

"I'm not particularly keen on being called the 'gay candidate,'" Sartain said in a Q-Notes interview in June. In 2009, he said, a gay person can be "just a candidate" and focus on issues that impact the lives of all citizens.

Sartain has been endorsed by the Raleigh Police Benevolence Association and is waiting on further endorsement decisions from other local groups, *The Independent Weekly*, and *The News & Observer*.

Raleigh citizens head to the polls on Oct. 6. Click on to Q-Notes.com for updates.

**Other progressive candidates**

**Donald Hughes** — Durham — Only 22 years old, Hughes is likely the youngest candidate for any local office across North Carolina this year. Although he's never held public office before, he has plenty of political experience. He served as the University of North Carolina-Greensboro's student body president, was a pledged delegate for Barack Obama and interned for Rep. Mel Watt (D-NC). His mother is a former Durham City Council member and former school board member. He is favorable on LGBT issues.

www.hughes4durham.com.

**Jay Ovittore** — Greensboro — A one-time U.S. House candidate, Ovittore is running for the District 3 seat on the Greensboro City Council. He has been supportive of every major LGBT-inclusive advance in the city, including non-discrimination policies and domestic partner benefits.

www.jayovittore.org.

**Gordon Smith** — Asheville — A blogger/citizen journalist and progressive Democratic activist, Smith is running for a seat on the Asheville City Council. He has been vocal

about his support for LGBT equality. In July, addressing the issue of domestic partnerships, Smith wrote, "The gay and lesbian citizens of Asheville deserve equal recognition and equal

benefits. To deny these benefits is to relegate gay and lesbian couples to second-class status. We all know that Asheville is a gay-friendly city, and our city government ought to reflect our com-

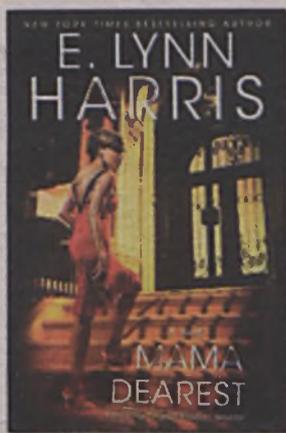
mitment to honoring the civil rights of all our citizens." Smith faces a primary on Oct. 6.

Watch Q-Notes.com for updates. www.gordonforasheville.com. ▸

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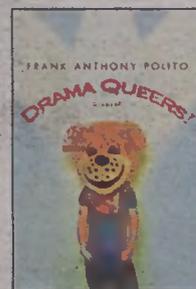
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