

news notes

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Carolinas

"Married" lesbians charged

SUMMERVILLE, SC—Two Summerville women who married each other in the spring of 1998 now face charges for breaking state law. The SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged Marsha Vicky Haas, 27, and Susan M. Gilman, 29, with same-sex marriage. Haas was also charged with fraudulent change of a name on a driver's license, SLED Lt. Mike Brown said. Several months ago, state probation officials noticed that Gilman, a parolee who had transferred from another state, had identified herself as a man on her driver's license application. SLED's Vehicle and License Crime Unit investigated and discovered the marriage, Brown said. Charleston attorney John Chalmers said that he married the couple in March in his office after they showed him a notarized marriage license from Charleston County. The license lists the groom as Scott Gilman Austin and the bride as Marsha Vicky Haas, records show. State law prohibits same-sex marriages and Chalmers said he had no idea he was marrying two women. Gilman was convicted in September of two counts of having false identification. Further investigation led SLED to charge Haas with one count.

OUT's Out 100

NEW YORK, NY—Charlotte's Andrew Reyes and Raleigh's Rev. Jimmy Creech have been selected to "Out 100"—OUT magazine's annual look at some of the people who defined the past year. Reyes was selected by *Hispanic* magazine as one of the nation's 100 top Latino entrepreneurs and the Charlotte accounting exec ran for county commission, but pulled out of the race before the general election due to an illness in his family. Creech is a United Methodist Church minister who performed a covenant ceremony for two lesbians at his church in Omaha, NE for which he was suspended and stood trial for violation of church principles.

Although acquitted, the events caused the Methodist Judicial Council to gather last August and make a binding declaration that "ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches."

Churches protest

CHARLOTTE, NC—An Episcopal church in Charlotte and two others in Raleigh are cutting their giving to the diocese to protest the denomination's position on homosexuality. Leaders of the three parishes say the denomination has abandoned historic Christian tenets by moving toward full inclusion of gays and lesbians. St. Margaret's in Charlotte and St. Timothy's and Church of the Holy Cross in Raleigh are withholding 80 percent of the dues the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina says they owe next year. The Episcopal Church passed a resolution apologizing to gays and lesbians for past treatment, some dioceses extend health insurance to partners of gay employees and several bishops bless gay unions.

National

Huffington comes out

WASHINGTON, DC—Michael Huffington, 51, the man who spent \$28 million on a failed Senate candidacy in California, says now that he's glad he lost because it has allowed him to reveal a long-held personal secret: he's gay. Huffington came out in an article by David Brock in the January issue of *Esquire*. Huffington was divorced from columnist and socialite Arianna Huffington in 1997. The article says he told his fiancée of his past homosexual activity before they were married. There is no small irony in the decision by the former Republican congressman, a staunch conservative, to tell his story to Brock. A fellow conservative, Brock struggled with the decision to disclose his own homosexuality in a 1994 interview with the *Washington Post*. Huffington was one of the few Republicans to support an end to the ban on gays in the military, but said at the time that he was not voting to "promote the gay lifestyle." He also voted for an amendment blocking the District of Columbia from spending money on a domes-

tic partners program. He received relatively low marks from the Human Rights Campaign.

Gay group settles suit

LANSING, MI—State Rep. Deborah Whyman will pay an undisclosed amount to settle a lawsuit filed against her by the Detroit-based Triangle Foundation. The group filed the defamation suit last year, objecting to literature from Whyman's 1996 campaign that said the Triangle Foundation supports pedophiles. Whyman's attorney, Rob Huth, stressed that Whyman would not apologize as part of the settlement. Whyman also will not pay the Triangle Foundation directly, but will make a contribution to a separate charity in the name of the Triangle Foundation, said Rudy Serra, the foundation's attorney. The amount Whyman will pay is not being disclosed.

Lesbian lied about attack

ST. CLOUD, MN—A lesbian student at St. Cloud State University who said she was attacked and beaten because of her sexual orientation now admits it never happened. Police said the 22-year-old Jennifer Prissel lied in October when she reported being attacked by two men in a university parking lot. Police Chief Dennis O'Keefe said that the woman's allegations didn't add up, that a medical report said her injuries were self-inflicted and that she admitted under questioning that she had lied. O'Keefe said that no charges will be filed against her. She later apologized in a letter to the campus newspaper.

Judge halts Boston law

BOSTON, MA—A Massachusetts judge ordered an end to a program providing health benefits to domestic partners of people who work for the city of Boston, including gay couples, but the coverage will not stop immediately. Suffolk County Superior Court Judge Charles Grabau issued a preliminary injunction to overturn the city order that activated the program, but referred the matter for appeals court consideration. Health insurance benefits for domestic partners became available in November. Grabau ruled that the city order conflicted with state law which does not allow in-

Man gets life

OPELOUSAS, LA—James Willard Austin, 21, originally from Wetumpka, AL was ordered to serve two life sentences plus 30 years for armed robbery for his role in the murder of Michael Miller, a gay man kidnapped at gunpoint from a rest area in May 1996.

Hate crime mystery

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Police say they will investigate as a hate crime a suspected anti-gay assault on a man who is either unable or unwilling to identify himself. The man was found stumbling along the street by hospital security near St. Mary's Medical Center. Doctors treated him for small cuts on his scalp and slight swelling on his face, and then discovered an anti-gay epithet on his chest. "You should all die. You don't deserve to live...queers," it said. "All I can tell you is he's just not talking to anybody. They don't know whether he is refusing to or can't," said hospital spokeswoman Marilyn Diamond. The man initially said he recalled nothing and did not want police involved. The hospital called officers anyway. The man carried no identification. Drug and alcohol tests indicated the man was sober.

Left out

WASHINGTON, DC—Despite the efforts of gay and lesbian medical professionals, the Dept. of Health and Human Services' (HHS) 10-year agenda blatantly ignores the needs of sexual minorities. "Healthy People 2010" is HHS's "prevention agenda of the nation" for the decade 2000-2010, but in its current draft form, it pays little attention to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered people, even in its discussion of AIDS. National organizations, including the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), have been seeking to correct the omissions. One of the agenda's two broad goals is to "eliminate health disparities" and it specifies as target, underserved groups racial and ethnic minorities, women, people with low incomes, people with disabilities, and children.

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Q: Why is everybody goin to Scorps on Wednesday nights?

(Please Choose One)

- A: (A) The Fabulous Cabaret Shows
- (B) The \$2- Cover Charge
- (C) The \$1 Liquor & Beer Specials
- (D) D.J. Lin "The Spin" Benfield's Music
- (E) All Those Name Brands, i.e. ... Tina Terrell, Tracy Morgan, Kerri Nichols, Boom Boom LaTour & on & on & on
- (F) All The Above

(For Correct Answer, Turn Page Upside Down)



Wed
 Jan 27
 1998's Most Talented
 Talent Show Finals
 Hosted by
 Tiffany Storm

OFTEN IMITATED
 NEVER DUPLICATED
 MISS T'S CABARET
 EVERY WEDNESDAY
 D.J. LIN BENFIELD



2301 Freedom Drive
 Charlotte, N. C.
 (704) 373-9124

Wed
 Jan 13
 Those Wicked Roaring 20s
 Tina Terrell
 Boom Boom
 Brandy Alexander
 Kerri Nichols

Wed
 Jan 20
 Shakey Flat Blues
 Ever Had 'Em?
 with Tracy Morgan
 Kerri Nichols
 Boom Boom & Tina

Wednesdays

Go Ahead! Get Completely Stupid! Relax! Dance! Chill!

ANSWER: A,B,C,D,E & F OF COURSE!