

Q Notes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper

Youth deliver demands to California officials Page 3

New column: The Art of Meeting Women Page 20

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Pictured L to R: Taylor, Dr. Rhett Brown, Reyes, Mixner, Elders, Tyler

Ex-Surgeon General speaks at first Time Out Youth dinner fundraiser

by David Stout
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—Time Out Youth, Charlotte's only support organization specifically serving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender adolescents, hosted a successful fundraising dinner January 23 featuring former US Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders, ex-Clinton advisor David Mixner and openly gay soap star Steve Tyler.

The benefit, held at the Marriott City Center, began with a 6:00pm press conference. The three special guests, Time Out Youth Executive Director Tonda Taylor and Mecklenburg County Commission candidate Andrew Reyes, who organized the fundraiser, addressed the media with a few brief comments.

Elders, the first woman of color ever to hold the nation's highest public health position, stressed that she was "extremely pleased to be in Charlotte to help such a wonderful organization." She asserted that society must stop ignoring GLBT youth and deal frankly with the issues that face them.

Her forthright manner in dealing with controversial issues like those presented in assisting gay youth — "normalizing" opinions on homosexuality, supporting safe alternatives to intercourse such as masturbation, honestly dealing with the increased incidence of drug use among gay adolescents — cost her the job of Surgeon General in 1994.

Highly-sought political consultant David Mixner, who has assisted with over 75 electoral campaigns and written his autobiography (*Stranger Among Friends*), reiterated Elders' point, saying, "If we're not here to support the kids, why are we here."

Judge says Navy cannot boot sailor because they violated "Don't Ask"

by David M. Smith
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC—Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh (unrelated to the convicted Oklahoma City bomber), 36, received a temporary reprieve January 25 when a federal judge restrained the Navy from firing him for having the word "gay" in his America Online (AOL) profile.

"It seems clear to everyone except the US Navy that the Navy violated Chief Petty Officer McVeigh's personal privacy as well as the law governing gays in the military," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the largest national

"Paul Lynde," noted actor Steve Tyler, "was the only gay person I ever knew on television." He said he is working to change that, using his celebrity as a cast member of NBC's daytime drama *Days of Our Lives* to bring a positive message to younger GLBT performers. He stated that his efforts have not been without struggle, though. "I still face the [entertainment industry's] homophobia every day...but it's important for someone to do this."

After the press conference, the featured guests mingled at a \$100-per-person private reception. Outside of the expected, well-heeled GLBT attendees, other notables at the mixer included Bill Culp, former Mecklenburg County Elections Director; and Jerry Klein, newspaper columnist, radio deejay and founder of the new Progressive Alliance.

At 7:00pm, nearly 300 gathered for the evening's featured event: a \$35-per-plate dinner at which all three invitees spoke. During her remarks, Elders decried American society's indifference toward GLBT youths. She said that they are often treated like "biodegradable trash" and asked, "Do we have 10 percent of our youth to throw away because we refuse to accept who they are?" Her comments drew vigorous ovations from the audience.

After the fundraiser, preliminary totals indicated that around \$30,000 was raised from the event. The money will primarily be used to help fund the salary of a second full-time staff member.

Time Out Youth is open to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth between the ages of 13 and 23. They offer weekly support meetings and other social functions. For more information, call (704) 537-5050. ▼

gay political organization. "Fortunately, the court stepped in and prevented the Navy from compounding its mistakes by wrongfully discharging this exemplary officer."

US District Judge Stanley Sporkin ruled that McVeigh could remain on active duty while the court considered the Navy's decision to dismiss him based on evidence of homosexuality obtained from AOL. Sporkin issued a preliminary injunction, saying essentially that McVeigh would be irreparably harmed by being discharged before the court's review of the case was complete. But in an unusual and surprising move on January 29, Judge Sporkin made

See JUDGE on page 12

Community Yellow Pages embroiled in a number of disputes across US

by Brian M. Myer
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—A story that contains allegations of murder for hire, kidnapping, pistol-whipping, drug use, forgery, business fraud, writing bad checks and a maze of lawsuits sounds like the script for *Melrose Place*. But in this instance, the allegations aren't from a fictional melodrama, but an article printed in a Phoenix gay newspaper about the Gay Community Yellow Pages (GCYP).

As reported in the last issue of *Q-Notes*, the publisher of the Gay Community Yellow Pages has announced that a volume is being produced for Charlotte. Since then, *Q-Notes* has fielded a number of questions and concerns from the community regarding the business practices of both the company and its owner. Most of the concerns stem from a news article that was widely distributed via an e-mail list service.

The article, actually third in a series, was published in *Echo* magazine, based in Phoenix, AZ and written by general manager Jeff Ofstedahl. The "expose" paints a lurid picture of the Gay Community Yellow Pages home office (also in Phoenix), its parent companies, Chapter Two Publishing and OutWest Publications, and owner Marci Alt.

To the average person, this tale has all the dubious elements of a bad made-for-TV movie; but for Charlotte business owners — who are being solicited for expensive GCYP ads — the facts may determine where hard-earned money is spent and what returns can be expected. Because this tangled tale will only be unravelled in the courts (we were informed that litigation has begun), *Q-Notes* decided to simply contact those involved and report in chronological order the information that was received. At this time, we will leave it up to readers to draw their

own conclusions regarding whether or not to do business with GCYP.

• An *Echo* news article, entitled "As the Gay Community Yellow Pages World Turns," is received by *Q-Notes* staff. The article reports on the kidnapping and subsequent pistol-whipping of Tampa, FL resident Jamie Kent and claims that "an associate of the Phoenix-based GCYP, a company explored last July by *Echo* magazine for numerous potential illegalities, is considered by police in Florida as an investigative lead." It also reiterates *Echo's* July investigative report that "outlined: tax fraud, drug use, forgery, telemarketing wire fraud, poor-to-fraudulent distribution numbers, illegal employment practices and interference with business. At the heart of that investigation were apparent misrepresentations from GCYP and its owner concerning publication and distribution of Phoenix Gay Yellow Pages."

• Upon request, a fax of an article appearing in the *Las Vegas Bugle* ("Community Yellow Pages under attack for business practices, short circulation") was received and reviewed by *Q-Notes*. The article covered much of the same ground as the *Echo* piece. One new charge was that "Marci Alt admits to forging legal documents" in relation to an ex-employee's records. For all its negative coverage, however, the *Bugle* reported that "Las Vegas advertisers [were] generally satisfied with GCYP." Although the *Bugle* was named in the *Echo* article as one of the publications embroiled in a payment dispute with GCYP, a *Bugle* staffer told *Q-Notes*, "As of today, GCYP is paid in full."

• We attempted to contact all of the publications reported to have outstanding debts from, or disputes over invoices with, GCYP. The first publication reached was the *Seattle Gay*. See DISPUTES on page 12

Supporters tie up loose ends in recognition of gay marriage

by Derrick Phillips
Special to Q-Notes

"Will you marry me?"...This simple question is the hopeful landscape upon which committing partners have built their futures for countless generations. Regardless of whether this age-old question is posed classically on bended knee or features a diamond ring, it represents a moment of bliss between two people who want to commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives...so long as they are opposite-sex partners, of course.

On February 12, gays and lesbians will push for the same cherished opportunities for themselves when they inaugurate a nationwide day to call for legalization of same-sex marriages.

The National Freedom to Marry Day will occur on Thursday, February 12. This date was selected and is announced by the National Freedom to Marry Coalition, which includes Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; the Human Rights Campaign; the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force; Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; the American Civil Liberties Union; Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders; the

National Organization of Women; Parents, Friends, and Family of Lesbians and Gays; and the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center as well as hundreds of non-gay and gay local and state partners across the country.

Why the twelfth of February?

This date is chosen for two reasons — more specifically, two words: equality and love. Lincoln's birthday is a time to remember the foundations surrounding equality; Valentine's Day centers around love. To combine the two, there is no better day or way to mark the importance of ending sex discrimination in the sanctity of marriage and permitting lesbian and gay couples to share in the celebration, rights and responsibilities of civil marriage.

A decision concerning marriage for lesbian and gay couples by the Hawaii Supreme Court is soon to be expected — with national repercussions. Without serious discussions between gay and non-gay America, this paramount chance for greater freedom and equality could be lost or delayed significantly.

"The choice of whether and whom to marry" See MARRIAGE on page 4

