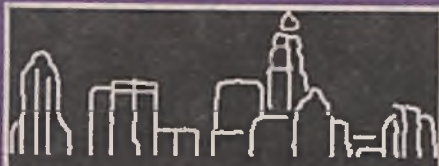


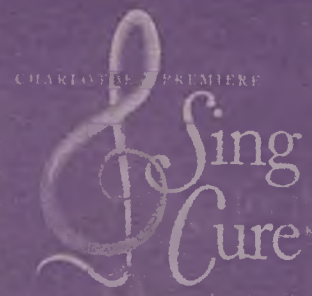


- Carrboro OKs domestic partnerships
- NC reverses, stops anonymous testing
- Col. Margarethe Cammemeyer, author, "Serving in Silence" is keynote



Charlotte Pride
May 3.4.5

events on page 23



to eradicate breast cancer

Bring your partner, mom, sister, daughter, aunt, niece, grandma, and friends for an unforgettable gift on Mother's Day • May 12

INSIDE

9

Q-NOTES ENDORSES



6

THOMPSON
NC HOUSE . 30



27

SMITH
SC HOUSE . 119

Warren Campaign bid for US House is over 28

Q-POLL

online:
www.q-notes.com

Will you march or participate in any PRIDE festivities this year?

choose one:

- Yes! North Carolina
- Yes! South Carolina
- Yes! Some other place
- No, not ready to "go public" yet

A brave stand for diversity

GLBT group at JCSU held a forum to bring awareness to their issues and bring visibility to themselves.

by Monica Simpson
JCSU contributing writer

CHARLOTTE, NC - On the campus of Johnson C. Smith University, in Jane M. Memorial University Chapel on April 6, 2002 a nationally recognized flag with the colors of red, orange, yellow, green, blue indigo was displayed for the first time in the school's 135 years. To most people in the GLBT community, displaying the gay pride flag is hardly unusual. It has become routine in their lives. However, to Jonathan Perry, president and founder of the first GLBT group at JCSU, "A3" - African American Alliance for gay and lesbian acceptance - and its members, it was a monumental event. They had been forced to wait six months for administrative approval (longer than any other student organization; and A3 was the only group on campus to need legal intervention to get established.

As I walked into the chapel that day, I felt an unrelenting spirit of joy and pride. Finally, I didn't have to hide being a lesbian. My peers would see me for the person I am. I had been hiding behind men just to appear "normal," whatever that is.

I focused on the forum moderator, Brandon Braud, from the Human Rights Campaign; Chris Bell, an HIV/AIDS activist on college campuses; Mandy Carter, a nationally-recognized lesbian activist; and Rev. Tonya Rawls, founding pastor of Unity Fellowship Church Charlotte.

In all of my four years at JCSU, I never thought a diversity forum would be held at this university - this school, bound by strict tradition and still clinging to an older way of thinking. It was astonishing we were permitted to take this first step.

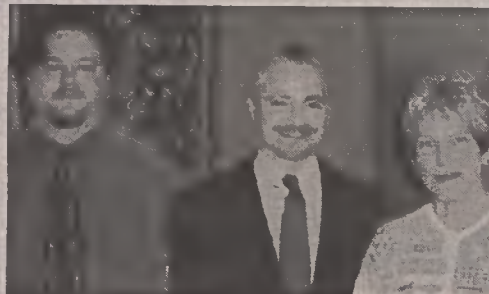
While the forum progressed, I scanned the room to see if I recognized anyone. There were many people from the GLBT community of the surrounding area. Some supporters came as far as Washington, DC and Savannah, GA. All the GLBT community

see JCSU on 11



Jonathan Perry, founder of A3 speaking at Diversity Forum

Mancini Foundation dedicated to groups here



Two grant recipients: John Hartness, Off Tryon Theatre Company; Tonda Taylor for Time Out Youth with Wesley Mancini (C). Metrolina AIDS Project was third recipient

New foundation funds local Charlotte organizations that address LGBT issues

CHARLOTTE, NC - A new foundation during a recent press conference, its 2001 grant recipients - support and arts groups in the Charlotte LGBT community.

The foundation

The Wesley Mancini Foundation convened its inaugural board, September 7, 2001. The new foundation is dedicated to sustaining public programs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender expressions in Charlotte. The Mancini Foundation is one of only three US foundations who solely support the LGBT community. Its mission statement reads, "The Wesley Mancini Foundation provides funding for projects that promote the inclusion of gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexuals as full participants in the Charlotte

community."

Its founder and president, Wesley Mancini, has been a longtime donor to the Charlotte arts community and to local state and national gay and lesbian causes. He was recently honored at the annual 2002 HRC dinner held in Cary, NC.

The lack of past public support for risk-taking creates a perception of "safe" and anti-gay guidelines at local foundations hindering new applicants from submitting risky or gay/lesbian-related programming. Mancini thought the best response was to start a foundation whose funding would be solely dedicated to new and challenging voices.

"I do not see ... other funders seeking and

see MANCINI on 39

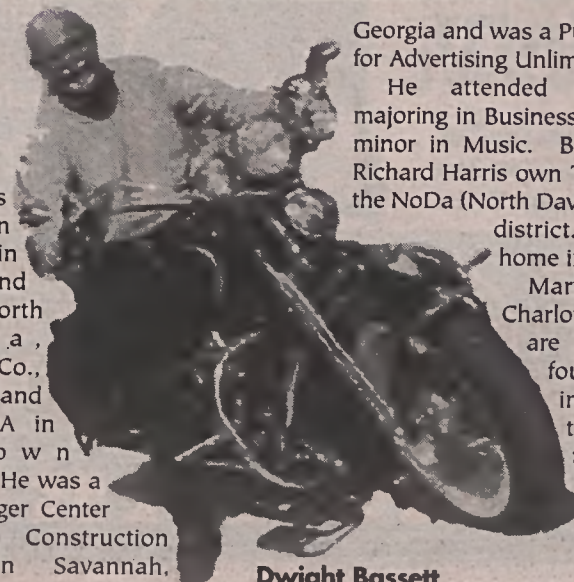
New executive director already revving it up

The foremost LGBT culture and education organization in Charlotte gets a guy with a Harley and a Smelly Cat

CHARLOTTE - The Out Charlotte Board of Trustees is very pleased to announce it has hired a new Executive Director after a nationwide search yielded a great candidate in our own backyard. Dwight Basset began his tenure just last week.

Basset most recently worked in Rock Hill as Downtown Development Manager. He has over 15 years of non-profit and government experience and brings a wealth of non-profit management strengths.

Basset has also been employed in Statesville and Concord North Carolina, McCormick Co., SC, and Hinesville, GA in downtown development. He was a Project Manager Center Brothers Construction Company in Savannah.



Dwight Basset

Georgia and was a Public Relations Director for Advertising Unlimited.

He attended Samford University majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Music. Basset and his partner Richard Harris own The Smelly Cat Cafe in the NoDa (North Davidson) theater and arts district. They also have a home in NoDa.

Mary Ann Mueller, Out Charlotte co-chair said, "We are very pleased to have found an interested individual with the talents and experiences that Dwight has."

Basset said he is excited about the opportunity to work

see DIRECTOR on 39