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Have you ever or would you consider enlisting in the U.S. armed forces? . yes . no

Charlotte protests homophobic reggae act

Jamaican dancehall performer Capleton plays venue while protestors march

by David Moore Q-Notes staff

CHARLOTTE — In this traditionally conservative, non-confrontational city some members of the local LGBT community decided to take a stand against reggae artist Capleton, who performed at Amos' South End in Charlotte on Oct. 20.

Capleton and a handful of other reggae artists who espouse anti-gay lyrics in their music have faced protests at their appearances for their songs that encourage violence against gays. In California and Louisiana, all performances by Capleton at multiple House of Blues venues were cancelled, beginning with the Los Angeles site on Oct. 11 — which coincided with National Coming Out Day — followed by shows in New Orleans and West Hollywood. Another San Francisco concert was also canceled.

Not so in Charlotte, or at the Lincoln Theater in Raleigh where he apparently performed without incident.

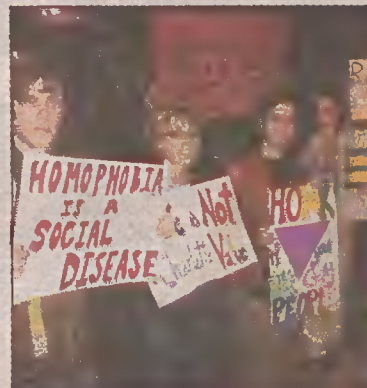
Capleton's lyrics have suggested gays be hanged, drowned, burned or shot. Among his songs is one with the Jamaican-dialect lyrics,

"Bun Out Di Chi Chi," which translates to "burn out the gay man."

In an interview with the Santa Cruz Sentinel Capleton said he is not advocating violence against gays but said that he believes homosexuality is "against humanity. It's against your mother, it's against your father, it's against yourself." In using the word fire, he claims he is referring to a spiritual fire.

In early October, the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center contacted the House of Blues urging them to cancel Capleton's concert in West Hollywood, which has a large gay population.

The House of Blues tried to create a forum in which the center, city leaders and Capleton could "resolve the interpretation of certain song lyrics," House of Blues spokesman Jack Gannon said in a statement. Capleton, who is on tour, was unable to attend, Gannon said, and the concert was canceled



"out of respect for the community," MeckPAC representative and Charlotte attorney Connie Vetter,



A group of demonstrators (inset) outside Amos' South End protest an appearance by reggae artist Capleton.

along with other LGBT activists, attempted to mediate a similar forum with Amos' South End, but the business did not want to cancel the show

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Chapel Hill's gay Town Council member

Mark Kleinschmidt has served on Chapel Hill Town Council for over three years

by David Moore Q-Notes staff

Mark Kleinschmidt has served as a Chapel Hill town council member since December 2001. In addition to his work with the council, he's also a staff attorney for the North Carolina Center for Death Penalty Litigation.



Mark Kleinschmidt is a town council member for Chapel Hill and a staff attorney for the N.C. Center for Death Penalty Litigation.

"I'd been interested in local politics for a number of years and had considered a run a couple of years prior," says Kleinschmidt. "Like a lot of people, I was a council watcher and was interested in how the town was managing its growth and improving its transportation policies.

"I'm actually the second gay man to serve on the council," Kleinschmidt offers see CHAPEL on 5

Triangle Y scraps rate plan that rewarded married couples

'Victory with an asterisk' for activists because gay partners still not deemed 'family'

by David Stout Q-Notes staff

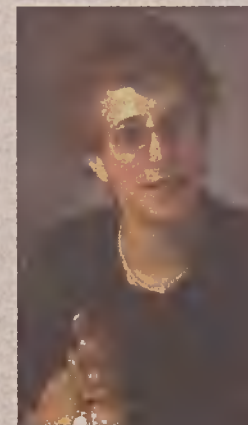
DURHAM, N.C. — First, the good news: After months of controversy and ongoing pressure, the YMCA of the Triangle Area has adopted a new pricing policy that extends to same-sex couples the same discounted rates previously only available to married couples.

Now, the could-be-better news: Activists say the decision is "a victory with an asterisk" because officials opted to overhaul the Y's fee structure rather than simply broaden its definition of "family" to include gay partners.

"It's an imperfect solution from my end," Teresa Sakash, a Duke University law student and member of lobbying group YMCA For All, told The Associated Press.

YMCA For All, comprised of Duke faculty and students and community supporters, had pressed for recognition of gay families, but Sakash remained pragmatic about the outcome. "I'm of the mindset that progress is incremental. Any forward movement is positive movement."

Such sentiments might be particularly applicable to the YMCA. George Williams established the first Young Men's Christian Association in London in 1821. The organization has spread around the world since then but its mission has remained the same: to "put Christian principles into practice" — a goal that is inexplicably often at odds with advancing equality for gays and lesbians.



Duke's Mindy Kornberg asked the Y to treat gays and straights equally.

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