

Do You Have Spring Fever? Is Your Garden Ready?



We've got everything you need, including:

- Water Plants • Carnivorous Plants
- Annuals & Perennials • Shrubs & Trees
- Herbs & Vegetables • Heirloom Tomatoes
- Indoor Tropicals • Grapes & Blueberries

Grower's Outlet of Independence

6610 E. Independence Blvd.
(Between Idlewild & Harris)

704-568-4600

A good sense of *pride* starts at home!

Expect the best from
Tim O'Brien



Email:

tobrien@helenadamsrealty.com

Website:

www.helenadamsrealty.com

704-777-1741

(Office) 704-401-2964

A
HELEN
ADAMS
REALTY

Ballantyne Commons Shopping Center
15235-J John H. Delaney Drive • Charlotte, NC 28277

"Hey Frank, Where Did You Get That Pimp Suit?"



"Goodwill, \$9.99"

Mention this ad the next time you donate to
Goodwill and get a 10% OFF coupon.

For Good Fashions at Good Prices, visit Goodwill today! For
store & donation locations, visit www.goodwillsp.org or call
704-372-3434. "You Donate Stuff...We Put People To Work."



Gay Day at Paramount Carowinds playground

May 4 amusement park festivities as
part of Charlotte Pride Festival

Charlotte Pride, in conjunction with The Carolina Bear Lodge and The Charlotte Business Guild will welcome the LGBT community from across the Carolinas for the 3rd Annual Gay Day at Paramount's Carowinds. Gay Day has become the finale of a series of events celebrating Charlotte Pride Weekend. Gay Day will be held on May 4, the day after the Charlotte Pride Festival.

Picnic!

New this year is the Pride Picnic featuring unlimited food, drinks and music. The luncheon will be held in the Bandshell Shelter from 1:30 pm-3 pm.

Red is our color

In past years, Gay Day participants were represented by wearing a Charlotte Pride T-shirt or a rainbow bracelet. This year, the color is red. Taking a cue from successful LGBT events at theme parks across the nation,

the Pride committee asks all attendees to turn out in the brightest red shirt they have.

"Red really stands out. Our hope is to flood the park with a sea of red shirts; it symbolizes our struggles and our achievements," said Henry Chase, of the Carolina Bear Lodge.

"To me, Gay Days at Carowinds is a time for the LGBT community to come together as one and enjoy food, music and fellowship," Alex Forrester, Co-Director of Charlotte Pride said.

Besides Gay Day and the Pride Festival, several parties and events are taking place over the course of the weekend to fill the trip to Charlotte.

Carowinds is home to popular coasters like Top Gun, Thunder Road, Hurler, the new Rugrats Runaway Reptar coaster, and the 14 acre WaterWorks.

info: Gay Day — wear red!

Tickets: www.charlottepride.com

One great low discounted price!

Park Admission & Pride Picnic \$27.50

(\$7.68 for season pass holders)

Carowinds hours: 10am- 8pm.

Southern Country Charlotte "Back in the Saddle Again!"

CHARLOTTE — On April 4-6, Southern Country Charlotte held their first annual fundraising event after a three-year absence. Attendees traveled from all over the United States to dance and raise money for local GLBT organizations.

The Sheraton Airport Hotel, The Charlotte Eagle and Hartigan's Pub were the host hotel and clubs. Registrants shuttled to each venue for dance workshops, performances and after-hours parties hosted by Charlotte Pride and The Tradesmen. Special exhibition performances were given by The Queen City

Outlaws, Southern Line Atlanta and Eve Yeaton from Chicago, IL.

Through out the past year, SCC has been raising money for local GLBT organizations.

With that money, plus the Hoe-Down proceeds, SCC will be donating over \$5500 to Charlotte Pride, The Community Center, Time Out Youth and Pets are Loving Support (PALS).



Duke seminary students denied input in school covenant

Duke Divinity School faculty has approved a new ethics code that is drawing fire from students who feel they were not given the chance to have input into the discussion. The policy calls on students to show respect, honor friendships and be welcoming and hospitable, but it also requires that students and faculty live in chastity, a Christian term that traditionally means remaining faithful if married and celibate if not.

Because gay and lesbian students are currently denied the option of marriage, they are particularly concerned because of the fear that they might violate the code should they decide to have sexual relations. Amy Laura Hall, ethics professor, said the faculty unanimously agreed that chastity could include responsible and faithful sexual relationships among gays and lesbians, but this is not spelled out in the code.

The definition of chastity, according to Hall, is "conducting one's intimate life in a way that's not demeaning to oneself or to others."

However, the definition of chastity can vary among Christian groups. Sexuality remains one of the most hotly-contested and bitterly-divisive issues within the Christian Church to date.

The United Methodist Church, with whom Duke Divinity School shares affiliation, does not ordain gays and lesbians and does not permit gay or lesbian union ceremonies. The Church's rulebook describes homosexuals as people of "sacred worth," but calls homosexual acts "incompatible with Christian teaching."

Unfortunately not all of the nearly 500 students and 35 faculty members within the divinity school are United Methodists. Because the school considers itself ecumenical in its approach to education, it accepts students of other denominations, including the United Church of Christ, the Metropolitan Community Church and the Episcopal Church, where attitudes about same-sex rela-

see DUKE on 22