

# Q Notes

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**Power child**

Julie & Julia destined to be a hit  
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Several LGBT-friendly youth gathered to counter-protest the anti-gay "God Has a Better Way" rally at Pride Charlotte.

## Thousands celebrate Pride in Uptown Charlotte

*Despite anti-gay protests, organizers say event is success*

by **Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff**

Thousands of LGBT community members from across the Carolinas gathered at Uptown's Gateway Village for the 2009 Pride Charlotte festival on Saturday, July 25.

Organizers said the event was a success, despite vocal anti-gay protests from religious leader Dr. Michael Brown and his Coalition of Conscience.

Event co-chair Clay Smith said police estimates put attendance at anywhere from

12,000-15,000 for the day. He said the event had almost 90 vendors, down from a little over 100 in 2008.

Smith said he was disappointed so much of the mainstream media's news coverage focused on the protesters who gathered across the street from the festival grounds.

"We had a fantastic day of fun and fellowship and that is what we need at least once a year," Smith said. "If anything is newsworthy, I think that is what is most important."

Organized weeks in advance by Brown and the Coalition of Conscience, the "God Has a Better Way" rally attracted as many as 500

see **Pride on 11**

## Pageant raises questions

*Pride say rules, judging was fair*

by **Shane L. Windmeyer**

[Ed. Note — This writer was the host of the Charlotte Eagle's Miss Pride Charlotte preliminary.]

This year's Pride Charlotte festival was a success — with as many as 12,000 attendees or more, no one can doubt it. But two weeks before the festival, the Miss Pride Charlotte Pageantry System didn't manage to escape controversy or questions.

On July 10, Pride Charlotte crowned Felicia Monet 2009's Miss Pride Charlotte. Two weeks prior, the pageantry system also crowned its first-ever Mr. Pride Charlotte, Howard Hung.

"The Pride Charlotte Pageantry System

was designed to help us find quality performers who are well spoken and entertaining to represent Pride Charlotte at events both in and around North and South Carolina for the next 365 days. This year's winners truly represent Pride Charlotte's standards," said Michael Woods, promoter of the Pride Charlotte Pageantry System and secretary of the Pride Charlotte planning committee.

Despite the crowning, the Miss Pride Charlotte Pageant's judging results sparked debate and questions among a number of the drag queens who competed this year. The most alarming result from the judging was that the winner, Felicia Monet, representing the title Miss Scorpius 2009, won every contest category — Interview, Presentation, On-Stage

see **Drag on 12**

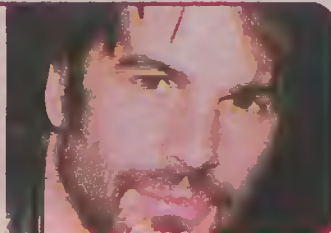
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Two men beaten  
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### Thom Bierdz

Out on/off screen  
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On Charlotte's  
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