

DRAG NET

The Drag Show Network
EVERY SUNDAY NITE

ALL NITE ▶ \$1.50 HOUSE DRINKS
▶ \$1.25 ALL DOMESTIC LIGHT BEER

The Outrageous Antics of
FELICITY FAHRENHEIT
also-Amanda Austin
and Gina LaTate



4/2



MISS GAY CHAR.-USA **CHINA**
MIDATLANTIC E.O.Y. 95-96 **MISS KITTY**
& **WENDY ROCHELLE**

4/9

"T" DANCE AT 6:00- FOR THE GAY
& LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD

David Burrill and D-V-8

4/16

also: House Cast Flaunt Their "HOT STUFF!"



Miss Gay NC-USA
Naomi Ferrington
with Shannon Dee and
Alexandria O'neil

4/23



"T" Dance at 7:00
by Charlotte "T" Dance Sponsors
and

"keep givin'
me your
love"

4/30

CeCe Peniston
with Mythos House Cast!
ONLY \$3 Members-\$5 Guests

Mythos

MEMBERS
\$2

GUESTS
\$3

Uptown Charlotte, NC

Corner of 6th & North College Street • 704-375-8765

West steps down at Brothers Foundation

by David Stout
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—In a February 28 press release, The Brothers Foundation announced the resignation of its first Executive Director Betsy West, citing a need to "...trim the size of staff [and] ...reduce operational expenses." As part of the restructuring, two employees of The Living Center, the agency's day respite facility for people with HIV and AIDS, were also let go.

According to a member of The Brothers Foundation's board, West's resignation was solely attributable to economics. Chair Deborah Hirsch said, "We discovered we were administration heavy — more of the budget was going to administration than to clients. We were able to trim \$90,000 from the budget through this process."

West agreed saying, "[The Brothers Foundation is] a great example of what non-profits are facing. There is money available for programs but very little for operations, and that's what I came under." But she challenged the notion that letting her go was the best option. "Administrators are considered an extravagance by the public — but they are the programs. I was as much a part of the programs as the person doing day-to-day, hands-on work with the clients." She said that as the highest paid employee of the agency, she was an easy target, but she had no knowledge that her resignation would be sought. "When you're one of the ones who can go, you're not privy to that information."

When asked if she would have supported the decision to seek the director's resignation, had she been on the board, West responded, "Of course not. I have a whole different perspective on what could have been done. We should have been out in the community beating the bushes all along raising money. We could have streamlined our operations — possibly a temporary layoff at the Living Center. The employees would have qualified for unemployment until we could find the money to bring them back to work."

Despite the fact that The Brothers Foundation experienced phenomenal growth under West (she procured more than \$2.5 million for the agency), Hirsch wasn't concerned about a reversal following her resignation.

"One of the reasons we did this now was because we wanted to set the direction of the Board for the future. We are supposed to be serving 11 counties, but right now we are only serving Mecklenburg. There comes a time when you have to be realistic, and we're there. It's important that we serve as many people as possible."

West noted that this would be difficult under the circumstances. "Until that Board gets real strong and real participatory, it's never going to happen."

According to Hirsch, losing its executive director isn't a threat to the level of care the Foundation can offer. "It's important to remember that The Brothers Foundation is an umbrella group overseeing Fieldstone [a group home], The Living Center, hopefully Taylor Home [a group home whose construction is currently being illegally blocked by the City of Charlotte] and The Havens [a proposed 24-unit apartment complex scheduled for groundbreaking in less than two months]. Each of these projects has its own director — we don't need a full-time director for the directors."

West sees a different problem arising, since the Board is now handling the administrative duties. "They will have to do work that they just don't know how to do. They have different gifts and work other jobs."

Hirsch indicated that the Board will probably re-tool the job description of the next executive director, steering the position toward more community development and fundraising efforts. West found this to be in keeping with her view of the agency's leaders. "I think the Board thinks a fundraiser is interchangeable with an executive director — and they're very different things. A good many on the Board see the two as interchangeable."

Although West is disappointed to be leaving The Brothers Foundation ("It's a hard thing to give up your baby... especially The Havens. I started that program from soup to nuts... well, I won't be around for the nuts, but I started the soup"), she is still encouraging others to support the organization and its programs. "I've had friends say, 'I won't give them another dime,' and I say 'Why? This shouldn't be about personalities.' Hope people support them and I hope they succeed."

Martin says no discrimination at UNC

by David Jones
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—"There is no discrimination against anyone at the University [of North Carolina] on any of its campuses attributable to homosexual orientation, and so such discrimination has been alleged," according to former North Carolina governor James G. Martin of Charlotte. The statement was made in a letter from Martin to Ed Farthing, legislative liaison for NC Pride PAC, the lesbian and gay political action committee in NC.

The university has a system-wide policy under consideration that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. It is being studied in a committee of the Board of Governors. A recommendation from the committee to the full board is expected this summer.

Farthing heard Martin speak at a Triangle-area lecture series and decided to write him a letter asking his position on the proposed policy. Martin is a member of the board. In Martin's response to Farthing, he states that

he is opposed to including homosexuality in the university's nondiscrimination policy because "there has been nothing to necessitate it." "I have been told that at least one of our staff is homosexual, but I have no knowledge of that, and really don't care." After proclaiming that discrimination against gay people does not exist and has never been alleged, Martin stated, "If there is no discrimination against any individual based on homosexuality, then I see no sound reasons to try to bring it up for debate."

In a strange twist coming shortly after major Republican victories in the 1994 elections, Martin, a Republican, ended his letter with the comment, "If you want to redress a real grievance, try the issue of discrimination based on political orientation."

Martin sent the letter from his home address in Charlotte, to which those who are aware of discrimination may send replies. The address on the letter is James G. Martin, 1831 Maryland Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28209.

NCLGHP hires coordinator

DURHAM—The North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Health Project (NCLGHP) announced the hiring of Susan Angle as the new Program Coordinator for its Lesbian Health Center.

The Lesbian Health Center, currently in development at NCLGHP, hopes to provide a safe, confidential and comfortable environment for lesbians, bisexuals and all women who partner with women in need of health care services. Among the services the center will offer are pelvic exams, pap smears and clinical breast exams. Additionally, education and support services will help lesbian/bisexual women understand their health needs and find the best ways to get them met, whether through scientific or alternative medicine, or a combination of both.

Angle, a native of Charlotte, has served as a counselor at Planned Parenthood providing counseling and support services to women undergoing various surgical procedures as well as those in need of guidance in the areas of contraception, avoiding STDs and HIV prevention. Most recently, she worked at Charlotte Internal Medicine.

A graduate of UNC Charlotte with a B.A. in psychology and a minor in sociology, Angle has a particular concern for the emotional well-being of women. "All women are at a societal disadvantage, but the stresses on lesbians and other women who partner with women are neglected by the mainstream."

Angle is in the process of relocating with her partner, Liz Burnett, and looks forward to taking an active role in the community.