

QNotes

Vol. 15, No. 7 - August 19, 2000

Mailing Address:

PO Box 221841

Charlotte, NC 28222

Phone: (704) 531-9988

Fax: (704) 531-1361

E-mail: editor@q-notes.com

Website: http://www.q-notes.com

Publisher & CEO Jim Yarbrough
Managing Editor Clay Ollis
Typesetter David Stout
Administrative Asst Brian M. Myer
Advertising Sales Jim Yarbrough
National Advertising Representative
 Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
 (212) 242-6863

Contributing Writers: Dan Cullinane, J. Lynn Davidson, David Elliot, Anabel Evora, Eric Ferrero, Rachel Gold, Kevin Grooms, Robert Marcus James, Bob Josefsberg, Charlene Lichtenstein, Francesca Miller, Clay Ollis, Paula Martinac, Brian M. Myer, Veronica Schwartz, David Scondras, Sloan Wiesen

Q-Notes is published every other week in Charlotte, NC by Pride Publishing & Typesetting.

Advertisements are published with the understanding that the advertisers are fully authorized to publish submitted copy; having secured any necessary written consent for all copy, text, photos and illustrations, and that no ad submitted is in violation of a patent, copyright, first right of publication, or a right to privacy. The advertiser assumes all liability for claims of suits based on the subject matter of its ad, and agrees to hold Pride Publishing & Typesetting and *Q-Notes* harmless from any such claim.

The Publisher assumes no liability for typographical errors or omissions beyond offering to run a correction. The entire contents of *Q-Notes* are copyright © 2000 by Pride Publishing & Typesetting, and may not be reproduced in any manner, either in whole or part, without the express written permission from the publisher. All rights reserved.

Publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles or advertising in *Q-Notes* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization.

The views of this newspaper are expressed only in editorials. Opinions expressed in columns, letters, articles and cartoons are those of the writers and artists and do not necessarily represent the opinions of *Q-Notes*.

Index

Articles

- Coalition unveils virtual convention to pass HCPA 18
- FL judge denies lesbians and gay men domestic violence protection 1
- GLBT center project gains steam 1
- Gore taps Lieberman as his VP running mate 1
- Groups join to meet the needs of GLBT officials 20
- Log Cabin members endorse Bush 5
- Six-year study proves marijuana to be an effective treatment for PWAs ... 4
- Survey reveals gay health concerns 5
- Task Force says gays were seen but not heard at GOP convention 1

Features

- Author travels the long road back 15
- Praise the Lord, Tammy Faye's back in the spotlight 3

Columns

- Between the Covers 15
- Classifieds 16
- Community Cards 19
- Curbside 22
- The Drag Rag 14
- ePlay 23
- GLAAD Notes 4
- Money Matters 23
- News Notes 9
- Out and About 22
- Out In The Stars 11
- Poll Question 17
- QFYI 17
- Reason For Hope 16

Advertising Deadlines

Issue Date	Deadline
Sept. 2	Mon., Aug. 21
Sept. 16	Mon., Sept. 4
Sept. 30	Mon., Sept. 18

viewpoint

Log Cabin members do what they must

Earlier this month, the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR), the largest gay and lesbian organization in the GOP, joined their party in endorsing Texas Governor George W. Bush for President of the United States. The organization did this despite Bush's opposition to numerous policies which many gay Republicans support, including gay marriage, hate crimes laws, gay and lesbian adoption rights, and the freedom to serve in the military.

To win the LCR's backing, Bush did not have to recant his previously stated position that same-sex sexual behavior should remain a criminal act in the state of Texas. Nor did he even have to endorse the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a bill for which the LCR has lobbied long and hard in the US Congress.

The truth of the matter is that to gain the endorsement of this pro-gay rights organization, George Bush had to do virtually nothing at all to demonstrate his support for gay rights. He simply had to provide a general indication that, if elected president, he would not exclude gay Americans from his administration solely because of their sexual orientation, and that, on occasion, he may even listen to their concerns.

With the aforementioned matters in mind, one might very easily conclude that gay Republicans have chosen a course that is antithetical to gay rights. But while there are many legitimate grounds on which one could critique the LCR, before reaching a conclusion that the organization's endorsement of Bush is in and of itself highly detrimental to the gay rights movement, it is necessary to carefully consider the critical function that gay Republicans must play if this movement is to ultimately prove successful: that of swaying Republican Party members to the gay rights cause.

The importance of persuading Republicans to support pro-gay policies cannot be overstated. Despite the fact that even the most cursory review of political history indicates that far more members of the Democratic Party are supportive — indeed, much more supportive — of pro-gay policies than are their Republican counterparts, gay rights cannot be achieved by Democratic support alone. Consequently, regardless of whether we are talking about the Gay Civil Unions Law in Vermont, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in Nevada, or the Hate Crimes Law in New York, in state after state, it has been and continues to be necessary for the gay rights movement to attract some Republican support (along with strong Democratic backing) in order to attain even a handful of its many policy objectives.

To be sure, the need for Republican support does not end with the establishment of pro-gay policies. During the past quarter century, gay and lesbian activists across the country have watched time and again as anti-gay organizations have called upon Republican allies to help successfully repeal gay rights laws.

The lesson of these defeats is that if gay rights won today are to be secure in the long-term, gay men and women must build a base of support within both major political parties. That goal has, to a significant though not a complete degree, been accomplished within the Democratic Party. It must now be achieved in a smaller but nonetheless meaningful way, within the GOP. And despite the efforts of non-partisan gay and lesbian organizations, who is truly in a better position to sway often obstinate Republican officeholders than fellow Republicans?

The great hurdle facing gay Republicans is that, aside from abortion-rights activists, there is probably no other group within the GOP whose cause is more unpopular to the broader party membership. Thus, gay Republicans must continually prove their party loyalty if they are to build a sound base of support. Which returns us to the issue of the LCR endorsement.

Simply put, if the LCR had failed to endorse the man who has drawn support from all wings of the party and is often hailed as the most moderate Republican presidential nominee of the past two decades, there is little doubt that the group would have risked exclusion from a possible Bush Presidential Administration and seen its already low level of credibility among Republicans severely jeopardized. And make no mistake about it. A damaged LCR would be bad for gay Republicans and bad for the gay rights movement.

Certainly, if the LCR's support for Bush had the potential of influencing the election, there would be legitimate cause for concern. But, it is highly unlikely that this 10,000 member organization will change the outcome of the 2000 presidential contest. Thus, all things considered, and despite appearances to the contrary, the endorsement of George W. Bush signals that the gay Republicans of the LCR may very well be headed in the direction in which the gay rights movement needs them to be: on their way to becoming Republican insiders who are already out of the closet and out for basic gay rights.

All this is not to say that, in the months ahead, LCR members should be given a free ride if they seek to justify their endorsement by claiming that Bush actually supports gay rights. After all, it is one thing for gay Republicans to be inside and out, and quite another for them to turn the truth on its head. ▼

— Jesse R. Borges, PhD
 New York

[The writer holds a doctorate in Political Science from Princeton University and has lectured and written extensively on issues pertaining to race, gender and sexual orientation.]

Support Our Advertisers

They keep *Q-Notes* free for you

- | | |
|---|---|
| 300 Stonewall 2 | New Life MCC 19 |
| Alyson Travel 23 | Newsstand International 7 |
| American Blind & Draperies 7 | Joe O'Connor, Realtor 3 |
| American Express Financial 8 | Parliament Social Club 17 |
| Ani DiFranco in Concert 15 | Parkview Video & News 17 |
| B. D. Collins Fashion Design 19 | Peace of Mind, House & Pet Sitting 19 |
| The Brass Rail 21 | Phat Burrito 10 |
| CSA Real Estate 7 | Pink Fairy Travel 16 |
| Calhoun House 11 | The Playground 12 |
| Carolina Funeral & Cremation 22 | Pride Publishing & Typesetting 15 |
| Center for Positive Living 4 | Queen City Antiques 14 |
| Central Station 4 | Queen City Rollers 22 |
| Charleston Beach B&B 19 | Carol Reinard, Realtor 19 |
| Charlotte Realty Group 8 | Readings By Sister Bell, Psychic 4 |
| Chasers 17 | Scorpio 9 |
| Jeff Childs, Broker/Realtor 19 | Scott Lawn & Landscaping 15 |
| Computing Essentials 19 | Sharon Memorial Park 13 |
| The Cove 5 | Joan Simpson, Psychologist 19 |
| M. A. Dixon, Law Office 19 | Sir Speedy Printing 11 |
| Edwin G. Farthing, Attorney 19 | Sleepy Poet Antique Mall 21 |
| Flight 69 15, 21 | Joel Smith, Hair Designs 20 |
| Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund 14 | Southern Center for Law 19 |
| Ricki Geiger, Psychotherapist 19 | Spektrum 11 |
| Georgetown Body Works 3 | St. John's MCC 13 |
| Good Ol' Days 10 | Sub Station II 10 |
| Good Year Tire 19 | Subway 10 |
| Lisa Griffin, Family Therapist 5 | Scott Thompson, Hair Design 19 |
| Hair Club for Men and Women 20 | Tea Rex 14 |
| Insomnia 20 | Thrillkill Counseling 19 |
| InTouch Body Therapy 3 | Timberfell Lodge 13 |
| J & W Cellular Phones & Pagers 24 | Time Out 11 |
| Jemsek Clinic 19 | Tina Turner in Concert 23 |
| Klutts Property Management 21 | Triangle East Cosmetic Surgery 7 |
| Jeffrey Grant Koenig, Attorney 21 | Trish Works 19 |
| Leah's Bookkeeping & Tax Service 19 | Unitarian Universalist Church 8 |
| Liaisons 18 | Andy Vernon 19 |
| MCC Charlotte 11 | Nan Walker, Counselor 19 |
| Menu by Melissa 19 | Vinson Washburn, Realtor 5 |
| Bruce Moyer, Counselor 18 | White Rabbit Books & Things 15 |

WWW.Q-NOTES.COM

Just voted "Best GLBT Web Site in the Carolinas" by the readers of *Carolina Rainbow News*. Surf over and check it out for yourself.

Subscribe!

Subscriptions are by 1st and 3rd class mail in sealed envelopes mailed in Charlotte, NC. Subscription rate for one year (25 issues) is \$52 (1st class) or \$28 (3rd class). Subscription rate for six months (12 issues) is \$25 (1st class) or \$15 (3rd class). To subscribe, mail this form to *Q-Notes*, PO Box 221841, Charlotte, NC 28222. Make checks payable to *Q-Notes* or provide credit card information below.

25 issues: 1st class, \$52 bulk, \$28 • 12 issues: 1st class, \$25 bulk, \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Credit Card (circle one): MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature _____