

Queer lang syne

A year-end review of the Carolinas' top stories

compiled by Q-Notes staff

2008 was more than just an election year. Our galvanized community accomplished great deeds and made history. The election of our nation's first African-American president was just one of a litany of amazing events. Right here at home, the Carolinas LGBT community saw plenty of forward movement on our quest for equality.



CBPM Martin Luther King, Jr. Gala award winners DeArcy McVay and Dorae Saunders.

Photo Credit: Moyé/moyephoto.net

Our year-end review is broken down into two sections: Community and Politics.

Community RDU gets a center January

This year, LGBT community members in Raleigh and surrounding areas began to organize their first community center. As for now, the group continues to operate under the 501(c)3 status of Triangle Community Works.

The board of directors and others have begun the process to achieve non-profit status of their own. When they get final approval from the IRS, the group will begin capital campaign fundraising to open the Raleigh area's first-ever LGBT Community Center.

CBPM honors two February

Scores crowded into the Afro-American Cultural Center (AACC) the Saturday after the 2008 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday to celebrate the visionary leader's life and legacy, and to honor two members of the LGBT/Same-gender loving (SGL) African-American community.

Dorae Saunders, a transgender performer from Columbia, S.C., was honored with the Audre Lorde Community

Leadership Award for her national visibility, mentorship and contributions to the South Carolina LGBT community.

DeArcy McVay of Charlotte was honored with the Bayard Rustin Community Leadership Award for his impact as a youth mentor and men's health educator.

Carter honored nationally February

North Carolinian Mandy Carter was honored at the 20th anniversary Creating Change conference, hosted Feb. 6-10 by the Task Force, for her work with Southerners On New Ground (SONG), a North Carolina-based rights group created at the 1993 Creating Change conference hosted in Durham.

"I am truly humbled to receive this award and I do so for everyone who has been, is and will be in the social justice movement," Carter said.

She began her battle for social justice when she heard a speaker from a Quaker group at her high school. She said that conversation changed her life, and as a result she often follows the lead of the Quakers in her own activism. "We have to go where the people are and we have to interact with them there," she said.

City honors gay leader March

Openly gay community leader Tim Griffin was honored with the 2008 Neighborhood

Leader Award on March 8. The award was presented by the City of Charlotte's Neighborhood Development department at its 13th Annual Neighborhood Symposium.

Griffin, president of the Morningside Neighborhood Association, has devoted countless hours toward the revitalization of the Morningside neighborhood in the vicinity of Central Avenue, east of Uptown. The bohemian area is popular with gay and lesbian Charlotteans, artists and musicians.

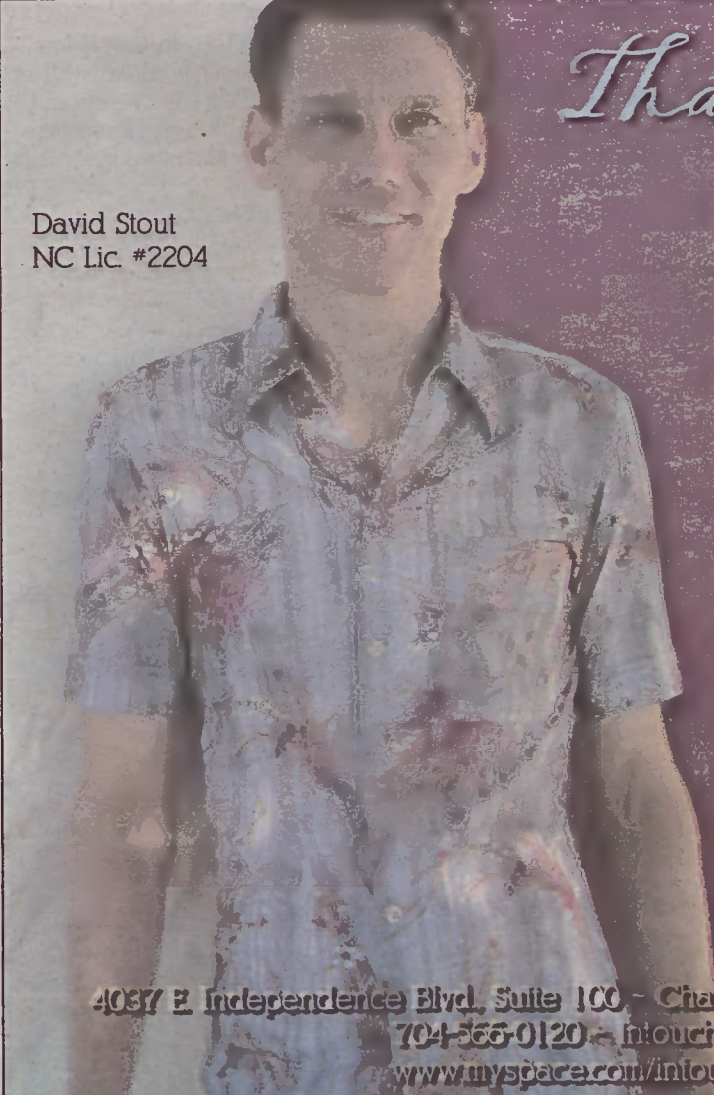
Griffin and his partner Neil have helped organize the association into a strong and vibrant influence in the Plaza Midwood and Morningside areas. They have also helped create various sub-organizations to serve the interests of the neighborhood's varied population, such as one group for mothers and children.

Pride Charlotte breaks 10k July

In its third successful year under the direction of Charlotte's Lesbian and Gay Community Center, the 2008 Pride Charlotte festival enjoyed another record turnout. According to Charlotte Mecklenburg Police, 10,000 people attended the day-long festival at uptown Gateway Village on July 26.

Raine Cole, one of the festival's co-chairs, said the event was "fabulous."

"The turnout was tremendous and there see **Year-end** on 14



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