

# QNotes

Noted . Notable . Noteworthy . LGBT News & Views

Volume 24 . Number 07

August 8 . 2009

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FREE

**Power child**

*'Julie & Julia' destined to be a hit*  
page 15

**q-notes.com**

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 Scorpios 2009, won every contest category — Interview, Presentation, On-Stage

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Winner: \$300 in cash & prizes

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Contact: Jamie Monroe at

jamiemonroets@yahoo.com of Liz Hamilton Productions



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issue: 09-05 deadline: 08-26

issue: 10-03 deadline: 09-23

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MGA 2004

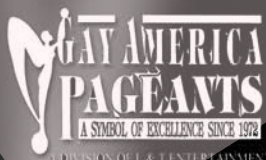
**Dominique Sanchez**  
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**Maya Montana**  
MGA 1998

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## CRIME

### Two gay men beaten in Wilmington

**Three arrested on misdemeanor  
assault charges**

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

WILMINGTON, N.C. — In the early morning hours of July 17, two gay men celebrating a birthday in downtown Wilmington were attacked as they walked down a street running alongside the Cape Fear River. In an interview with *The Wilmington Star News*, Chaz Housand, 22, and Chet Saunders, 22, say they remember little about the attack or the assailants. They can't say for sure whether the attack was a direct result of their sexual orientation.

Three men have been arrested for the crime: Melvin Freanthony Spicer, 25; Daniel Minwoo Lee, 21; and Jong Tae Chung, 27. All three are from Wilmington. Police charged them with misdemeanor assault, but Detective A.C. Swenson said the charges will be raised to felonies due to the seriousness of the victims' injuries. North Carolina's hate crimes statute

does not include sexual orientation or gender-identity.

Housand and Saunders were found unconscious on Front St. and others called police for assistance. The two spent a few hours in the hospital. Housand suffered broken facial

Photo Credit:  
M Tirrell Rhines



bones and Saunders says internal injuries are affecting his motor skills.

The Wilmington attack comes on the heels of an alleged anti-gay assault in Greensboro. In the early morning hours of July 4, a man attacked a straight man walking with two gay friends from a downtown nightlife establishment. He is charged with felony assault. ▀

## only online

- **Forbidden Fruit: Despite the largely progressive nature of the LGBT community, we still have our taboos**
    - **Crape Myrtle brings the floor down**
    - **Anything But Straight, Money Matters**
- more at [q-notes.com](http://q-notes.com)!**

## Editor's Note

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

### Q-Notes' office has moved

Looking back on the couple days I spent moving furniture and old files from our old offices on Independence Blvd., all I can say is I know I hadn't worked so hard and sweated so much in a very long time.

Boy, am I glad our move is done! And, all of the staff here at *Q-Notes* is excited to tell you about our new office space in Charlotte's Plaza-Midwood neighborhood.

We're now located at 2121 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 200-A, Charlotte, NC, 28205. You can visit us any time; just come up to the second floor and to suite 200-A.



Our new digs are a far cry from the old Varnadore Building. Folks heavily involved in the LGBT community years ago might remember the old seven story building. At one time, it housed MCC Charlotte, Time Out Youth, the switchboard and other organizations. Despite the great history there, the time for a move had come.

We're glad to be so close to so many LGBT-owned and LGBT-friendly businesses in Plaza-Midwood. We look forward to visiting as many as we can as quickly as we can. Good food, good drinks — all in minutes' walking time? Sounds cool to me.

P.S. — Our mailing address remains the same: P.O. Box 221841, Charlotte, NC, 28222. You can still reach us via telephone at 704-531-9988 or by email at [info@q-notes.com](mailto:info@q-notes.com). ▀

## 'speakout'

Send your letter to the editor or any other thoughts to [editor@q-notes.com](mailto:editor@q-notes.com) or click on over to our website at [www.q-notes.com](http://www.q-notes.com) and join the conversation there. Web comments will be featured in each issue. Limit letters to the editor to 150 words or less and include your name, city and state and a phone number where you can be reached.

## 'online q-poll'

What did you think of the "God Has a Better Way" protesters at this year's Pride Charlotte?

See the options and vote at [www.q-notes.com/qpoll](http://www.q-notes.com/qpoll)



## General Gayety

by Leslie Robinson  
Contributing Writer

### The Episcopal Agenda



At the recent Episcopal General Convention, Episcopalians effectively lifted their temporary ban on gay bishops. They also chose to begin drafting an official prayer for same-sex unions.

In leading with its conscience like that, the Episcopal Church, the American

wing of the worldwide Anglican Communion, has given Anglicans abroad, and some at home, another full-body rash.

It must've been a resoundingly difficult time for convention delegates, choosing between their beliefs and the prospect of a permanent Anglican split. I found myself imagining what those days at the gathering in Anaheim, Calif., were like. I suspect the average day's agenda looked a lot like this:

- 7-8 a.m. Prayers. Optional. Gene Autry room.
- 7:30-9 a.m. Breakfast.
- 9 a.m. All-Day Excursion to Disneyland.  
For spouses and those who can't face our reality.
- 9-10:15 a.m. Business Meeting.  
What to do when half your diocese wants to secede. Practical and legal direction.
- 10:15-10:30 a.m. Break.
- 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Seminars.
  1. "Disagreeing in Christ: How to Keep the Dialogue Open and Civil." Donald Duck Room
  2. "Schism: A Form of Resurrection?" Snow White Room
  3. "Bishop Gene Robinson: A Symbol of Our Problems, Not the Cause." Fairy Godmother Room
- 12-1 p.m. Lunch.
- 1-2:15 p.m. Business Meeting. Budget question: Will the overseas Anglicans who no longer want our financial assistance cancel out the financial losses we're incurring due to domestic churches fleeing the fold?
- 2:15-2:30 p.m. Break.
- 2:30-3 p.m. Prayer Service. Not optional. Let's remember why we're here.
- 3-4:30 p.m. Seminars.
  1. "The Conservatives Speak: Some of Us Still Haven't Given Up." Scrooge McDuck Room
  2. "The Archbishop of Canterbury: Toughest Job in Christendom?" Goofy Room
  3. "Fleeing to Catholicism: Bad Idea." Dumbo Room
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free Time.
- 5:30 p.m. Departure for those wishing to attend the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim game. No matter what part of the country we come from, tonight we're on the side of the Angels.

5:30-6:30 p.m. Cocktails.  
6:30-8 p.m. Dinner.  
8-10 p.m. Informal job networking. Pinocchio Room.  
8 p.m. Movie. "Oranges are Not the Only Fruit." Cinderella Room.  
8-11 p.m. Socializing. All arguments attaining a certain decibel level must be taken elsewhere. Huey, Dewey, and Louie Rotunda.

**Notes:** The gym is open all day. A psychologist will be available from noon to midnight in the Peter Pan Room. A doctor is on hand all day in the Seven Dwarfs Room for anyone feeling faint or nauseous. If you wish to participate in tomorrow's excursion to Knott's Berry Farm, sign up by 1:00 this afternoon. If you wish to flee altogether, we understand. But even if we don't know where you're hiding, God does. ▀

**info:** LesRobinsn@aol.com . www.GeneralGayety.com

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## GLOBAL

### International News Notes

by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

#### Gay-friendly companies announced

COPENHAGEN — The International Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (IGLCC) has released its first edition of the International Business Equality Index. The Index is the first-ever, worldwide ranking of LGBT-friendly companies.

The IGLCC named BT Group, IBM and The Dow Chemical Company the best corporations for LGBT employees. Other multinational companies participating in the Index include: AMR (parent company of American Airlines, Inc. and American Eagle), Cisco Systems, ING, Intel, KPMG, Kraft Food, Merck, Novartis, Philips, SAP, TNT and UBS. In all, the companies represent 1.7 million employees in 227 countries. Their combined sales total \$800 billion per year.

"The findings of the survey on which the Index is based are somewhat mixed, but definitively encouraging," said IGLCC Secretary General, Pascal Lépine. "The vast majority of respondent corporations have Diversity and Inclusion programs and most explicitly include LGBT issues. We see from this survey that most of these companies take sexual orientation and gender identity matters very seriously. However, full equality is still years or decades away."

The IGLCC said their Index provides "powerful examples of how diversity and inclusion programs can be very successful," but also "point[s] to a darker side." Almost 50 percent of global companies surveyed did not have any openly LGBT "Diversity & Inclusion" managers. They also found that openly gay men or lesbians were hard to find in upper-management.

The Index can be downloaded at [www.iglcc.org](http://www.iglcc.org).

#### Status granted

GENEVA — The United Nations granted official status to an LGBT Brazilian organization on July 27 and allowed it to participate in official discussions and meetings on topics ranging from health to human rights.

The Brazilian Association of Gays, Lesbians and Transsexuals' status acceptance "marks the third consecutive year in which the U.N. Economic and Social Council has overturned a decision by a 19-country committee blocking LGBT organizations from participating in the U.N.'s debates," The AP's Bradley S. Klapper reported.

In past years, Swedish and Spanish LGBT organizations have been granted recognition as non-governmental organizations. They are among more than 3,000 non-governmental organizations and charities recognized by the global body worldwide.

"If the U.N. cannot be open and diverse, then we are really set for failure," said Guilherme Patriota, a senior Brazilian diplomat. "There are another 400 NGOs seeking the same status next year. We need to keep working on making the U.N. more open to plurality and diversity."

Patriota told The

AP that the Brazilian LGBT group was a "valuable partner" of the nation's AIDS prevention and condom promotion campaigns.



A boat floats past onlookers in the Canal Parade in Amsterdam.

Photo Credit: Dylan Thomas

#### Soldiers join parade

AMSTERDAM — For the first time, the Dutch Ministry of Defense gave its permission for soldiers to participate in uniform in the Canal Parade, the city's LGBT Pride parade.

The servicemembers did not have their own boat in the Canal Parade, but joined boats belonging to unions and companies like IBM, Shell and Philips.

A spokesperson for the Defense Ministry said that soldiers' participation in the parade were individual decisions and that the ministry had no official involvement. Soldiers were allowed to participate "on condition that they wear suitable attire."

In 2008, soldiers were forbidden from wearing their uniforms in the parade. The ministry said then that it would "impair the dignity of the uniform," according to NRC Handelsblad. ■

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## National News Notes

by David Stout . Q-Notes staff

### 'No Excuses' for inaction

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Human Rights Campaign has launched a national effort called "No Excuses" to lobby Congress on key issues of equality. Timed to take advantage of the congressional summer recess, when members are in their local offices and meeting with constituents, the campaign calls for HRC's 750,000 members and their allies to meet directly with lawmakers and push for federal legislative change.

Using online tools, one-on-one trainings and staff and volunteer follow-through, HRC members will press lawmakers to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act; pass an LGBT inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act; repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"; pass immigration reform that recognizes permanent same-sex couples; and, provide health benefits to federal employees' same-sex domestic partners.

The interactive "No Excuses" website (noexcuses.hrc.org) allows supporters to download a meeting toolkit, schedule a visit and report back on how it went.

"While we salute and acknowledge the heroic members of Congress who have worked tirelessly on our behalf, far too many have dragged their feet on basic matters of fairness and equality that have lingered too long and hurt too many LGBT people and their families," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "Yes, there are many challenges facing this Congress and this president. But LGBT people often face

additional hardship protecting their families, their loved ones and their jobs, and too few in Congress are willing to champion these issues of basic fairness. Now, more than ever, members of the LGBT community need to make their voices heard face-to-face and in the districts where they live."

### Gays tapped for highest honor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama plans to award America's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, to a pair of gay trailblazers: Harvey Milk, one of the country's first openly gay elected officials, and openly lesbian tennis great Billie Jean King.

Milk's award will be accepted at an Aug. 12 White House ceremony by Stuart Milk, the nephew of the late San Francisco Supervisor and civil rights activist. Milk was the subject of an Oscar-winning biopic last year featuring Sean Penn in the lead role.

Upon hearing the news, Stuart Milk said, "The president's action today touches the core of our very human hearts and my uncle would be so proud of this high honor. His election was, for him, a beginning — a chance to make real change. That change is happening, but we still have so far to go. I hope this recognition inspires LGBT Americans everywhere to heed Harvey's call to run for office, to serve openly, to live proudly with authenticity and to demand the equality that we all deserve."

In addition to Milk and Jean King, Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, who has championed LGBT equality throughout his political career, will be among the 16

who receive the Presidential Medal of Honor at the ceremony.

### AAA expands family plan

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — AAA South, the fourth largest AAA auto club affiliate in the country, has committed to recognizing all spouses, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, in company policies and services. The policy now allows married same-sex couples to receive spousal discounts under AAA's Associate Membership program.

Equality Florida launched conversations with AAA several months ago after receiving calls from married same-sex couples who had been denied family memberships. AAA South has more than four million members in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Puerto Rico.

Same-sex couples applying for a membership need only state that they are married to receive the family benefit. Management also left the door open to expand the policy to include domestic partners — LGBT and straight.

According to the National Center for Lesbian Rights, AAA has supported the organization for nearly a decade as one of its top corporate sponsors.

### DOJ issues HIV guidelines

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Justice issued a new fact sheet recently for state licensing boards and occupational training schools informing them that it is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act to bar people with HIV from professions such as barbering, massage therapy and home health care assistance. The guidelines were issued in response to requests from five AIDS advocacy organizations. "The DOJ has sent a loud and clear message to the state licensing boards and occupational training schools that HIV discrimination won't be tolerated," said Catherine Hanssens, executive director of The Center for HIV Law and Policy. "Even this late into the HIV epidemic, we continue to hear from people who are being barred from professions out of fear and ignorance about how HIV is spread."

In its call for the guidelines, the advocacy groups provided several recent examples of people with HIV facing discrimination from state licensing boards and training schools. These included a Georgia man whose massage license was revoked by the City of Atlanta, an Arkansas man who was kicked out of a cosmetology school because of the school's interpretation of state licensing requirements, and a Tennessee couple who had their foster parent license denied because one of them had HIV. ▀



**Harvey Milk will be posthumously honored with Presidential Medal of Freedom.**

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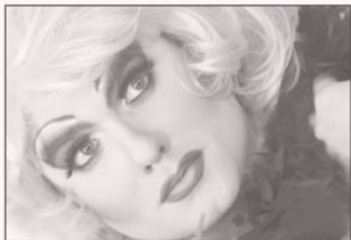
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## NORTH CAROLINA

### North Carolina News Notes in the future.

by Lainey Millen . Q-Notes staff

#### CHARLOTTE

##### Adieu

CHARLOTTE — The Queen City Alternative, an LGBT Charlotte email newsletter, bid farewell to its readers at Pride Charlotte 2009 on July 25.

Over the years, founder Jeff Schmehl has provided an important resource for information, news and services. With the advent of listservs and social networking groups, he felt his contribution was becoming obsolete.

Schmehl said, "Q-Notes also has a similar service which I encourage you to subscribe to. Visit [www.q-notes.com](http://www.q-notes.com) for more information."

He has been an active member of the LGBT community. He said he will continue to serve it as needs arise which he feels will match his skillset or passion.

Thanks, Jeff, for a job well done.

##### Lend a hand

CHARLOTTE — The Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's Out on the Town LGBT event resource needs some assistance. Help is needed in choosing events for the upcoming season. You could possibly win a pair of tickets to "Shear Madness" by random drawing on Aug. 11.

Deadline for feedback is Aug. 10 via a short online survey.

To participate, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OoK6TdJX3BJt7tdEXA3wJQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OoK6TdJX3BJt7tdEXA3wJQ_3d_3d). Be sure to include your name, email address and phone number at the bottom of the survey to be included in the drawing.

#### TRIAD

##### New bi/gay group forms

WINSTON-SALEM — A new group for gay and bisexual men has formed in the Triad. The Triad BiGay Guys Outdoor Club is all set to hit the trail or enjoy other outdoors activities. It is open to those in their 20s and 30s who are looking to make new friends and have fun in the open air.

The first trek will be held on Aug. 22 at 12 p.m. It is slated as a day hike, possibly at Hanging Rock State Park. If there is enough interest, an overnight camping trip might weave its way into the event or

##### Site updated

CHAPEL HILL — The LGBTQ Center at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill recently unveiled a new and improved website for the community.

Included is updated information about Safe Zone training dates as well as upcoming events. A plethora of useful resources are also available, in addition to local and national resource guides in PDF format.

Site administrators are open to suggestions or comments on how to make it more helpful to those it serves.

For more information, call Director Terri Phoenix, Ph.D. at 919-843-5376, email [lgbtq@email.unc.edu](mailto:lgbtq@email.unc.edu) or visit [lgbtq.unc.edu](http://lgbtq.unc.edu).

##### Time for a change

DURHAM — AwakeningCHANGE presents Runway: Revolution, at Steel Blue on Aug. 28. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the show begins at 9 p.m. It is similar to last year's Gender Blur.

This year the show will be highlighting pioneers of change throughout history with gender bending twists, such as Mandy Carter and Mangus Hirshfield. Admission is based upon a sliding scale \$7-\$10.

In addition to the Runway, performances include dance, costumes, original set design, new music, poetic spoken word, creative art, innovative photography, and more, produced by a community of friends and family, tackling issues of racism, sexism, violence, environmentalism, homophobia, transphobia, mental illness, forgotten historical struggles, hope and strength.

AwakeningCHANGE is a local non-profit performance group. It's mission is to provide education as a means to conquer the divides that isolate individuals and communities from each other by establishing common ground and encouraging compassion for all people. They look to inspire respect for the earth and its inhabitants. The messages of awareness, responsibility and change for greater humanity are driven by raw emotion and are communicated through performance, art, media and conversation.

"Through performance art, we want to

see next page >

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enable the audience to look within their hearts and minds, to really get involved with what they could do to broaden their understandings of love and humanity, as well as how they can help others find hope and commonality," says Kegan Rushing, director and founder of AwakeningCHANGE.

They seek strength through unity, love through community and justice through humanity. More than that, they want the audience to find their voice and lend it those who haven't. They are meant to inspire, empower and learn from one another.

For more information on Runway:Revolution or AwakeningCHANGE, call Jessica Hulick at 919-381-5516 or visit [www.awakeningchange.org](http://www.awakeningchange.org).

## CAMPUS SCENE

### Search is on

STATEWIDE — The White Knot, a national marriage equality movement, is on the lookout for those who are members of high school or college Gay Straight Alliances, campus LGBT or another school group involved in LGBT issues and equality.

A campus awareness program is scheduled to begin this fall.

For more information, email [info@whiteknot.org](mailto:info@whiteknot.org).

### info:

Announce your community event in NC News Notes. email: [editor@q-notes.com](mailto:editor@q-notes.com).

## Smoking rates higher among gays

CHAPEL HILL — Men and women who are gay or lesbian are more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to smoke, according to findings from a review study carried out by the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

The findings, published in the August issue of the journal, *Tobacco Control*, show that as many as 37 percent of lesbians and 33 percent of gays smoke. That compares to national smoking rates of 18 percent for women and 24 percent for men in the 2006 National Health Interview Survey.

The authors reviewed findings from 42 studies of the prevalence of tobacco use among sexual minorities in the U.S. published between 1987 and May 2007. The findings suggest smoking is a significant health inequality for sexual minorities.

Recognizing and understanding the increased risk in a particular population can help policymakers, healthcare officials and others provide support for people more likely to start smoking or who may want to stop smoking, said Joseph Lee, lead author of the review and a social research specialist with the Tobacco Prevention and Evaluation Program in the UNC School of Medicine.

A number of small or geographically limited studies have suggested that sexual minorities have higher rates of tobacco use than the general population, said Lee, who

conducted the review as a master's student in collaboration with Cathy Melvin, Ph.D., at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and UNC's Sheps Center for Health Services Research and Gabriel Griffin, a medical student at the Duke University School of Medicine.

"The underlying causes of these disparities are not fully explained by this review," Lee said. "Likely explanations include the success of tobacco industry's targeted marketing to gays and lesbians, as well as time spent in smoky social venues and stress from discrimination."

"Tobacco is likely the number one cause of death among gays and les-

bians," Lee said, "but there is hope."

Many gay and lesbian organizations are starting to reject addictive funding from the tobacco industry and the community is organizing itself to address this health inequality through the National LGBT Tobacco Control Network."

In late February, Lee sent a letter to the Human Rights Campaign questioning its perfect scoring of Winston-Salem's ReynoldsAmerican, Inc., owner of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, in the organiza-

tion's 2009 HRC Corporate Equality Index. In a March 21 *Q-Notes* story, HRC said the Index scores are not meant to reflect anything other than a company's treatment of LGBT employees.

Daryl Herrschaft, director of the HRC Foundation Workplace Project, told *Q-Notes* that the national organization is cognizant of the health-related ramifications of tobacco use. "HRC does not accept sponsorship dollars from tobacco companies because we recognize the harmful effects that tobacco has done, and in some ways its disproportionate effect on our community ... We

don't want to play a role in advocating smoking to our membership and to people who come to our events."

To learn more about the National LGBT Tobacco Control Network and the *Tobacco Control* journal, visit [www.lgbttobacco.org](http://www.lgbttobacco.org) or [www.tobaccocontrol.bmj.com](http://www.tobaccocontrol.bmj.com).

For more information on the study, call Ramona DuBose at the Gillings School at 919-966-7467 or email [ramona\\_dubose@unc.edu](mailto:ramona_dubose@unc.edu).

Across the nation, initiatives have been established to counter the use of tobacco among the LGBT community. Among them are the Gay America Smoke Out. Visit [www.gaysmokeout.net](http://www.gaysmokeout.net) to find out about the annual non-smoking challenge set in November of each year. ▀



Joseph Lee



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## LOGO launches just in time for Pride

*After years of requests, Time Warner Cable debuts LGBT channel in Charlotte market*

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

In the years since MTV announced the creation of its LGBT specialty channel, LOGO, LGBT Carolinians have been clamoring for the opportunity to tune in. South Carolinians got that opportunity a while back, but folks in North Carolina remained waiting.

For those LGBTs living in and around Charlotte, all those letter, email and calling campaigns have made the dream a reality.

On July 25 — the same day as Pride Charlotte — Time Warner launched LOGO in one of their largest Carolinas metro markets. The network now appears on channel 197 on the digital tier in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and several other cities

and towns in the greater metro area.

LOGO features more than 300 LGBT films, documentaries, newscasts and original shows and specials.

"Time Warner Cable is committed to providing diverse programming that appeals to the dynamic demographics of the Charlotte area," Time Warner Cable



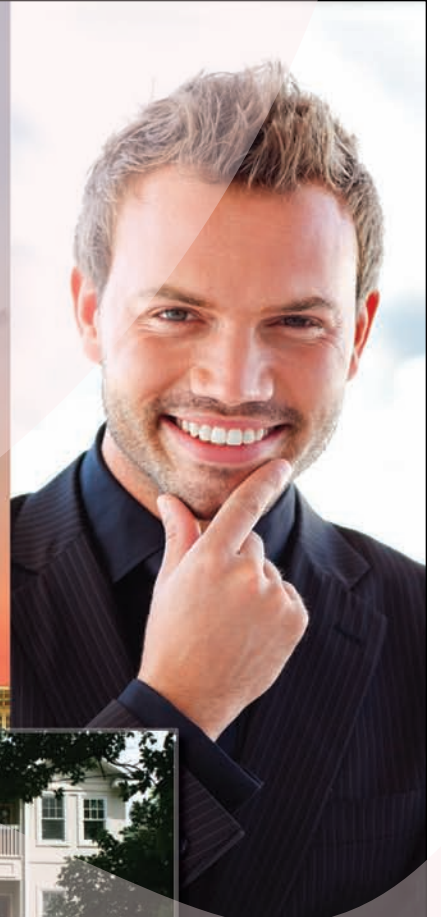
Carolinas' Melissa Buscher, direc-

tor of media relations, told *Q-Notes* via email. "We are always looking for ways to expand our digital channel line-up with programming that is of interest to our customers."

LOGO is available on channel 146 on South Carolina's digital tier.

Time Warner also added sports channel YES Network on Aug. 1 and says they are in the process of adding more HD channels. ▀

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# Pride fest continues to grow

from page 1

participants, according to *The Charlotte Observer*. In a prepared statement to the media, Brown said his rally's goals were two-fold: "We say 'Enough is enough' to the destructive goals of gay activism and we say



As many as 12,000 or more LGBT and straight ally community members attended the Pride Charlotte festival at Uptown's Gateway Village. View more Pride Charlotte photos at [www.q-notes.com/pride/](http://www.q-notes.com/pride/).

to the GLBT community, 'Jesus loves you and God has a better way!'"

Brown enlisted the help of friend and colleague Lou Engle, director of TheCall, a national prayer movement. Three weeks before their rally at Pride Charlotte, Engle attended a Sunday evening worship service at Brown's FIRE Church in Concord. There he called his movement against the "homosexual agenda" a "battle" and a "war." At the service he asked for "warriors" and likened "powerful prayer" to the power of a machine gun.

Despite the violent and militant overtones, Brown claims his "Jesus Revolution" is a non-violent and compassionate spiritual movement.

There were no reports of violence, intimidation or harassment at the festival, although Brown's "red-shirted" participants did enter festival grounds and spoke at length with several Pride festival attendees.

About 30 volunteers signed up to help with Pride Charlotte's Partners in Peace, who help to diffuse confrontational situations and keep both Pride attendees and protesters safe and out of trouble.

## Pride week

Smith said events in the week prior to the festival were also a success, including the "Sitting

Pretty" art exhibit and auction fundraiser.

"We had a great turn out," he said.

The Voices of Pride Choral Concert, originally scheduled for the evening before the festival, was canceled, but will be rescheduled.

"If we postpone the event we can have a better turn out and it will help with our concept of 'Pride 365' — having Pride events all year round instead of one week each year," Smith explained.

One Voice Chorus, Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte and the choir at MCC Charlotte are already signed on to participate. Smith said the Pride committee will be reaching out to others, including Myers Park Baptist's choir and Unity

Fellowship Church.

On the evening of the Saturday festival, the Lesbian & Gay Community Center hosted its "Detour" party. Billed as a dance alternative with "pure music, pure energy, pure fun,"



David Benham, son of radical anti-gay street preacher Flip Benham, speaks with youth who gathered to hold signs of positive support for the LGBT community.

the event was sober and provided a safe space for those who wanted to spend an evening free of alcohol.

DJ and organizer Chris Taylor said about 70 community members showed up to the event and more than \$300 was raised for the Center. Taylor said a future "Detour" event will have a Disco and '70s theme. ▀

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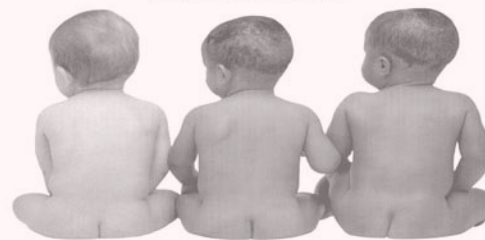
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## Drag contestants unhappy

from page 1

Question &amp; Talent Competition.

"It doesn't happen — nobody wins every category, unless they're perfect," said Shane Kindley who performs as Jessica Raynes Starr and who won second runner up and alternate in the pageant. "There had to be some other motive to her winning."

Kindley is not alone. The third alternate runner up Bryan Tipton, who performs as Sierra Santana, has performed for 18 years and has competed in nearly 10 pageants, winning four pageants including Miss Charlotte Pride 2004 before the organization changed its name, ownership and leadership to Pride Charlotte in 2006. She reiterated, "I believe in this community and in the importance of drag...but it is not common for one contestant to win every category especially with so many contestants. Something went foul in the judging."

Several contestants noted that since the beginning of Pride Charlotte and the pageant in 2006, the Miss Pride Charlotte winners have been routine drag performers from The Scorpio. The first runner up this year, Charlotte Damone, also performs regularly in the cast at the club.

According to Denise Palm-Beck, the current board chair of the Lesbian & Gay Community Center and a member of the Pride Charlotte planning committee, Scorpio was one of the largest Pride Charlotte event sponsors this year, along with Chasers Adult Entertainment Club, its other business property.

Palm-Beck was unaware of the past winners having a connection to Scorpio and denied any connection between the winners and the sponsorship.

"I think that is a dangerous assumption to make," Palm-Beck cautioned. "Nothing was done under the table and it sounds like sour grapes from a few contestants...we tried very hard to make the pageant fun, fair and equally entertaining."

Palm-Beck said she didn't know how often a contestant wins all pageant categories. "The probability is like going to Vegas and winning a slot machine," she said.

Donald O'Shields, the owner of The Scorpio and Chasers, commented, "We are proud to be the main sponsor of Pride this year. It is an important event for our community. I believe Pride Charlotte did the best they could with the pageant and has learned a lot."

But, like other contestants and audience members, O'Shields acknowledged the difficulty in one contestant to carry all the pageant's contests.

O'Shields said Scorpio was not involved with the operation of the pageant and Pride Charlotte's use of the bar facility was considered an in-kind donation to the group.

Prior to the festival at Gateway Village on July 25, both Kindley and Tipton had disassociated their name with the Pride Charlotte Pageantry System. Tipton refused to perform at Pride Charlotte and declined his prize winnings. Kindley said he ultimately chose to perform in the spirit of Pride, but still has concerns over the contest and its results.

Pageantry audience member Brian Coones said he shares a similar concern from the July 10 pageant night.

"I agree Felicia Monet is talented and maybe even deserved to win, but I truly can't wrap my mind around one person winning every category," Coones said. "I was there, I have been in the drag world for some time and I can't believe Felicia won every category. I mean it seems shady — many in the audience left immediately after the winner was announced."

The Pride Charlotte Pageantry System confirmed that there were five judges and two auditors. None of the judges were to have any connection to any specific bar or performer. One judge was chosen from the Pride Charlotte planning committee and judges in the final pageant could not have judged in any preliminary. As customary, the Pride Charlotte Pageantry System gave each contestant copies of their judging sheets following the pageant.

Kindley and Tipton expressed their concerns about the judging the night of the pageant to pageant committee members. Both, along with other performers, went as far as to compare individual score sheets and concluded that the results were "highly suspect." According to Kindley, one contestant requested a meeting with the pageant committee to discuss the concerns. Woods did not confirm or deny any complaints being expressed.

"Any contestant who would like to question their judging results should look at the comments made by the judges on their score sheets and review the video of the pageant," Woods said.

Palm-Beck said the committee had reviewed the pageant and concluded everything was fair. "After a careful review, there is nothing to indicate by the score sheets that the outcome would have been any different. I don't know what else you can do."

O'Shields questioned the knowledge and experience of those organizing and judging the event.

"I think it is safe to say that Pride Charlotte knew nothing about pageants or picking judges," he said. "Frankly there are people on the panel who should not have been judges. I don't know their qualifications and it is important to have quality judges."

According to Kindley and Tipton, many of the contestants will not participate again next year and question whether their sponsor bar would do so either. Kindley cites not only the judging bias but also the amount of time, money and energy spent on the pageant.

"I feel like we should stand up for what we see **Pageant** on 13





## HEALTH CARE

## Syphilis on the rise

CHARLOTTE — The Mecklenburg County Health Department is urging more testing as a dramatic rise in syphilis cases puts the sexually transmitted disease back on the department's high priority list. Other areas across the state are also dealing with a surprising increase in cases this year.

In Mecklenburg County, new cases of the STD have more than doubled during 2009. From Jan. 1 through the end of July, 98 new cases were reported. Only 45 cases were reported in the same period in 2008. Officials say the county's infection rate is the second highest increase reported across the state. Forsyth County has the highest rate of increase this year; officials there have identified 100 new cases, compared to 27 in 2008.

Mecklenburg health officials said they would begin offering free and confidential syphilis and HIV testing on Tuesday evenings at Carolinas Medical Center's Northpark location, 251 Eastway Dr. The free clinic will be open 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Free testing continues at both Mecklenburg Health Department clinics: 2845 Beatties Ford Rd. and 249 Billingsley Rd. For more information on clinic testing times, call 704-336-6500.

Other walk-in locations for syphilis and HIV testing include: Metrolina Care Network Clinic, 5801 Executive Center Dr., Suite 114; Urban Ministries, 945 N. College St.; and Metrolina AIDS Project, 127 Scaleybark Rd.

The Lesbian & Gay Community Center of Charlotte, at 820 Hamilton St., Suite B-11, also offers free HIV testing on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

In Forsyth County, state and local officials are planning a Rapid Intervention Outreach Team to address the outbreak. A two-day testing and education outreach campaign is planned for Aug. 28 and 29.

Patrice Toney, an HIV/STI prevention supervisor with the Forsyth County Health Department, said they are working to reach out to MSM and gay and bisexual men. They have a partnership with a local LGBT congregation and on the third Friday of every month, they organize outreach and educational efforts at a local club popular with gay and MSM men. Toney said the department will be working to build closer relationships with LGBT student organizations at area colleges.

Gay and bisexual men, as well as men who have sex with men (MSM), are at a higher risk of contracting syphilis, as officials have seen infection rates in these communities rise for seven straight years. Numbers released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that syphilis infections are up 81 percent. Gay and bisexual men and MSM represent 65 percent of the total number of cases. ▀

— by Matt Comer, Q-Notes staff

## Pageant controversy

from page 12

believe... this event was supposed to bring us all together," Kindley said. "When Felicia was crowned the audience immediately left... the place emptied out. The community knows it was wrong."

Pride Charlotte is a project of the Lesbian & Gay Community Center. This year the Pride Charlotte planning committee unveiled a new Pride Charlotte Pageantry System along with a revised set of rules in hopes of garnering a diversity of contestants and greater participation by several local bars and establishments. This year six establishments held preliminary pageants leading up to the Miss Pride Charlotte final pageant competition including Hartigans Irish Pub, Hide-A-Way, Petra's Piano Bar, Liaisons, The Scorpio Lounge and the Charlotte Eagle.

"I'm really sad for Charlotte. All these talents from all the bars coming together in such a great way and then for the pageant to end like this. It's not going to help when they ask people to compete next year at all," Coones said.

Despite any questions or controversy, O'Shields stands by his mission to support his community: "We have a long history of drag. We respect it and our goal is to support Pride in our community." ▀

— Shane L. Windmeyer is a freelance writer for Q-Notes. He is recognized as a local and national leader on LGBT issues. He also performs camp drag as Buff Faye, who recently made RuPaul's Top 25 in her Drag Race Online Competition. More information online at [www.shanewindmeyer.com](http://www.shanewindmeyer.com) or [www.bufffaye.com](http://www.bufffaye.com).

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## Drag Rag

by Miss Della . Contributing Writer

### Summer rains shower crowns on gals and guys!

Oh my goodness, kiddies — here it is, the one and only Drag Rag and I'm running late (as usual) and trying to get to the "American Idol" concert in downtown to see this year's winner Kris Allen and my Indian baby, Anoop Desai. Don't blink your eyes or you'll miss this one, OK? I promise a longer one next time since we'll have a new national Entertainer of the Year by then.

As you might know, I'm always on the phone with our Miss U.S.ofA. at large, Tajma Hall. Seems she calls every time she's at the airport waiting for another flight to go somewhere. And, she's been as busy as a one-armed paper hanger recently, traveling everywhere for either prelims or bookings or to judge a contest. I think the ole gal had two days off in July. Girl, sit down for a minute! Her most recent prelims include Miss Wisconsin, which Coco Chanel won with alternate Felicia Eau Clair; Miss Arizona, won by Candi Cole; and Miss Indiana, won by Raleigh's Victoria Parker, with runner-up Chelsey Nicole Stephens. The Pig has done it again! How many titles does that make in a year? The world may never know, but she'll be giving up her Miss NC America title in just weeks at The Scorpio here in Charlotte. Isn't it strange how two queens from a lit-

tle bar in Fayetteville can make their rounds and both be Miss Continental PLUS and then end up in a bar in Indianapolis together, one watching the other getting crowned to maybe go on and succeed her. It is a small world, as they say, for sure.

It's less than one month until Tulsi relinquishes her Continental crown, and I know North Carolina will be well represented in the house — in our group of 18 who purchased tickets together, the majority are North Carolinians. The Carolina kids will knock you down for a *good* pageant, ya know? David 'Freklz' Hunter will also relinquish his Mr. title that weekend, too. It should be lovely to see all the family and the formers. I'm looking forward to gazing upon the lovely face of our Miss PLUS, Coco Van Cartier, as well. What a lovely queen!

Speaking of Tajma earlier, she flew out to judge final night of Miss TX FFI and At Large this year held in Houston and was happy to share these results with me: Jenna Sky won the Miss and her RUs were Adecia Iman and Monika Adams; Chanel LaMasters won Miss At-Large and her RUs were Kofi and Armani Nicoe Davenport. Congrats to Chevelle Brooks and Leyla Edwards O'Hara on a fierce year!

On the America scene, Electra Fearce-St.



James recently won Miss Pennsylvania with RU Aurora Fontaine; the new Miss Ohio is Symphony Alexander Love with RU Brionna Brooks; and Miss Missouri is Erica Foxx with RU Tajma Stetson. Miss America takes place this year at the Millenium Hotel Grand Ballroom in St. Louis from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1. The reigning Miss, Victoria DePaula, will be here in Charlotte for Miss Mid-East in just a few weeks at Scorpio, along with a few of her sisters as Coti Collins relinquishes her crown. Should be quite a festive night! Promoter Mike Rhinehart tells me also performing that night will be his new Miss Winston-Salem America, Angelica Dust. Come out and see which big names in the America system come to duke it out on Freedom Drive!

In local news, Angelica also just won Miss Firecracker up at Scandals in Asheville; her RU was Manhattan. Fuchsia Rage is the new Miss Summer Dream with alternate Angelica Froste. Congrats are going out to Felicia Monet who won Miss Pride Charlotte at Scorpio recently. Her RUs included Charlotte Damone, Jessica Raynes Starr and Sierra Santana. The new Mr. Pride Charlotte MI is Howard Hung. I almost got all the contestants listed in the last Rag, but I did miss Kylie DaVinci who won Miss Queen City and did not want to let her slip me by! I heard the show at Pride in downtown was fierce with the likes of Dorae Saunders, Detra Penucci, Brooke Divine and Angela Lopez. Sorry I missed that one! Y'all come back now, ya hear? ♣

info: Drop me a line, OK? . The TeaMissD@yahoo.com



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**Thom Bierdz**  
Out on/off screen  
page 19

**THOM  
BIERDZ**

## Power child



Amy Adams plays Julie Powell in Sony Entertainment's "Julie & Julia."

Photo Credit: Sony Entertainment

### Meryl Streep embodies iconic cookbook author and television chef Julia Child in Nora Ephron's highly anticipated film 'Julie & Julia'

by Robert Firpo-Cappiello

Before Ina, before Rachael, before Emeril, there was Julia, the woman who forever changed the way America cooks. Now comes "Julie & Julia," the new film starring Meryl Streep as Child and Amy Adams as secretary-turned-food blogger Julie Powell. The film, set in post-9/11 New York and post-WWII Paris, is a delicious exploration of the ways people can feed one another physically and, more importantly, emotionally.

Written and directed by Nora Ephron ("Sleepless in Seattle," "You've Got Mail"), "Julie & Julia" interweaves the stories adapted from two best-selling memoirs: Julie Powell's "Julie and Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen" (reissued in paperback with the subti-

tle "My Year of Cooking Dangerously") and "My Life in France" by Julia Child with Alex Prud'homme.

"What unites these two stories is passion," says producer Laurence Mark ("Dreamgirls"). "Julie Powell and Julia Child both discovered a passion — in each case, a passion for food — that got them through tough or uncertain times.

"When you talk about passion, Julia Child didn't just have it for her husband or cooking. She had a passion for living. Real, true joie de vivre," says Streep, who portrays the 6-foot-2, button-down shirt and denim-apron-wearing icon's unbridled joy for life with her typical panache. "She loved being alive, and that's inspirational in and of itself."

Powell discovered her passion in 2002 when, approaching 30 and stifled by a dead-end cubicle job, she hit on a remarkably unconventional way to break out of her rut: She would spend a year cooking every recipe — all 524 of them — in Julia Child's "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" and, without realizing she'd become a digital pioneer, blogged every day about it. The experience quickly became cathartic — and about more than just food. A typical Powell post exhorted, "Julia Child wants you — that's right, you, the one living in the tract house in sprawling suburbia with a dead-end secretarial job and nothing but a Stop & Shop for miles around — to know how to make good pastry, see *Bon Appétite* on 17

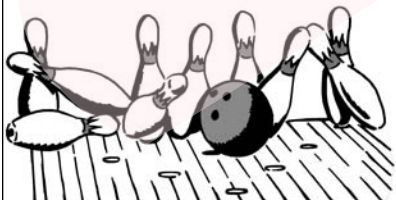
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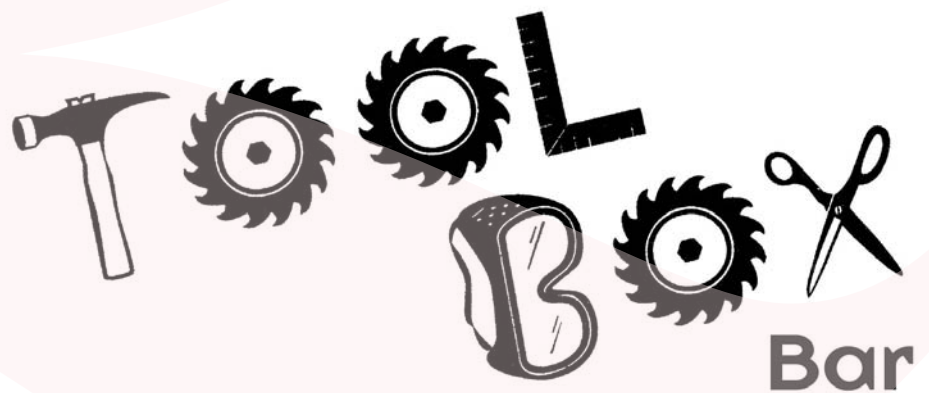
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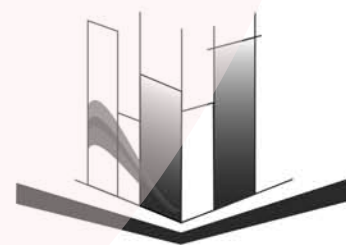
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# Bon appétite everyone

from page 15

and also how to make those canned green beans taste all right."

Powell's blog caught the attention of producer Eric Steel (best known for the controversial documentary "The Bridge," which examines why San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge is such a popular suicide site) and before her book "Julie and Julia," a chick-lit-style retelling of her cooking and blogging experiment, was published, Steel had already optioned it for a film.

At the same time producer Amy Robinson ("Twelve and Holding," "The Great New Wonderful") was developing a film adaptation of "My Life in France" about Julia and Paul Child and their life and love in post-war Paris. The two settled in Paris after the war as Paul worked in the American foreign service and, with her first exposure to French cuisine, Child's life changed. Her ardor for fresh, flavorful food made with joy, instead of the cold, processed "food" frequently used then in the U.S., started her on a path that led to her becoming the first American woman to attend the Cordon Bleu cooking school, co-author of a world-famous cookbook, and the beloved host of a television program that would help revolutionize American cuisine — and 50 years later, the inspiration that transformed Julie Powell's life. When Steel and Robinson met to discuss their related projects, the idea of combining them into one seemed not only obvious but downright brilliant.

The project attracted the interest of

writer/director Ephron, with her witty sensibility and interest in food as it relates to

life, and producer Laurence Mark and executive producer Scott Rudin came on board to shepherd the project.

Ephron, for one, found the concept irresistible. "As soon as I heard the idea, I thought, 'Oh, I have to do that,'" she says. "In 1962 or so, when I first moved to New York, everybody was buying a copy of 'Mastering the Art of French Cooking' — it was a way of saying you were intelligent and therefore you were going to cook in a way that a smart person was going to cook. So Julia Child became an imaginary friend for me."

Soon after Ephron became attached to the project she ran into the prodigiously talented Streep at a Shakespeare in the Park production in New York City. When the actress heard what Ephron's latest project was, she immediately went into a dead-on impersonation of Child's signature high-pitched voice. From the moment on Ephron knew who her leading lady would be.

"Julia Child is so vivid in everybody's mind," says Streep. "You can just call up her size, her shape, her voice, her laugh, her way of breathing. It's so familiar to us. In a way, it sort of meant my work was half done. I didn't have to make anything up — there she was."

For many of us who may have known Child best through Dan Ackroyd's absurd "Saturday Night Live" impersonation, it's easy to forget what a strong, inspiring role model she was when she first appeared on television in the early '60s on "The French Chef."

"She was a television personality in a pre-television age," Streep observes. "People responded to her because she was a real person and they needed a real person on television."

Amy Adams, in portraying Julie Powell, faces the dual challenge of playing a much lesser known character than Julia Child and inhabiting the screen when the scenery-chewing Streep is absent. But the gifted young actress, who has already deftly handled major roles in "Doubt" and "Enchanted," more than rose to the occasion, finding inspiration in Powell's own insecurities.

"Julie & Julia" is about diving in and not being intimidated by things that seem overwhelming," Adams says.

Portraying the supportive partners of Julie and Julia, Chris Messina as Eric Powell and Stanley Tucci as Paul Child demonstrate the ways in which gender roles have evolved — and not — over the decades. "It's about partnerships and how you can support each other in good times and bad," says Streep.

Messina, who memorably portrayed Lauren Ambrose's last boyfriend during the final season of the acclaimed HBO series "Six Feet Under," shines in the role in part because "he is a brilliant eater," according to co-star Adams. "I don't know how he does it. He eats like a man, yet he doesn't make it look grotesque. It's a talent."

Messina did indeed spend much of the shoot chowing down on his screen part-



Meryl Streep as Julia Child and Stanley Tucci as Paul Child in "Julie & Julia." Photo Credit: Sony Entertainment

ner's French dishes, at one point complaining about the effort. "Nora yelled from the other room, 'Robert De Niro would do it!' — and that got me back in there and focused for another seven lobsters," laughs Messina.

Tucci, who did a memorable turn opposite Streep in 2006's "The Devil Wears Prada" as Miranda Priestly's fashion editor, for his part was in awe of the commitment Streep brought to this role. "It's not an imitation," says Tucci. "She became Julia Child."

And how does the real Julie Powell feel about the transformation of her online and literary efforts into big-screen fare?

"They've made a beautiful movie," she enthuses, "about being brave and creating yourself."

— 'Julie & Julia' opened at theaters Aug. 7. Check local movie listings for times and locations.

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## Coming out off screen and on

**Actor and artist Thom Bierdz returns to 'Young & the Restless'**

**by David Alex Nahmod  
Contributing Writer**

Thom Bierdz is a man of many talents. During the 1980s, when he first played Philip Chancellor III on the top-rated soap opera "The Young & the Restless," he was a teen idol. But, as he recalls in his memoir, "Forgiving Troy," Bierdz had a secret. As millions of teenagers swooned over his stunning good looks, Bierdz struggled to accept his homosexuality. He lived in fear — in those days, coming out in Hollywood meant career suicide.

In 1989, Bierdz left "The Young & the Restless," hoping for a film career. The events that followed proved to be far more dramatic, and traumatic, than any of his soap opera exploits.

As he recounts in "Forgiving Troy," Bierdz had to deal with the murder of his mom at the hands of a mentally-ill brother and his other brother's suicide. But, he's a strong guy. He bounced back, came out, and forged a new, successful career as an artist.

A few weeks ago, the still beautiful Bierdz returned to "The Young & the Restless."

It seems that Philip didn't die in that car accident all those years ago — he staged his death to keep his loved ones from finding out that he was gay. On July 7, 2009, Philip Chancellor III, back in Genoa City, came out to his "widow," Nina.

Nina is played by Tricia Cast, Bierdz' co-star from the 1980s. She also returned to the show and couldn't be happier about the current storyline.

"I'm pleased and proud to be part of such a well written storyline," Cast said in an email to QNotes. "I'm hopeful that it will be helpful to some

people. Perhaps those who have yet to come out will feel freer to do so. And, perhaps, others will be led to a place of love and acceptance."

Bierdz reports that longtime viewers are "shocked" by this new development — Philip was one of the show's "straightest" characters. But, the reaction has been overwhelmingly positive.

"I get hundreds of emails from people in the closet thanking me," he says. "And emails from straight people thanking me for helping to represent the gays in their families. I get kudos from ex-wives of gays and children of gays and mothers of gays."

As daunting as it may seem, Bierdz will continue to work on his art while performing on a daily, network TV show. He travels extensively in order to fill the numerous portrait commissions he gets. He's also become a well known artist in the Hollywood community, having done paintings inspired by the film "Brokeback Mountain," and portraits of the recently departed icons Michael Jackson and Farrah Fawcett.

Bierdz reports that he's currently single, which has worked out well because he's so busy. "But, I'm looking forward to romance," he says.

And will romance find its way into the life of his character? A partnership between Philip and Rafe, the show's

other gay character?

"Man, I hope so! Rafe is very cute," says Bierdz.

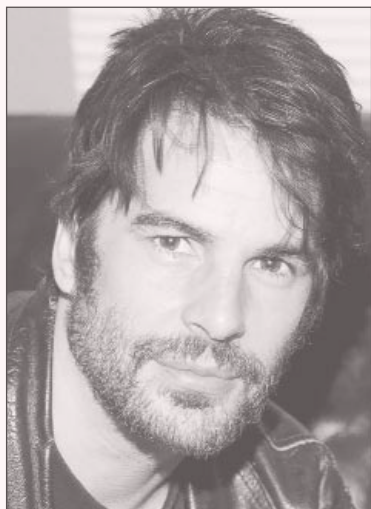
For now, Bierdz is happy to work on his art and develop the Chancellor storyline. He says that his current deal with the show is open ended, and he thanks head writer Maria Arena Bell for her support and open-mindedness.

"I am honored to be a gay man playing a gay man in such a visible role that's seen daily by millions of people," he says. "I think Philip's presence on this show is needed to show how gay people are normal and a part of everyone's lives. I want to make Philip someone people are proud to know."

"The Young & the Restless" airs weekdays on CBS and weeknights on Soap Net.

For more information on Thom Bierdz' art, or to order his book "Forgiving Troy," visit ThomBierdz.com. ■

— David Alex Nahmod lives in San Francisco. Visit him at [DavidsOpenForum.Blogspot.com](http://DavidsOpenForum.Blogspot.com).



**Thom Bierdz returns to his teenage years' role as Philip on CBS' "The Young & the Restless."**

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## Tell Trinity

by Trinity . Contributing Writer

### Defining boundaries and stopping blasphemy

**Hello Trinity,**

Someone I'm dating and really love has tendencies to say the wrong thing at the wrong time. It's not only embarrassing, it shows a lack of character in both of us. How do I teach boundaries to someone who has no clue?

**BoundQueries, Minneapolis, Minn.**

**Hello BoundQueries,**

Boundaries are something we acquire with time, education, wisdom and common sense. And, when it comes to boundaries, I (at least) try these four golden rules: 1) keep unkind words short; 2) keep kind words sincere; 3) keep your mouth shut around strangers; and, darling lastly, 4) only speak well of the dead. Bett Davis once said, "I only speak good of the dead. Joan Crawford is dead. Good!"

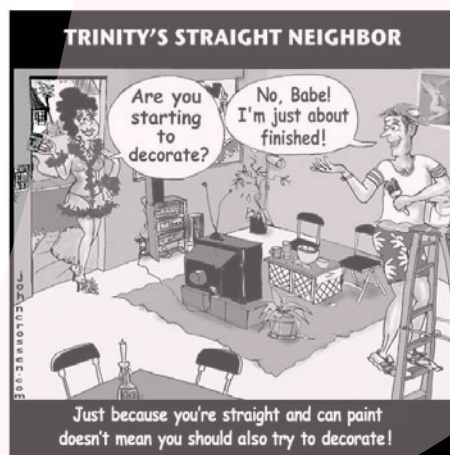
**Hey Trinity,**

Why are straight men so straight? Don't you think if straight men hung around gay men they would learn a thing or two about politeness, culture and even decorating?

**Straight Thoughts, New Orleans, La.**

**Hey Straight Thoughts,**

If straight men hung around gay men they would definitely learn a lot about many things and visa versa. But as far as teaching straight men art and/or decorating, sweetie, I don't know if you can teach a lion the esoteric importance of lighting! (My cartoon shows this for sure.)



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**Dearest Trinity,**

I have no trouble with dating, but I think waiting for someone special is the right way to meet someone. Forced dating seems so fake. Am I alone in this thought?

**Date-O-Wait, Seattle, Wash.**

**Dearest Date-O-Wait,**

It has been said that if you work hard for what you want, you should get what you wish ...eventually, hopefully. Well anyway, the key word is work! When it comes to dating, meeting someone or even life itself you really are better off working towards your dreams and desires rather than sitting and hoping and just growing old. Sweetie, it's good to be patient, but try acting like a busy patient!

**Hello Trinity,**

How do you know when you have a healthy sex life versus when you're overly promiscuous?

**PromisCurious, Nashville, Tenn.**

**Hello PromisCurious,**

That question not only deserves one answer but at least 10:

### Trinity's Sleazy Tips For Knowing If You're A PIG (Promiscuous Indiscriminate Gorilla)

1. When you have multiple sex partners, multiple times a week and you don't get paid for it, PIG!
2. So, you have syphilis again, no problem. But, when you have sex while taking penicillin, PIG!
3. When your glands are swollen from over-use and you have no jewelry to show for it, PIG!
4. Staying out late, cruising for whatever and sleeping with whomever does not make you a total PIG unless you're an insatiable PIG!
5. If you try to keep a lover and can't, but still need sex and sleep around to fulfill your needs, then you're a practical PIG!
6. PIGs are not bad, wrong or dirty for being PIGs unless, of course, you boast, are unkind or never grow out of being a PIG!
7. You're not a PIG for having sex 20 different times a year, but when it all occurs in the same month then you're, *PIG Of The Month!*
8. So, you keep in contact with and genuinely love your many sexual partners, still a PIG!
9. Sex a few times a week is normal, every other day, extremely healthy. But, if you're not trying to stick with the same mate, PIG!
10. Lastly, when you can't remember who, where, why or how many, then you're not only a PIG but you have a big PIG problem! ♦

— With a Masters of Divinity, Reverend Trinity was host of "Spiritually Speaking," a weekly radio drama, and now performs globally.

**info:** [www.telltrinity.com](http://www.telltrinity.com) . [Trinity@telltrinity.com](mailto:Trinity@telltrinity.com)

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## Out in the Stars

by Charlene Lichtenstein . Contributing Writer

August 8-21

Mercury enters Virgo and opposes shocking Uranus. Prepare for all thoughts and opinions to propel us into unrestricted airspace. How far can you fly on a dream? Just be sure to pack a parachute (and a pillow) for that long trip back to earth.

**LEO (07.24-08.23)** Money issues bubble to the surface with some surprising results. Will you decide to make a big investment in some cockamamie scheme or will you plant your fortune in a safe, but low, reward enterprise? Proud Lions think that they have money to burn but could find ashes in their wallets when all the bills are due. Ask for advice...and then wait.

**VIRGO (08.24-09.23)** Avoid any major discussions with partners at this time. Queer Virgins are apt to say something shocking that could have longterm ramifications. However, if you are seeking a connection with a certain someone, this is the time to try a new bait line. Not only do you stir up the social soup, you appear to be very clever and cutting. I say "appear"...ahem.

**LIBRA (09.24-10.23)** Spill a personal secret or two among carefully chosen co-workers and see what happens. You might find that it could change your perspective on your job and clear up a cloud on your corporate ascent. Proud Libras strive for balance and harmony. Can this be achieved when you feel overly protective of certain ideas? Let it all hang out...but watch for drafts.

**SCORPIO (10.24-11.22)** Friends hatch a scheme that will prove to be fun. Go with the flow and see how the group think can carry you to new places, new people and new things. Discover hidden tal-

ents and take a calculated risk with a certain project or person. Who knows

what can happen? You might find that there is an artist inside of you waiting to come out. So, come out already!

**SAGITTARIUS (11.23-12.22)** Get your mind focused on your professional goals. Not only will you be able to attain anything you can imagine, you can also solidify your base and become more confident in general. Gay Archers are ready to take charge and have great ideas with which to build an empire. Will you be a benevolent dictator when you reach the top or a petty corrupt official. Let's guess.

**CAPRICORN (12.23-01.20)** Pink Caps should consider traveling or planning a trip while the time is ripe. Not only are they full of ways and means about what to do and where to go, they also have a good idea of who should join them. Expect more than a few happy surprises along the way. Don't sit at home and wait for the doorbell to ring. Get out there and ring a few bells yourself. Ringading.

**AQUARIUS (01.21-02.19)** How sexy do you feel? It is all in your mind, Aqueerius! Of course, that is not a bad thing. Sometimes just thinking it is all that we need to muster up the courage to do it. So it will be for you. Find the time and the means to connect on a meaningful level with you-know-who. Generate some heat and see what is cooking. Do I smell someone burning?

**PISCES (02.20-03.20)** Relationships are in for a few surprises. How much independence do you need Guppie? There are issues that need to be addressed and, in talking about them, you create a new level of understanding. Think of ways to readjust things so that you can feel uncompromised and liberated and yet still connected and

close. It is not impossible to a willing heart.

**ARIES (03.21-04.20)** Proud Rams hate intrigue and dishonesty. That is why all closets are opened and all lurid shenanigans are bared now. Good thing too! No sooner do you release your gremlins than you liberate yourself to a healthier outlook and a more productive attitude. What are you waiting for? Grab a granola bar and get back to work on life's ever-speeding treadmill. Oh goody.

**TAURUS (04.21-5.21)** Thinking creatively can take you far. But, it could take you too far and off course if you are unable to rein it in. Queer Bulls tempt fate, taking a small, insignificant item and blasting it into a wild, crazy out of control orbit. Friends are impressed and a little awed. Maybe life will become more interesting? It will certainly become more complicated.

**GEMINI (05.22-06.21)** Your home life is a source of activity and excitement. Pink Twins, with an eye to redecorating, renovating or even moving, will charge ahead with projects with some surprising results. Your secret to success is to not take on too much homework at once. Something is bound to go awry. Take things slowly and one at a time, or, better still, delegate.

**CANCER (06.22-07.23)** Anything that you say — any stray comment — can be blown out of proportion. So, mind your Ps and Qs, pink Crab, and be sure that what mulls in your mind does not necessarily find its way to your lips. It will certainly be uncensored and broadcast globally. Of course, you may be interested in upending the landscape. If so, give it your best shot and then stand back. ▶

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**info:** Visit [www.TheStarryEye.com](http://www.TheStarryEye.com) for e-greetings, horoscopes and Pride jewelry. My book "HerScopes: A Guide To Astrology For Lesbians" from Simon & Schuster is available at bookstores and major booksites.



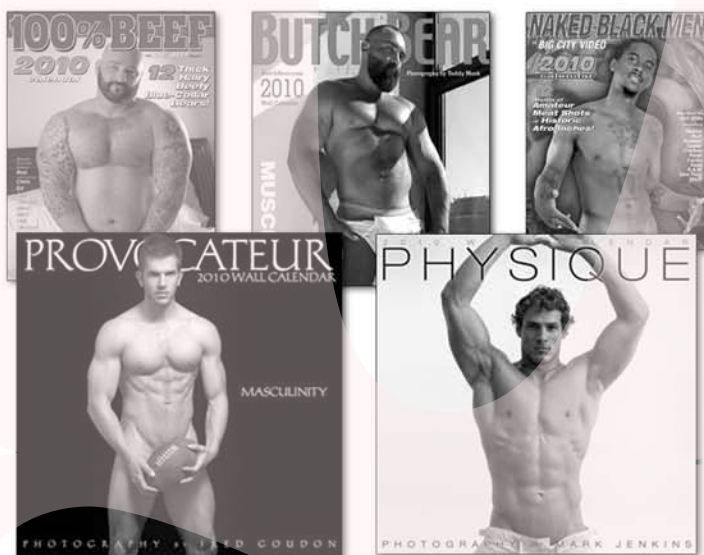
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## Out and About . compiled by Q-Notes staff

### Upcoming Events:

#### Aug. 8-22 • Charlotte 'Altar Boyz'

The Altar Boyz are coming to Charlotte! Full of sharp parody, sinfully spectacular dancing, and irreverent humor, this spoof about a heavenly guy-group is adored by audiences and critics alike. Queen City Theatre Company, Duke Energy Theatre, 345 N. College St. Various times. Various prices. [www.queencitytheatre.com](http://www.queencitytheatre.com).

#### Aug. 8-30 • Raleigh 'R & J'

Four Students. An Empty Classroom. One Hell of a Story! Four young prep school students, tired of going through the usual drill of conjugating Latin and other tedious school routines, decide to vary their very governed lives. After school, one breaks out a copy of William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and they all take turns reading the play aloud. Enmeshed in the emotion so much so that they break school rules in order to continue their readings. Raleigh Ensemble Players, REP Upstairs, 213 Fayetteville St. Free. Reservations suggested. [www.realtheatre.org](http://www.realtheatre.org).

#### Aug. 13 • Charlotte

##### Sex ed saves lives

Join the ACLU of Charlotte for a panel discussion about comprehensive sex education in North Carolina, including an LGBT perspective. The panel will discuss the recently passed *Healthy Youth Act* and how it affects your family. Co-hosted by ACLU, NOW, NARAL, Time Out Youth and Planned Parenthood. Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte, 234 N. Sharon Amity Rd. 6:30 p.m. Free. [aclucharlotte@hotmail.com](mailto:aclucharlotte@hotmail.com).

#### Aug. 13 • Durham

##### A Sordid Comedy Affair

Kick-off the N.C. Gay and Lesbian Film Festival with a stand-up comedy all-star spectacular featuring Carolina Rhea, Rue McClanahan and "Sordid Lives" creator Del Shores. Carolina Theatre, 309 W. Morgan St. 8 p.m. Various prices. [www.carolinatheatre.org/ngclff](http://www.carolinatheatre.org/ngclff).

#### Aug. 13-16 • Raleigh 'Metamorphoses'

Directed by Mary Zimmerman, the Raleigh Ensemble Players present David R. Slavitt's translation of "The Metamorphosis of Ovid." NWU Press: "Zimmerman's stunning play juxtaposes the ancient and the contemporary in both language and image, offering a compassionate view of the human condition and giving witness to the transformative power of love, redemption and forgiveness." Cardinal Gibbons Performing Arts Center, 1401 Edwards Mill Rd. Various times. \$10. [www.realtheatre.org](http://www.realtheatre.org).

#### Aug. 15 • Carrboro

##### Amy Ray

Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls performs live. Cat's Cradle, 300 E. Main St. \$8 advance/\$10 day of show. [www.catscradle.com](http://www.catscradle.com).

#### Aug. 20 • Greensboro

##### Pool party and cookout

The Triad Business and Professional Guild will hold its annual pool party and cookout social. 105 Willoughby Blvd. 6 p.m. \$15, members and non-members with pre-registration/\$20, late registration/\$5, children 10 and under. 336-299-9098. [www.triadguild.com](http://www.triadguild.com).

#### Aug. 25 • Durham Chorus potluck

Common Woman Chorus kicks off their new season with a potluck dinner. Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4097 Garrett Rd. 7 p.m. Free. [www.commonwomanchorus.net](http://www.commonwomanchorus.net).

#### Aug. 26 • Durham Welcome Reception

Duke University's Center for LGBT Life hosts a welcome reception for returning and new students, faculty and staff. 2 West Union Building. 4 p.m.-6 p.m. [lgbt.studentaffairs.duke.edu](http://lgbt.studentaffairs.duke.edu).

#### Aug. 28 • Chapel Hill Welcome Back Gathering

The UNC-Chapel Hill LGBTQ Office hosts a welcome back gathering on the campus' Upper Quad, between Ruffin and Grimes Halls. Make new friends and eat great food, getting connected to the LGBT communities at UNC. 4 p.m.-6 p.m. [lgbtq.unc.edu](http://lgbtq.unc.edu).

#### Aug. 29 • Durham Runway: Revolution

AwakeningCHANGE presents this special presentation of change pioneers throughout history with dance, music, poetic spoken word and creative art. Steel Blue, 1426-A S. Miami Blvd. \$7-\$10. [www.awakeningchange.org](http://www.awakeningchange.org).

#### Aug. 29 • Greenville, N.C. Community meeting

A meeting will be held to discuss Eastern North Carolina LGBT community needs and affairs, and to explore the creation of a local LGBT community center and Pride festival. Topsy Teapot, 409 S. Evans St. 2 p.m. For more information email [jamestsmith72@gmail.com](mailto:jamestsmith72@gmail.com).

#### Aug. 29 • Clemmons Unity Celebration

The House of Minavanichi holds its first annual Unity Celebration with food, vendors, live entertainment and games at Tanglewood Park. 4061 Clemmons Rd. Noon. 336-587-8789. [www.minavanichi.webs.com](http://www.minavanichi.webs.com). **info:** Announce your community event in Out & About. email: [outandabout@q-notes.com](mailto:outandabout@q-notes.com).

## Don't Miss This

#### Aug. 13-16 • Durham Film Fest

Join queer film festival lovers from across the Carolinas and the nation as they descend on the Carolina Theatre for three full days of brilliant, star-worthy LGBT films at the North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The Carolina Theatre, 3009 Morgan St. 919-560-3030. [www.carolinatheatre.org/ngclff](http://www.carolinatheatre.org/ngclff).



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starring

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Kick off the 14th annual North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Film Festival with the hilarious and unpredictable cast of LOGO's smash hit, *Sordid Lives!* A stand-up comedy all-star spectacular featuring the sassy and spunky **Caroline Rhea**, the salacious Golden Girl, **Rue McClanahan** and the warped mind behind the "Sordid" franchise, **Del Shores!**

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