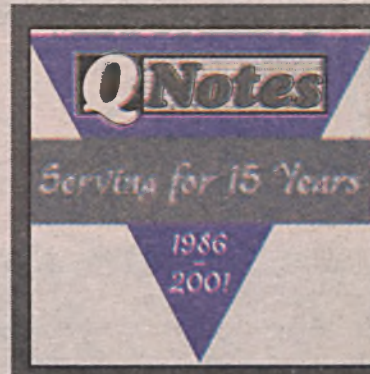


QNotes

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Published Every Two Weeks On Recycled Paper • Volume 16, Number 1 • May 26, 2001 • FREE



Charlotte Pride 2001 was a huge success. The committee extended a round of thanks to 1000s of GLBT attendees who helped make this a jewel in the crown of the Queen city. For more on Pride events see page 16 inside.

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Widows sex change may not invalidate her marriage page 4

Home Depot management adds sexual orientation to employment non-discrimination policy page 11

Black and White Men Together convention set for July in New Orleans page 20

See these and more news, editorials and features when you step inside! See the Index on page 6.

Take the latest Q-Poll:

At what age did you discover your sexual orientation?

- Under 12
- Ages 12-18
- Ages 18-25
- Ages 25-40
- Over 40

To participate in our Q-Poll, access www.q-notes.com See our latest poll results on page 28.

Massive demonstration in nation's capitol marks twentieth year of AIDS crisis

Thousands expected to participate in historic march and vigil

by Alan Klein
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC — To mark the twentieth year of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to commemorate the 22 million people worldwide who have died from the disease, a massive demonstration and vigil will take place in our nation's capital in June. New AIDS Quilt panels will be dedicated and the names of men, women and children dead from AIDS will be read. The demonstration and vigil will take place at noon on Sunday, June 3 in Washington, DC.

The reading of the names of people who have died of AIDS is expected to begin at 7:00 am on Friday, June 1 and continue non-stop, day and night, until Sunday, June 3 at 3:00 pm.

The group also announced the launch of a new web site at www.aidsaction20.org. The site features up-to-the-minute news and information about the march and vigil, with links to a coalition of more than 100 sponsoring organizations.

The event is intended to return national attention to the AIDS crisis and to increase access to life-saving drugs in the industrialized world and in developing nation. Activists are calling on the President and Congress to keep the fight against HIV/AIDS a national and international priority.

"The third decade of AIDS brings with it a legacy of 22 million dead, nearly 40 million people HIV-infected and a devastating increase in the rate of new HIV transmission," said Cleve Jones, spokesperson and founder of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. "Now is the time to renew the global struggle against AIDS with more effective drugs, worldwide access to those drugs and leadership from our government and governments worldwide."

The sponsors are demanding that the United States and other wealthy nations contribute sufficiently to fund education campaigns, provide treatment and to find a cure.

On June 25, the United Nations General



The AIDS Memorial Quilt on display in Washington, DC

Assembly will meet in special session to address the global HIV crisis and in early July, a G-7 Summit of industrialized nations will focus on the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The national event was initiated by the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt with the National Minority AIDS Council and the National Association of People with AIDS. ▼

The Queen City to host national Catholic GLBT conference

by Lainey Millen
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE — On September 20-23, Charlotte will roll out the lavender carpet when the Charlotte Diocese welcomes visitors from across the nation to the annual National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries (NACDLGM).

Nationally acclaimed preacher and theologian, Fr. Walter J. Burghardt, SJ, St.D, will be the featured speaker. The conference will utilize

Fr. Burghardt's "Preaching the Just Word" ministry as its central theme. Fr. Burghardt is professor emeritus of theology at Catholic University of America and was former editor-in-chief of *Theological Studies*. He has authored 19 books, the latest being *Long Have I Loved You: A Theologian Reflects on his Church*. Fr. Burghardt will speak to the conference on the unification of scripture, spirituality and justice.

Other speakers will include Rev. Raymond B. Kemp, STL; Keith J. Egan, PhD; and the Right Reverend J. Augustine DiNoia, OP, STM.

Rev. Kemp is a graduate of St. Mary's Seminary and University, former pastor of the African-American St. Augustine Parish and Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Parish in Washington, DC, current coordinator of "Preaching the Just Word," and adjunct faculty member at Washington Theological Union and Georgetown University.

Fr. Egan holds the Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology at St. Mary's College at Notre Dame and also serves as founder and director for the college's Center for Spirituality. He also holds a doctorate in Religious Thought from Cambridge University, England. A past president of the College of Theology Society, he is coauthor with Professor Lawrence Cunningham of *Christian Spirituality: Themes from the Tradition*.

Dr. Egan will lead attendees in meditations, along with sharing spirituality as a vehicle for friendship with the Divine and with others.

Rev. DiNoia previously served as executive director of the Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and in 1997, Pope John Paul II appointed him to the International Theological Commission. He is a member of the

See NACDLGM on Page 19

Helms hold schools hostage

by Anabel Evora
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON — Jesse Helms (R), North Carolina's senior Senator, proposed an amendment May 16 to the public education funding



bill. Activists immediately labeled the amendment an unnecessary anti-gay attack. The Helms amendment would prohibit federal funding to schools that choose not to offer facilities to Boy Scout troops because of their policy banning gay scouts.

But activists also note that the measure is pointless, because the law already dictates that the Boy Scouts have equal access to school facilities. "Sadly, the old Jesse Helms is back, using his position of power to bully those with whom he disagrees," says HRC Political Direc-

tor Winnie Stachelberg. "The Boy Scouts have always had — and still have — access to schools, so this is really nothing more than a punishment in search of a problem."

Local school boards currently have the right to impose limits on access and use of public school facilities. The Helms amendment would force local school boards to abandon these long-standing policies by mandating the creation of an "open forum" once a school allows any community group to use these facilities.

"The foundation of federal education policy is based on the principle of local control, and such decisions should be left to local school boards," said Stachelberg. "The Helms amendment is clearly a federal intrusion into the decisions of local school boards."

On May 14, Helms was quoted as saying on the floor of the Senate that "radical militants" were trying to ban the Boy Scouts from campuses. He also said they [gay activists] "demand that everybody else's principles must be cast aside in order to protect the right of homosexual conduct." ▼