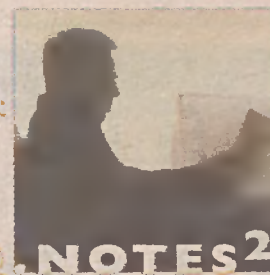


A BRAND NEW GOLD STANDARD: MITCHELL 25



## From virtual to Central — LGBT Center is a reality!

*Ed note: After twenty years of hoping; after 3 years hard working; after building and maintaining a virtual Community Center on the web; after raising awareness; after keeping after us; after keeping the plan and the dream and the hope alive; after brilliant strategy and meticulous approach — it's here. Thank you very much our superb Community Center volunteer Board. Thank you, contributors.*

by Darryl Logsdon  
Leah D. Sepsenwol

CHARLOTTE — Columbia, SC has a very active one; Wilmington, NC led the way earlier this year and will dedicate its LGBT Community Center in August. And now all of us, here, really understand how proud they feel having established a place of their own.

### A dream takes shape

At its annual membership meeting, The Lesbian & Gay Community Center Board of Trustees announced their plan to open Charlotte's first Community Center later this year.

"It's a momentous day for us," said Curtis M. Tutt, Board chairperson. "Various individuals and groups have been working to create a Lesbian & Gay Community Center for more than 20 years. Thanks to the leadership gifts of more than 80 individuals, we can make that dream a reality."

Keith Bernard, Facilities Committee Chair said, "Ten years ago, I don't think we could



Right next to the White Rabbit Books & Things, Charlotte's new Community Center will open later this year.

have done this. Generally, people were more closeted. This sets the goal for everybody — that we can be out and visible."

Everyone loves the eclectic, diverse nature of the area that even boasts Charlotte's first Dairy Queen.

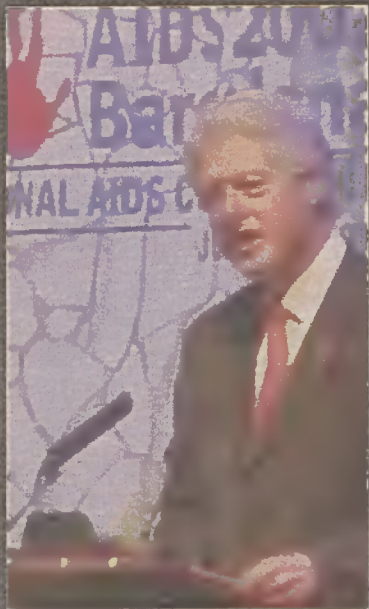
"We are very excited to be a part of the Plaza-Midwood neighborhood," said Keith Bernard, Facilities Committee Chair.

The Center is located at 1401 Central Avenue — right next to White Rabbit Books and Things, which recently relocated to the

building. Owner John Neal offered to share half of the 8500 square foot bookstore space, with the Community Center.

Neal, who owns two other White Rabbit bookstores said, "We complement each other." It was his idea to contact the Center Committee — an idea inspired by Charlotte's LGBT support and "the informal partnership which White Rabbit Books already enjoys with the community here." he said.

see CENTER on 21



Former President Bill Clinton makes the closing speech at 14th International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain

Photo and Article by Rex Wockner

INSIDE

Sharon Thompson pulls out of 2002 NC House bid, blaming newly drawn districts; will regroup to run in 2004

Dance floor drugging is target of Senate bill — club owners could lose big

Rev. Troy Perry, head of MCC speaks to Clergy Code of Conduct in place for years

### series

Fighting the gay Right Final: part 3

Women's Pro Football Final: part 2

South Carolina

### Q-POLL

www.q-notes.com

Would you "go public" with your Civil Union or Commitment Ceremony?

. Yes  
. No

## Civil Union photo in Fayetteville Observer wedding section

by Brian M. Myer  
Leah D. Sepsenwol

The Fayetteville Observer made Carolina history on Sunday, July 28 when it published the Civil Union announcement and photograph of Rabbi Richard Jernigan and John Nitzche of Hope Mills, NC.

Rabbi Richard Jernigan is an ordained orthodox Rabbi, born and raised in Fayetteville and educated in New York where he received his rabbinical training and ordination. Though he currently does not have a pulpit, he has formed what he terms "a loose coalition, known as Beth David (House of David)" for LGBTs who need or request a Rabbi for any ceremony or participation.

His partner John Nitzche is the last living descendant of German philosopher Frederick Nietzsche.

They were joined together in civil union in Hartland, VT on June 28 at 11:00 am. One of a handful of Carolina couples who've made the northern trek to Vermont to take advantage of the state's same-sex union law, the Jernigan-Nitzche union is unique in that its arguably the first same-sex union to be



Rabbi Richard Jernigan (L) and partner John Nitzche's Civil Union portrait photo

## ALFA celebrates year 15 and its volunteers

by Lisa Miller

Over 70 people turned out to celebrate the 15th anniversary of ALFA; the only HIV/AIDS service organization in the Unifour. Past and present people connected to the AIDS Leadership Foothills area Alliance (ALFA) came together to celebrate some of the amazing individuals and achievements from the last 15 years. The dinner party was held Tuesday, July 16th, 2002 at the First Baptist Church in Morganton, NC. Blue Ridge HealthCare System sponsored the dinner.

ALFA Executive Director, Maria Giannini Reese, Paul Dickens, Tim Arnette, Michele Francois, Ed farthing, Rebecca McLeod, Pete Prunkl, Carolyn Sheets, Pam Yount, and Tammy Yount formed the planning committee. "As the Anniversary Committee met and planned, we decided that the program would serve as a snapshot of ALFA through the years....", said Maria Giannini Reese, Executive Director of ALFA.

Speakers highlighted the various eras of ALFA. Rebecca McLeod, Burke County Health Educator, and Carolyn Sheets, RN

see PHOTO on 10

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