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ews notes: nc

from the tarheel state

by **Lainey Millen**
 Q-Notes staff

Time Out Youth selects new director

CHARLOTTE — After an extensive search Time Out Youth has named their new executive director. Mette Andersen (pictured) takes over with a firm commitment to continue the legacy of founder Tonda Taylor, who retired after 13 years of service with the organization.

Born in Oslo, Norway, Andersen came to the U.S. through an international exchange program in high school. She returned to Norway for several years to pursue a successful career in internet technology, teaching computer skills and developing software. In 1999, Andersen returned to the Carolinas and earned a degree from UNC Charlotte in Business Management. In addition to her many achievements, Andersen is an avid hiker and skier.

Founded in 1991, TOY seeks to provide a forum in which LGBT youth (ages 13 through 23) can meet, openly discuss and learn about issues including HIV/AIDS, STDs and coming out. The organization is committed to reaching out to these youth to end their sense of isolation and confusion. It also focuses on exposing and eradicating discrimination while promoting an atmosphere of acceptance and tolerance throughout the community. For parents and friends of LGBT youth, TOY offers tools and support programs.
 Info: www.timeoutyouth.org

Charlotte Center announces staff changes

CHARLOTTE — After less than four months Kevin Ferguson has left his post as director of Charlotte's Gay and Lesbian Center. A former board member for The Center, Ferguson filled the position after the resignation of Dan Kirsch this past summer.

Although no comment was forthcoming from Ferguson, a release from The Center indicated that the resignation was a mutual decision agreed upon by both parties.

At press time no decision had been made to fill the director's position. The board of The Center, however, plans to review the facility's requirements in its first meeting of the new year later this month.

Monica Simpson, a current part-time employee at The Center, will take over daily functions as operations administrator. Regular readers of *Q-Notes* will no doubt recognize Simpson's name — she's been the driving force behind News Notes since early fall.

Simpson will be missed at *Q-Notes* as she vacates her editorial and administrative role for her new full-time position with The Center.

Another college campus gets a little Pride

GREENSBORO — North Carolina A&T has announced the formation of its People Recognizing Individual Diversity and Equality (P.R.I.D.E.) chapter. A nationally-known organization catering to the gay

and lesbian community, this is the newest group to hit the collegiate scene at the 112-year-old affiliate of the University of North Carolina.

Plans are underway to foster education on LGBT issues

on the campus in an effort to diffuse homophobia, provide a safe-haven for gays and lesbians to socialize and minimize the stereotypical concepts usually present in an uninformed environment.

The first meeting netted 45 students and four faculty members.

Membership is open to all at A&T, including members of the straight community.

The Director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs, Dr. Cliff B. Lowery, will serve as staff advisor. Lowery has indicated that he expects the newly formed group to bridge a gap between straights and gays. He's optimistic about the development, but with a note of caution: "Because of the present climate, we wanted to be careful and sure ... We wanted to make sure the atmosphere was free and safe for these students."

Fundraisers and outings are being put on the agenda to support the goals of the organization.

Info: call 336-334-7982 or email loweryc@ncat.edu

News service names new management

STATEWIDE — Carolina Rainbow News founder Jeff Schmehl (pictured) has announced that effective immediately he will step down as the director of the news service provider. His replacement, Melissa

Ray, will assume duties as editor, list manager and website manager.

After an eight-year stint as owner and editor of this continuous online and e-list informational service,

Schmehl said that his goals had changed and he felt it was time to "move on from my LGBT involvements for some sort of environmental cause... this was probably one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made." He had served on various committees, including chairing Charlotte Pride in recent years.

CRN began as an outpouring over the issues surrounding the Mecklenburg County Commission's stance involving the staging of the two "Angels in America" performances. Schmehl wanted to keep the community informed on a local level. The service has expanded to include information for the Carolinas and beyond.

Ray, creative director and part owner of Altercube, a design company, had already been involved in assisting Schmehl with the day-to-day maintenance of CRN. Even though there were many inquiries and offers to take over the service, Schmehl felt that Ray was the best candidate. She has been involved in the website development and design business as well as hardware technologies.

Plans are underway to further promote and improve CRN and the website. It currently has over 1,100 subscribers.

Two leaders re-elected to serve

CHARLOTTE — Temple Beth El's LGBT organization, Chavurah Keshet, has announced that two of its current three leaders will continue to head up the 80-

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