

# Q Notes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper



*Oh, Daddy!*  
A scene from a gay parenting video? Hardly! See our... *Queer As Folk* preview on page 17.

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## Lesbian wins seat on conservative New Hanover Commission

WILMINGTON, NC — In the crowded New Hanover County Courthouse, Julia Boseman and her mother made their way into a pew on November 7, election day, waiting anxiously as results from precincts all over the county kept telling her that out of the three seats up for grabs, she was fifth. "I definitely know how it feels to lose, because when I was watching [the results come in], I was losing 44 out of 48 [precincts]," Julia says.

But as the final precincts began to report, a different story began to unfold. With each new precinct reporting, Julia climbed higher and higher, until the results of the final precinct made it clear that Julia Boseman won a seat — and actually finished second out of the three. When the results came in, Julia said, "It was unbelievable, here I was with Melissa [her partner] and my mother, the women in my life, and we won! They have seen me through so much, and we were together to share in this victory!" Mrs. Boseman, when asked how she felt prior to walking to the courthouse, said, "I am proud — very proud. Win, lose, or draw."

Later though, after the dust settled and the chants from supporters in Boseman tee-shirts

calmed, there came the news that 1600 provisional votes had yet to be counted. With only a few hundred votes separating the candidates, those votes could significantly alter the election's outcome. So, with faith and tenacity in hand, the wait was on.

When the provisional votes were counted on Friday, November 10 at the board of elections, the openly lesbian candidate not only held her place on the board of commissioners, she actually placed first! "It is a huge victory for gay and lesbian people but especially for New Hanover County. Our county has been run by the 'good old boys' for a long time, and the voters sent a clear message by only re-electing one incumbent," she said.

Julia Boseman has made history. She is the first openly gay candidate to hold a county com-



Democratic commissioner-elect Julia Boseman (L) with her partner Melissa.

See LESBIAN on page 9

## GLBT candidates win state races

by Sloan Wiesen  
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC — Openly gay and lesbian candidates scored several historic successes at the polls on November 7, especially at the state legislative level — where about three-quarters of out GLBT candidates have prevailed.

Victories in Georgia, Michigan and California are particularly noteworthy. With Karla Drenner's victory in Georgia, for example, the Deep South is about to see its first openly gay or lesbian state lawmaker.

"Despite continuing instances of gay-baiting, this year has brought some historic victories for openly gay and lesbian candidates for state legislatures — and state legislatures are increasingly key to securing equal rights for all Americans regardless of sexual orientation," said Brian K. Bond, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which works to elect qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates as a means of ending discrimination.

"We've seen a doubling of our community's open representation in the California state Legislature. We've seen the election of the first open state lawmakers in the Deep South as well as in Michigan. The triumphs in Michigan and Georgia are especially important because these states are among the 39 that do not yet protect their citizens from discrimination based on sexual orientation," he added.

Of the 39 candidates from 17 states who were endorsed by Bond's group, 23 office seekers from 13 states prevailed and two will enter run-off elections. Those candidates included Republicans, Democrats and independents seeking office at the local, state and national level.

Bond underscored the overwhelming importance of state legislative victories and pointed to the September 15 *Washington Blade* analysis which found that four of the five states that

passed pro-equal rights laws this year had openly gay, lesbian or bisexual state legislators who were key to those successes. But three of the four states that passed anti-gay laws this year had no openly gay, lesbian or bisexual state legislators to speak up for equality.

"Clearly, open representation at the state level helps to overcome discrimination and delivers positive results for gay and straight Americans alike," said Bond. "So our state legislative victories are vital. Also noteworthy in this election is that — as with the agonizingly close presidential campaign — many of our races have been decided by narrow margins. The year 2000 elections remind us that every vote truly does count, and that we each have an opportunity and a responsibility to make our votes count and our voices heard." Of 20 state legislative races in 13 states, 15 GLBT or allied candidates won, two lost, and three remain unclear at this writing.

At the federal level, gay and lesbian incumbent Reps. Tammy Baldwin, (D-WI), and Jim Kolbe, (R-AZ), were both re-elected, while House challenger Gerrie Schipske came within one percent of victory and has refrained from conceding the race, pending the tallying of 7,000 as yet uncounted ballots, and U.S. Senate hopeful Ed Flanagan of Vermont failed to unseat Republican James Jeffords in a race where both candidates had been endorsed by other GLBT activist groups. Flanagan had made history in his primary by becoming the first openly gay U.S. Senate nominee of a major political party.

There were also 15 GLBT or allied candidates who ran at the local or county level in five states who were endorsed by the Victory Fund. Of those races, six won their seats and two will enter run-off races. However, five lost their bids and two elections remained undecided at this writing. ▼

## The Tradesmen kick into high gear

by Jim Grigg  
Special to Q-Notes

CHARLOTTE — The Tradesmen, one of the South's oldest leather/leather clubs, have made a significant comeback in the last few years. The ravages of the AIDS epidemic suffered by the gay community hit The Tradesmen hard. On the verge of disbanding in the late 90s, three dedicated members decided it was time to dig in and reclaim The Tradesmen's former glory.

Through hard work and diligence, The Tradesmen, who hail from Charlotte, have re-emerged as a premier levi/leather club in the Southeast with 21 full local members as well as over 30 associate members across the country.

This past May, The Tradesmen resurrected their annual Club Run, Trademark, at the Sheraton Airport Plaza. The run had been held on their anniversary, the first weekend of May. Trademark XIV was their first run in several years and proved to be a fantastic success. Approximately 100 leather men and women from Texas to Vermont came by car, motorcycle and plane for a memorable weekend of fun, games and leather camaraderie.

As part of the Trademark XIV festivities, the club presented a plaque to curator, Chris Zimmerman, of the Leather Archives and Museum. The museum depicts the club's history



The Tradesmen, Charlotte's levi/leather club, in their brand new uniforms.

and ties to other Southeast clubs. The Conductors of Nashville helped establish the Tradesmen, who in turn fostered The Panthers of Atlanta, Menamore of Wilmington and Greensboro's Tarheel Leather Club.

Thankful for the club's own survival, The Tradesmen are working diligently to raise money for The Sisters of Mercy's "House of Mercy" in Belmont, North Carolina. Selected monthly club night fundraisers (including the December 1 Christmas Party at the Brass Rail) and next May's "Trademark XV" will benefit the nine-bed hospice for people with AIDS.

On November 3, The Tradesmen traveled to Atlanta to celebrate the twelfth anniversary of their brother club, The Panthers. The Panthers were "born" out of a Tradesmen club night friendship in 1988 at Charlotte's Brass Rail. At the anniversary celebration, The Tradesmen hosted The Panthers' formal cocktail party prior to the main banquet. To everyone's surprise, The Tradesmen had chosen this event to pre-

mier their new dress uniforms — the result of months of effort by all the members. The hard work and participation didn't go unnoticed — the club returned to Charlotte with the weekend's first place trophy!

On November 22 See GEAR on page 22

## Citizens organize against proposed ordinance to close clubs at 2:30 am

by David Stout  
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE — A proposed city ordinance intended to give the police greater control over juveniles attending raves is receiving criticism from nightclub owners and patrons because the measure draws no distinctions between the unlicensed all-night dance parties and legally operated nightclubs and because it would impose a curfew on clubs catering to adults as well as those targeting youths.

The ordinance, which has already been presented to the City Council's Public Safety Committee, would close juvenile "dance halls" at 11:00 pm during the week and midnight on the weekends; adult "dance halls" would be shut down at 2:30 am throughout the week.

Additionally, no one over 17 would be allowed to enter a juvenile "dance hall" and youths would be banned from adult establishments. Currently, some clubs allow under-age patrons in their establishments after 2:00 am, when state law requires that all alcohol sales must end.

According to the proposal, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Vice and Narcotics Bureau would issue permits to all "dance halls" in the city and oversee them.

Nightclub owners argue that this would add a burdensome and unwarranted level of bureaucracy to their industry because they are already regulated by state authorities. And since the

permits would be renewed each year at the sole discretion of the Police Department, they say the chances of personal and political manipulation of the system are great.

While opponents acknowledge that stopping unregulated raves is necessary (a widely circulated flyer against the measure states, "The Charlotte Police have shown concern that these events encourage drug use, predatory sexual crimes and are unsafe for juveniles. We couldn't agree more."), they argue that the ordinance, as currently written, would effectively kill the city's nightlife.

To register public opposition to the measure, the ad hoc group Charlotte Citizens Against Adult Dance Club Curfew has initiated a petition and contact-your-Councilperson campaign.

The petition can be signed at the front desk of local establishments or online at [www.PetitionOnline.com/3758765/petition.html](http://www.PetitionOnline.com/3758765/petition.html). The collected signatures will be delivered to the City Council.

Charlotte Citizens Against Adult Dance Club Curfew say that it is crucial for Council members to hear from their constituents on this matter. Those requiring the name or contact information of their City Council representatives can call 704-336-2241 for details.

The complete text of the proposed measure can be read online at [www.charlotteraveordinance.com](http://www.charlotteraveordinance.com). ▼

### The latest Q-Poll results

Do you believe your vote makes a difference?  
Yes, and I intend to use it — 32%    Yes, but I'm still not voting — 23%    No, so I'm not voting — 7%  
Maybe not, but I'll vote anyway — 18%

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