

## Victory Fund invades North Carolina

by Brent L. Pack  
Q-Notes Staff

DURHAM—The Victory Fund, the nation's top gay political fundraising group, infiltrates North Carolina on March 12, 1994 for its initial battle to raise funds for gay and lesbian political candidates in the home of one of its staunchest opponents, Senator Jesse Helms.

In its first fundraising initiative in the Tarheel State, the Victory Fund will feature a superior line of attack. David Mixner, who gained notoriety as a personal and political ally of Bill and Hillary Clinton, will be the featured speaker at the event. Mixner "came out" to the Clintons in the 1970s and quickly became a trusted confidant both politically and personally. He was instrumental in helping Clinton secure the gay, lesbian and bisexual vote in the 1992 presidential election. Mixner's influence became especially important during the controversy surrounding Clinton's successful attempt to promote open acceptance of gays, lesbians and bisexuals in the armed forces in 1993.

In addition to Mixner, William Waybourn, executive director of the Victory Fund, will deliver a brief address and be available to answer questions concerning the Victory Fund.

Established in 1991, the Victory Fund had little influence in North Carolina until the 1993 elections when it chose Mike Nelson, a gay activist who sought election to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, as one of its selections for its slate of financially supported candidates. North Carolina, the 10th largest state, had been viewed by the Victory Fund as an important state in which to make efforts. It was not known, however, how to make the necessary inroads. In backing Nelson's successful campaign, the Victory Fund broke the right ground to begin work in North Carolina, traditionally a stronghold of the conservatives and religious right.

This first fundraising and informational event will focus on gaining more Victory Fund members in the state. The Victory Fund, a donor network, was formed to finan-

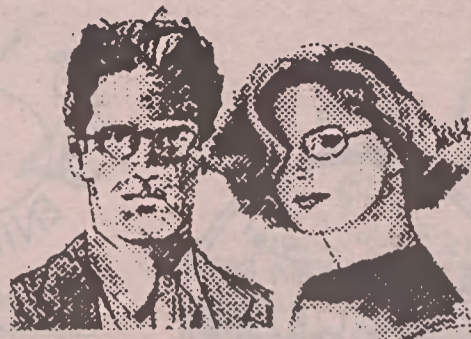
cially support gay and lesbian political candidates in their bids for public office. To become a member, interested parties are asked to contribute \$100 to cover administrative costs of the organization. In addition, the members agree to contribute at least \$100 each to two candidates from the Victory Fund's carefully chosen slate of candidates. In total, members are asked to contribute at least \$300 per year in assistance to gay and lesbian political candidates.

The Victory Fund undergoes a thorough process to select the candidates it presents to members for financial consideration. The selection committee carefully examines the platform and organization of the campaign, in addition to the political history and the likelihood of victory by the candidate. Although the selection process may seem too involved for candidates to attempt, a selected candidate, however, receives additional, and usually very needed, campaign contributions that allow him or her to significantly advance the campaign.

Mike Nelson comments, "The security of knowing that additional money was coming into the campaign allowed me to expand my campaign strategies into additional radio and newspaper advertising that would not have been possible without the Victory Fund."

In addition to financial assistance, the Victory Fund is sponsoring workshops for openly gay and lesbian candidates. These workshops allow the candidate and the campaign manager to spend a weekend with Victory Fund officials who educate them on campaign organization, techniques and fundraising. According to Nelson, "These training weekends are what gay and lesbian candidates need to learn how to run an effective and successful campaign."

If you would like more information about the Victory Fund's fundraiser in Durham on March 12, contact Mike Nelson at (919) 929-7514 or Andy Knapp at (919) 688-1497. For further information on the Victory Fund and ways to get involved, contact the Victory Fund at (202) 842-8679.



### CLEARVISION OPTICAL OUTLET

The Only Quality Retail Store in  
Mecklenburg County With  
Discount Prices

R. Wade Ferrell  
Optician

Eye Exams Available

As part of our Eye Care Service, we offer 4 Plans and a selection of over 1200 high quality Frames including Polo, Tura, Stetson, Gloria Vanderbilt, and Sophia Loren. Our professional staff is trained to help you select frames that look good, fit properly and are compatible with your new prescription. We can fill your doctor's prescription or duplicate your present one. *We want you to have glasses you are proud of and enjoy wearing.*



### Quality Eyeglasses at Discount Prices

Clear Plastic Lenses  
Spheres or Compounds  
(±5.00 Sph.-3.00 cyl.)  
Additions 1.00 to 3.00

**\$59.95**

Single Vision  
Distance or Reading  
Complete with Frame

**\$89.95**

Flat Top 28 or  
Round Bitocals  
Complete with Frame

**\$139.95**

No Line Bifocals  
Complete with Frame

### CLEARVISION OPTICAL OUTLET

Seneca Place Shopping Center  
5033-E South Blvd.

**521-8717**

OPEN

Mon-Fri 10:00-6:00  
Saturday 9:00-3:00

Absolutely No Gimmicks

## Come Celebrate The Power Of The Resurrection At

The Third Annual

## EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

at

Freedom Park

6:30 am, Easter Sunday

April 3

And plan on staying for the "family-style" breakfast at Shelter #3 following the service!

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Community Church of Charlotte  
*A Dynamic Christian Church With A Special Ministry To Charlotte's Gay & Lesbian Community*

The Metropolitan Community Church of Charlotte  
Located in the Varnadore Building at  
4037 E. Independence Boulevard, Suite #726, Charlotte, North Carolina 28205



Join Us For Worship Each Sunday At 9:15 am, 10:45 am, & 7:30 pm!