



Charlotte performer Mekole Wells has new CD

37



Beenie Man apologizes

19

New details about gay 9-11 hero

09

Missouri outlaws gay marriage

17

Alabama mourns death of gay teen

21

North and South Carolina

North Carolina: Lambda Youth Network seeks new board members

10

South Carolina: Columbia Tech school offers gay and lesbian literature class

12

ONLINE Q.POLL www.q-notes.com

Will John Edwards' statement about Missouri's vote to ban same-sex marriage have an impact on how you vote?

Yes . No

Q.POLL RESULTS: 7

The MPA and the 14 Carolina reps who voted yes

A look at the anti-gay congressional representatives that call N.C. and S.C. home

by David Stout Q-Notes staff

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Marriage Protection Act by a 233-194 vote last month. One of the most anti-gay bills ever approved by either body of Congress, HR 3313 would bar the Supreme Court and other federal courts from hearing challenges to state bans on same-sex marriage.

"This 'judicial stripping' tactic reeks of the slide toward totalitarianism by the extremist 'wrong,'" declared Raleigh activist Rick Myracle in a condemning, post-vote email. "Just goes to prove, every race in every district at every level this fall is extremely important."

People For the American Way President Ralph G. Neas observed, "It is astonishing that self-described conservatives would embrace a scheme to eliminate any check on the power of Congress to restrict Americans' rights and freedoms."

In a letter to House members he added, "Today it is the right of gay and lesbian Americans to equality under law that is

threatened, but stripping courts of jurisdiction is a tactic that can be turned against any of our fundamental rights and freedoms."

Q-Notes felt it was important to take a closer look at the 14 U.S. House members from the Carolinas who voted to dismantle our system of federal checks and balances for the sake of "protecting" marriage from gays.

The ratings for each legislator as determined by HRC and the ACLU are based on votes cast during the 107th and 108th congressional sessions respectively.

In addition three litmus test votes were used to gauge each representative's stand on gay issues:

- HR 2587, a 1999 measure intended to prohibit gay couples in the District of Columbia from adopting children (failed by two votes).
• HR 2944, a 2001 amendment to the D.C. Appropriations bill that would have extended a House-imposed ban on using federal or local funds to provide health care benefits to the same-sex partners of District employees. Washington's city council approved the policy in 1992 but it had never been implemented (defeated by a vote of 194-226).
• HR 3966, a March 2004 proposal cutting



The Republican-controlled Congress wants to prevent gays from having any marriage rights by implementing the Marriage Protection Act — now it must pass a vote in the Senate.

defense-related funding to any university that denies access to military recruiters and ROTC programs in accordance with their anti-discrimination policies (approved by a vote of 343-81).

North Carolina

Eight of N.C.'s 13 representatives voted in

see CAROLINAS on 7

Gay Democrats united for Kerry

Kerry denounces marriage amendment from podium

by Rex Wockner

BOSTON, Mass. — Many of the 255 LGBT delegates to the Democratic National

sex marriage and his support for amending Massachusetts' constitution on the same issue. Nevertheless, those same delegates were clearly united in their conviction that four more years of George W. Bush will be a disaster for the LGBT community.

Delegates said that Kerry has taken the right position on nearly every other issue of concern to the LGBT community. He supports enactment of same-sex civil-union laws that grant the rights of marriage and opposes amending the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

"I want to address these next words directly to President George W. Bush," Kerry said in his nomination acceptance speech. "In the weeks ahead, let's be optimists not just opponents. Let's build unity in the American family not angry division. Let's honor this nation's diversity. Let's respect one another. And let's never misuse for political purposes the most precious document in American history: the Constitution of the United States."

That reference to the antigay Federal Marriage Amendment elicited the second-loudest outburst of cheering during Kerry's 47-minute speech.

Outside of the convention hall, LGBT

Caucus meetings were addressed by a cavalcade of politicians and celebrities who proclaimed their support for LGBT Americans.

"The gay and lesbian community is no longer put on the sidelines," said New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. "You are an essential part of the Democratic Party."

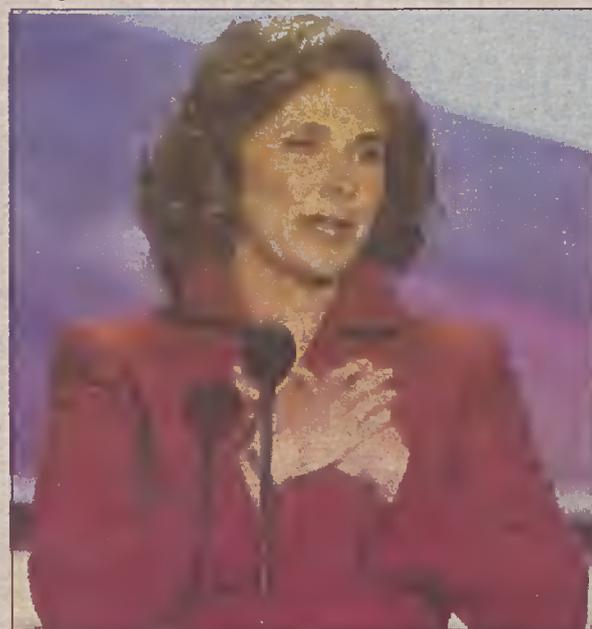
"There will be a time," said actor-activist Rob Reiner, "and it won't be so long in the distant future, where gays and lesbians will have all the rights that every American has. And we'll look back at this time as being ... what was the issue? What were we even thinking about?"

Actor Ben Affleck seconded that emotion.

"I really look forward to looking back on this aspect of our convention [the marriage debate] with some degree of embarrassment for how antiquated it was, where we even have to stand up here and mention that we have some friend who's gay," he said. "Guess what folks? Everybody has a friend, a brother, a family member who's gay ... You're entitled to every goddamned right that every other American is.

"If you want to defend marriage," Affleck said, "find somebody and love that person, and care for that person, and be faithful to that person, and commit your life to that person, and don't worry about your neighbor's marriage ... As somebody who, to be per-

see DEM on 4



Teresa Heinz-Kerry to gay delegates: 'You will have a mom in the White House.'

Convention held in Boston July 26-29 expressed disappointment over presidential candidate John Kerry's opposition to same-