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G/L employment protection introduced

by Bob Roehr
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, D.C.—“The Employment Non-Discrimination Act [ENDA] is a great endeavor. It is another significant step on freedom’s journey—another milestone in the civil rights march of our time,” said Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) at a news conference introducing the bill.

It prohibits an employer from discriminating on the basis of an employee’s sexual orientation in the context of hiring, firing, promotion, or compensation.

“This bill is not about granting special rights,” said Kennedy. “It is about righting senseless wrongs.”

Representatives from approximately two dozen supporting organizations were arrayed behind him. A bevy of television cameras, reporters, and supporters before him jammed the hearing room of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

“This bill is not about statistics. It is about real Americans whose lives and livelihoods are being shattered by prejudice,” said Kennedy. He cited examples from across the nation.

“Job discrimination is not only un-American, it is unprofitable and counterproduc-

tive.” Kennedy pointed to more than a quarter of the Fortune 1000 companies who have moved to eliminate this discrimination and “create a workplace environment where everyone can excel.”

“For too long, our nation has tolerated this insidious form of discrimination against this group of Americans, who have worked as hard as any other group, paid their taxes like everyone else, and yet have been denied equal protection under the law,” said Coretta Scott King, the embodiment of the civil rights movement.

“As my husband, Martin Luther King, Jr. said, ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.’ Like Martin, I don’t believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others.

“So I see this bill as a step forward for freedom and human rights in our country and a logical extension of the Bill of Rights and the civil rights reforms of the 1950’s and 1960’s,” said King.

“This is a great day for democracy. Mr. Jefferson and Martin Luther King are smiling,” said the wheelchair-bound Justin Dart, Jr. He was an appointee of former President George Bush and a driving force behind

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Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Coretta Scott King and Tim McFeeley, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund at the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) press conference in Washington.

Sandy Crenshaw pumps gold

Charlotte Powerlifter becomes World Class Champion

by Frank Dalrymple
Special to Q-Notes

For almost a year, Sandy Crenshaw has had but one goal in mind: to represent Charlotte in Gay Games IV, and win a gold medal. On Sunday, June 19, she did just that.

After ten months of well-planned, disciplined training, under the direction of master title holder/coach Charles Pressley, Sandy ventured to New York City and made an outstanding showing in her 82kg weight class. During three grueling events, she lifted a total of 771.2 lbs.

The severe heat conditions of the Carmine

Street Recreation Center, and the resulting dehydration, proved to be serious impairments for most of the competing lifters. Many (including Sandy) were unable to lift what had been their “personal best” records during training.

Temperatures hovered around one hundred degrees for the entire day’s event. Sandy (and her supporters) arrived at the venue at 10:00 am for weigh-in and equipment check. They remained for the women’s lightweight competition and her warm-up.

Sandy began her division lifting at 2:45 pm. The women’s heavyweight lineup included 14 lifters in four different weight classes. They arrived at Gay Games IV from such states as California and Colorado, and as far away as London and New Zealand.



Sandy Crenshaw lifts weight at the Gay Games in New York

A panel of three judges, one front and one on either side, determine if the lift is acceptable. Gay Games IV Powerlifting competition complies with USPF (United States Powerlifting Federation) rules and regulations. The best of three lifts is counted toward the lifter’s total score.

During the first event, Squat, four out of 14 lifters failed all three of their attempted lifts. Only five (including Sandy) successfully raised their trio of lifts in this event.

Because of the severe heat, trainer Pressley had less weight placed on the bar than Crenshaw had been lifting while training.

This proved to be a very astute strategy, for Sandy negotiated smooth, successful lifts each time. It was disheartening to see lifters fail to achieve amounts previously achieved while in training.

After a break, the platform was changed over for the Bench Press event. It was now 4:15 pm and the lifter, press and spectators were alternately ex-

hausted and exhilarated.

While some of the women made one or two accepted attempts, out of three, Sandy was one of only five lifters to make all three attempts successfully. By this time, the crowd had their favorites, and Sandy was one of them.

Her performance was something to be

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Lesbian and gay lawyers meet

by David Jones
Q-Notes Staff

DURHAM—Gay and Lesbian attorneys from across North Carolina met in Durham recently “to form a specialized statewide attorneys’ organization,” according to a press release issued by the new group. Called GALBLONC (Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Lawyers of North Carolina), the group plans to work on networking among and providing support for members, lobbying, and educating lawyers on special legal issues of interest to gay, lesbian and bisexual people. Major issues the lawyers intend to address include hate crimes, personal relationship matters, child custody, employment and housing.

C. J. Reilly, who works in Hillsborough, and Ed Farthing, a trial defense and personal injury attorney in Hickory, were selected to be spokespersons for the new group. They told Q-Notes that lawyers around the state had been quietly discussing the need for a way to contact and work with other lesbian

and gay attorneys. When a meeting was proposed, Reilly said that “we all just asked around, contacted people we knew personally, and invited only those who agreed to be included.” Over 100 lawyers expressed interest in the new group, and 40 attended its first meeting.

Farthing and Reilly both emphasized the commitment that the group has to protect the confidentiality of its members and mailing list. “Some people just can’t take the risk right now of joining, and others need to be sure that their identities are protected when they do,” Reilly said, “and that is exactly why we need to work on changing that environment of fear.” Farthing agreed, pointing out that just by publicizing the existence of the group, many closeted gay, lesbian and bisexual lawyers will find support in the knowledge that it exists.

The new organization is still developing bylaws and will elect officers at a future

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Pride 1994’s excess at \$10,000 plus

by Don King
Special to Q-Notes

CHARLOTTE — At least \$10,000. That’s the preliminary figure for money expected to remain after bills are paid for North Carolina Lesbian & Gay Pride 1994, which had a budget of \$60,000.

“It takes some time to get in the final bills,” said Dan Kirsch, one of the co-chairs for the event’s steering committee.

“Because it’s more than we expected, we’re taking our time on how to distribute the excess. We want to be just as thorough about that as we wanted to be in planning the pride weekend.”

He said the steering committee expects

to have a full financial statement available in mid July.

The steering committee will repay \$1,000 to N. C. Pride, Inc., the corporation which maintains the pride event’s year-to-year continuity. The loan, which provided seed money for Pride 1994, is due August 1.

The Charlotte committee will pay additional funds to N. C. Pride, Inc. to bolster the state group’s accounts for future events.

Decisions will then be made regarding remaining funds.

“The steering committee is looking at a wide range of ideas, and we’re getting a lot of good feedback from people who were involved in Pride 1994,” Kirsch said.