



Charlotte gears up for Pride celebration

Organizers expecting over 10,000

by David Moore
Q-Notes staff

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Charlotte's LGBT community is gearing up for one of the earliest Gay Pride celebrations in the country. Slated for the weekend of Apr. 30 - May 2, "Progress Thru Pride" — the annual festival's theme for this year — will boast nationally known performers, political speakers, workshops and a handful of related events scheduled for area clubs and the Carowinds Theme park.

"We like to get a jump on the Pride season," says Pride Marketing Director Richard Rinehardt. "It's sort of like a 'welcome to summer' party and it gives people a chance to experience our Pride — without interfering with other events in the region."

Other pride celebrations in the area of note include South Carolina's Pride, which follows on the heels of Charlotte Pride, in Columbia, S.C., on May 15. Washington D.C.'s Capital Pride is a week-long affair that takes place June 6-13. Atlanta Pride is slated for June 25-27.

North Carolina's statewide Pride — usually held in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area — is the fall party set for Sept. 18-19.



Charlotte's 'Progress Thru Pride' offers an exciting kick-off to a summer full of Pride events in the region.

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Anti-gay marriage bill passes S.C. House

Bill joins nationwide movement of anti-gay legislation

by Ed Madden, Nekki Shutt,
Daniel Miller

COLUMBIA, S.C. — On Mar. 17, the South Carolina House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to discriminate against gays and lesbians and their families when they passed *House Bill 4657* by a vote of 103-7.

The bill prohibits the recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions or domestic partnerships made in other states and also prohibits same-sex partners from receiving family benefits for public employees in the state.

Only seven legislators voted against the marriage and family benefits legislation. Floyd Breeland of Charleston County, Gilda Cobb-Hunter of Orangeburg County, Kenneth Kennedy of Williamsburg County, Walter P. Lloyd of Beaufort and Colleton Counties, David J. Mack III of Charleston County, J. Todd Rutherford of Richland County and James E. Smith, Jr.

The bill was introduced by South Carolina Republican Gloria Haskins. South Carolina Equality Coalition President Nekki Shutt spoke with Haskins shortly after the bill passed.

"She [told] me that this was not personal, that it was public policy and that she was protecting the taxpayers' money," Shutt explained. "I told her that I was a taxpayer and that so was my partner of 19 years."

Ironically, Haskins told Shutt that "she had lots of gay friends and



The anti-gay marriage and benefits bill
now goes from the House to the Senate
Judiciary Committee.

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Gay fairy tale freaks out hetero couple

Wilmington couple outraged by daughter's choice of bedtime stories

A Wilmington, N.C. couple captured national media attention Mar. 17 when they went public with their anti-gay sentiments over a children's book with a gay storyline. "King & King," written by Linda De Haan and Stern Nijland, was checked out by their daughter from the Freeman Elementary School library.

The book tells the story of a prince whose true love turns out to be another prince. Available through Internet company *amazon.com*, part of the book's description on the website reads as follows: *there lived a lovelorn prince whose mother decreed that he must marry by the end of the summer. So began the search to find the prince's perfect match and lo and behold...his name was Lee.*

"Enter the jubilant world of 'King & King,' a merry and modern tale of living happily every after, sure to woo readers of any age," the inside cover reads.

The Library of Congress small type on the copyright page describes the book's contents as follows: "When the queen insists that the prince get married and take over as king, the search for a suitable mate does not turn out as expected." A review from *Publishers Weekly*, excerpted on *Amazon.com*, pans the book for its poor art but calls it appropriate for ages six and up.



All because of a little book: some parents in Wilmington find 'King & King' unacceptable for children.

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Do you think
a six-year-old
should have access to
books like
"King & King?"
. Yes . No

Q.POLL RESULTS: 29