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# Q Notes

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## SPECIAL REAL ESTATE SECTION

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## Get ready for SC Pride '07!

Sixteenth annual event takes place  
Sept. 22 in Columbia

by Ed Madden

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement (SCGLPM) invites you to come together on Saturday, Sept. 22, for the 16th Annual South Carolina Pride Festival.

The march and festival are part of a week of activities and events built around the theme, "Equal Rights Are Human Rights." A highlight of this year's event will be the performance of Nemesis, the openly gay twins and hot singing duo starring in the LOGO Network's hit series, "Nemesis Rising."

Central events this year include the annual march and parade in downtown Columbia, followed by a festival in Finlay Park, as well as a state-of-the-state town hall meeting, a community picnic and the annual Ms. and Mr. SC Pride pageant. Among other events are the SC Gay and Lesbian Business Guild's annual boat cruise and a Hancock Center workshop focused on preserving the state's gay and les-

bian history.

Organizers say this year's theme, "Equal Rights Are Human Rights" calls attention to the need for equal rights for all South Carolinians. They also want to emphasize the human dimension of the LGBT struggle for equality.

"We are real people with real families, real struggles, real stories. Let's show South Carolina that we're still here and proud," says Michael VanDiver, president of SCGLPM, which organizes the annual event.

"South Carolina voters may not have voted with us this past November," he adds, "but we are still here in every corner of this great state. This is our chance to stand tall and proud as we celebrate our community and seek equality."

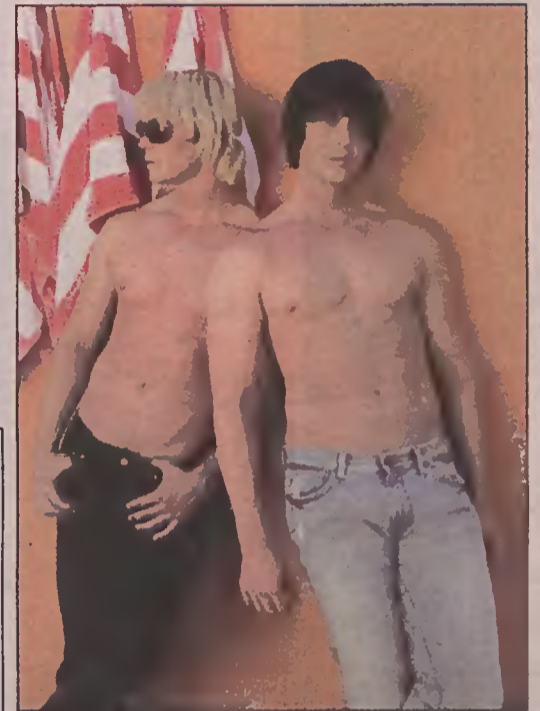
In addition to Nemesis, the festival will feature performances by Mary's Little Sister, Robin & Leigh, Pride Idol Angela DeBruhl and many other entertainers. Additional guests in the park will include the Human Rights Campaign's Betsy Pursell, S.C.

hate crimes activist Elke Kennedy, Columbia mayor Bob Coble, gay Army vet and youth activist Jonathan Jackson and spoken word artist AJ Taylor.

Among the sponsors for this year's events are Carolina Purple Pages, Columbia City Paper, Food Lion, the Human Rights Campaign, ID Lubricants, PT's Cabaret, and Q-Notes. Turn to page 6 for details on who's onstage at Pride this year. ▸



— For more information and updates on this year's festivities, visit the SC Pride website at [www.SCPride.org](http://www.SCPride.org) or call 803-771-7713.



Openly gay twin brothers Jacob and Joshua Miller, stars of the LOGO reality series 'Nemesis Rising' and both parts of the recording duo Nemesis, will take to the Pride stage to perform their Billboard Dance hit, 'Number One in Heaven.'

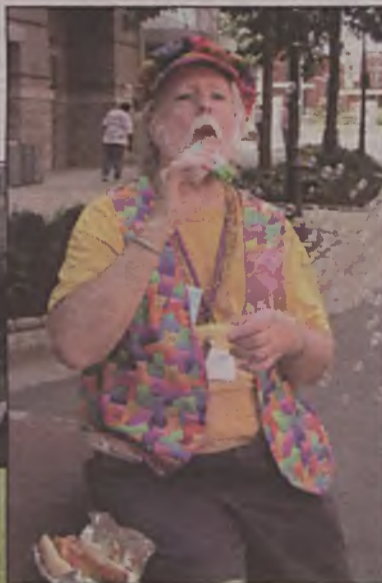
## Pride Charlotte 2007 a record-breaking success

Thousands enjoy day of  
entertainment, speakers,  
empowerment

David Stout . Q-Notes staff

Best. Pride. Ever.  
At least, that seemed to be the prevailing

sentiment among the record-setting crowd who attended the Aug. 25 festival that crowned the week's events of Pride Charlotte 2007. For the second consecutive year the celebration



was sponsored by The Lesbian & Gay Community Center of Charlotte and

organized by the Pride Charlotte Task Force.

With all the praise heaped on uptown's Gateway Village, the new site of the festival last year, it was a no-brainer for the event to return there. And it came back in a big way. Based on estimates from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police and Pride organizers, 8,000 people filled the venue for a day of musical entertainment, guest speakers, arts and crafts, merchandise and food vendors, visibility and empowerment.

The phenomenal turnout topped last year's then-record crowd by 2,000 and beat the Task Force's goal by 500. As organizers pointed out, attendance was especially impressive given that the heat hovered near the 100-degree mark for the greater part of the day.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the numbers," said Jim Yarbrough, co-chair of the Pride Charlotte Task Force and the publisher of Q-Notes. "For so many people to have been out there on that scorching day confirms how much the community values the Pride Charlotte festival. From the Task Force's perspective, it was a 'best-case scenario' type of turnout."

The gains of the 2007 festival weren't limited to setting attendance records. The number of vendors at the event outstripped last year's total as well. According to Task Force member Jeff Schmehl, space permitting, the figure could have been even greater.

"We had 88 registered vendors," he said. "That's about 10 more than last year and I turned away 15 after we'd filled all our spaces. We had inquiries up to the last day. A lot of interest came from outside Charlotte this year, which I think is a result of more marketing, getting our name out there."

Volunteer Coordinator Toryn Stark enlisted an army of helpers to mount the booming event. "We had about 100 volunteers the day of Pride," she explained. "They did everything from helping set up the stage to hanging banners to taking surveys, serving as Enforcers of the Peace, supervising the kids' area and cleaning up at the end. The volunteers were definitely a big part of the day."

The Enforcers of the Peace were charged with keeping tabs on the approximately three dozen protestors who picketed outside the

see success on 15

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