

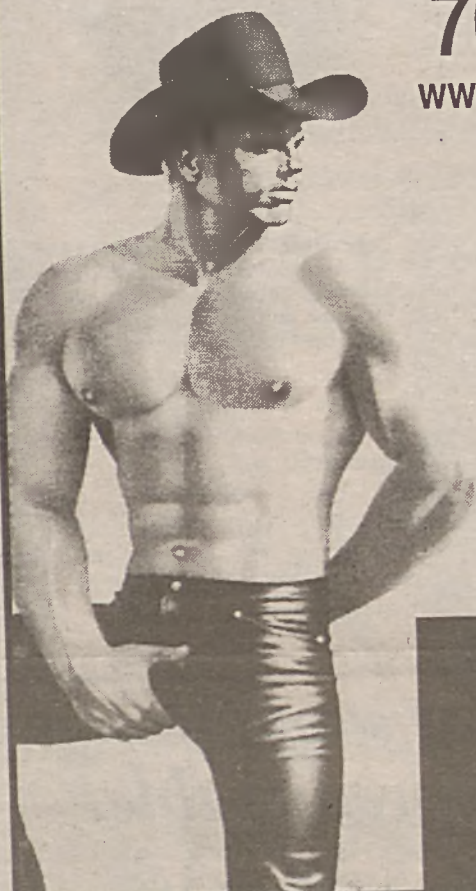
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EVENTS:

Wednesday

Pool Tournament
\$2.00 Domestic Beers

First Saturday

Fetish Night

Third Friday

Country Night

- Best Beer Selection
- Best Juke Box
- Best Country Music as named in

The Charlotte Observer's annual Best of Charlotte!

SPECIALS:

Monday

\$5 All You Can Drink Beer

Tuesday

\$3 Call Liquors, \$2 Beer

Wednesday

Pool Tournament • No Entry Fee • \$50 to the Winner

Thursday

\$1 Domestic Beer

Friday

\$2 Smirnoff Ice, \$3.00 Malibu Rum

Saturday

\$2.00 Corona, \$3.00 Jim Beam

Sunday

\$2 House Drinks • Free Buffet at 6:30 pm

HOURS:

5 pm - 2 am - Six Days a Week • Sunday - 3 pm - 2 am

Patio Bar Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

Sunday Buffet at 6:30 pm

N.J. Senate grants DP rights to gay couples

Measure lauded by activists, though some say it falls short of equality

by David Muller

TRENTON, N.J. — Gay and lesbian couples scored a key victory with an 11th-hour N.J. state Senate vote to create domestic partnerships for same-sex couples.

Dozens of teary-eyed and exuberant members of the gay and lesbian community, wearing white campaign-style hats with red and blue stripes, broke into applause from a Senate gallery and celebrated after the 23-9 vote. Eight senators did not vote.

"It's people getting some basic human rights that they deserve ... It legitimizes our families," said Ellen J. Gillio, executive director of the Pride Center of New Jersey. "It means something to a lot of families."

Steven Goldstein, campaign manager for Lambda Legal, went as far as to drop to his hands and knees, kissing the floor.

Under the legislation, gay and lesbian couples — as well as heterosexual couples over 62 — would be granted legal rights closer to those of married couples.

Those covered would be granted the right to collect the public pensions of deceased partners, guaranteed hospital visitation during illnesses and qualify to receive health benefits in a partner's name.

But the legislation would fall short of issuing the full protection of married couples in two ways. Partners in the arrange-

ments would have less extensive property rights if they split and child custody rights would be slightly scaled back.

"The time has come when we can guarantee individuals, who have entered into an enduring, committed relationship, the basic civil rights they deserve," Gov. James McGreevey said.

New Jersey is the fifth state in the nation to approve the controversial benefits. The legislation does not mandate employers cover same-sex partners of their employees in insurance plans but does require insurance carriers to offer the coverage.

Opponents argued that government recognition of same-sex couples poses a threat to traditional family values.

Legislation passage follows what many saw as an important struggle for civil rights akin to the '60s anti-segregation movement.

Last fall, a Superior Court judge dismissed a lawsuit brought by a few gay couples seeking to legalize same-sex unions in New Jersey. The judge sent the issue to the Legislature, saying there was nothing in the state Constitution that guarantees marriage laws to same-sex couples. Lambda Legal, which argued the case on behalf of the gay couples, is appealing.



N.J. Gov. James McGreeveysays he'll sign the measure for domestic partnerships.

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