

Conservatives party in Charlotte

Piedmont region seemingly a hotbed for anti-gay politics

U.S. Newswire
with contributions by Donald Miller

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The anti-gay group National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families (NCPDF) has opened a regional office in Charlotte, celebrating with a Feb. 19 party at the Omni Charlotte Hotel.

Local media personality Danny Fontana — best known for his work as an economic commentator on WBTV Channel 3 in Charlotte — hosted as master of ceremonies for the event, which also featured Lisa Miree, Miss Black America 2002-03, who has generated considerable controversy among African-Americans for her abstinence-until-married stance.

Miree has an agenda that reportedly includes an anti-gay bias, though she couches it in vague rhetoric that amounts to musical code words for the ears of the far right, indicating that her platform includes “denouncing premarital sex” and that her “strong stance is

rooted in health issues, such as teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and morals.”

“The city of Charlotte has earned a reputation for strong and safe communities, filled with people who are invested in and dedicated to preserving the highest ideals — those devoted to preserving families,” noted Rick Schatz, president and CEO of the NCPDF. “It is a wonderful place for the National Coalition to advance its vision and programs.”

In June of 2003 NCPDF released a statement supporting the anti-gay statements of Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA).

“The senator correctly observed that if the right to privacy includes consensual sexual activity between homosexuals, then the question must be asked what could possibly be excluded and on

what grounds” said Schatz. “Bigamy, polygamy, incest and adultery all have the same moral authority to seek inclusion and protection from the law under the right to privacy that would include homosexual activity. While some wish it to be otherwise, the truth of the matter is clear.”



A celebratory party welcoming the National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families included an appearance by Lisa Miree.

Norma McCorvey — a.k.a. Jane Roe — back in news again

by Richard Seltzer

Three decades after winning a historic courtroom battle to legalize abortion in the United States, Norma McCorvey plans to plead in an appeals court in New Orleans for the watershed 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling to be overturned, saying she had not realized at the time what she was unleashing.

“I deeply regret the damage my original case has caused women,” McCorvey said in a statement to the press Feb. 20. “I want the Supreme Court to examine the evidence and have a spirit of justice for women and children.”

If she succeeds, she says, it will be “a lifetime dream come true for me that children will no longer be slaughtered from out of their mothers’ wombs.”

If she fails, her lawyers plan to continue fighting to get the case back before the U.S. Supreme Court, contributing to efforts to keep the abortion issue high on the political agenda in the months leading up to the presidential election.

McCorvey was 22, single and pregnant when she teamed up with lawyers in 1969 to overturn a Texas statute that outlawed abortion, adopting the fictitious name of Jane Roe.

In 1995, she had a religious epiphany when she met Concord, N.C., resident and Christian anti-gay activist Flip Benham. She later recanted her views and has campaigned



Norma McCorvey

since for abortion to be abolished again.

McCorvey was open about her sexuality and her long-term relationship with partner Connie Gonzales up to that time and consistently maintained that her change of opinion on abortion and conversion to Christianity would not put an end to the relationship. In recent years, however, a cloud of mystery shrouds their involvement. Conservatives insist the two are no longer involved, while McCorvey always sidesteps the matter. Interestingly enough, Gonzales is now listed as the “ministry coordinator” on McCorvey’s website, roenomore.org.



Spiritual Renewal Weekend

Friday, March 12 - Sunday, March 14

Friday, March 12 • 7 p.m. • Service

Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey, speaking
Dessert social to follow

Saturday, March 13

Afternoon Workshops • Call the church for specifics

Saturday Evening, March 13 • 7 p.m. • Healing Service

Led by Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey

Sunday, March 14 • 10:45 a.m. • Morning Service

Rev. Elder Gill Storey, bringing the message

Potluck lunch to follow. Please bring your favorite item to share.

Sunday Evening, March 14 • 7 p.m. • Service

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Rev. Mick Hinson, M.Div., Pastor • Rev. Donna K. Stroud, M.Div., Minister of Church Life

