

north  
& south  
CAROLINA

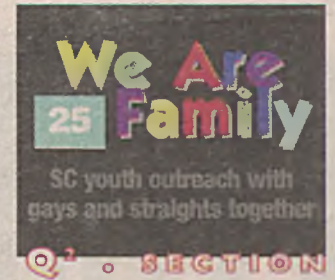


# Notes

noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues

Rosie kicks  
Rosie off the  
stands — mag  
mama mad  
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control

Q  
CULTURE



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SEPTEMBER 28 . 2002



National Coming  
Out Project

Nat'l Coming Out Day



Sept. 29  
Greenville SC  
Oct. 5  
Charlotte NC  
Oct. 12  
Lenoir NC  
Oct. 27  
Charleston SC

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Classical

## OutCharlotte Festival takes center stage

CHARLOTTE — The OutCharlotte Cultural Festival again brings fabulous talent to our community. The Festival which runs October 2-6, celebrates the LGBT community — providing great entertainment, workshops and exhibits. There is also a featured marketplace for organizations, businesses,



merchants and more. Come on out and enjoy. A full schedule is in the Out & About section on page 38.

### Skott Freedman

Skott Freedman is one of the most out and exciting singer/songwriters/pianists to emerge on the contemporary music scene. His work has been both nationally and internationally recognized as devoted fans are becoming increasingly aware of this 22-year-old rising star each year.

Rich in tone and pungent with emotion, Freedman uses his voice as a true instrument, varying the expression and intensity with every note. The final product sends the listener on an emotional rollercoaster ride.

Aside from performing, Skott Freedman is

currently the nation's youngest, touring bisexual activist, traveling the country with his powerful lecture, "Battling Biphobia and Bringing Bisexuals Back to the LGBT Community." He has appeared on national radio programs and is a regular guest speaker at universities and colleges as part of campus events. He has participated in fundraisers organized by the Human Rights Campaign, donating free performances in auctions to raise money for the LGBT cause. Freedman has appeared in *Billboard Magazine*, on NBC News, ABC's *Daybreak*, been profiled on international LGBT NPR news radio commentary *This Way Out*, a featured artist twice on *INDIE-MUSIC.com*, and has appeared in concert with other artists such as Sophie B. Hawkins, Jill Sobule, Judy Tenuta, Sister Sledge, CeCe Peniston, Ultra Nate, SONIA from *Disappear Fear*, Peter Mulvey and Chastity Bono.

### Kirk Read

Kirk Read is the author of *How I Learned to Snap*, a memoir about being openly gay in a small southern high school during the late 1980s. He grew up in Lexington, Virginia, the birthplace of Pat Robertson and home to Virginia Military Institute, which schooled three generations of his family.



He began writing at age 13 and had his first play staged at 16. Three of his plays

were professionally produced while he was in high school, and he was an apprentice and later a playwright-in-residence at the Shenandoah International Playwrights Retreat.

In 1998, he moved to San Francisco to pursue writing, activism, and adventure. He spent a year washing dishes at a Castro homeless shelter and worked as an intake counselor at the St. James Infirmary, a free health care clinic for sex workers. He was part of the collective that produced the 1999 and 2000 Gay Men's Health Summits in Boulder, CO, a conference which has given birth to over a dozen regional health conferences around the country.

As a freelance writer, his work has appeared in *Out*, *Genre*, *Christopher Street*, *QSF*, and a host of alt-weeklies, web sites and LGBT newspapers. He currently lives in San Francisco, where he is working on a second book.

### CC Carter

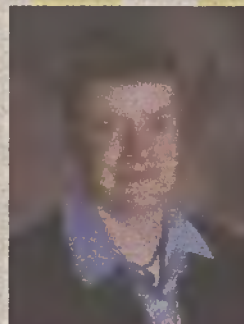
CC Carter earned her MA in Creative Writing from Queens College in New York. She received her BA in English Literature from Spelman College in Atlanta. In addition to her recent release *Body Language* (Kings Crossing



see **OUTCHARLOTTE** on 9

## Coming out is a journey, not a destination

by Candace Gingrich  
National Coming Out Project Manager



The National Coming Out Project promotes honesty and openness about being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (GLBT) on campus, in the workplace, in the community and at home. It is an extension of National Coming Out Day — founded by activists who believed that GLBT people needed to be visible and that equality could not be achieved from the closet.

I have met and spoken with thousands of GLBT people across the country — many of them feel that their own coming out processes would have been easier if they had somewhere to go for accurate, supportive information. The coming out process is just that — a process. Coming out to yourself is

obviously the key event in this process, but for the majority of GLBT people, coming out doesn't stop there. Every day holds the possibility of a new opportunity to share our lives with others. Whether we're filling out a credit application, striking up a conversation on the bus, or being asked what we did over the weekend — there are opportunities almost daily to come out. We also cannot forget that our straight allies have their own coming out journeys as they decide to be open and honest about their support of GLBT people.

If you are going through the coming out process yourself, remember that you are not alone. The National Coming Out Project's resources will hopefully provide direction on this incredible journey. Coming out is still the single most important thing you can do to turn ignorance into understanding. Not only are you empowering yourself but you are helping to educate those around you and enable them to become "straight but not narrow."

If you visit our web site's resources as a counselor, friend, parent, advisor, clergy,

teacher, social worker — a big thank you for realizing the importance of helping others through the coming out process. There are numbers I could cite here with which you are probably all too familiar — GLBT youth suicides, drop outs, runaways. There are also parents and grandparents who don't realize or accept that they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender until much later in life, and it is important to make sure that they have the support and resources that they need. As an ally, you are one of our most important resources and a lifeline to those you are assisting.

I am grateful to those pioneers who had the vision to create a yearly celebration of coming out and those who continue to assist us on that journey. I hope that you will join me, National Coming Out Project and the Human Rights Campaign in making America a place where coming out can be celebrated every day.

info: coming out guide English & Español

www.hrc.org

see Religious Outreach Groups on page: 14