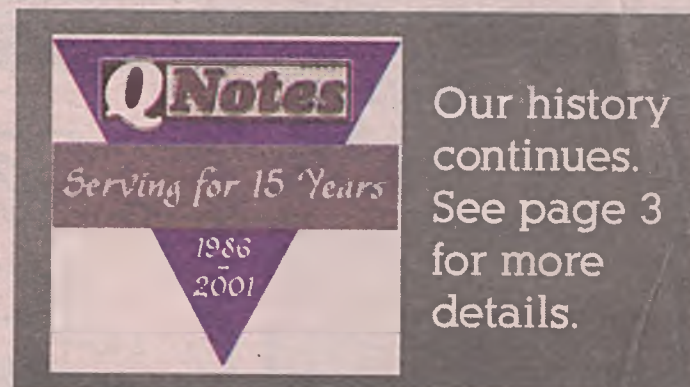


QNotes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper
www.q-notes.com



Published Every Two Weeks On Recycled Paper • Volume 16, Number 2 • June 9, 2001 • FREE



VT Senator James M. Jeffords switched parties recently. What does his defection mean to you? See page 9 for details.

What's inside...

Gay Superior Court Judge Ray Warren may leave bench page 14

Columbia University scientist defends study showing gays can go straight page 19

Schools don't protect students page 9

Miss Della reveals the new Miss USofA page 18

Doctors don't talk sex with GLB patients page 20

Pro and Con: Gay Pride Q-Notes editor and HRC project manager see pride differently page 6

See these and more news, editorials and features when you step inside! See the Index on page 6.

Take the latest Q-Poll :

Have you told your parents you are GLBT?

- Mother**
- Father**
- Both**
- Neither**

To participate in our Q-Poll, access www.q-notes.com See our latest poll results on page 12.

Lorri L. Jean named new executive director of National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

by David Elliot
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC — On May 21, The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Board of Directors named prominent GLBT movement leader Lorri L. Jean as executive director. Jean, the former executive director of the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, will begin work in early June.

"I am honored to have been selected as the new executive director of NGLTF," Jean said, "and I have long admired its work on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movement. I am especially proud to be joining the staff at this pivotal political moment when an unapologetic and inclusive approach to our community's rights is of such great importance."

"What our movement needs now more than ever is NGLTF's strong and progressive leadership. I'm ecstatic that Lorri Jean has enthusiastically accepted the challenge," said Rachel Rosen, co-chair of the NGLTF Board of Directors. "Lorri represents the best of our movement: a proven track record of building local communities, a strong commitment to progressive political work, and a demonstrated history of building nonprofit financial strength and stability."

Founded in 1973, NGLTF works to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at the local, state and national level, as part of the broader social justice movement. The aim of the Task Force is to respect and celebrate the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

Jean, a dynamic leader with proven fundraising skills, has a long history of accomplishments. As a community leader in Los Angeles, she has received numerous honors and awards. Among her major accomplishments, Jean led the LA Center through a period of unprecedented expansion, dramatically increasing the number of clients and volunteers, the diversity and volume of services, the number of staff, and the size of the budget to make the Center the largest GLBT organization in the world. Under her leadership, the Center's annual budget grew from \$8 million to \$32 million, and private donor giving grew from \$1 million to more than \$9 million annually.

While at the LA Center, Jean co-founded the National Association of GLBT Community Centers, a coalition of centers serving the

lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The coalition meets annually at NGLTF Foundation's Creating Change conference.

Prior to taking on her role at the LA Center, Jean was the Deputy Regional Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in San Francisco, where she oversaw the disaster response and recovery operations of FEMA's largest region. Previously, she was the Associate General Counsel at FEMA Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Most recently, Jean was the co-founder and chief operating officer of a Los Angeles-based advertising company serving the e-commerce industry. She holds a JD from Georgetown University in Washington, DC and BS in



Lorri L. Jean

Communication from Arizona State University. She and her partner of nine years, attorney Gina M. Calvelli, live in Los Angeles.

"NGLTF and the entire GLBT community is unbelievably fortunate to have someone like Lorri Jean lead us at this time," said Phill Wilson, founder of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum and currently founding director of the African American AIDS Policy and Treatment Institute. "There are very few people in our community that bring this level of experience, vision and commitment to progressive change. Lorri embodies the best we have to offer. I'm looking forward to working with her and the Task Force." ▼

Virginia gunman pleads guilty to first-degree murder at Roanoke bar

by Clay Ollis
Q-Notes Staff

ROANOKE, VA — Ronald Edward Gay, who in September of 2000 walked into the Back Street Cafe in Roanoke and opened fire on patrons, killing one and wounding six others, pleaded guilty on May 10 to first-degree murder and six other charges, according to reports in *The Roanoke Times*.

The maximum sentence for the charges is four life terms plus 60 years, or a total of 95 years under Virginia law. In a plea agreement, state prosecutors agreed to drop additional firearms charges against Gay which would have added 33 years to the sentence. Prosecutors also reduced charges in the shootings of Joel Tucker, John Collins and Susan Smith to malicious wounding. Roanoke Commonwealth's Attorney Donald Caldwell said Gay would be eligible for geriatric parole in ten years when he turns 65, but would have to be in very poor health to receive it.

According to court records, Judge Clifford Weckstein questioned the defendant to ascertain that he understood the legal ramifications

of his plea and that the plea was entered voluntarily. The judge also asked Gay about the insanity defense, which sources said Gay and his attorneys had considered.

To claim insanity under Virginia law, the defense would have had to prove that Gay did not know right from wrong, that he didn't understand the consequences of his actions, or that he was a victim of an irresistible impulse. A psychiatrist and a psychologist examined Gay, but determined that he did not meet those legal qualifications.

Transcripts of police interviews with Gay revealed that he claimed to have been contemplating such an action for years, even staking out another gay bar in Roanoke as far back as 1986. He told police he wanted to burn it, but "failed." Gay said shortly after his arrest that the shooting was the realization of a "mission" he could no longer deny himself.

In March, *The Roanoke Times* printed excerpts from a letter the paper said they received from Gay, in which he refers to himself as a "Christian Soldier working for my Lord" and suggests that other such soldiers will follow him. ▼

First NC Gay Men's Health Summit planned at Duke

by Gabe Lamazares
Special to Q-Notes

DURHAM — The first meeting to plan a North Carolina Gay Men's Health Summit was held Saturday, May 19. Twenty-two men got together in a conference room at the Durham County Public Library to lay some of the groundwork for a local summit. Interested men came from as far as the Triad and Fayetteville to lend their support and vision to planning a Summit that is as inclusive and holistic as possible. They hope to organize gay and bisexual men throughout the state to promote overall health — physical, sexual, mental, and spiritual.

The impetus for organizing a North Carolina Summit comes from local men who participated in the National Gay Men's Health Summits organized in Boulder, Colorado in 1999 and 2000. The National Summits were a chance for men all over the country to work together to address the gay men's health issues

that have been eclipsed for so long by the specter of HIV. This year, rather than having a national summit, participants were urged to bring home the idea of gay men educating one another around health by organizing local and regional summits.

The North Carolina Summit is tentatively scheduled for October 2001 at Duke University, co-sponsored by the Duke Center for LGBT Life and Triangle Community Works. The group agreed that the Summit should be a day of workshops on a Saturday with some social activities the Friday night preceding for people to get to know one another. Workshops will be facilitator-led, interactive sessions on health topics ranging from smoking cessation to depression, from anal cancer to party drugs and yoga. There will also be workshop tracks for folks interested in particular topics: men of color, youth, living with HIV, mental health and spirituality, and more. The goal is to create a space for men

to talk across boundaries of race, class, and culture to envision a common future where all of us are able to thrive. Organizers also agreed on the importance of outreach and getting the word out through as many avenues as possible to reach men who might not otherwise attend.

Before adjourning the planning meeting, participants signed up for working groups organizing different aspects of the Summit including registration, logistics, financial management, media, and outreach. These working groups will meet more often to coordinate their area of concern. ▼

[For more information, visit their web site at hometown.aol.com/summit4nc. If you would like to get involved in planning the Summit, or would like to be included on their mailing list, please send contact information to summit4nc@aol.com, or NC Summit, PO Box 25642, Raleigh, NC 27611. Another meeting will be scheduled in June.]