

# north & south carolina **Q**Notes

noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues

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- issue: 22 June deadline: 06-14
- issue: 06 July deadline: 06-28
- issue: 20 July deadline: 07-12

## Telling us you are proud is one thing ...

by Leah D. Sepsenwol

We have come a very long way, baby. As individuals, as activists, as communities. We have marched and paraded and acted up — we have plotted and schemed to be heard and seen. We have demanded to be recognized; we have bonded and banded to be acknowledged.

There are marketing studies into our habits good and bad; and psychological analyses of our parenting skills and choice (or is it a matter of choice?). The selling world wants to know what we wear, where we eat, where we live, what we buy, how we play; do we rent, are we truly bent and why and from whom and when and how much. Whew! All this caring, all this attention, despite a nagging extremist right who lags further and further behind. And despite a church championing its supposed-chaste and blaming the rest of what they find on all of us.

And then there is Atlanta.

The great ads on the back cover of Q-Notes — for the last three issues — promoting Atlanta Pride were not placed by the Atlanta LGBT community. They did not come from the Atlanta Pride committee. They were bought and paid for by the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB). The City of Atlanta procured \$20,000 and presented it to ACVB just for the purpose of Gay Tourism Marketing.

Atlanta wants us to know they want us, they are always ready for us and they are

out to get us...not just for Pride — but for playground after, too.

It is nice when a city opens arms — and cash drawers — for all of us. That's OK. They deserve our bucks and they deserve our attention and attendance, because it's great to



Photo — Kevin C. Rose

be welcomed. It's fabulous to get such an open invitation. It's nice to find a spot away from Bible belters' shaking fists and threatened Eucharists. It is nice to be awash in Rainbow array, holding hands and being us.

There still lurks reality to the rear of festivities — legislation which lags sorely behind marketing meccas; senate and congress are not proud of the not pure and imperfect. But Georgia dumped its ugliest laws.

We hope this pace and promise of Atlanta will rub off on our own Southern cities and their councils and chambers and commissions. They will find what Atlanta did ... we are you and you are us and together we can do anything.

## Hey Jude, you've made it better

by Bo Dean



**Jude Cobby, as Wilmington LGBT Prom Queen. Mom/activist heads home to England**

Jude Cobby is leaving our Wilmington community, bound for her home in England.

Jude founded and made possible the Cape Fear LGBT Youth Group. She created a viable and vital group that continues to support and nurture many area teens and youth who otherwise would go without such an important and special outlet. Jude's degree in youth education certainly was put to good use.

She served on the board of North Carolina Equality Project for a brief time and helped co-host the first-ever "Azalea Brunch for Equality" at Cafe Phoenix. Jude proved right and justice know no geographic boundaries. Even though she was not a US citizen she took on equality issues and worked as hard on behalf of all of us in North Carolina. She participated in the Charlie Daniels protest, made signs and provided refreshments to the protesters.

Jude was on the steering committee of the Gay and Lesbian Film Series. She held weekly coffee get togethers, "Java with Jude," at a local bookstore where people spent time talking and sharing their feelings and other programs — helping to build community and sharing with an open mind and heart. Even though she was Jewish, she regularly attended St. Jude's MCC and was a leading member of the choir.

Even with a full schedule of outside commitments, she cared for baby Devon, the first baby born in St. Jude's congregation; flew back and forth to England to care for her very ill mother; was a partner in a highly visible, public relationship and mother to two beautiful children.

Jude is an example of personal strength not just in the LGBT community, but in the community at large. Her departure will leave a huge hole in both communities — we are so much the better for having had her here!

On behalf of all of us in Wilmington, thank you, Jude, for all you have done to strengthen us, to bolster pride in ourselves, to add so much value to our community.

May God Bless you and keep you.