanted to talk about."

There were also concerns expressed by some in the lesbian/gay and AIDS communities about how the survey should be conducted (e.g., through the community press or at bars), and how to assure that confidentiality was protected. That led to several meetings and proposals that also delayed the survey.

According to David Jolly, once head of the state AIDS Control Branch and now a PhD candidate in public health, designing a survey to reach gay men that is representative and statistically is very difficult since it is a population that is hard to identify and reach. "This is not really a survey of gay men," he said in a recent interview, "this is a survey of gay men who go to bars, and there is a difference."

Even with a survey in bars, there were important factors that had to be considered in how the data were to be analyzed. Many people visit more than one bar in an evening. There is a chance that they could be surveyed more than once in one night, therefore, Jolly

Continued on page 14

Homophobic ads warrant strong response

As Q-Notes was going to press, the *Charlotte Business Journal* and the *Triangle Business Journal*, both owned by American City Business Journals of Charlotte, were beginning to come under fire for accepting an advertisement that was, essentially, nothing more than a virulently homophobic editorial.

The Triangle ad was placed by Raleigh radio station WZZU 93.9 FM while Charlotte's WRFX 99.7 FM sponsored the ad in their city's publication.

Robert Raiford penned the text of the ad entitled, "Why Can't Homosexuals 'Just Say No?'"

Some of Raiford's inflammatory passages included, "It [homosexuality] is still alien to the procreation of life and must be considered aberrant human (or animal) behavior," and "Although there is an orchestrated propaganda movement to glorify this mutation..." as well as "But can't the pedophile, the sadist, the drug addict, et. al., make the same plea for acceptance [as the homosexual]?"

Certainly the ad text was meant to be provocative to attract listeners who might be interested in a local "Limbaugh-esque" ultra-conservative.

Raiford issues similar tirades daily on a syndicated weekday morning show originating on WRFX and simulcast on WZZU. The top-rated program is co-hosted by "John Boy and Billy" and all three men have been criticized in the past for their intolerance of minorities.

Charlene Gruenwald, publisher of the *Triangle Business Journal* says that running the ad was a mistake. "I'll be honest with you, the ad never should have run. It slipped through—but I can tell you that it does not reflect my opinions or those of the *Triangle Business Journal*."

The publisher of the *Charlotte Business Journal* was unavailable for comment at press time, but the editor, Joanne Skoog, stated opposition to the ad. "I don't agree with it," she said, adding, "But I have no control over ad content, only the publisher can determine whether we'll accept or deny individual advertisements."

FIGHT BACK

It is imperative that we convey to the involved institutions our anger and disappointment over the placement of this advertising. Neither of the publications would have let a similar ad "slip through" had the target been a racial, religious or ethnic minority, nor

would the radio stations have funded such an advertisement.

Let these businesses know that the gay and lesbian community will not allow its people or relationships to be diminished for greed and ratings. Write and/or call these businesses and request that they issue print and on-the-air apologies for the pain they have needlessly inflicted.

Charlotte Business Journal, Mark Etheridge, Publisher, 128 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, 28202, (704) 347-2340

Triangle Business Journal, Charlene Gruenwald, Publisher, 3125 Poplarwood Ct., Raleigh, 27604, (919) 878-0010

American City Business Journals, Ray Shaw, President, 128 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, 28202, (704) 375-7404

WRFX 99.7 FM, Jack Daniel, General Mgr., 915 E. 4th St., Charlotte, 28204, (704) 338-9970

WZZU 93.9 FM, Keith Yarber, General Mgr., 2500 Blue Ridge Rd., Raleigh, 27607, (919) 787-9390