

Community

Continued from page 4

cere hope of reaching out to the African-American community. She was not well-received by the patrons. She was mocked, stared at, and told by one person that she was not wanted there and that she could not and would not get the support of the black gay community. The establishment's owner was totally supportive...which is great.

I say that to say this: The African-American who said that to my white friend is wrong! We should work as a community to fight injustice and prejudice against one another. Organization in this city who do not reach out to people of color, you are wrong! You are not accurately representing our diverse community. Black people who are in the closet, come out! White people who think that the journey of a white homosexual and a black homosexual are basically similar, get over it! It is not so.

No, Charlotte's gay community is not accurately represented in terms of racial diversity. Columbia's black community is not accurately represented in terms of sexual diversity. That's the way it has been in this nation since its beginning. Somebody has always been the underdog...remember, blacks were the slaves of whites. And although our nation has changed, please do not think it is now a wonderfully diverse place. We are still a bigoted nation. We are still a prejudiced nation. And unfortunately, it is so among black folks, too, and among gay folks. I challenge anyone who reads this article to look into the organizations who are supporting and advocating the community. Look at their boards, look at their leadership. Look for color — not only black, but any color...I don't think you will find a lot of it.

What do these issues have to do with AIDS in Columbia's black community? Everything!

Overall, it is a problem of caring. Who cares? Do we care about the inmates in South Carolina who are being infected while the SC Department of Corrections is standing by silently? Do we care about innocent women and children who are affected by this — women who are infected by husbands and boyfriends who are having sex with other men behind their backs? Do we care that black gay men in Columbia and elsewhere are deprived of safe-sex information and engage in risky sexual behavior because they are afraid to come out? Do we care about the lack of diversity in our own community? What do we care about?

I want to know! ▼

Lambda

Continued from page 1

of AIDS resources, AEGIS.com, from her parents' home in San Juan Capistrano, California.

The US Supreme Court, in its third appearance in a row in the Lambda report card, received a grade of "incomplete" this year, as it ponders a major case involving the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Previous grades have been C and A-.) Lambda staffer Catherine Hanssens, a veteran of ADA litigation before the High Court, said, "In recent years, the Justices have dramatically scaled back federal civil rights protections so that all we're left with are weaker states laws. Will the ADA be the next casualty?"

Others receiving low marks included the scandal-plagued Los Angeles Police Department as well as an advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration. Massachusetts Governor Paul Cellucci rated a D, as did Immune Response Corporation, maker of a potential HIV vaccine.

Lambda awarded A's to the Kaiser Family Foundation, Reps. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Dick Gephardt (D-MO), and Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-NJ). ▼

Take The Latest Q-POLL

What effect do you think the election results will have on the GLBT community?

Things will get better Things will get worse Things will stay the same

Vote at www.q-notes.com

Dive In!

Discover the world under the waves, with a friendly, gay group of both new and experienced divers. Or join us to hike the Alps, raft through the Grand Canyon, kayak in New Zealand and more.

Please call for our free illustrated catalog of active gay vacations.

ALYSON ADVENTURES INC.

Active vacations for gay men, lesbians & friends

1-800-825-9766

www.alysonadventures.com



Joseph G. Jemsek, M.D.

and

J. Wesley Thompson, P.A.-C.

THE JEMSEK CLINIC

OF HUNTERSVILLE, NC

General Internal Medicine Infectious Disease
Complementary & Nutritional Health HIV Care & Research

"Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

Board Certified: Infectious Disease & Internal Medicine

Extended hours for your convenience

16630 Northcross Drive, Suite 102 (I-77, exit 25)

Huntersville, NC 28078

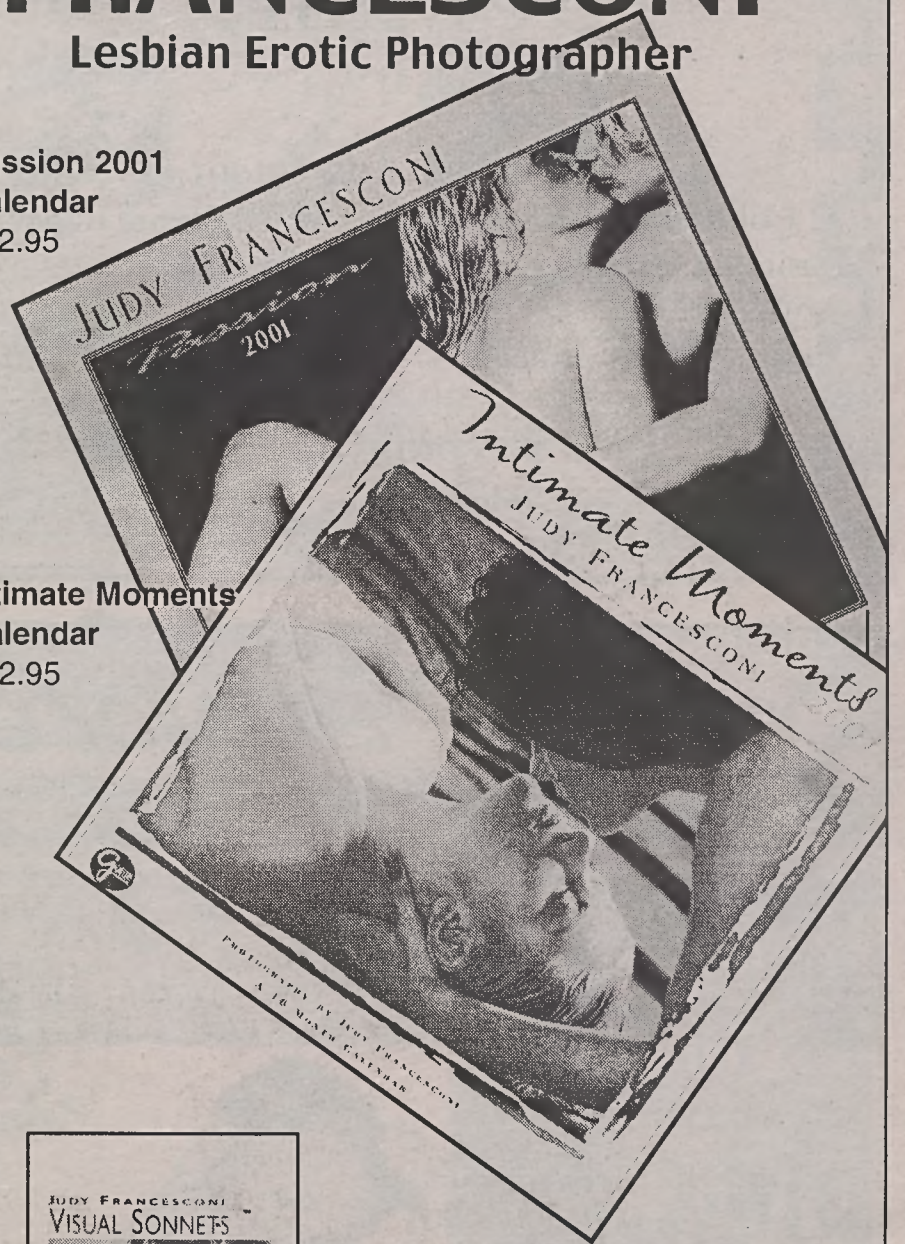
(704) 987-2111

JUDY FRANCESCONI

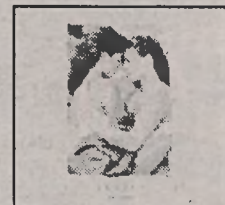
Lesbian Erotic Photographer

Passion 2001
Calendar
\$12.95

Intimate Moments
Calendar
\$12.95



Arriving Soon!
Visual Sonnets
\$59.95



Arriving Soon!
Stolen Moments
\$25.95

POSTERS IN STOCK!



Charlotte:

834 Central Ave. 28204
(704) 377-4067

Greensboro:

1833 Spring Garden St. 27403
(336) 272-7604

Raleigh:

309 W. Martin St. 27601
(919) 856-1429

White Rabbit Books & Things

www.WhiteRabbitBooks.com

The Shop
for all Your Gay & Lesbian ...
Books, Music, Cards,
Magazines, Gifts, Clothes,
Video, DVD, Calendars,
Stickers and Jewelry!