

Q Notes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper

The Latest Q-POLL Results

If the 1999 NC Pride Celebration was the last one to be held, how would that impact the gay community?

Severely	Only Slightly	Not At All
64%	23%	13%

Vote at www.q-notes.com

Published Every Two Weeks On Recycled Paper • Volume 14, Number 3 • June 26, 1999 • FREE

North and South Carolinians come out for annual Pride celebrations

by David Stout
Q-Notes Staff

COLUMBIA, GREENSBORO—This year's annual Pride festivities in North and South Carolina shared many typical elements — families, floats and parade queens among them — but they also shared one unique component for the first time: a weekend.

Over a blistering June 12 and 13, GLBT community members and straight-but-not-narrow supporters from each state gathered for one and then the other March to celebrate themselves and press for legislation on issues ranging from hate crimes to employment protections.

In Columbia, leaders from the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement (GLPM) kicked off their 10th annual March on Saturday, leading approximately 1000 folks from the grounds of the historic Hampton-Preston Mansion to the State House at the end of Main St.

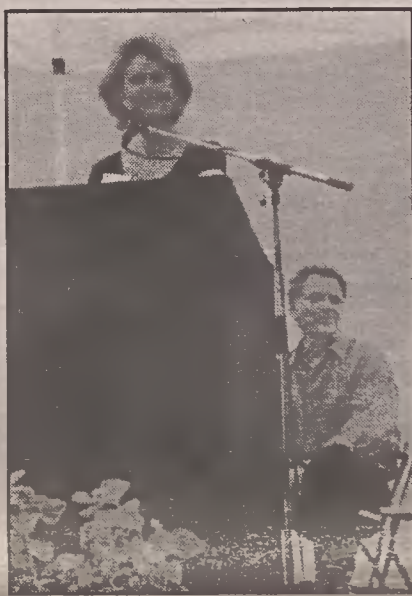
Once there, the crowd heard from several impassioned speakers including Morris Dees, Jr., co-

founder of the Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center, a legal firm that focuses on civil rights cases and has represented a number of gay and lesbian clients. Dees dedicated his appearance to the memory of Billy Jack Gaither, an Alabama native who was brutally murdered earlier this year because of his sexual orientation.

Additional rally speakers were Linda Ketner, president of the Alliance For Full Acceptance; Tracey St. Pierre, Senior Policy Advocate at the Human Rights Campaign; Don Davis, board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Angie Wilson, president of the gay students' group at USC.

This was the first time in three years that Pride was held in Columbia and in marked contrast to previous years — when the sidewalk in front of the state house seemed to overflow with ultraconservative Christians — only a few anti-gay protesters were present.

GLPM Secretary Harriet Hancock attributed the change to an increasing climate of under-



Linda Ketner at SC Pride



GLBT youth from Winston-Salem display their Pride in the NC March

standing. "Are gays and lesbians in South Carolina better off than they were 10 years ago? Absolutely. Are people in South Carolina more accepting of gays and lesbians? Yes. Ten years ago, there were probably a lot of people living in the closet, but I think a lot more people feel comfortable coming out now that they have a support system behind them."

GLPM President Tony Snell echoed that opinion. "We're setting an example for the entire state," he said.

A second helping of Pride

The only major North Carolina city to never host the state's Pride March rectified the situation Sunday when a diverse throng estimated

at 3000 took to the streets for a rousing one-mile trip around the block.

The parade began and ended at Phill G. McDonald Plaza, a green oasis in the midst of a concrete desert. At the pre-March rally, the crowd cheered as Greensboro Mayor Carolyn Allen presented a city proclamation acknowledging the contributions of the local GLBT community; a life-sized Tinky Winky exclaimed "I Am What I Am" to a disco beat — and without apology; and area female impersonators performed camp and dance routines.

After completing the loop, participants planted themselves under shade trees for another round of speakers and performances.

See PRIDE on page 20

Robertson assaulted on three fronts

by Dan Van Mourik
Q-Notes Staff

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND—The Bank of Scotland and televangelist Pat Robertson entered into a business partnership whereby the bank would offer its services in the United States through Robertson Financial Services over Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network. The joint venture would have enabled the bank to reach 55 million viewers at little cost and could have doubled the bank's customer base to 10 million.

However, the deal has gone sour. The Bank of Scotland has now agreed to pay Robertson up to \$10 million to pull out of the venture.

Uproar over the deal, announced three months ago, was nearly instantaneous, prompted by Robertson's forthright views on homosexuality, liberals and family values. Protesters handcuffed themselves to the bank's

Edinburgh headquarters, church leaders complained and councils and charities threatened to close their accounts.

The final straw came when Robertson denounced Scotland as a "dark place," inhabited by gays. "In Scotland you can't believe how strong the homosexuals are," he said in one of his television programs. "It's just unbelievable."

The decision to abort the project came after six hours of talks between the two sides. The bank said that it would buy out Robertson Financial Services, part of the multi-millionaire's business empire.

The sum involved is estimated at between \$5 and \$10 million. Robertson will effectively get his money back, but the payment does not constitute compensation.

A joint statement from Robertson and the bank said that "changed external circumstances

See ROBERTSON on page 8



Virginia Apuzzo

Apuzzo leaves White House for gay think tank

by Betsy Gressler
Special to Q-Notes
WASHINGTON, DC—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF)

Policy Institute, a think tank dedicated to research, policy analysis and strategic projects, has announced that Virginia Apuzzo, the Clinton Administration's highest ranking lesbian official, is resigning her White House duties to accept a position with the Institute in New York.

The Policy Institute's Virginia Apuzzo Chair for Leadership in Public Policy is the first endowed chair to be created by the think tank of NGLTF, the nation's oldest GLBT advocacy organization. Apuzzo will join the Policy Institute staff as the first holder of the Apuzzo Chair on September 7. The move returns her to an organization she served as both board leader and executive director in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Apuzzo Chair is designed to recognize leaders with a distinguished record of service on behalf of the GLBT communities. During Apuzzo's tenure at the Policy Institute, she will serve as a senior movement strategist, write and lecture on a wide range of issues, and steer several specific projects to increase support for GLBT equality in both the public and private sector. Drawing on her experiences in the White House and her many years of public service, she will bring activists, policy makers and academics together to develop new strategies and to broaden support for GLBT equality.

"The Apuzzo Chair creates a capacity long missing in our national gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender movement — the capacity to tap the wisdom of innovative leaders and harness their experience to strategically help our movement succeed," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of NGLTF.

Lobel noted that with Apuzzo's addition, the

Policy Institute houses some of the most seasoned and distinguished strategists in the GLBT movement. They include Institute Director Urvashi Vaid, Senior Fellow Dave Fleischer, Aging and Religion Initiative consultant Ken South, and Senior Fellow and Institute Founder John D'Emilio.

Virginia Apuzzo is a long-time leader and innovator in the GLBT movement. A former educator and ex-nun, Apuzzo held the position of Assistant to the President for Administration and Management from 1997-1999, making her the highest ranking openly-gay official in the Administration. Prior to this, she served as Associate Deputy Secretary of the Department of Labor. She is former Commissioner of the New York State Civil Service Commission and former President of the State Department of Civil Service.

In 1980, as an openly-lesbian delegate to the Democratic National Convention, Apuzzo co-authored the first gay and lesbian civil rights plank of a major political party. As executive director of NGLTF from 1982-1986, Apuzzo testified at the first congressional hearings on AIDS and spearheaded the community's response to HIV/AIDS policy on the federal level. In addition, Apuzzo initiated the first national anti-violence work in the GLBT movement and helped develop the first anti-violence projects in San Francisco and New York. Throughout the 1980s, she was an outspoken advocate for a progressive and inclusive HIV policy at the national and state level.

"Creating change is about matching ideas with a strategy that will ensure their success," Apuzzo observed. "As our movement grows larger, the traditional pursuit of access and visibility are no longer enough. We need to move from access to responsiveness and from visibility to full participation. We must not just think, but do." ▼

Clinton appoints Hormel as first ever openly-gay ambassador

by Dan Van Mourik
Q-Notes Staff

WASHINGTON, DC—On Friday, June 4, President Clinton used the authority granted him under a provision of the Constitution to appoint openly-gay San Francisco philanthropist James Hormel to the temporary post of Ambassador to Luxembourg. Hormel becomes the first openly-gay ambassador in US history.

Defying Senate Republican leaders, Clinton gave Hormel a "recess appointment," bypassing the normal requirement for Senate confirmation, while the Senate was on a 10-day Memorial Day recess. The process is rarely used for high-profile appointments since it generally annoys senators who value their confirmation prerogatives. And Clinton has used the

provision judiciously, having made only 57 such appointments in his 6 1/2 years in office, compared to Reagan's 239 in eight years and President Bush's 78 in four years.

Hormel will be able to serve until January 3, 2001. A recess appointment is effective without Senate confirmation until the end of the next session of Congress.

"This is a clearly qualified ambassadorial candidate who enjoyed strong support from the foreign policy community," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart. "This came down to a couple of senators who thought that he shouldn't be ambassador to Luxembourg because he's gay. And the president thinks that's wrong and discriminatory and that's why he

See HORMEL on page 20