

# Q Notes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper



**Black History Month  
Special Feature**

See page 3

Among GLBT persons of color was Barbara Jordan, noted statesperson from Texas, who was the first African-American woman to deliver a keynote address at a political convention.

Published Every Two Weeks On Recycled Paper • Volume 15, Number 20 • February 17, 2001 • FREE

## Native son comes home for Greensboro reading

by Elaine Tricoli  
Special to Q-Notes

Armistead Maupin, creator of the legendary *Tales of the City* and author of the recently-published psychological suspense book *The Night Listener*, will present a program of reading, humor and conversation at the Greensboro Public Library on Sunday, March 4 at 2 pm. His typical public programs include selected readings and a hilarious free-form "conversation" with the audience that draws heavily on the author's life and work.

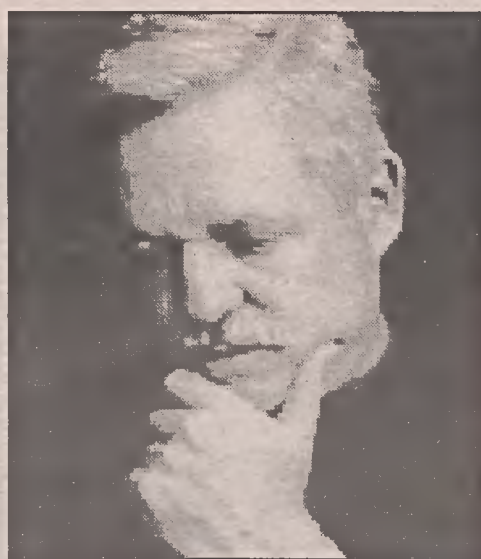
Maupin, who spent most of his childhood in Raleigh, began writing *Tales of the City* in 1976 as a series in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. It was the first fiction to appear in an American daily newspaper in decades. The series grew from a local sensation into an international one when the works were compiled and published

in book form. The series includes a total of six books, the last one becoming a *New York Times* bestseller.

To date, his books have been translated into 10 languages, with more than two million copies in print.

*The Night Listener* tells the story of 54-year-old Gabriel Noone, a writer and host of the vastly popular radio show *Noone at Night*. As the novel progresses, Noone develops a telephone relationship with a 13-year-old boy, an avid fan of the radio program, who tells Maupin he is dying of AIDS. In reviewing Maupin's latest work, the *New York Times* said, "In the end, the reader is captivated and won't be able to get on with things until *The Night Listener* is wolfed down whole, like a midnight snack eaten standing up at the kitchen sink."

Maupin has been the subject of a one-hour BBC documentary, *Armistead Maupin Is a Man*



Armistead Maupin

*I Dreamt Up.*

The first book of the *Tales* series was adapted by Britain's Channel Four as a six-hour miniseries, and when it aired on PBS in 1994, it received widespread critical acclaim, the prestigious Peabody Award, and the highest ratings ever recorded for a PBS drama series. Showtime produced and broadcast the sequel, *More Tales of the City*, in 1998 and will broadcast *Further Tales of the City* this year.

Maupin's program will be at Greensboro's Central Library, 219 N. Church Street, in the Nussbaum Room. For more information, call 336-373-3617. ▼

[The writer is Communications Specialist for the Greensboro Public Library.]

## Lesbian, bisexual women at risk for HIV infection

PROVIDENCE, RI — A study conducted by researchers at Brown University finds that a majority of lesbian and bisexual women reported multiple episodes of unprotected sex every month that involved potential exchange of vaginal secretions, blood, and semen. However, very few of the responding to an anonymous questionnaire perceived themselves to be at risk for HIV infection or other sexually transmitted disease.

Of the respondents who had at least one female sexual partner in the previous year, 27 percent reported having more than one partner. Bisexual women were more likely than lesbians to report having multiple sexual partners, but they did not differ significantly in their rate of previous HIV testing. Active oral-anal sex was reported by 19 percent of the 540 respondents, sexual activity involving possible exposure to blood by 20 percent, and 26 percent reported a previous sexually transmitted disease.

Even so, 84% of respondents believed they were at zero risk of HIV or sexually transmitted disease exposure over the previous year. Only 21% had ever suggested the use of safer sex practices to their sexual partners.

The sample group was derived through women's cultural events, HIV/STD service organizations, and women's health collectives. ▼

## Inn keeps lesbian couple out

by Bo Dean  
Special to Q-Notes

WILMINGTON, NC — The Curran House, located at 312 South 3rd Street, Wilmington, was reported to have refused a woman a room on February 4 because she was going to share the room with another woman. The Innkeeper, Vickie Stringer reportedly said that her husband "would not like that" and refused the room reservation.

In order to verify this story, a call was placed at around 8:40 pm on that day to the Inn, and Innkeeper Greg Stringer answered the phone. The caller, a male, tried to make a reservation for next weekend and was asked if he would be bringing his wife. When he said "no," that he would be bringing his boyfriend, Mr. Stringer said he was completely full. The male then asked when the first opportunity

would be to stay at the Inn, and Mr. Stringer said that if it was for "two gentlemen" he would "not have them under his roof."

The caller asked if Stringer was aware that his Inn was a public establishment advertised by the visitors' center in Wilmington, and Mr. Stringer said yes, but that did not matter. He repeated that he would not have two men under his roof staying together.

Under current state law, there is nothing to prevent a private business owner from refusing service to persons based on their sexual orientation.

Readers wishing to express their objection to this policy of discrimination may contact the Curran House by phone at 910-763-6603 or 800-763-6603, by fax at 910-763-5116, or by mail at the address above. The ZIP code is 28401. ▼

## ENC PAC sets date for Lobby Day 2001, statewide training

by Ian Palmquist  
Special to Q-Notes

RALEIGH — Equality North Carolina PAC, the statewide GLBT political organization, has announced that their second Lobby Day will be held on March 8 at the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh. The event is an opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allied citizens from across the state to come to Raleigh and help advance important legislation by directly lobbying their legislators. The group's first Lobby Day was held in 1999 and was attended by more than 200 people. Equality NC PAC hopes to break that record this year.

The main focus of this grassroots lobbying effort will be on passage of a bill to expand the state's existing hate crime law to include sexual orientation and gender expression, as well as age, disability, and gender. A similar bill came within ten votes of passing the NC House of Represent-

tatives in 1999, and there is a good chance the bill will pass this year, according to Jo Wyrick, Equality NC PAC's Executive Director.

"We believe that victory is within our reach, but only if legislators know that their constituents care about this issue," said Wyrick. "Lobby Day is an important part of our strategy to gain protection from bias violence, and a large turnout from the LGBT community will send a powerful message to the General Assembly."

Other issues on the group's legislative agenda include a bill reforming the Crime Against Nature sodomy law, requiring that sexuality education curricula be medically and legally accurate, and passing anti-discrimination legislation that includes sexual orientation for Durham and Orange Counties. Lobby Day will also help advance these efforts.

In preparation for Lobby Day, the Equality NC Project is working with local organizations

See ENC on page 14

## Attorney General's prior record on sexual orientation raises red flags

by Clay Ollis  
Q-Notes Staff

WASHINGTON, DC — Attorney General John Ashcroft says his personal views would not affect his ability to enforce the law equitably, and denies that sexual orientation would be a factor in hiring decisions at the Department of Justice. But the *Washington Post* alleges he has a history of discrimination. That paper reported that Ashcroft, as governor of Missouri, asked a job applicant about his sexual orientation.

The *Post* reported that a health care expert who applied for a top Cabinet post in Missouri's state government says he was asked by Ashcroft about his sexual orientation. The applicant contends that Ashcroft's very first question was, "Do you have the same sexual preference as most men?" Through a spokeswoman, Ashcroft said he "cannot imagine" questioning a job applicant about his sexual orientation.

Ashcroft, who was confirmed by the Senate

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

As a US Senator, Ashcroft repeatedly declined to sign a pledge that he would not discriminate against gay or lesbian employees in his Senate office. Asked why during his confirmation hearing, Ashcroft replied, "I don't have any recollection about this statement, and frankly, I'd have to answer, 'I don't know and I don't have any recollection of that.'"



Attorney General John Ashcroft

Ashcroft also denied that he held up Hormel's nomination as ambassador to Luxembourg because of Hormel's sexual orientation. But news accounts from 1998 have surfaced in which Ashcroft was quoted as objecting to Hormel's "gay lifestyle."

"Ashcroft seems to be experiencing either amnesia or an inability to be forthright," Toledo said.

Gay activists around the country indicated disappointment with the confirmation, but said they would hold the Attorney General accountable to the more moderate positions he professed during his confirmation hearings. ▼

**"It is important that the nation's highest-ranking law enforcement official tell the truth," said Elizabeth Toledo**

58 - 42 on February 1, has repeatedly asserted he would not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, despite evidence to the contrary.

"It is important that the nation's highest-ranking law enforcement official tell the truth," said Elizabeth Toledo, executive director of the

The latest Q-Poll results

Do you believe GLBT people are really becoming more accepted in Mainstream society?  
Yes 45% No 24% Only if acceptance makes money or avoids a lawsuit 29%

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