


 Rocker Michelle Malone
 performs in Charlotte,
 Chapel Hill and Mount
 Pleasant

31


 Gay couple
 wins \$1 million
 on CBS
 reality show

29

 Schedule for
 NC PrideFest

11

 New York gay
 school sued

17

 Virginia charges men
 with 'sodomy'

16

 South Carolina
 South Carolina tries to
 ban gay adoptions

25

 ONLINE
Q.POLL
 www.q-notes.com

 Does television portray
 a stereotypical image
 of gay people?

Yes . No

Q.POLL RESULTS 07

N.C. celebrates 19th annual LGBT Pride

'United in Pride' takes place over three days across five different cities

by Eddie Katz


 N.C.'s 19th annual LGBT pride celebration takes place
 September 19-21 in the Raleigh-Durham area.

"United in Pride," North Carolina's 19th annual LGBT pride celebration, kicks off in Durham September 19, with a one-man show by performance artist Tim Miller at Manbites Dog Theater. Other events scheduled for the three-day affair include a women's party at Visions with a drag king show, a "Noche Latina" dance and party from the Latin LGBT organization HOLA-NC and appearances and perform-

ances by a handful of notable celebrities, among them former Carolina Panthers player Esera Tuaolo, dance music diva Kristine W and Shane Landrum, a former star of "MTV Road Rules" (see schedule, page 11).

"NC PrideFest day, which includes the festival and parade in Durham, takes place on Saturday," says John Short, one of the chief organizers for NC PrideFest. "There are adjoining and aligning events later in the day and on Friday and Sunday, so it encompasses the entire weekend."

In addition to Durham, events for PrideFest take place in Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Greensboro and Winston-Salem. Raleigh plays host to a large portion of the evening celebration, with the NC PrideFest Night Festival taking place in the city's Hargett Street area.

In years past the event had often moved to different locations around the state. Since 2000, it has remained predominantly in N.C.'s tri-cities region.

"We haven't ruled out the possibility of moving it around again," says Short. "It just almost got too large to move and we wanted to give it a little bit more stability, so we've been experimenting with the idea that people would come

to the capital area from all over the state.

Crowd estimates for last year's festivities number somewhere between 6,000 and 10,000 and Short expects the numbers to be similar for this year.

If you're planning to stay for the weekend, Raleigh's Clarion State Capital is the official host hotel and will be offering special rates. Other attractions in the area include the N.C. Museum of Art and Duke University.

Raleigh's Ninth and Hargett Streets boast numerous gay-friendly businesses, including the wine bar Cork, as well as Third Place Coffee Shop and White Rabbit Books.

"And, of course, there are the clubs," says Short.

Gay and lesbian nightspots in Raleigh include Flex, Legends, The Back Door and Capital Corral, while in Durham there's Visions and Quest.

Regional favorite and nationally acclaimed DJ Barry Harris will spin at Legends in Raleigh September 19.

On Saturday morning at 8 a.m. a walk and run kicks off the official NC PrideFest day in Durham with conferences following at 9 a.m. (see schedule for additional details on page 11).

see CELEBRATE on 12

Rita Mae Brown comes to Charleston

Groundbreaking author of 'Rubyfruit Jungle' will speak at literary gala

For a generation of women — those now mostly in their 50s and 60s — Rita Mae Brown has served as the quintessential voice of lesbian America.

Born in Hanover, Penn., she grew up in Florida and today makes her home on a farm in Charlottesville, Va. In 1973 she rose to notoriety with the success of her novel 'Rubyfruit Jungle.' For the time period, the bestseller's story line was a contro-



Rita Mae Brown is unclear what she's going to talk about when she makes an appearance in Charleston, S.C. Sept. 16, but rest assured she'll come up with something.

versial one: it detailed the experiences of a lesbian growing up in America and finding her way in New York City while struggling to become a successful filmmaker.

Unquestionably America's most successful modern lesbian writer, she has published several books of poems, more than a dozen novels, six mysteries with her cat, Sneaky Pie, and a writer's manual. She has been twice nominated for an Emmy, for her scripts "Love Liberty" and "The Long Hot Summer."

Moreover, she appears to be a woman of some contradiction: while she loves animals and even writes under the guise of a cat for some of her work, she nevertheless condones hunting and is the Master of Fox Hounds of the Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club and a member of the Farmington Hunt Club. On the political side of things she professes an apparent admiration for President George W. Bush, describing him as an "interesting and strong man."

see RITA on 14

Former NFL player to make appearance at NC Pride

Esera Tuaolo, former Carolina Panthers player comes out and comes home

 by David Moore
 Q-Notes staff

Fresh out of college, the Wisconsin NFL team the Green Bay Packers drafted Esera Tuaolo, who eventually became one of their leading defensive line men. He would go on to spend five years with the Minnesota Vikings, as well as stints with the Atlanta Falcons and the Carolina Panthers.

During all that time, the handsome and normally outgoing Tuaolo shied away from his fellow players, keeping mostly to himself.

Tuaolo had a secret. One that wouldn't sit well with most of his teammates: he was a closeted gay man.

All of that changed in October of 2002, when Tuaolo decided it was time to throw the closet door open


 Esera Tuaolo in
 the Chili's promo
 campaign.

wide. That was when the rest of the world learned that, not only was he gay, he was involved in a long-term relationship with a male partner, and they had two children together.

Tuaolo's admission on the HBO special "Real Sports" turned out to be the shot heard 'round the world.

Even though he's a six-foot-three, 300-pound giant of a man, Tuaolo still had to compose himself as he recounted the anti-gay epithets and jokes he faced in various

see ESERA on 13