

Peaceful protest draws ire

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was caught off guard when a peacekeeper working with protest organizers to keep participants separated from counter protesters saw someone he recognized. The peacekeeper told *notes* that one of the counter protesters, a man in his mid-20s or early-30s, once hit on him at a local adult bookstore. The counter protester denied the accusation while holding a sign that condemned gays. The counter protester left the protest early.

Despite the size of the protest and the presence of counter protesters, law enforcement officials reported that participants on both sides of the issue remained peaceful though some had to be calmed down after a few heated arguments and debates. Catawba Sheriff Reid said there had been no arrests or other disturbances save one warning citation issued to an anti-gay street preacher for a violation of a city noise ordinance.

A total of 50 law enforcement personnel were on hand Sunday, including officers from the Catawba County Sheriff's Department, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and from the police departments in Newton and Lincolnton.

Reid also noted there were no health or medical emergencies. Protest organizers have been distributing free bottles of water to participants.

As the protest drew to a close, Tipton said she believed they had gotten their message across "loud and clear."

"I hope that the LGBT community and anybody that is different and considers themselves an outsider knows that there is support and love for them," she said. "I hope they know that in a small community, if this many people will come out to support them, they have love and acceptance everywhere." ::

Drag Rag

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out their Facebook page (don't ask me!) or carolinatix.org for more info on Buff's show, the visits from Coco Peru and Pandora Boxx, and the gender-twisting Broadway-songs show, as well. Speaking of shows, I just saw a great one at Scorpio this past Sunday night. Miss Charlotte America Valarie Rockwell served as a fantastic emcee and did a number. She was joined by the current Miss Scorpio Eden Parque Divine, former Miss Gay America Kerri Nichols (looking good, mama!), and former

Miss NC U.S.ofA. and World National, Brooke Divine-Storm LaReese.

On a sad closing note, I will dedicate this column to Monica Marlo of Greensboro, NC who passed recently. Monica was as old school as it got and had been competing in contests for years. She had recently started winning contests and being out more for emcee gigs and such. Lord, I sure will miss that ole thing — she had a smile for everybody. :: **info:** Drop me a line, OK? TheTeaMissD@yahoo.com

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