

Q-Notes

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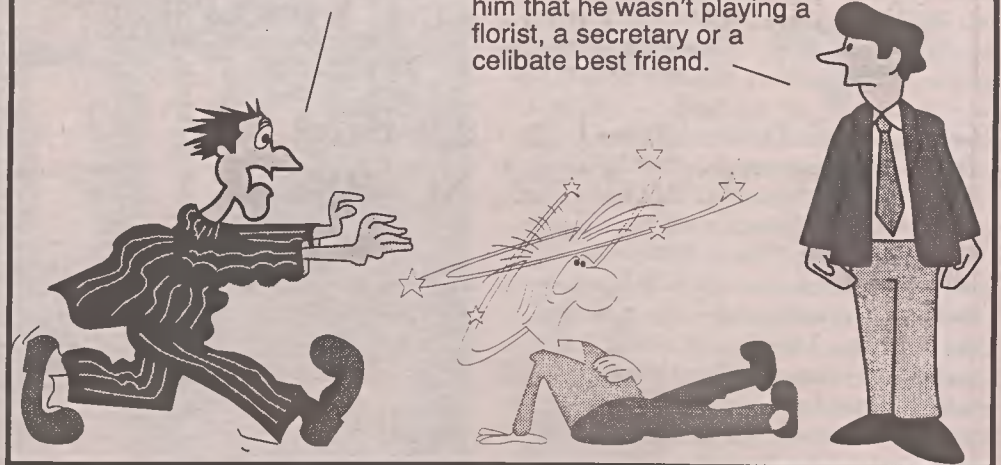
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Issue Date	Deadline
Sept. 19	Mon., Sept. 7
Oct. 3	Mon., Sept. 21
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This really is a new TV season!

What happened...Did you tell him he's coming out this season?

Yes, but he didn't faint until I told him that he wasn't playing a florist, a secretary or a celibate best friend.



guest editorial

The Right's gay agenda

Since the end of the cold war, targeting gays and lesbians has been a centerpiece of the Christian Right agenda. Over the past two decades, many right-wing organizations have made a darned good living off direct mail appeals that stamp homosexuality a sin and vigorously attack the "gay agenda." Christian right groups have long realized that they must maintain the authenticity of their social agenda while energizing and mobilizing their grassroots base. What better way to do this than to develop a special campaign focused on...gays and lesbians!

However, this time around the message has been retooled in the guise of a "kinder and gentler" form of gay-bashing. Hate the sin, but

"love the sinner." This "tough-love" message embodies the right's central theme around homosexuality — homosexuals are sick, but if they try hard enough they can discard their alternative lifestyle and be cured.

And how are Republican Party regulars reacting to all this? With mixed feelings and trepidation. *New York Times* reporter Richard L. Berke writes that "prominent Republican politicians and strategists say they are troubled by the wave of harsh anti-homosexual oratory from fellow Republicans, fearing it could make the party appear intolerant and drive out moderates and economic conservatives." However, some see an upside to the heightened focus on gays. William Pascoe III, political director of the American Conservative Union, believes that, "Anytime you have Republican leaders citing the Bible as the foundation for their beliefs, as opposed to Democratic leaders citing the American Psychiatric Association, I think we win." And Jim Nicholson, chairman of the GOP, who was grilled at a May meeting of the ultra-conservative Council for National Policy, *See EDITORIAL on page 13*

letters

No room at the inn

Do not endorse Chris Cole or any other libertarian, ever, either, for that matter.

I'd like to thank you for giving this fool enough rope to hang himself in your last interview [August 22 issue]. Specifically, "If a person wants to damage their business that way..." Cole was alleging, as Libertarians generally do, that we should not support anti-discrimination laws because they infringe upon the freedom of association and other First Amendment rights of private employers (and renters and restaurateurs and club owners, ad nauseam). I should think I wouldn't even need to remind a paper like this one not to endorse anybody who opposes ENDA [Employment Non-Discrimination Act], but the way the ink is flowing lately, you appear to need the lesson.

It is true that under normal circumstances, other things being equal, free market incentives will cause businesses that discriminate to lose market share to businesses that don't. But in Dixie, other things are *not* equal and some things are *more* important to monied bigots than market share.

One thing that a population that does as much clubbing as ours club can't help but notice is that sometimes club owners will determine that they don't want certain people in their club. Owners are not worried about losing the

profits and market share that these "undesirables" (e.g. homophobes, brawlers, drug abusers, ad nauseam) could've contributed if they hadn't been turned away. Owners instead worry that letting undesirables *in* may damage the quality of patronage for the rest of the customer base at large, and may cause disproportionately more customers to flee to establishments that are not so contaminated.

Before the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, the law was not the primary cause of segregation in Dixie. The primary cause of segregation was that white people thought it was demeaning to have to associate with black people. Many (not all, but many) businesses that might have tried to integrate would, *contrary* to the libertarian-free-market-model's prediction, *not* have gained profit by being able to add black people to their customer base, but would rather have *lost* market share and profit because their richer and more numerous white customers would've fled to all-white establishments. Only when the law required *all* businesses to integrate could the few who wanted to get away with it. The market, in the context of that bigoted customer base, *encouraged* discrimination. It did not correct it via the profit motive.

Today, although it may be hard to see it in as liberated a market as Charlotte (where it probably *is* true that you can appropriately punish any bigoted establishment simply by taking your business elsewhere), there remain many *See LETTERS on page 30*

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