

Let your voice be heard! Vote!

¡Para Todos!

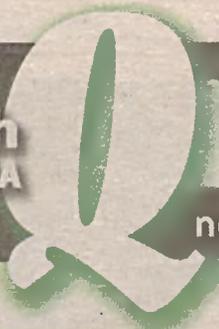
Durex retira del mercado 12  
condones

GLAAD announces  
award winners



glaad 22

north  
& south  
CAROLINA



# Notes

noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues

VOLUME 18 . ISSUE 24

SINCE 1986

WWW.Q-NOTES.COM

APRIL 10 . 2004



Author Wayne Besen  
visits the Carolinas

21



Coretta Scott King  
defends gay marriage

16

Lesbian denied  
fertility treatment

15

Profile:  
Art Sperry & Paul Otto

24

Audiophile:  
Rolling Stone's '50 Greatest'  
includes a few queers

29

North and South  
Carolina

John Quinn to leave  
One Voice Chorus

08

Charleston group plans  
to attend 'March for  
Women's Lives' in D.C.

09

ONLINE  
Q.POLL  
www.q-notes.com

Would you consider  
using the  
new rapid result  
HIV test?

. Yes . No

Q.POLL RESULTS: 16

## Durham couple files lawsuit for marriage license

Richard Mullinax and Perry Pike file suit  
in Durham County District Court

by Donald Miller

DURHAM, N.C. — The fight for same-sex marriage has finally come to North Carolina. Richard Mullinax, 36, and Perry Pike, 41, have filed a lawsuit in Durham County District Court after being denied a marriage license.

The two met in May, 1998 through mutual friends. For them, the decision to apply for a marriage license in the town they call home was a natural one.

"Who we are is what made us decide to do this," Pike explains. "We were already out here — everybody already knew us as a gay couple and, in some sense, it seemed like we were the perfect 'poster boys' for this.

"We're active in the community and the community knows that. We realized it was a privileged place to be and that we were very lucky because we wouldn't lose our place in the community or our job."

According to Mullinax, the experience at the Deeds Office was a mixed bag of positive and negative feedback.

"The clerks in the office handed us the applications, but when they realized our names they fairly curtly pulled them out of our hands and said 'we can't give you this.'"

Attorney Cheri Patrick — representing

Mullinax and Pike — initiated a dialogue with Register of Deeds Willie Covington, who eventually called County Attorney Chuck Kitchens in to mediate the matter.

"By all means give them an application," he said. And they let us fill it out, too," Mullinax recalls.

After Mullinax and Pike were allowed to complete an application form at The Durham Country Register of Deeds Office and were refused the license, the two, with attorney Patrick in tow, promptly walked across the street to the courthouse and filed suit against the county.

"It was all very professional," Pike recalls. "Sheri asked Willie Covington if he was available to be served papers and he said yes," Mullinax adds.

"I think Willie Covington is doing everything in his power to help us," says Mullinax. "But Chuck Kitchen, I think it [is] fairly clear, opposes same-sex marriage."

Kitchen said he would file a motion to dismiss the suit, contending that the case belongs in Superior Court.

"I really think statewide issues such as this should be filed directly against the state,



Richard Mullinax (left) and Perry Pike are suing Durham County, N.C., for a marriage license.

with Attorney General Roy Cooper as the plaintiff, as opposed to my register of deeds," Kitchen told the *Durham Herald-Sun*.

Kitchen angered area gay-rights activists last year when he said it would be illegal for the county to offer health benefits to same-sex domestic partners of its employees. He cited an 1805 state law against fornication and adultery.

Despite Kitchens' feelings, Mullinax and Pike intend to see this fight through to the end.

"Having an invalid license, to us, is a part

see **COUPLE** on 13

## Federal Marriage Amendment rewritten

Changes would allow states to provide some of the  
benefits of marriage to gay couples

by Paul Johnson

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new version of the proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage was filed Mar. 22 in the House but with vague wording that supporters claim would allow for gay couples to receive some legal benefits of marriage, but which opponents say is still discriminatory.



The message from Capitol Hill: Separate and unequal.

The draft amendment proposed by Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) and Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO) now reads "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

In announcing the change Musgrave said that the amendment would now allow states to provide some of the benefits of marriage to

see **CONGRESS** on 6

## Palmetto state prepares for Pride

Political climate lends urgency to celebration

by David Stout  
Q-Notes staff

"Pride" will be the operative word for the Carolinas in May. The LGBT and allied community will gather for Charlotte Pride the first weekend of the month and then assemble in Columbia, S.C., just two weeks later for the festivities at S.C. Pride.



One of the highlights of S.C. Pride is the annual march.

The statewide advocacy group South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement (GLPM) is hosting the 13th annual event May 14-16 and organizers have put together an impressive slate of performers, speakers and related events that offers something for everyone.

The current political climate in South Carolina gives this year's Pride celebration an added sense of importance. Pending in the state legislature are several anti-gay bills related to marriage and adoption rights. Pride weekend is an ideal opportunity for the statewide LGBT community to marshal against these right wing attacks.

see **PRIDE** on 4