



## ENC Lobby Day at NC General Assembly March 26

*ENC encourages supporters to get involved in party precinct meetings during Lobby Day on March 26*

Equality NC's bi-annual Lobby Day will take place on Wednesday, March 26 at the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh from 9 am to 3 pm. This is your chance to come to Raleigh and speak directly to the people who are making decisions that affect your life. Legislators have told us that face to face meetings with LGBT constituents are the most effective form of advocacy, so your participation counts!

Details and directions will be announced in the coming weeks, but plan to take the day off of work and come to Raleigh! We need your help to advance legislation to repeal the Crimes Against Nature law and to protect the LGBT community from violence and discrimination.

### Get involved in ZFparty precinct meetings

Equality NC asks lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied North Carolinians to get involved in local party precinct meeting.

**Why are these meetings important?**

Precincts are the smallest unit of our political parties and are the real source of grassroots activism in the parties.

At precinct meetings, party members elect precinct officers, as well as delegates to the county and congressional district party conventions. These delegates help set party platform and shape the direction of the party.

Party members may also propose resolutions to be considered at conventions for inclusion in the county and congressional district platforms. These platforms, in turn, influence the creation of statewide platform. This provides a remarkable opportunity for individuals to influence platform by proposing resolutions in support of LGBT equality.

Precinct meetings are typically attended by just a few people, and many precincts are completely unorganized. This provides our community with a chance to get involved and move the Democratic and

Republican parties forward on our issues.

### Getting involved: Attend your meeting

To find out when and where your precinct meeting will be held, contact your county party chair or stop by your polling place (listed on your voter card) and look for a posting there. To find out how to contact your county chair, use the following information.

**Democratic Party** . 919-821-2777

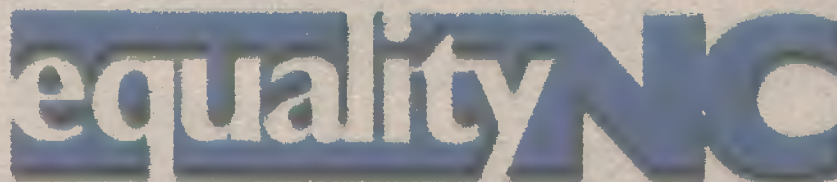
[www.ncdp.org/head.htm](http://www.ncdp.org/head.htm)

Click on "County Parties" to download a list of county chairs and their contact information.

**Republican Party** . 919-828-6423

[www.ncgop.org/officials/county.html](http://www.ncgop.org/officials/county.html)

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*NYC Mayor Bloomberg marches in the "other" St. Pat's Day Parade*

Charlotte Pride 2003 Logo 4

AFL-CIO speaks out for all, includes transgenders 6

Lesbian health issues 13



*Rev. Irene Monroe*

*Renown feminist theologian, to speak at Johnson C. Smith University in the Honors College Library*

March 18 . 4 pm

*South Carolina Hilton Head teens start support group* 23

## The loud noise of Silence

*April 9 is 7th Annual Day of Silence, the national student-led project to create safer schools for everybody*

### History of the Day of Silence Project

Founded in 1996, the Day of Silence Project has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. From the first-ever Day of Silence at the University of Virginia in 1996, to the organizing efforts in over 1900 middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities across the country in 2002, its textured history reflects its diversity in both numbers and reach. Here's a brief history.

**1997:** From one, to one hundred, National Day of Silence takes off with a web page and much dedication. Pulzetti and then 19-year-old Jessie Gilliam, developed the project to be used in schools across the country. It was renamed the National Day of Silence, and that year nearly 100 colleges and universities participated. Some schools in Australia heard about the project and modeled a similar day for their

schools.

**1998:** The Day keeps growing. The Project's Pulzetti and Gilliam realized they could not expand the National

Day of Silence alone, so they organized a team of regional coordinators who could assist schools better by working with and understanding local networks. That year, students in high schools joined the organizing efforts, helping double the number of participating schools to over 200.

**1999-2001:** More people, more time, a message of unity sets in through the sponsorship of *Advocates for Youth*. Gilliam worked part-time over the summer of 1999 to maintain and expand the Day of Silence Project. A first in the project's history, a team of volunteers met for a weekend in Boston to discuss strategy and develop future plans towards assisting schools. The Day of Silence Project continued to support high schools, colleges and universities around the country with volunteers led by then 18-year-old Chloe Palenchar, as the National Project Coordinator. Over 300 high schools participated that year.



## Day of Silence project

Wednesday - April 9, 2003

**2001:** Day of Silence Project still growing, still strong. Chris Tuttle, GLSEN's National Student Organizer, Gilliam and Palenchar developed a proposal to provide the Day of Silence Project with new funding, staff, volunteers and an official organizational sponsor, GLSEN.

**2002:** Making noise, making history. In what has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools, the April 10th Day of Silence was organized by students in more than 1900 schools across the country, with estimated participation of more than 100,000 students. Representative Eliot Engel introduces the first ever resolution on the Day of Silence in Congress, which received support of 29 co-signers; additionally, Governor Gray Davis of California issued an official proclamation making April 10, 2002 the National

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## Gay Men's Health Summit will convene in Raleigh

Hundreds of local, national and international leaders working to build a strong, visible, politicized gay men's health movement will converge on Raleigh from May 7-11 for The Third Annual Gay Men's Health Summit 2003. This is designed to appeal to all who support the health and well-being of men who are gay, bisexual, queer or who have sex with men and will encompass the needs of the entire spectrum of queer men including those who are FTM or trans-identified.

These Summits focus on building momentum

for a nationwide movement to improve the well-being of the queer community and, in the case of the upcoming Gay Men's Health Summit, its constituent population.

A collective of 13 individuals from around the country who represent a wide range of geographic locations, ages, race/ethnicity, gender identity and professions is organizing this event; the main goal being to use gay male health concerns, including but not limited to HIV; to help re-energize gay men about their health, political

activism, community life, volunteerism, grassroots organizing and health promotion efforts.

The program for the four-day event is built by the participants who contribute program proposals to a committee that reviews them and selects proposals that meet the objective of creating a strong and comprehensive program around gay, bisexual and queer health.

Gay Men's Health Summit 2003 workshops provide exciting new opportunities for participants

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[www.q-notes.com](http://www.q-notes.com)

Do "The Ides of March" affect you?! (March 15)

. huh?

. yes . some . no

. duh!

Q.POLL RESULTS: 22