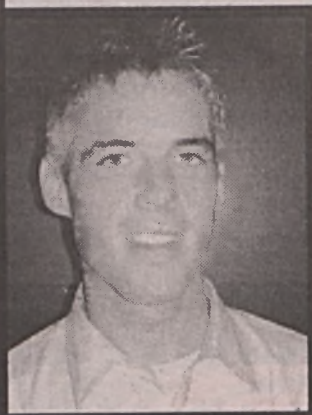




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News notes: sc

from the palmetto state

by Ed Madden

The two faces of polite political games

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Sen. Mike Fair, a Greenville Republican who has sponsored a bill that would bar unmarried couples from adopting children says he "doesn't know how the anti-gay Palmetto Family Council got on the study committee," but that he would consider removing the group.



Sen. Mike Fair

Fair said he would have to think about having a gay and lesbian group sit on the panel, however, because he believes their behavior is not condoned by most South Carolinians.

"That gives them a legitimacy that society and South Carolina says isn't acceptable," Fair told the *State*.

The bill is not likely to pass the Senate this year, but Oran Smith, president of the Palmetto Family Council, said his group is working to get it through the Legislature.

Despite the fact Smith says the Palmetto Family Council is opposed to any unmarried couple gay or straight adopting a child, he says he would welcome help on the committee from a gay and lesbian group.

Warren Redman-Gress, executive director of Alliance for Full Acceptance (AFFA) points out the importance of having a gay and lesbian group involved in the process. "It's a study committee, it's not a lunch group. [This] is about families."

S.C. Center hosts first HRC Meetup!

COLUMBIA — On Apr. 27, the Columbia Community Center joined thousands of organizers around the country in hosting a Human Rights Campaign meetup to organize against the *Federal Marriage Amendment*. At the meeting, local folks wrote letters to U.S. senators and representatives about the amendment. They also talked about GLPM's ongoing work on marriage in South Carolina, as well as

other ways individuals might become involved on both local and national levels.

The HRC meetups are planned for the fourth Tuesday of every month. Info: email Ed Madden at madden1963@aol.com

Steppin' out at the beach

MYRTLE BEACH — The group Myrtle Beach Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, Transgender and Supporters has formed on the Internet. Anyone may post a message or question to the group's message boards. Info: groups.yahoo.com/group/myrtlebeachgbl

Marriage Bill still pending in Senate Committee — call your Senators!

COLUMBIA — Anti-gay marriage and benefits bill H 4657 is still pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee. According to the most recent Scec alert, churches across the state are organizing phone calls to senators on the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of the legislation.

Readers, community members especially religious leaders are urged to call the same list used by supporters of H 4657 in order to let the S.C. Senate know personally we do not support this bill.

Sen. Robert Ford and Sen. Maggie Glover have pledged their opposition to the bill — but they need our support. Let your S.C. Senators know that this legislation makes many South Carolinians into second-class citizens by denying them the opportunity to protect their families and relationships. It destabilizes S.C. families by preventing recognition, benefits, and legal status. It undermines or prohibits protections for S.C. children and it will discourage companies already offering benefits from moving to South Carolina, affecting tourism as well as economic development.

Senators' numbers are:

Sen. Ralph Anderson, 803-212-6108
Sen. Ronnie W. Cromer, 803-212-6100
Sen. Dick Elliott, 803-212-6000
Sen. Michael L. Fair, 803-212-6420
Sen. Robert Ford, 803-212-6124
Sen. Maggie Wallace Glover, 803-212-6116
Sen. Chauncey K. Gregory, 803-212-6330
Sen. John D. Hawkins, 803-212-6024
Sen. C. Bradley Hutto, 803-212-6140
Sen. Darrell Jackson, 803-212-6048
Sen. John M. "Jake" Knotts, Jr., 803-212-6032

continued on next page >

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Variety Show

Sat., June 5

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Fri. & Sat, June 11

Strictly Men - Male Entertainers

Sat., June 12

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