

north  
& south  
carolina

# Notes

noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues

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Q-Notes

JUNE 86  
JUNE 01

15

1995

- Abstinence or bust or both
- SC Women's Coalition gets grant to study lesbian health



## 11<sup>TH</sup> SC GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE

taking it to the streets!

COLUMBIA • MAY 18, 2002

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## Sing for the Cure

a beautiful, unforgettable benefit  
MAY 12 . MOTHER'S DAY . 8PM

TICKETS: 704.372-1000

## Q-POLL

online  
www.q-notes.com

Would you fight for the right  
of transgender persons to be  
included with LGB's in ENDA,  
the Employment  
Non-Discrimination Act?

choose one:

- YES • NO
- Will fight for inclusion in  
the next bill, — "ENDA 2"

## Why we march: for those still afraid

by Ed Madden

Secretary

SC Gay &amp; Lesbian Pride Movement



### Part 1

The culture is changing, but we still need to march for our rights

He didn't tell us his name, but he said he was from Columbia.

My partner and I were at

Charlotte Pride, distributing information for South Carolina's Pride March, and one of the first people we talked to was from Columbia, our hometown. He said he couldn't be out in Columbia, said he drove to Charlotte to be himself.

Though interested in the SC Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement, he wouldn't sign up for our newsletter, didn't give us his name, and said he couldn't join us for our SC Pride festival. He drove over an hour through rain and cold to celebrate Charlotte Pride, to be out in Charlotte, but he refuses to come out at home.

When I march down Main Street in Columbia to the steps of my state capitol on May 18, I will wonder where he is, and how many others like him cannot join us. People

for whom the Carolinas are neither safe nor hospitable because of fears both perceived and real. I will be marching for him, and thinking of those absences, those silent voices.

I'll also be marching for a high school kid from Roebuck, South Carolina. He requested information through our webpage (www.scglpm.org). Unfortunately, his parents intercepted his mail. The father called the gay and lesbian community center, threatening both lawsuits and physical assault, the mother in the background screaming.

I don't know what happened when the young man got home that day. But I know that I will also march for him. I will hope he

sees us on television, and knows that there is a different culture out there, one that will welcome him. I hope that we can change the culture so that even gay and lesbian kids in rural South Carolina can find community and support.

Finally, I'll be marching for a man who just moved to Columbia from Charlotte for a new job, and promptly lost the job. A co-worker kept

harassing him, accusing him of having AIDS. He was fired for a "confrontation" in the workplace. The homophobe who orchestrated the confrontation kept his job. I'll also march for the security guard from Rock Hill who was fired for having an "inappropriate visitor" during his break (his boyfriend), though all his co-workers are free to meet family members at work.

Traditionally we have marched in gay pride marches for three reasons. First, we march to assert a public voice, to affirm our power and visibility in a culture that all too often ignores us, a culture that keeps many of us afraid and closeted—like the man standing at our table at Charlotte Pride.

see MARCH on 22



Pride Rally on the State House steps Columbia, South Carolina where 2002 gathering will take place again

## Acceptance and Pride take on prejudice

SC Gay and lesbian Business Guild and member organizations of the SC Equality Coalition speak out with a strong message; Alliance For Full Acceptance starts new campaign

### Part 1

The Gay and Lesbian Business Guild has begun a media campaign to further awareness in the Midlands about prejudice against gays and lesbians. Working with the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement, USC student organizations, and other members of the South Carolina Equality Coalition, the Guild has begun an educational campaign featuring the message, "Homosexuality isn't the problem. Prejudice is."

The slogan and ad were adapted from a similar and successful media campaign run by the Alliance for Full Acceptance in Charleston. The Guild's campaign includes newspaper advertising, as well as a billboard planned for Blossom Street in downtown

Columbia. The Guild also ran a television ad with the same message during the Prime Time feature on Rosie O'Donnell and gay parenthood on March 14.

The Guild's campaign also promotes the SC Gay and Lesbian Pride March. Ads in the University of South Carolina newspaper have targeted the University's failure to include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy.

This media campaign will undoubtedly create and shape a conversation about our issues in the Midlands. To support the

Media Campaign effort as well as the Pride Movement, see the information at the end of this article.

AFFA is currently planning a large media campaign for the Charleston area. Their central message will be, "We are your neighbors, and we are gay." They are planning for a billboard on I-26, television commercials, radio spots, and direct mail. PFLAG in Greenville is also beginning work on a billboard campaign.

In related news, for the first time in the history of Pride, GLPM will have a street banner on display in downtown Columbia. Look for the banner over Elmwood Street the week before Pride. The banner is sponsored by PFLAG-Greenville and the Carolina Bear Lodge.

Part II next issue: AFFA's 2002 campaign

### info: support the campaign

Donate: Checks to: SCGLBG  
PO Box 7913 • Columbia, SC 29202  
mark check: "Media Campaign"  
or help both Pride & Campaign:  
mark check: "Media - GLPM"

Homosexuality isn't the problem, prejudice is.

2002 media campaign for the Midlands of SC



New AFFA media campaign in Charleston, SC