

# Q-Notes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper

**Q-Culture** —  
features two great new picks  
for TV viewing.  
See pages 16 & 17 inside.

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## Community center kick-off celebration a KO First legal same-sex wedding held in Canada

by Lainey Millen  
Q-Notes Staff

Charlotte's GLBT community came a step closer to securing its first home during the nearly weeklong festivities January 3-8, when over 100 individuals either pledged or joined The Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

The project, under the auspices of chair Cherie Jones, provided an incredible look at what it would be like to have an actual facility. The event, which started on January 3 with a social gathering of Amity Allies at Caribou Coffee, continued for six days. Other activities included *Will & Grace* night at Liaisons on January 4 and, on January 5 Tradesmen Levi/Leather Club meeting at The Brass Rail and Genesis, who donated part of its admission to the Center fundraising efforts.

On Saturday January 6, an all-day celebration at the Carole A. Hoefener Community Services Center was followed by dancing at Scorpio, with a portion of the club's door proceeds being donated to

the center. Sunday activities included worship at Metropolitan Community Church followed by brunch at Lori's Grill at Liaison's, who also donated a portion of its admission toward the Center. The Lutherans Concerned monthly meeting on January 7, and Time Out Youth and Queen City Rollers bowling on January 8 officially concluded the kick-off.

The highlight of the festivities was the celebration on January 6, when the city's GLBT community banded together to bake, run, eat, learn, dance, and finally play after chowing down on a delicious potluck dinner provided by extraordinary (but mostly amateur) "chefs" from the

funds received, Jones named the board members selected to date, but declined permission for *Q-Notes* to print those names.

A silent auction was held for baskets loaded with "goodies" from area businesses. Those who contributed were: Encore Styling & Tan-

▼  
**Center Kick-off games**

Scrabble mania!

Cranium contestants!



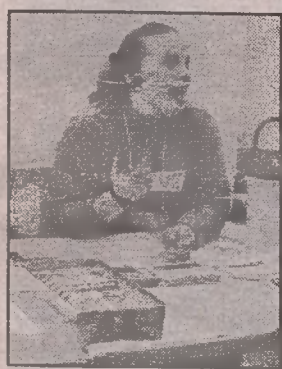
Games "gay-lore" and much, much more...



Twister fun!



Terrific trivia!



Center Chair Cherie Jones greets new members at the information booth.

community. All who attended were treated to a sing-along musical session sponsored by One Voice and a welcome and update by Jones. In addition to announcing the number of registered members and the

ning, Corner Deli, Central Records, Georgetown Body Works, Palazzo, White Rabbit, Paper Skyscraper, OutCharlotte, Mikwright, Posh Pets, Calloway's Baskets & Blossoms, Godiva Chocolates and Southern Country. The money raised benefits the Project.

During dinner, attendees had the opportunity to exchange white elephant Christmas gifts — those who wished were invited to bring something that was received as a present during the holiday season. Those gifts were an eclectic mix of everything from toe-socks to massagers to unusual cookie cutters.

Everyone who joined the Center that day could have a caricature drawn which will be hung in the Center when it is built.

The evening shifted to more entertaining fare when participants joined in to play several games hosted by local groups. A Scrabble game's added interest was a rule change to allow extra points for gay  
See *CENTER* on page 16

by Brad Salavich  
Special to Q-Notes

TORONTO, ONTARIO — The first legal same-sex marriage in North America was performed on Sunday, January 14, 2001, at the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto. In a double ceremony officiated by the Reverend Brent Hawkes, Kevin Bourassa was married to Joe Varnell and Elaine Vautour was married to Anne Vautour.

MCC Toronto retained lawyer Douglas Elliott of Elliott & Kim to act on their behalf. Elliott has advised the church that pursuant to Section 5 of the Ontario Marriage Act, the church has the authority to follow the ancient Christian tradition of the publication of banns of marriage instead of requiring couples to obtain a marriage license. Under Ontario law, couples who wish to marry can either obtain a license from the clerk of their local municipality or they can have their banns published in a church that they regularly attend. Municipal clerks in Ontario have declined to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples and this is now the subject of a court case in Ontario Divisional Court.

Until now, no Church in Ontario has offered to marry same-sex couples by publishing their banns of marriage.

For three consecutive Sundays this past December, Reverend Hawkes announced during the weekly services at Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto that Kevin Bourassa wished to marry Joe Varnell and that Elaine Vautour wished to marry Anne Vautour. Consistent with the process for

See *MARRIAGE* on page 9

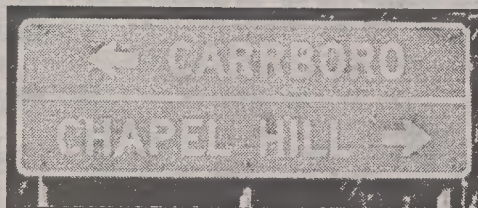
## Boy Scouts to lose meeting space on Chapel Hill/Carrboro campuses

by David Stout  
Q-Notes Staff

CHAPEL HILL — When the current school year ends, Boy Scout troops currently meeting in Chapel Hill/Carrboro schools will have to secure other accommodations.

On January 11, school board members voted unanimously to discontinue allowing Scouts to meet on school property because they are concerned that the Boy Scouts of America's prohibition against gay troop leaders violates the school system's anti-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation.

Last summer, the US Supreme Court ruled that the Boy Scouts have the right to bar gays from membership. The decision stemmed from the dismissal of James Dale, a highly-decorated Eagle Scout, who was banned from participation due to his homosexuality. Dale sued and the case went all the way to the high court. Liberals and conservatives alike viewed the case as one of the year's most important cultural battles.



Despite the sign, Chapel Hill is just as "left" as Carrboro.

Following the decision, numerous corporations, local governments and private benefactors severed ties with the Boy Scouts.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro school board members decided to allow troops to continue meeting on school property through the academic year to ensure a smooth transition to alternate sites, but their message is clear.

"If we have a policy, we have to enforce it," board member Maryanne Rosenmann told the *Durham Herald-Sun*. "If the first time there's a problem with the policy, we back down, what's the policy for?" ▼

## PFAW report says Ashcroft too extreme for Attorney General

by Nancy Coleman  
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC — A review of just the last six years of Senator John Ashcroft's record as a public official should be enough to lead the US Senate to deny him confirmation as US Attorney General and head of the nation's Justice Department, according to a new report released January 5 by People For the American Way.

The 22-page report is entitled "The Case Against the Confirmation of John Ashcroft as Attorney General of the United States." It examines votes and positions taken by Attorney General nominee Ashcroft from 1995 to 2000 as junior Senator from Missouri. It concludes that he has consistently put his allegiance to far right ideology before the interests and rights of the people and the nation and concludes that he has failed to demonstrate a deep commitment to equal justice under the law, respect for individual rights and the Constitution, and sensitivity to the injustices suffered by women and minorities - all qualities that should be considered a prerequisite for the nation's top lawyer and principal enforcer of civil rights and other federal laws.

"John Ashcroft is the wrong [person] for the job," said Ralph G. Neas, President of People For the American Way. "His record places him at the far right edge of the political spectrum, out of the conservative mainstream within his own party. On the key criterion of commitment to equal justice under the law, Ashcroft's record simply does not measure up to the standards the American people have a right to expect from the person entrusted with protecting their rights and their Constitution. John Ashcroft's record shows him to be a man who has not earned the people's high trust but has used his power and position to advance a far right agenda at the expense of Americans' fundamental rights and liberties."

The report examines Ashcroft's Senate record, focusing especially on issues that would be likely to come before him if he were to be confirmed as Attorney General, both in his role of bringing cases to and through the courts and as a participant in the screening and selection of federal judicial nominees, including nominees to the Supreme Court.

The criticisms leveled at Ashcroft in the report include:

See *ASHCROFT* on page 18

The latest Q-Poll results

Do you believe GLBT people are really becoming more accepted in mainstream society?  
Yes 38% No 28% Only if acceptance makes money or avoids a lawsuit 33%

To participate in our new Q-Poll, access [www.q-notes.com](http://www.q-notes.com)