

Q Notes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper



March is Women's History Month.

Our community is loaded with some phenomenal talent.

See page 21 for a look at past and present contributors.

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Triangle Business Guild gives awards

RALEIGH — In the first of what they hope will become an annual ceremony, the Triangle Business and Professional Guild presented awards to those deemed to be outstanding leaders in GLBT communities in North Carolina's research triangle, which includes Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and surrounding communities.

Art Stone, guild board member and Awards Chairperson, explained, "The Guild thought it was time that we begin to recognize these people publicly for the efforts they make on behalf of all of us."

Categories for the awards included Business of the Year, Community Leader, Professional of the Year, Straight Ally and, of course, the Rotten Raspberry Award for the individuals or groups "who have done their best to do their worst" to the GLBT community.

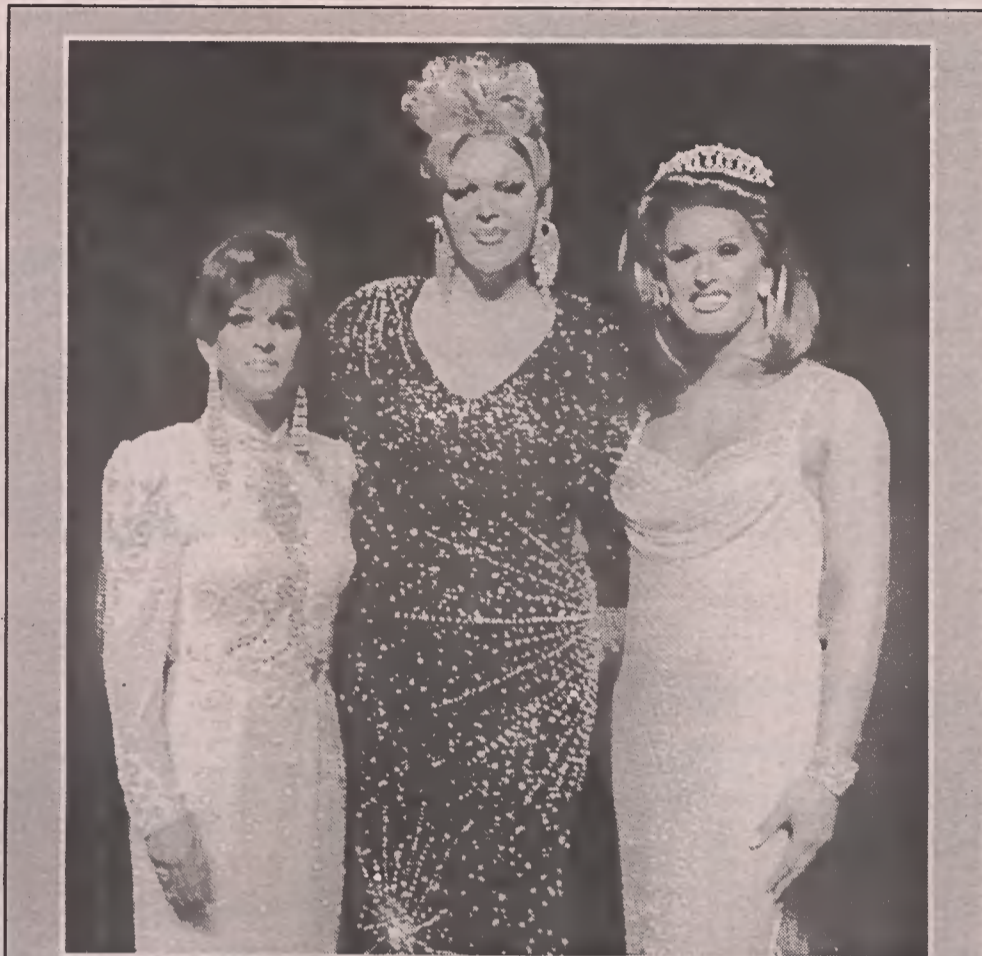
This year's recipient of the Rotten Raspberry Award was North Carolina's US Senator Jesse Helms, who has been a long-time foe of the GLBT community. The Senator was presented the award in absentia.

The Straight Ally Award this year was presented to former minister Jimmy Creech, who received national attention — and was stripped of his ordination by the United Methodist Church — for his celebration of holy unions for same-sex couples. Creech, currently a Raleigh resident, is Chairman of Soulforce, a Laguna Beach, CA, interfaith organization that uses civil disobedience methods to combat religious discrimination against GLBT people. [An essay by Creech can be found on page 8 of this issue.]

The Community Leader Award was presented to David Jones, who has helped raise more than \$3 million to create two new clinics in Africa. Jones, Program Development Coordinator for the UNC AIDS Research and Treatment Group, is also involved with numerous HIV/AIDS-related committees and task forces in the state.

The Professional of the Year Award was presented to Sharon Thompson of the Sharon Thompson Law Group. Thompson is co-founder of the North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Attorney's Association, has successfully argued cases for several gay and lesbian clients, and reaches the first ever classes on sexual orientation and the law at the UNC School of Law.

Business of the Year was awarded to White



Continental pageants net winners

On Friday, March 2, the Second Annual Miss NC Continental and Continental PLUS was held at Scorpio. The winner of the NC Continental was Kirby Kolby of Raleigh (right); her first runner-up was Kysha Wellington of Charlotte. Amaya of Fayetteville (center) captured the title of Miss NC Continental PLUS; her runner-up was Chastity Nichols of Fayetteville. Lola Lush of Miami will represent Miss SC Continental PLUS. The national PLUS contest takes place Easter weekend in Chicago. Also pictured is Alyson Thomas (left), promoter and producer of the North and South Carolina Continental pageants.

Look for more details next issue in the Drag Rag. ▼

Rabbit Books and Things. White Rabbit has stores in Raleigh, Charlotte, and Greensboro offering a central place for community news and information as well as GLBT books, gifts and accoutrements.

The Triangle Business and Professional Guild, founded in 1989, now has over 300 members, who submit nominations and determine winners for the awards. ▼

Carolinas HRC honors couple

by David M. Smith
Special to Q-Notes

The Carolinas Human Rights Campaign has honored Wendy Scott and Susan Parker with the Community Service Award. Approximately 450 persons participated in the sixth annual HRC Gala held February 17 at Embassy Suites in Cary, where the award was given.

Over the past six years, Scott and Parker, who are partners, have involved themselves in the work of numerous local, state and national advocacy groups as advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights.

Scott has served on the boards of Triad Business and Professional Guild and Alternate Resources of the Triad. Currently she sits on the board of GLSEN-Winston-Salem and acts as a co-facilitator of YouthFlag. Parker, who entered Wake Forest University Divinity School as a mem-

ber of its first class, will graduate in May of next year. Her work has focused on advocacy issues within the Triad Advocacy Network. Parker and Scott's same-sex union was celebrated in Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University in September 2000.

"We recognize and honor these two women for their commitment to their religion, to each other and to equality for all members of the LGBT community," said Cheryl Ann Welsh, a member of the HRC Carolinas Steering Committee, who presented the award.

US Representative Barney Frank was the keynote speaker. Frank, who has represented the Fourth Congressional District of Massachusetts since his election to the House of Representatives in 1980, has written numerous articles on politics and public affairs. He was introduced by Donna Red Wing, a representative of the Gill Foundation, who cited Frank's commitment to social justice. ▼

Westenhofer and Estrada highlight entertainment for Charlotte Pride

by Jeff Schmel
Special to Q-Notes

Charlotte Pride, the Queen City's first Pride Celebration in years will feature lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhofer and sexy Latin pop star Jade Esteban Estrada during Pride Weekend May 4-6.

Co-sponsored by Tremont Music Hall, Suzanne Westenhofer will perform at Charlotte Pride on



Suzanne Westenhofer

Friday, May 4. The GLAMA (Gay & Lesbian American Music Award) winning Westenhofer has performed on Comedy Central, Sally Jesse Rafael, Politically Incorrect, Comic Relief and Evening at the Improv. Westenhofer also starred in her own HBO special and is currently filming the feature film A Family Affair for late 2001 release. Tickets for Westenhofer's performance can be purchased from Tremont by phone at 704-343-9494. Charlotte pride is also hosting a reception for Westenhofer immediately following her performance. The \$3 admission fee goes to Charlotte Pride.

Jade Esteban Estrada will make his Charlotte

Debut Saturday, May 5 during the Pride Celebration at Marshall Park in uptown Charlotte. Out Magazine calls Mr. Estrada "the first gay Latin star." He has performed in seven languages and in 25 countries and has shared the stage with performers such as Martha Wash, Margaret Cho, and Jimmy Somerville. Mr. Estrada is currently on tour promoting his "Angel" CD.



Jade Esteban Estrada

The Charlotte Pride celebration will also feature a variety of local favorites like Jill Austin Band, Babyshaker, Southern Country Charlotte, Atlanta performance artist Petra, and many more exciting acts. The event will also include provocative speakers, vendors and a blessing ceremony, which will conclude the event.

The Host Hotel for the event is the Adam's Mark at 555 S. McDowell Street. The Charlotte Pride rate is \$89 per night/excluding tax. For reservations call 800-444-ADAM (2326) or 704-372-4100 and request the Charlotte Pride group rate. ▼

The latest Q-Poll results

Racism in the GLBT community is:
Better than in society at large 36% More hidden than in society at large 33% More blatant than in society at large 30%

To participate in our new Q-Poll, access www.q-notes.com