

news notes

Carolinas

Orientation excluded

CHARLESTON — In a turnaround from recent pro-equality steps in the lowcountry, the City of Charleston's Employee Non-Discrimination Policy no longer includes sexual orientation. Caroline Cleveland, a labor lawyer hired by the City Government to review its policies, made the revision to conform with the language of the State of South Carolina's labor laws. The change was one of several she proposed for that reason, and her proposals were approved *en masse* by the city council with little discussion. On learning of the change, President Linda Ketner of Charleston's Alliance for Full Acceptance (AFFA) took her concern to Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley. Ketner is now working with Cleveland, Adelaide Andrews (Chief Legal Counsel for the City) and Dr. Althea Purnell (Head of the Department of Human Resources) to achieve a positive resolution of the situation. A decision is expected by May 3.

National

Bequest benefits ministry

COLUMBUS, OH — King Avenue United Methodist Church received a \$600,000 gift from a longtime member to support the continuation of its ministry of inclusiveness to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous for publicity purposes, stated in a letter that the money is to be used to establish a foundation for ministry with gay and lesbian persons; the money is to be used to help King Avenue Church remain strong and open to all, specifically gay and lesbian persons; and to further reach out to other churches to be open to all, specifically to gay and lesbian persons.

Village People's leatherman dies

NEW YORK, NY - Glenn Hughes, the leatherman of the Village People, died March 4 of lung cancer. He was 51. Hughes was a founding member of the band, created in 1977 to appeal to the masses clamoring for disco music. He and the band celebrated their first hit a year later with the song *YMCA*. Hughes last performed with the Village People, whose membership was fluid, in 1996, but he continued to be involved with the management of the band until his death. According to Mitch Weiss, the band's manager, the cancer was detected at too late a stage for doctors to do much to help Hughes. Hughes was buried in full leather regalia on March 9, with his bandmates serving as pallbearers. According to the band's management, Hughes requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the charity God's Love, We Deliver.

SLDN names new officer

WASHINGTON, DC — Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) has named Sharra E. Greer, a staff attorney with the legal aid and watchdog group, as its new Legal Director. Greer's new position became effective April 1. The group's current Legal Director, Stacey Sobel, announced her departure earlier this month. Sobel will become Executive Director of the Center for Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia. In addition to providing legal aid for men and women in uniform, Greer will also work closely with SLDN's executive director in pushing for substantive policy change and improving the lives of men and women serving under the Pentagon's anti-gay policy.

CT testing same-sex waters

HARTFORD, CT — The judiciary committee of Connecticut's General Assembly held an informational forum on March 16 to take the pulse of the citizenry on the legal status of same-gender couples. At the hearing, both gay marriage and Vermont-style civil unions were discussed as options. Lawmakers listened as witness after witness delivered testimony, evenly divided between those in favor of officially recognizing same-sex relationships and those opposed. Several legislators expressed concern over the political upheaval the issue caused in Vermont. Connecticut's Governor John Rowland said he would wait to see what legislation passed before he took a position.

Domestic violence gets ruling

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Appeals Court has decided its first known case involving domestic violence between gay men. It ruled that a judge may not issue "mutual restraining orders" unless the judge makes written findings that the orders are warranted against both parties. While this case involved gay men, the Appeals Court's decision applies to all cases of domestic violence. The ruling is considered a positive step because mutual orders fail to determine and protect the real victim of the abuse.

SLDN wants UCMJ revised

WASHINGTON, DC — Noting that it "undermines good order, discipline and morale in our armed services," Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) urged a commissioned chaired by Judge Walter T. Cox III to recommend repeal of *Article 125* of the *Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)*, decriminalizing sodomy between consenting adults. The statute prohibits both same gender and opposite gender oral and anal sex, regardless of whether activity is private, between consensual adults or even between husband and wife. The penalties under *Article 125* are severe, punishable by dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and confinement for five years. The Commission, which held public hearings on March 13 in observance of the *UCMJ's* fiftieth anniversary, will make its final recommendations to the White House and Congress in late May or early June.

Web outage hangs up GLAAD

LOS ANGELES — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the nation's GLBT media advocacy group, had announced the April 2 launch of several new internet publications and online information programs to keep up with changing communications in the global, online world. But the launch has been postponed, GLAAD announced. The delay is a result of DSL-provider NorthPoint Communications declaring bankruptcy and discontinuing all DSL service to more than 100,000 companies nationwide. DSL stands for digital subscriber line, the common type of high-speed internet access used by businesses and organizations. This unexpected stoppage affected GLAAD's access to email service, list servers and the Internet for several days and halted work on the launch. While all other work at GLAAD continues, the launch will be on hold until the access problem is resolved.

Don't get mad, get rich

ANN ARBOR, MI — Taking a page from the anti-hate playbook used last year after a hate crime in Roanoke, VA, the gay community of Ann Arbor decided to use the appearance of the hate-spewing Rev. Fred Phelps as a fundraising opportunity. In two days, activists organized a pledge drive, suggesting folks pledge one dollar for every minute Phelps picketed and preached against GLBT people. Within 48 hours, the organization had pledges totalling \$107 per minute, from local contributors and others as far away as New Hampshire, Texas and California. In the Roanoke incident, Phelps failed to show after learning of the plan, but he arrived in Ann Arbor on schedule. How long he demonstrated or the total raised was not known at press time.

International

OUTRight goes under

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA — Award winning South African gay lifestyle publication *OUTRight* has closed its doors. The magazine was originally a community mouthpiece that was instrumental in uniting the community in support of legal and constitutional reforms before the 1994 democratic election. The magazine changed hands a couple of times before being taken on by Of A Feather Publications in 1997 who changed the magazine into a stylish and exciting lifestyle publication. Despite successful sales and widespread praise from the gay community as well as the magazine industry, the magazine hit a financial crisis toward the end of 2000. Former staff are critical of the way the crisis was handled, citing poor management of sales staff, a lack of effective marketing and a too-little too-late reaction from management, as the reasons for the magazine's demise. ▾

Classified Ads

Mail by April 16 and ad will appear in our April 28 issue

Categories

- AIDS Related
 - Accounting/Taxes
 - Announcements
 - Apartments
 - Birthdays
 - Buy/Sell
 - Employment
 - Health
 - Homes/Sell or Rent
 - Internet
 - Legal
 - Love Notes
 - Lost/Found
 - Memorial
 - (First 100 words free)
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 - Pets
 - Prisoners
 - Roommates
 - Services
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classifieds

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Charlotte

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Selwyn Farms

For sale by owner, 3 BR, 2 Bath house with FRPL, double garage, ceramic tile floors. Located on gay-friendly cul-de-sac. \$178,000. (704) 527-3384. 041401

FSBO SELWYN FARMS CONDO

Great location to uptown Charlotte and Freedom Park. 1 Master Bedroom & 1 Master Bath. Move in condition. Call (704) 522-8256 for recorded info. \$97,000. 041401

LAND FOR SALE

Lesbian Land For Sale - 30 min. SW of Chapel Hill, NC. Seven lots ranging from 4 acres to 10. Homesites partially wooded with organic fields. 50-acre wooded Preservation Area with pond and trails. Lot prices starting a \$6500/acre. Call Lynn at (919) 742-5959 or e-mail to LCLiving@aol.com. 051201

MEMORIALS

Sherri Clark, Deja Vu II owner loses battle with cancer

CHARLESTON, SC — Sherri Clark, partner of Rita Taylor and longtime owner of Deja Vu II, died Friday, March 30, after a long bout with cancer. Sherri and Rita have been stalwart supporters of Charleston's gay and lesbian community for many, many years. They have also been good friends to countless people who have chosen to make their homes in Charleston. Sherri's sweet smile and compassionate heart will be missed.

can be reached by email at rita@dejavuii.com.

PRISONERS

G.W.M., 26, 5'9", 150 lbs., blon/bro, ISO older G.W.M. for honest LTR. Released in 2002 & will relocate. Harland Hanshaw #117015, E.K.C.C., 200 Road to Justice, West Liberty, KY 41472. 041401

G.W.M., 28, 5'10", 170 lbs., blonde, brown, clean-cut, physically fit. Intelligent. David Boone #128292, 200 Road to Justice, West Liberty, KY 41472. 041401

26 year old G/W/M, top, 6'6", 195 lbs., brown, hazel, clean-cut ISO LTR with that special someone. Sincere only reply. Marcus Barnett #117193, S.M.U. 201A, L.L.C.C., P.O. Box #6, La Grange, KY 40031. 041401

ROOMMATES

Charlotte Roommate Wanted

2 GWMs to share large condo near SouthPark, \$475/month includes utilities, plus deposit. Absolutely no smoking, drugs, or pets. Must be neat, clean, quiet, responsible, employed. Pool, tennis included. (704) 364-6471. 041401

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