

Black Gay Pride reaches out

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 just as many African American lesbian couples with children as black heterosexual married couples, which is one of the issues that will be discussed at the town hall meeting.
 "Now that people are hearing the statistics, they're thinking why shouldn't we be married," she said.
 Massachusetts state representative Bryon Rushing said in Bay Windows, a gay and lesbian publication in that state, that these unions are a civil rights issue.
 "One of the ways that we

realize that people do not have civil rights is when civil unions are not open to them," he said in the publication.
 However, in the black community as a whole, only 41 percent of adults are married, according to The Washington Post. Jabari Asim of the Washington Post wrote in an article "while black communities are allegedly more opposed to gay marriage than other populations, one can look at those numbers and wonder if African Americans are beginning to lose faith in marriage of any kind."
 Star Parker, a spokesper-

son for the Coalition on Urban Renewal & Education, said approving a gay marriage amendment would be a disservice to African Americans and all Americans.
 "It would ensure that future generations of black children would remain slaves to a culture of death," Parker writes on urbanrenew.org.
 The official meet and greet will be held on Friday at the host hotel followed by the CNCBGP Fashion Show hosted by Ray Cunningham of BET's "College Hill." On Saturday, CNCBGP will host

the second annual Black Gay Pride Expo at Spirit Square where there will be entertainment and business owners and organizations on display. Also, CNCBGP will host parties at the host hotel on Friday and Saturday nights with surprise guests and world renowned DJs.
 The Rev. Tonyia M Rawls and Unity Fellowship Church Charlotte will host a worship on Sunday and introduce the Voices of Pride Choir. Organic Funk, a spoken word event at The Actor's Theatre, will finish out the weekend.

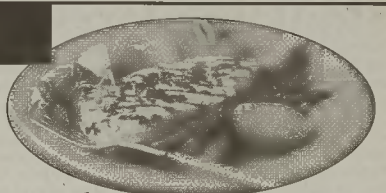
Lexington goes whole hog beyond BBQ

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 sidewalk café, The Bistro continues the elegant Italian feel all the way out onto the terrace, with dining tables and a panoramic view of the vineyard. If you plan to do some wine tasting, you might want to grab a bite in the Bistro. Executive Chef David Thomas is a finalist in the statewide "Best Dish in North Carolina" contest for his Farmington ostrich stuffed tenderloin (yes, ostrich) with oyster mushrooms in 2004 cabernet reduction. The contest ends on July 31, the Bistro will be serving its contest worthy meal through the whole month. If you're not feeling up to trying the ostrich, then maybe some Bistro favorites, the Childress Classic Club sandwich, the Bistro Caesar salad, or the Fruit, Cheese and Antipasto platter. The menu changes seasonally, as do many of the wineries activities. Enjoy music in the vineyard during the summer (through September) on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4. The tour continues through the production areas, once you leave the Bistro. The open air platforms suspended above the production area begin at the Crush Pad and offer a unique visual experience. No, Lucy and Ethel grape stomping here, but you can watch the grapes being de-stemmed,

hand sorted, and crushed. The best time to see this process is August through October. From the Crush Pad, walk into the Fermentation Room, with its 33 giant, gleaming stainless steel tanks holding from 500 to 8,000 gallons of juice, on its way to becoming wine. From there head to the Barrel Cellar and Barrel Cave. The Cellar houses hundreds of French Oak barrels, while the Cave is often used for dinner parties and wedding events, and holds racks of the signature reserves wines. "Each barrel holds up to 24 cases of wine the larger pungent barrel holds 55 cases," explained Watson. In July they begin taking the wine from the barrels, white wine first, followed by the red. The bottling line is last in the process, where you can watch 60 bottles filled each minute. (That's five cases per minute) The tour ends there, but not the experience. Time to taste. Watson explained to me how to get the most out of your tasting.
 Look at the color against a piece of white paper. Sit the wine down by stem of the glass, swirl, smell and taste. Try a bit of everything, but if you like sweet wines, the Serendipity white was absolutely delicious and is one of the wineries most pop-

ular wines. Its appeal is its blend of Muscadine grapes. The Childress Winery also carries beverages of the non-alcoholic variety, including Sparkling Raspberry and Sparkling Peach Grape Juice. Childress recently released a racing collection of limited edition etched bottles for racing fans. For more informa-

tion on tours, tastings, and the wine, log onto www.childresswineryards.com
 From the winery Lexington and its surrounding areas offer a variety of attractions. Sticking with the racing theme, you could head up the road 10 minutes into Welcome, N.C., and visit the RCR Racing Museum.



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More infants are tested

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 ed that routine newborn screening check for hearing loss plus 28 rare but serious diseases that could be successfully treated if parents knew about it in time.
 The report seems to have spurred some state action even before the government whether to adopt it as a national standard, suggests the new March of Dimes analysis, released Tuesday.
 "It's very frustrating that still ... where you're born literally can mean whether your child will live or die," said Pamela Sweeney of Brookfield, Conn., whose son Jonathan, almost died of one of the illnesses, the metabolic disorder known as LCHAD, when he was 11/2.
 These otherwise healthy babies lack enzymes that change stored fat into energy. That means going more than a few hours without food, like when Jonathan caught a common stomach virus, can be fatal unless they're given a quick glucose injection.
 Jonathan's uncle, a state senator, introduced legislation to mandate more screening after the boy's near-miss in 2000; Connecticut now tests for 28 of the core disorders.
 Howse advised expectant parents to check her group's Web site, <http://www.modimes.org>, to see if their state tests for at least the 29 core conditions. If not, she urged parents to talk with their doctors about getting test kits from private screening laboratories to bring to the hospital on delivery day. That supplemental testing costs \$25 to \$100, depending on the lab, and often is covered by insurance.



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