

# Q Notes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper

## Election Pull Out Section

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See pages 13-16 for endorsements and commentary

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## SC Gay and Lesbian Pride events rescheduled for December

by Scott Rickert  
Special to Q-Notes

FLORENCE, SC — The South Carolina Gay & Lesbian Pride Movement (SCGLPM) has announced that SC Pride 2000 will be held December 1 - 2 in Florence. The events were originally slated for the weekend of October 21, but had to be postponed because of time considerations and legal issues surrounding the chosen venue.

The weekend will kick off with a Black Tie Dinner on December 1, to be held at the Ramada Inn. Cost is \$100 per person or \$150 per couple. Formal attire is required and tickets will be sold on a first come basis. Seating is limited to 100 people.

Then on December 2, a Statewide Networking Conference will provide an excellent opportunity for exchanging of ideas, meeting the Board of SCGLPM, training and networking with other organizations in the Palmetto State. Pride will also include a fundraiser for Camp

for Kids and the Saturday night Miss Pride Pageant.

The host hotel will be the Ramada Inn on Highway 52 in Florence, which is offering rooms for the event at \$49.00 per night.

To encourage greater participation, SCGLPM has announced the creation of Regional Chapters. SCGLPM is divided into the following Regions for more localized organization and representation. Regions are: Central Region, Piedmont Region, Pee Dee Region and the Coastal Region. The first Region to actually form a Chapter is the Pee Dee Region. A group of very active people have formed a Chapter and are already planning events and holding regularly monthly meetings. The Pee Dee Chapter meets the first Sunday of Every Month at various locations.

If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, or being a vendor for the event, email [info@scglpm.org](mailto:info@scglpm.org). To keep current on the latest SC Pride News, visit [www.scglpm.org](http://www.scglpm.org). ▽

## Outed TG officer is out of a job in Cumberland County

by Clay Ollis  
Q-Notes Staff

FAYETTEVILLE, NC — Cumberland County Sheriff's Deputy Richard K. Sylvestri was forced to resign after years of dedicated service when the department learned Sylvestri spends off hours living as a woman.

According to Sylvestri, who is known in the transgender community as Kathy Louise, Cumberland County Sheriff Earl Butler offered the deputy the choice of resigning or facing a full internal affairs investigation. After initially refusing to resign, Sylvestri later submitted the resignation in order to protect family, friends and associates from a "witch hunt."

Captain Van Parks notified Sylvestri of the departmental investigation. According to the memo, violations included "making public your transgender lifestyle, how that admitted lifestyle affects your ability to perform your duties as a Deputy Sheriff and to interact with your co-workers, and the public perception of any apparent endorsement by the Sheriff's Office of such a lifestyle." The memo also charges that the deputy "participated in occasions where one or more children were involved in or exposed to this transgender lifestyle and ... failed to take appropriate action as a Deputy Sheriff." Sylvestri was also cited for violating an order not to wear earring studs to work.

Sylvestri says ones personal life shouldn't concern the Sheriff's Department. "I didn't bring it to work." Sylvestri told the *Fayetteville*

*Observer*. "I've gotten a lot of support from a lot of officers. I was good at what I did. I did my job. The accusation was that I was not doing my job, and that's baloney. I want my job back." Deputy Sylvestri worked as a training officer.

Sylvestri believes someone told the Sheriff's office that Richard could be found at the Cross Creek Girls Club, a web site providing outreach and support to local transgender folk.

Another web site tells the personal story of Richard/Kathy Louise and features photos of Kathy Louise in casual and evening dress as well as pictures of her on a shopping trip to secondhand clothing stores.

Before going to work for the Sheriff's Department, Sylvestri was a paratrooper, retiring from the Army after 20 years. The officer has been in law enforcement for 14 years. Sylvestri was married for 25 years and has two grown sons, who know all about Kathy Louise.

Sylvestri's wife, who learned of Kathy Louise shortly after their marriage, was shocked at first, but later came to help Kathy pick out clothes and do her hair.

Eventually, though, Mrs. Sylvestri grew uncomfortable with Kathy Louise going out in public. The relationship soured and the couple separated. Their divorce became final just days before the officer's termination.

Since living alone, Kathy Louise comes out more often, including most days after work. "On weekends, when I meet with friends, I go

See *TRANSGENDER* on page 25



Kathy Louise

**I WANT YOU**

**Every gay vote is crucial!**  
**Do your part on November 7.**

## Crime rate drops, but FBI report shows increase in GLBT hate crimes

by David M. Smith  
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC — New FBI statistics show an increase in reported hate crimes based on sexual orientation. On October 15, the FBI released the Uniform Crime Reports for 1999, the latest year for which statistics are available.

As overall serious crime continued to decrease for the eighth consecutive year, hate crimes based on sexual orientation have continued to rise and increased 4.5 percent from 1998 to 1999.

Reported hate crime incidents based on sexual orientation have more than tripled since the FBI began collecting statistics in 1991; comprising 16.7 percent of all hate crimes for 1999 at 1317. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation continue to make up the third highest category after race and religion, which make up 54.5 and 17.9 percent, respectively of the total, 7876.

It is widely believed that hate crimes based on sexual orientation are generally under-reported, and evidence indicates that FBI data does not paint the whole picture. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a private organization that tracks bias incidents against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, reported 1965 incidents in 1999 in only 25 cities/jurisdictions across the

country while the FBI collected statistics from 12,122 reporting agencies for the year.

These disturbing statistics come only days after Republican Presidential Candidate George W. Bush misinformed debate viewers about his stance on hate crimes legislation, saying that Texas had an effective hate crimes law. Although Texas has had a weak penalty enhancement statute since 1993, it does not cover sexual orientation. Legislation was introduced in 1998 that would strengthen the existing state law, while also adding sexual orientation. Bush opposed this bill because it protected gay and lesbian Texans, even after the family of African-American hate crimes victim James Byrd Jr., of Jasper Texas, asked him to support it. Bush said he supported a federal hate crimes bill put forth by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. But this version does not include sexual orientation.

"These unprecedented numbers indicate that somewhere in America every day at least three gay and lesbian Americans are being targeted for a crime just because they are gay," said Human Rights Campaign Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "People continue to die and American families continue to be torn apart while Bush and the GOP leadership pretend these types of crime do not exist."

While the statistics are alarming, the need for better federal hate crimes legislation is made

See *FBI* on page 10

## The latest Q-Poll results

Do you know anyone who has been through an "ex-gay" program?

Yes, successfully - 0%    Yes, unsuccessfully - 6%    I don't know of anyone - 96%

To participate in our new Q-Poll, access [www.q-notes.com](http://www.q-notes.com)