

## Legend Lost

Barbara Gittings dies  
page 6



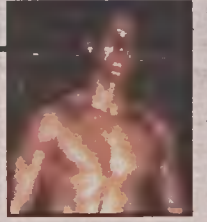
## Taking Charge

Wounded soldier comes out  
page 7



## A Class Act

HRC Dinner a success  
page 22



# QNotes

Noted . Notable . Noteworthy . LGBT News & Views

## SPECIAL REAL ESTATE ISSUE

Volume 21 . Number 22 www.q-notes.com March 10 . 2007

# If the election were held today...

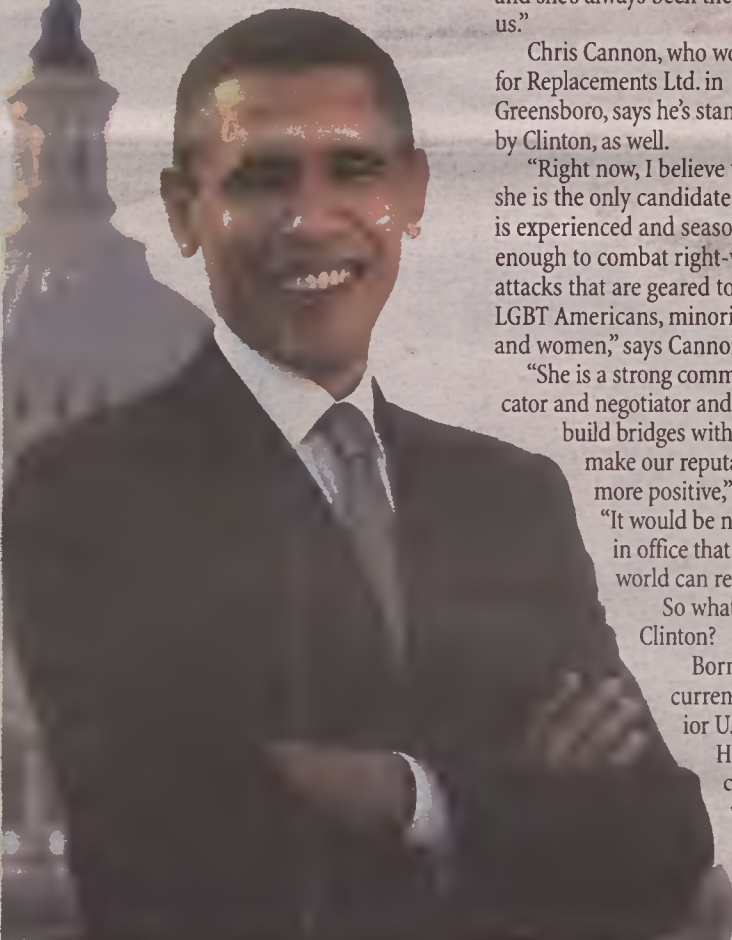
A look at the top Democratic contenders for president

by Mark Smith

Let's face it, the current slate of Democratic frontrunners chomping at the bit to be the next president of the United States are without a doubt the most photogenic crowd ever seen vying for the title.

Sure they're nice to look at and all of them are relatively liberal — but what about their voting records on issues of concern for the LGBT community? Are they standing beside us, or against us?

At press time, former First Lady



Clinton, Edwards, Obama (clockwise): who would you choose?

and current New York Sen. **Hillary Clinton** is the frontrunner and thought by many to be the best hope for the Democratic Party in '08.

Darryl Logsdon, a Charlotte resident and a former board member of the Charlotte Lesbian & Gay Community Center, says he'll throw his support behind Clinton.

"She's by far the most qualified," says Logsdon. "Brilliantly smart — and that is badly needed after the last seven years. She has the longest and most solid record of real support for gays and lesbians.

"While she does not support marriage equality, the other candidates don't either," Logsdon continues. "And we already know she will support us in all other areas that count — appointments to courts and federal positions, employment equality and setting the tone for a national dialogue on equality. "The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior and she's always been there for us."

Chris Cannon, who works for Replacements Ltd. in Greensboro, says he's standing by Clinton, as well.

"Right now, I believe that she is the only candidate who is experienced and seasoned enough to combat right-wing attacks that are geared towards LGBT Americans, minorities and women," says Cannon.

"She is a strong communicator and negotiator and will work hard to build bridges with world leaders and make our reputation in the world more positive," Cannon continues. "It would be nice to have someone in office that the leaders in the world can respect again."

So what do we know about Clinton?

Born Oct. 26, 1947, she currently serves as the junior U.S. senator from N.Y.

Her husband, of course, is Bill Clinton, the 42nd president of the U.S.

Clinton was elected to the Senate in 2000,

becoming the first

Female senator to represent N.Y. She was re-elected in 2006. As senator, she sits on the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging.

Now what's her stance on LGBT issues? For the most part, it's pretty good.

She agrees that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" needs to be repealed.

"Fitness to serve in the military should be based on one's conduct, not one's sexual orientation," she said on a 1999 episode of "Inside Politics."

She may not support same-sex marriage per se, but she's close. In an interview with CNN on Feb. 11, 2000 she said: "We ought to be providing domestic partnership benefits for people who are in homosexual and lesbian relationships."

Let's look at her voting record and ratings:

- Voted no on constitutional ban of same-sex marriage. (June 2006)



- Voted yes on adding sexual orientation to definition of hate crimes. (June 2002)
- Rated 60 percent by the ACLU, indicating a mixed civil rights voting record.

(December 2002)

- Rated 0 percent by the Christian Coalition: considered to be an "anti-family" voting record. (December 2003)

**Charlie Smith, a real estate agent** in Charleston, says he believes our next president should be Illinois Sen. **Barack Obama** — who's currently at second place in the polls.

"If the election were held next week, I'd vote for Barack Obama because I want that much change in this country," says Smith. "Obama doesn't talk about what the 'inside the Beltway' Democrats tell him he has to talk about. He talks about what's important — whether it has the official stamp of approval or not. I respect that in any candidate for public office."

Rev. Tonyia Rawls, a minister at the Unity Fellowship Church in Charlotte, says that she thinks Hillary Clinton is the most qualified — but because of the political baggage Clinton carries, Rawls doesn't believe she would be allowed to govern free from an unreasonable amount of political and social burden.

That said, Rawls now thinks Obama is the man.

"Right now our nation needs someone that

the majority can rally around to set our nation on a corrective course," says Rawls. "He is

see look on 5

Former Paddock owner dies  
page 27



'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal  
page 30