

June is National Gay Pride Month!

north
& south
CAROLIN



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Do you believe John Kerry
can win the 2004
Presidential election with
John Edward as his
running mate?

Yes . No

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Marriage equality begins in Massachusetts

Passage of law incites Bush to call
for quicker action on ban,

by Toby Eglund

BOSTON, Mass. — When Tanya McCloskey and Marcia Kadish got married at 9:15 a.m. in Cambridge, Mass., on May 17, they kicked off a new era in equality for same-sex couples in the United States and beyond.

Cultural change is always slower. Fred Phelps and his small crew of hatemongers held their classic "God Hates Fags" signs, this time with pictures of two dogs getting married. Lesbians were portrayed as pigs.

In a statement released as President George W. Bush was observing the 50th anniversary of the landmark civil rights ruling in *Brown v. The Topeka Board of Education*, Bush accused Congress of foot dragging in passing a constitutional amendment limiting the rights of gays.

"I called on the Congress to pass, and to send to the states for ratification, an amendment to our Constitution defining and protecting marriage as a union of a man and a woman as hus-

band and wife," the president's statement said.

"The need for that amendment is still urgent, and I repeat that call today."

"The sacred institution of marriage should not be redefined by a few activist judges," Bush said referring to the justices of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts which struck down that state's ban on gay marriage.

Later, Bush praised the justices of the Supreme Court for their ruling in *Brown* which banned the concept of separate but equal in education. The case is considered the catalyst for all civil rights rulings which followed, and has been cited in numerous gay rights cases.

Parallels in the cases are inescapable. Massachusetts opponents lobbying to ban same-sex mar-

see BATTLE on 7

Chris McCary (left) and John Sullivan, both from Anniston, Ala., show off their wedding rings after being married in Provincetown, Mass., May 17, 2004. They were first in line to file for a marriage license at the Provincetown Town Hall.



Anti-gay 'Love Won Out' conference coming to Raleigh

Conference will include seminars
on 'reparative therapy'

by Donald Miller

RALEIGH, N.C. — As Americans in Massachusetts have rallied to show their support for same-sex marriage, the notoriously anti-gay group Focus on the Family is planning to strike at North Carolina's state capital when

their "Love Won Out" conference will offer up a plateful of hateful rhetoric entitled "Straight Thinking on Gay Marriage." The anti-gay organization brings its 28th international "Love Won Out" conference to Raleigh's Crossroads Fellowship Church on June 12.

"The foundation of marriage as a union between male and female has been recognized and accepted throughout all of human history," said Glenn T. Stanton, "Love Won Out" conference speaker, author see CONFERENCE on 6

Two prominent N.C. LGBT community members die unexpectedly

John Green, aka Divinity, was a prominent trans activist; Curtis Johnson, a former Q-Notes employee was once a castmember at Scorpio in Charlotte

Tragedy struck twice in the final weeks of May as two prominent North Carolina LGBT community members died unexpectedly in unrelated incidents.

John Green, 63, a well known transgender activist who published the newsletter *All the Beautiful People*, was also known by the name Divinity. Previously a resident of Charlotte, in recent years he had resided in Greensboro.

At the time of his death on May 25, he was working in Myrtle Beach, S.C. His passing was reportedly from septicemia bought on by complications arising from Hepatitis B.

Curtis Johnson, 27, was a former employee of Q-Notes and a comic drag performer known as Bam Bam, who had previously performed as part of the Scorpio Cabaret.



John Green, aka Divinity, at Fayetteville's Magnolia Ball.

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