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Q-POLL

www.q-notes.com

Should Q-Notes colors

... remain the same every issue except for Pride events?

... change every issue as it has been doing?

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## Knowledge is power — the University of North Carolina is opening LGBTQ library

by Glenn Grossman

There will be a Triangle LGBTQ public library — a safe, confidential lending library.

One of the recommendations of the UNC LGBTQ climate report was that the University: "Create an accessible, comprehensive archive of LGBTQ life which would include a lending library of books, movies, periodicals and other media, with confidential lending."

Perhaps there was a particular book which was especially helpful when you were coming out. Or a book or movie dealing with other LGBTQ life experiences you thought were helpful, moving or memorable. Perhaps you would consider donating your used book so someone else might benefit from it! Or buy a new copy, and donate it for public use.

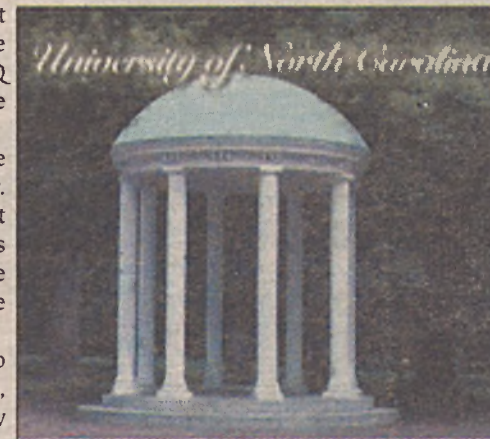
When you go to an LGBT bookstore to buy something for yourself, consider spending a few extra dollars and purchasing a second copy to be donated to the new LGBTQ library.

To help fulfill this goal, White Rabbit Books has agreed to make it less expensive for the public to donate new and used LGBTQ books, movies, tapes, CDs and DVDs to the LGBTQ lending library.

Please consider going and buying some books and donating them to the LGBT library. Because of a special sale, there is a great selection of new books at great prices. Books you want to go to the new library can be donated at the time of purchase. There will be an ongoing collection.

Cameron's in University Mall has also agreed to be a drop off location for all book, movie and other media donations for the new LGBT library.

Remember the library when you're done with a wonderful read or superb movie. All of these materials will be made available in a space which supports the safety and privacy of its users.



LGBT library extends university diversity

info:

e-mail: Glenn Grossman glenn@email.unc.edu • 919-968-8210

## Mychal Judge Act recognizes 9-11 victims' wishes

Bush signed new law that awards \$250,000 federal benefit to all beneficiaries of those killed in the line of duty

President Bush signed the Mychal Judge Act providing a federal payment to the beneficiaries of public safety officers killed in the line of duty, including those killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks without a surviving legally-recognized spouse, child or parent.

"This bill honors the memory of heroes who, in the line of duty, showed uncommon sacrifice in helping other people," said Human Rights Campaign executive director Elizabeth Birch. "In a time of national crisis we watched these courageous individuals rise to the occasion, and it is only fitting that Congress and the President rose to the occasion to treat their families with the sensitivity and respect they deserve."

The \$250,000 federal benefit money has been available only to spouses, children and parents. Gay activists had lobbied for the bill, and the Justice Department had objected to it, saying in a letter to Congress that the benefit had been designed for immediate survivors with pressing needs and that the bill was "likely to create unintended and unfortunate results."

David Smith of the HRC said he hopes the new law will be "the beginning of government

recognition — that gay families deserve the same rights and privileges that non-gay families have."

And the National Stonewall Democrats also lauded the political victory, calling the Mychal Judge Act a "Democratic strategic success." While the bill quickly passed the Democratically controlled Senate, House Republican leaders initially tabled the legislation in an attempt to kill it.

In response,

to allow a vote, and then pressured the President to sign it.

"When the debate becomes a choice between voting for or against the heroes of September 11, it becomes very hard for anyone to say no," said Chad Johnson, NSD Executive Director. "That being said, we appreciate the President's signature, and hope that it indicates his willingness to advance basic equality in a manner not demonstrated before."

The White House revealed the decision with a minimum of fanfare, sending a one-sentence email, shortly after Bush had delivered a speech outlining a new Middle East peace plan.

According to *The Washington Post*, the email from the White House "adds chaplains to the list of individuals eligible for the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program and allows life insurance beneficiaries to qualify as eligible survivors for death benefits if a public safety officer has no surviving spouse or child."

The announcement represented a rare case in which Bush was willing to take on the Republican Party's right wing. Indeed, the decision incited some conservative leaders. "Homosexual folks see this as a first step toward recognizing homosexuality on the same level as marriage, and that's what it will be used for," said the Rev. Lou Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition.

Scott McClellan, White House spokesman, said the law honors the wishes of victims. "It is not a determination of legal status."

The new law is named for Catholic priest, Father Mychal F. Judge, the New York Fire



Father Mychal Judge, top and then as he was carried from the World Trade Center on 9-11; and President Bush

House Democrats, led by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY), put together a strong coalition of public service officials forcing Republican leadership

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