

THE WOODSHED

...Levi/Leather Club

4000 S. I-85 Service Rd. • Charlotte, NC

704.394.1712

www.woodshedlounge.com



EVENTS:

Wednesday
Pool Tournament
\$2.00 Domestic Beers

First Saturday
Fetish Night

Third Friday
Country Night

- Best Beer Selection
- Best Juke Box
- Best Country Music

as named in
The Charlotte Observer's
annual Best of Charlotte!

SPECIALS:

Monday

\$5 All You Can Drink Beer

Tuesday

\$3 Call Liquors, \$2 Beer

Wednesday

Pool Tournament • No Entry Fee • \$50 to the Winner

Thursday

\$1 Domestic Beer

Friday

\$2 Smirnoff Ice, \$3.00 Malibu Rum

Saturday

\$2.00 Corona, \$3.00 Jim Beam

Sunday

\$2 House Drinks • Free Buffet at 6:30 pm

HOURS:

5 pm - 2 am — Six Days a Week • Sunday — 3 pm - 2 am

Patio Bar Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

Sunday Buffet at 6:30 pm

Unexpected anti-gay efforts at Marshall Park

from page 3

the others.

The incident left me a bit shaken, to be honest. I glanced around the area and suddenly became very suspicious of everyone that didn't look queer enough. *How could you really tell them apart from the LGBT folk?*

As the day wore on I heard several stories of other people having similar experiences throughout the park.



Anti-gay stealth protestor being escorted from park by police

After a nod and a smile an attractive young man was approached by another — the single gay man looking for the possibility of a new encounter or a potential relationship. Upon striking up a conversation the initiator rattled off the usual rhetoric: "You don't have to be this way. God loves you."

A younger lesbian I met recalled her conversation with a group of the youth as she entered the park. "They wanted me to listen to what they had to say — but they certainly weren't interested in anything I had to say back."

Eventually police began ejecting the harassers and limiting them to the sidewalk area outside the park bordering Third St. — at one point more than 20 had been forcibly removed. The group with the booth, it turned out, weren't who they said they were. They had broken down their booth and left — but not before it was determined that they were part of Operation Save America. Near afternoon's

end, individuals from the undercover OSA booth, the numerous stealth invader youths and a few dark suited men had regrouped on a hill overlooking the stage. Barred from re-entering the park, they simply stood by a giant cross and occasionally engaged passersby in politely confrontational conversation.

On a more pleasant note, Charlotte Pride was a huge success — with the largest attendance ever to date. And don't get me wrong — even though I've devoted a lot of space to my thoughts about anti-gay efforts that took place during the event, there was so much that was beautiful and fantastic: the over-the-top costuming worn by the performing drag queens and live musical performances by Mark Weigle and Sister Funk and the shared camaraderie by all the queers in attendance, no matter what their background (note to all in attendance at Charlotte Pride: support your South Carolina LGBT brothers and sisters — attend S.C. Pride in Columbia May 15).

It's clear that all hate-mongers aren't just uned-

Mark Weigle sang about bears and brotherhood.



Despite a brief rainstorm, Sister Funk still captured the crowd's attention.

ucated rednecks anymore. Some of them — it would seem — are quite clever about the efforts. Obviously it's something the LGBT community needs to be aware of and prepared for. *Keep your eyes peeled for that mutated fourth finger.*

— David Moore, Editor



Connie J. Vetter

Attorney and Counsellor at Law

Legal Services for
Our Community

704-567-5530

Varnadore Building
4037 E. Independence Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28205