

Pa a Tod's!

13



SOLDIER'S GIRL

Showtime premiere May 31
Story of Pfc Barry Winchell
page 35

Morehouse Survey is less than helpful, angers students 9

Magnolia Ball wrap-up announces a name change 17

Spoletto in Charleston, South Carolina — have a gay ol' time! 25

Ousted linguist speaks out at South Carolina Pride weekend 27

Black gay men's call to action in the fight against HIV/AIDS 28

ONLINE
Q.POLL
www.q-notes.com

Are you out at church
synagogue, mosque?
yes no

Q-POLL RESULTS • 20

MeckPAC stands firm in face of City Hall

Group responds to Charlotte city attorneys' misguided recommendations made recently to City Council

CHARLOTTE — Leaders of the Mecklenburg Political Action Committee, the LGBT political advocacy group in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, held a press conference to refute claims by City of Charlotte's Attorney DeWitt McCarley, Assistant City Attorney Hope Root and Human Resources Director, Timothy Mayes that the city is not clearly authorized to offer domestic partner benefits to city employees and to expand the city's non-discrimination policies to include sexual orientation.

The city legal staff maintained:

- the city had no legal authority to extend domestic partner benefits to city employees;
- state law recognizes only marriage as the determinant for city benefits;
- city policy can not supercede state law.

At the press conference, attorneys Connie Vetter and Phil Wells of MeckPAC, said, "The City of Charlotte has authority to add sexual orientation to the city's non-discrimination policies and to offer domestic partner benefits to City of Charlotte employees. Action by the North Carolina state legislature is not necessary in order for the City of Charlotte to do so."

see MeckPAC on 3



Mecklenburg Political Action Coalition leaders, L-R: activist and city employee Tom Warshauer, Attorney Connie Vetter and Attorney Phil Wells

Greensboro bookstore closes, leaving void

Community decries loss of community resource

by David Moore



After more than 20 years in business, Greensboro's White Rabbit Books closed its doors May 10. According to area residents, the closing of the business will likely leave the Greensboro area without a valid resource for the GLBT community.

"Obviously it was a source of material that's not available in mainstream bookstores," says Greensboro Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network representative

Chuck Strom. "For the youth of the community, it was a safe place to go to approach their coming out.

"We don't have a gay center and it was also a place for people who weren't ready to join organizations such as GLSEN to go and feel a sense of community. There will definitely be a gap."

The original store in a chain of North Carolina-based gay and lesbian bookstores that includes storefronts in Charlotte and Raleigh, the company has seen greater success in recent years with outlets in the two larger cities.

"This was the smallest store of the three," owner John Neil explains. "The Charlotte and Raleigh stores are doing extremely well and I have more stuff to do in my personal life, so I'm trying to simplify things."

Neil is also the owner/operator of the calligraphy business John Neil Bookseller, which will expand to occupy the former White Rabbit

space.

According to Neil, the possibility exists the store may reopen in the near future.

"I have been approached by a few individuals who are interested in buying the business for a different location in the Greensboro area," Neil said.

"We'll keep our customers informed about developments through our email newsletter." Until further notice Greensboro patrons are encouraged to continue to shop White Rabbit at the nearby Raleigh and Charlotte locations.

White Rabbit's Greensboro location opened in 1983, initially as a single room, selling a small selection of gay and lesbian-oriented book titles. Over the years the company expanded with the addition of the Raleigh store in 1991 and the Charlotte store in 1993.

"We didn't exactly put out the Rainbow Flags when we first opened in 1983," Neil

see BOOKSTORE on 3

South Carolina's message is out and above it all

After last spring's media campaign success, the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Business Guild has launched a new one with plans for two more billboards, print ads and radio spots which will continue throughout the summer.

Over the next few months, the Guild will be waging a fundraising campaign to support the media project.

This weekend marks the unveiling of the black and white billboard pictured at left (Q-Notes added the color SCGLBG logo to give some color to the graphic) in downtown Columbia.

participate: SCG+LBG Media Campaign . PO Box 7913 . Columbia, SC 29202

www.scglpm.org
south carolina lesbian pride movement

Homosexuality isn't the problem, prejudice is.



South Carolina Gay & Lesbian Business Guild
Member of the South Carolina Equality Coalition

www.scglbg.org