

north & south CAROLINA



Notes

noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues



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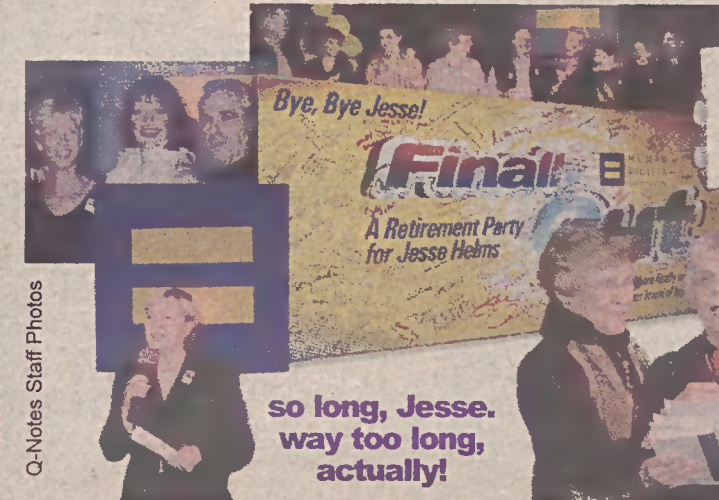
Q-POLL

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If you own a gun, is it for ...

- . sport . collecting
- . protection
- . sport & protection
- . don't own a gun

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CHARLOTTE — Jesse Helms' official retirement party took place at Velocity this past Saturday night — "FINALLY OUT" was hosted by the Human Rights Campaign. It was a different crowd at Velocity from 8-10 pm. There were lots of women, lots of

so long, Jesse. way too long, actually!



MAJIC Moms LR: Eloise Vaughn and Patsy Clarke

here. No question how happy the ending. No one could help remembering horrendous Helms moments when he spat on

couples, lots of graying hair, receding hairlines; lots of talk, and lots of ... cake to accompany libation!

Everyone had an opportunity to sign a large "FINALLY OUT" banner which will go to Senator No. No need for an exit poll

and on about homosexuals and blacks and the poor. He doesn't deserve more than this mere mention of all we want to forget, but force ourselves to remember his loathing that it may never be repeated.

The night really belonged, not to Jesse, but to MAJIC — Mothers Against Jesse In Congress — who since 1996 have railed and rallied against him. Two conservative moms, to honor their dead gay sons, have shown a nation how to love their children, how to accept them, how to keep them whole.

Patsy Clarke, conservative, wrote a letter in 1994 Helms describing her son on his deathbed, hoping Helms would stop his vicious, volatile homophobic attacks. He did not. And then MAJIC appeared.

Saturday night, Patsy and Eloise wrote him another letter ...

Dear Jesse,
It has been over six years since we last wrote you a letter. At that time I remonstrated with you about your stand on human rights ... in particular, the way you view the gay

see MAJIC on 26

Gaston Gazette forced into acceptance

GASTONIA, NC — Earthshaking news. The Gaston Gazette will accept photographs and announcement of same-sex civil unions and commitment ceremonies.

That's because its publisher, Duane K. McAllister, was forced to recant and retreat from his initial refusal to do so by the paper's owner, Freedom Communication.

He said he "was only the publisher" and not the owner — and that policy came from on high, his bosses, at Freedom Communication. He said he had joined the company because of its values and fair-minded positions.

It was still clear that, had he been in

charge, his "moral decision" would have stood forever. Thankfully, Freedom Communication lived up to its name and its principles.

To appreciate the reversal, one needs to be privy to the original editorial in which McAllister offers his adamant refusal to publish things homosexual. It so happens, we have a copy we will share:

The Gaston Gazette has had a long standing policy of not accepting advertising or free announcements acknowledging same sex unions. And we are not going to change that policy.

The reason for the policy is pure and simple: North Carolina law does not sanction such unions and we have never felt it our place to recognize civil

unions that were not considered legal under the laws of our state.

In mid-August the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation launched an initiative called "Announcing Equality Project" According to their website, they have as their one year goal "to double the number of local and regional newspapers that list same-sex announcements.

Included on that list are most of the large metro papers across the country. Also among that group are the North Carolina dailies in Raleigh, Winston-Salem and Fayetteville. And recently the paper from across the river (The Charlotte Observer) decided

see GAZETTE on 26

"Out & About" Pride flies in the face of Falwell

Soulforce holds first-ever Lynchburg Gay Pride in homophobic's backyard

LYNCHBURG, VA — Gay activists gathered in Reverend Jerry Falwell's hometown and in his backyard to announce a permanent presence in central Virginia.

"It's safe to come out," the Rev. Mel White, founder of the gay rights group Soulforce, told a rally of about 500 crowded under a chain of balloons tied like a rainbow. "God has made you gay. You are all beautiful!"

White, a California minister who was friends with Falwell, as well as his speech writer before coming out, said he decided to move to Lynchburg last year when Falwell said God allowed terrorists to attack America because of the work of gays, abortionists and feminists.

"Jerry Falwell is the source of misinformation about sexual orientation," White said. "He's a gadfly. He likes to say these horrible things."

see LYNCHBURG on 8

