

Q Notes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper



Anna is back on Barbary Lane — Dukakis reprises Tales role to spin more magic. See page 14 for details.

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Gay & lesbian bank launches non-profit program at Charlotte Pride

by Marni L. Grant
Special to Q-Notes

In a city of banks — in a nation built on capital power — why get excited about another financial institution? Charlotte as a banking center, for instance, has more than its share, but none except the new, national G&L Internet Bank take the gay and lesbian community as its namesake. Imagine that. A bank for us.

More than a token gesture, the G&L Internet Bank is devoted to serving GLBT customers in every state and vows to support GLBT non-profit organizations. According to its web site, G&L Bank will "provide unparalleled service and comfortable banking to all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, creed, color, ethnicity, HIV status, physical ability, and gender identity." The mission statement also promises that G&L Bank will only purchase products and services from companies that have a non-discrimination sexual orientation and equal opportunity policy in place for all employees. Pretty impressive. What's the catch?

You need a computer with Internet access and a penchant for ATMs. It's an Internet bank. That means there is no familiar "brick-and-mortar building," said Dixon Taylor, G&L Bank's National Business Development Director. You can still write checks, but to withdraw and deposit money, you must rely on ATMs, debit or check cards, employer direct deposits, Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) transactions, wire transfers, pre-authorized automatic electronic payments (ePay), your phone, and the United States Postal Service. It's a new way of banking. "It's the way of the future," remarked Taylor. "In 10 years, everyone will be banking online." She might be right. Technology advances faster than we, as a society, can implement it. "It's ready and waiting to be used," Taylor emphasized. "Most of us are accustomed to using ATMs, and many traditional bank customers already take advantage of Internet banking and bank-by-phone options."

The advantage of an Internet bank like G&L Bank, argues the G&L Bank Question and Answer webpage, is that by keeping overhead costs low — that is, by not having to maintain physical bank branches — an Internet bank can



offer lower interest rates on mortgages and loans and higher interest rates on checking and savings accounts, CDs, and retirement accounts. It also means that you, the customer, can bank anywhere, any time. Instead of waiting in long lines that make some of us cranky, you can bank at home while petting the cat, enjoying a cup of coffee, and lounging around in your underwear.

Most importantly, the gay, lesbian, transgendered, and bisexual customer can be open and out when applying for a loan or opening an account. It means same-sex partners can introduce themselves honestly to a G&L Bank. See *BANK* on Page 9

First openly gay soldier completes term of service

by Steve Ralls
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC — On April 14, Lt. Steve May, an openly gay Republican Arizona State Representative, completed his term of service in the United States Army Reserves. May faced discharge under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" for remarks about his sexual orientation made during a debate on the floor of the Arizona Legislature in response to an anti-gay bill. The Army dropped the discharge action in January to allow him to complete his service.



Lt. Steve May

C. Dixon Osburn, Executive Director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network said, "The Army tacitly recognizes that it should have never pursued May. He made comments as a civilian with no real expectation that he would be called back to the active reserves. And he made those comments in his capacity as an elected official. The Army would have had a hard time explaining to a federal judge why the gay ban's reach extended to civilians and elected officials."

May said, "I did what any soldier would do when called back to the active reserves. I put on my uniform and reported for duty." Prior to his Reserve service, May served in the US Army's First Infantry Division (from 1993-1995) as a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense Officer. Before leaving active duty as a first lieutenant, he served as an assistant battalion operations officer, platoon leader and company executive officer. He is one of very few qualified as a nuclear submariner (Silver Dolphins) and paratrooper (Airborne).

Osburn said, "May's service directly undercuts the rationale that gays hurt military readiness. May is exactly the sort of soldier the Army should fight to retain. Congress needs to wake up and recognize the cost of the gay ban to our country."

"It was tough," May told the *Arizona Republic* about leaving his unit. "I'm never going to wear this uniform again. I'm not going to see my soldiers again." ▼

UNCC's Pride yields groundswell of support

by Marni L. Grant
Special to Q-Notes



Judy Shepard receives a check for the Matthew Shepard Memorial Fund at UNCC.

Dedicated UNC Charlotte students in concert with other campus and community groups; a soft-spoken but powerful mother from Wyoming; a brave university president; a civic-minded mayor and county commission chair; a far-sighted state senator; and a group of North Carolina citizens who write letters, make calls, and donate money, together created a landmark week of events in the Tarheel State.

During the week of April 15, while the state's Senate Judiciary II Committee met in Raleigh to discuss the fate of the *Matthew Shepard Memorial Act* (an act that adds sexual orientation to the existing North Carolina hate crimes law), Judy Shepard visited college campuses in Asheville and Charlotte spreading the word against hate.

The passionate debate about the *Matthew Shepard Memorial Act* (S392) and its introduc-

tion to the full senate — for the chance to be voted into law — and Judy Shepard's speaking with audiences in North Carolina are the result of a lot of hard work by ordinary citizens, gay and straight.

A groundswell of support for increasing GLBT awareness surged to the forefront during the week of Shepard's visit. UNC Charlotte PRIDE members collaborated with UNCC students, faculty, and staff and other community members to rally against discrimination in a series of campus events. Dr. Philip DuBois, president of the University of Wyoming and former provost of UNCC, gave a moving presentation detailing why and how institutions need to respond when intolerant acts and hate crimes occur. Charlotte Mayor Patrick McCrory and Mecklenburg County Commission Chair Parks Helms declared April 15-21, 2001, "Remember Matthew Shepard Week."

In a groundbreaking act, State Senator T. See *UNCC* on Page 4

Bush scores historic first: Names out gay AIDS Czar

by Veronica Schwartz
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC — President George W. Bush has named openly gay Wisconsin resident Scott H. Evertz as director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, a post commonly referred to as AIDS Czar. The appointment marks the first time that any Republican White House has named an openly gay or lesbian person to an Executive Branch position. Additionally, a gay man was named as a civilian consultant to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Pentagon.

The leaders of several conservative groups have expressed outrage at the administration

for hiring Evertz despite his qualifications for the job — because he is gay. Several religious political extremist groups reportedly met at the Family Research Council's Washington headquarters to strategize on ways to thwart the selection of Evertz. National GLBT activist groups applauded the move and quickly responded to right-wing objections.



Scott H. Evertz

See *EVERTZ* on Page 13

Netherlands ends discrimination in civil marriage: Gays wed

by Bob Pileggi
Special to Q-Notes

AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS — The Netherlands has become the first nation to allow same-sex couples to marry, conferring upon those couples full equality and responsibility in the eyes of Dutch marriage law.

Just three years after enacting registered partnership, which allowed same-sex couples to access most of the protections of civil marriage, last December the Dutch Parliament by large majorities passed legislation to end discrimination in marriage itself. As the law took effect just after midnight on April 1, same-sex couples were married in a ceremony in Amsterdam's City Hall.

"Non-gay people throughout the world, including here in the US, will see that the key does not fall when same-sex couples are included in the protections — and the public celebration — of civil marriage," said Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's Evan Wolfson.

The Dutch action follows 10 years of steadily increasing international support for same-sex couples' freedom to marry. Denmark enacted its own registered partnership status for same-sex couples in 1989, and was quickly followed by Norway, Greenland, Sweden, and Iceland. See *NETHERLANDS* on Page 31

The latest Q-Poll results

Where do you look for GLBT news and information?
The internet 28% GLBT papers 25% Queer Magazines 23% Word of mouth / gossip 22%