

# Q Notes

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Published Every Two Weeks On Recycled Paper • Volume 12, Number 22 • April 4, 1998 • FREE

## Touched By An Angel

### Bailey's death a tremendous loss

by David Stout  
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—After a long battle with illness, Nila Bailey, 80, passed away March 16, leaving behind a legacy of social activism and devotion that had endeared her to Charlotte's gay and lesbian community for decades. Nila is survived by her husband of 60 years, Stokley, and their daughter, Sandra.

Nila and Stokley, long considered the "Mom and Dad" of Charlotte's GLBT community, co-founded the Charlotte chapter of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) in 1986. The group was instrumental in re-shaping attitudes about gays and lesbians in the Queen City. Through numerous television appearances, newspaper interviews and speaking engagements, Nila and her colleagues were able to bring discussions about homosexuality into the mainstream.

In 1991, the Charlotte chapter hosted PFLAG's 10th Anniversary International Convention. The conference received media attention across the nation and spurred weeks of

positive coverage in local outlets. Organizing the historic gathering was a great challenge, but the chapter presented a convention that was widely labeled as "the best one yet."

Nila and her husband were instrumental in the formation of Time Out Youth, a support organization for GLBT young people. Due to their concern for the needs of gay and lesbian youth, much of their attention during the 1990s was directed toward improving conditions (especially in the school system) for this often invisible population.

The gay and lesbian community returned Nila and Stokley's love by presenting them with a special "Friend of the Family" award in 1993 for their tireless service and activism.

Further demonstrating the GLBT community's esteem for the couple was the creation of the Nila and Stokley Bailey, PFLAG Scholarship Fund at UNC-Charlotte. The scholarship benefits a deserving gay or lesbian student and is an appropriate monument for a woman who spent her life trying to make everyone else's better.



Nila Bailey, pictured with husband Stokley, will be greatly missed.

Readers are encouraged to honor Nila by making a donation in her name to the scholarship fund. Send donations to: Jennifer McNamara, Office of University Development, UNC-Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28223-0001. Make checks payable to "UNC-Charlotte Foundation" and write "Bailey Scholarship Fund" on the "For" line. ▼

### Students tear down the wall

by Juli Treadway  
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—Because there is potential for ostracism, verbal abuse and even physical violence associated with being out in school, many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) teenagers have felt forced to spend their high school years hiding behind a wall. With the recent installation of a new project, sponsored by a local support group for GLBT youth, however, that is changing a little.

Kim Honeycutt, who is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Social Work at the University of South Carolina, has been participating in an internship with Time Out Youth since August 1997. In that capacity, she is able to talk daily with teenagers who have experienced, or are still having, problems due to their sexual orientation. Because of this dialogue, she decided it was time to make a visible statement.

"These kids are persistent and consistent," she told *Q-Notes*. "They are so used to being called 'fag,' or being pushed around just because they are gay, that they have developed a high degree of tolerance. This is not acceptable."

To bring attention to the problem, Honeycutt, along with members of Time Out Youth, created a thought-provoking art display called "Breaking Down the Wall of Homophobia" that can be viewed throughout this month in North Charlotte's Blue Pony Art Gallery.

*"[Students] are so used to being called 'fag' or being pushed around because they are gay that they have developed a high degree of tolerance. This is not acceptable."*

The display consists of a symbolic wall constructed of cardboard bricks. Each brick is one of four colors, representing a different struggle gay youth encounter in school: red is for physical violence; blue is for emotional violence; yellow is for faculty/staff abuse; and green is for the increased dropout, or school transfer, rates of GLBT students.

One student's experience with school-based homophobia has been placed within each brick, Honeycutt says, but the recollections will not be available to the public "because many of the stories are too painful, too private." The outside of the bricks will, however, carry the name of the school, and the city and state where the school is located.

In addition to the wall, the display features videos and a mini-project called "Writing on the Wall," written testimonies of teens' experiences in school that are available for all to read.

When asked what she hopes to accomplish with this project, Honeycutt stated, "All of our youth deserve an equal education. I want people to understand, and see, that those youth who are being mistreated have incredible fortitude. If you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem. Maybe our wall will convince more people to become a part of the solution."

"Breaking Down the Wall of Homophobia" can be seen at the Blue Pony Art Gallery, 3202-A North Davidson St., Charlotte, throughout April. For more information, call Time Out Youth at (704) 537-5050 or the Blue Pony Art Gallery at (704) 334-9390. ▼

### SC Pride weekend continues to draw controversy

by Dan Van Mourik  
Q-Notes Staff

MYRTLE BEACH, SC—The 9th annual South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride March and Festival is set for April 30-May 3 and has been for quite some time. But this year's event is having an even greater impact than usual on the gay communities in Myrtle Beach, in South Carolina and across the nation. While much support has been displayed locally and nationally, an equal amount of anti-gay sentiment has been sparked. While Pride protests seem inevitable, the scope of this particular backlash has focused national attention on Myrtle Beach.

Sometimes subtle, sometimes blatant, adversaries of the festival seem to be growing in numbers. Many lay the blame for the ongoing controversy in the lap of Myrtle Beach Mayor Mark McBride.

#### Mayor gains support

About 130 people attended the Myrtle Beach City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 17 and most were there to show their support for Mayor Mark McBride's stance on homosexuality.

People in the audience handed out bumper stickers that read, "Support McBride," many addressed the council and most applauded. Steve Hubbard, an associate minister at Grand

Strand Baptist Church, said many in attendance at the meeting are part of a group that is organizing called Concerned Citizens For Traditional Family Values.

"We are here to stand in support of the mayor of Myrtle Beach, who in recent days and months has come under tremendous attack and pressure by special interest groups and our local media," Hubbard said.

McBride has opposed two gay issues which have risen during the last year: first regarding a gay nightclub moving into the area near the Myrtle Beach Pavilion amusement park and then toward plans for the SC Gay and Lesbian Pride March and Festival.

While most spoke at the meeting for McBride and against homosexuality, Patrick Evans, co-chairman of the Gay and Lesbian Pride March and Festival, also spoke.

"We come from all walks of life, all religions, all ages and all income levels," Evans said. "And yes, each year we march down the street because we are proud of whom we are. Who is this group of people that celebrates in such a boisterous and in-your-face manner? We are the Irish. Happy St. Patrick's Day," Evans said.

Evans said earlier in the day that the comments about being Irish were meant to show that many groups have had to struggle for acceptance throughout American history as well

as to show he has a sense of humor about the controversy surrounding the Pride celebration.

McBride said the support of the people who attended the Tuesday meeting was representative of the support he has been getting through telephone calls and mail. When asked if he had known the group was coming, McBride answered, "No, I didn't orchestrate this."

#### Mayor loses support

However, several council members disagreed, feeling that McBride was very much behind the group's attendance. In fact, one council member has requested information on the process for impeaching the mayor, stating he had made the request on behalf of a constituent.

Councilwoman Rachel Broadhurst told the audience, "All council people are committed to fight for the rights of all people...diversity makes us stronger. I am very saddened by what happened tonight."

Councilman Chuck Martino said he, too, was disturbed by the comments made during the meeting. "First off, I'm a devout Christian Catholic and I don't agree with the acts of homosexuality," Martino said. "However I was elected to uphold the constitutions of the United States and of this state."

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### AIDS Council votes "no confidence" in Clinton

by David Stout  
Q-Notes Staff

WASHINGTON, DC—Two of the nation's gay civil rights groups blasted the Clinton Administration after the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS passed a strongly-worded "no confidence" statement on the government's willingness to aggressively combat HIV.

"Hard, objective science is proving no match against soft, political backbone," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Executive Director Kerry Lobel regarding the Clinton administration's refusal to support needle exchange pro-

grams, considered to be one of the most important components in mounting an effective war on AIDS.

Both NGLTF and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) lauded the Advisory Council for its strongly-worded March 17 rebuke of President Clinton and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala for their "almost complete silence and continued inaction" on needle exchange policy. The resolution called on the Secretary to issue an immediate determination on needle exchange programs.

Winnie Stachelberg, HRC Political Director, echoed the Council. "It is time for...Donna

Shalala to publicly state that needle exchange programs work and that they do not encourage drug abuse."

Studies on needle exchange programs support Stachelberg and her colleagues. In fact, the American Medical Association and the National Institutes of Health are among the many organizations who support needle exchange programs. And, as stated by the Advisory Council, there is absolutely "no credible evidence that needle-exchange programs lead to increased drug abuse."

"The politics of fear and timidity prevail, and as a result so does HIV," said Lobel. "Lives are being lost because of this inaction."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately half of all new HIV infec-

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Pres. Clinton