

# Q Notes

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Sobering stats revealed  
at AIDS conference ..... Page 3

Coalition responds  
to anti-gay ads ..... Page 11

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## Culture Club: Reunited and it feels so good Lesbian accused of hate crime hoax in SC

by Jeffrey L. Newman  
Special to Q-Notes

Nearly 14 years after becoming the first queen since Elizabeth to grace the cover of *People*, *Newsweek* and *Time* magazines, singer Boy George is doing what no one ever thought he would: getting back with his old band.

After a much publicized break-up — and years of backbiting and cat-fighting between band members — Culture Club, with all of its original personnel including George (vocals), Mikey Craig (bass), Roy Hay (guitar, keyboards) and Jon Moss (drums), has just kicked off a comeback tour. (The band's Charlotte stop is scheduled for the day this issue hits the street, the Raleigh show the day before.)

Born George O'Dowd, Boy George came to prominence 12 years ago as the staple drag queen in one of the '80's most popular music groups. With his flamboyant persona and surprisingly soulful voice, George helped Culture Club amass a collection of hits that included "Do You Really Want To Hurt Me," "I'll Tumble 4 Ya," "Karma Chameleon," "Church of the Poison Mind," "Miss Me Blind" and "Time (Clock of the Heart)."

The band's debut album, *Kissing To Be Clever*, produced three top 10 singles, more than any debut since The Beatles, and was a smash all over the world. The follow-up, *Colour By Numbers*, produced three more top 10s and propelled Culture Club to superstar status.

Things soured quickly, however, and by the end of the decade, the group had disbanded. But according to George, the behemoth never really died.



Club kids: (l-r) Roy Hay, Boy George, Jon Moss and Mikey Craig

"Culture Club was such a big thing. It's really difficult to escape from that. Look at David Lee Roth; he had the same problem [after leaving Van Halen]. Any artist who is associated with a big band does. Only a handful of artists have been able to transcend that successfully," he adds. "But we never completed our cycle. We never topped *Colour By Numbers*, which was the perfect pop album. After that, we became too bogged down with being fabulous and living a luxurious lifestyle. Music became sec-

ondary. This should correct that."

George says the band has moved on from their earlier troubles, which included his own highly-publicized bout with drug addiction and his tumultuous romantic relationship with bandmate Moss, who now has a longterm girlfriend with whom he has a daughter. "Jon and I are still best friends and very much still a couple, we just don't shag each other any more."

"As I got older, I realized that it was more  
See REUNITED on page 4

by Brian M. Myer  
Q-Notes Staff

LANCASTER, SC—The Lancaster woman who made headlines in mid-May as the apparent victim of two vicious anti-gay hate crimes will face charges of fabricating her story and furnishing false information to law enforcement. Regan Wolf, 40, turned herself in to police the morning of July 15 and was charged with falsely reporting that she had been tied up and whipped twice because she's a lesbian.

If she is found guilty, Wolf could get up to 30 days in jail or a fine of \$200. With court fees, the fine would be \$850.

In December 1997, Wolf told police that a man had come to her home in eastern Lancaster County, hit her on the head and knocked her unconscious. Police reported that her mother found her tied spread-eagle to the front porch with numerous whip marks across her back. The words "Jesus weren't born for you, faggot" were spray painted on the steps.

Wolf reported a similar incident to police on May 13, saying that her partner, Jenna Wolf, found her tied up after she had been attacked and brutally beaten a second time (*Q-Notes*, May 30 1998).

On July 14, the Lancaster Sheriff's Office and the SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED) issued two warrants for Wolf's arrest. Hugh Munn, SLED spokesman, said an acquaintance of Wolf had come forward and admitted to inflicting the December beating for money. "He was paid \$50, with a promise of a total payment of \$350. The following payments were never made." Munn reported that the unnamed acquaintance claimed he and Wolf purchased red paint, gloves and a double-thick belt at Wal-Mart and returned to her home where she lay face down on a bed while he repeatedly struck her across the back.

Joe McCulloch, Wolf's attorney, flatly charged that the unnamed informant's story was false. "[Regan] does not know why that person would make such an untrue statement," he said. "We're looking into his motivation and background right now."

Though Wolf, through her attorney, is standing by her story, in the arrest warrants SLED claims that the acquaintance was administered a polygraph test that showed "no deception." Also, Munn reported that forensic experts had analyzed photographs of the parallel whip marks across Wolf's back and hypothesized that she may have been "a willing participant in their infliction."

Wolf was escorted in handcuffs to the  
See HOAX on page 22

## Gay directory publisher closes doors, future uncertain

by Dan Van Mourik  
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—In January, *Q-Notes* reported that the Gay Community Yellow Pages (GCYP) would publish a Charlotte edition in July. Now, we must report that Out West Publications in Phoenix, AZ (headquarters for a variety of companies in various states to publish the directories), has gone out of business. GCYP was known as Chapter 2 Publishing, Inc. in Charlotte and should not be confused with the "Gay Yellow Pages," a separate company in New York which is still very much in business.

Marci Alt, owner of Out West Publications, says she has lost \$1.4 million revenue during the past year and has decided to sell off each publication in the major individual cities it serves, leaving the Charlotte directory very much in limbo.

In February, *Q-Notes* also reported a variety of allegations levied against GCYP in an investigational article published in Phoenix-based *Echo* magazine. The allegations included a

murder-for hire plot, kidnapping, drug use, forgery, business fraud, writing of bad checks and a maze of lawsuits regarding business practices and personnel disputes.

In a June 11 *Echo* article, Alt blamed the earlier *Echo* article for the demise of her company. "This company did \$2 million in revenue two years ago, but since that *Echo* came out, we've only produced \$600,000," Alt said. "It is very difficult to run this company with that kind of loss. I have no alternative but to close the doors. But we are not closing the doors in a typical way. I have individual buyers for each book in the major cities, and Phoenix is one of those major cities."

Alt insisted she and the company have operated openly and honestly and that she still plans to file legal action against *Echo*.

Answering the two most prevalent rumors, Alt said she is neither filing bankruptcy nor has the Internal Revenue Service shut down the business. "The IRS is giving me plenty of time and doing everything in its power to let me pay

off the tax money owed to them," she said, adding it was her decision to close down.

All phone numbers for Marci Alt and her company have been disconnected. GCYP's web site remains operational, but *Q-Notes* has not received a reply to email. Therefore, we do not know if Alt has arranged for a buyer of the Charlotte edition nor if there are plans for the return of monies paid by advertisers. Based on the information received, it appears unlikely the directory will be published by GCYP.

The Charlotte edition is not the only publication in question. Several other cities are still waiting for their editions of the directory. The Philadelphia edition was scheduled to be published in January 1998 and as of June, had not yet appeared. The Phoenix edition has also missed its target date.

*Q-Notes* has learned that Alt has moved back to Atlanta where she started GCYP, but her telephone number is unlisted. Calls to her attorney's office produced no results other than the acknowledgement that our calls were received. ▼

## MCC-Charlotte approves new pastor after year-long pulpit vacancy

by David Stout  
Q-Notes Staff



Rev. Hinson

Mick Hinson into full-time service.

Although the church's pastoral search committee fielded applications from across the nation, in the end they recommended the outgoing pastor of another MCC just 90 minutes

away in SC — MCC-Greenville.

Rev. Hinson led the church for six years before stepping down in early summer. During his tenure, MCC-Greenville tripled in attendance and acquired its own building. He said his decision to resign was not connected with his subsequent hiring in Charlotte.

Rev. Hinson takes over a pulpit that was in turmoil a year ago, when the previous pastor was forced out under a cloud of controversy.

Despite the hurt and upheaval that accompanied the ouster, most members continued to attend services and financially support the church. Membership still stands at around 135, making MCC-Charlotte one of the largest churches in the Gulf Lower Atlantic District.

According to Rev. Hinson, enough time has passed for the church to complete its healing and enter a period of new growth. "Dealing with the pain and hurt is a priority for us to move on. But, reality dictates that people must identify their anger, forgive it and move forward. I know we are going to do it."

What does the future hold? "In five years I see us tripling in size and in our own place."

Rev. Hinson is certain the church can reach this lofty goal. "There are so many more people involved in ministries in the church here [compared to MCC-Greenville]. We have a Council of Ministries here. Also, this community has a lot more agencies for gays and AIDS services."

Serving the community is a big issue with

Rev. Hinson who displays a "Volunteer of the Year" award on his office wall. He says the church should focus on areas that aren't being covered by the city's other groups. "We have to get with them and find out how to fill the gaps. In Greenville, we had to start all the services for gays and lesbians. The church has greater flexibility in this community."

But, there is plenty of time to explore all of that. For now, Hinson and six-year partner Gene Skelton are simply happy to have gotten all their belongings into an apartment that is slightly more than half the size of their old one. And like nearly every other transplant to the Queen City, they wonder, "What's up with all the roads that have the exact same name?" ▼