

Thank you for making this our largest issue ever!

north
& south
CAROLINA

Notes

noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues

VOLUME 19 . ISSUE 10

SINCE 1986

WWW.Q-NOTES.COM

SEPTEMBER 25 . 2004

Q-Living:
Yoko Ono talks about
same-sex marriage



John Waters is back
with his latest
"A Dirty Shame"

44



Calif. Governor
Schwarzenegger signs first
gay-supportive law

23

Log Cabin withholds
Bush endorsement

19

Mafia orders hit on
gay mayor in Sicily

23

OutBiz: LGBT business
news in the Carolinas

27

North and South
Carolina

NC: HRC announces youth
scholarships

12

SC: SCEC to hold second
annual forum on LGBT
issues in Charleston

14

ONLINE
Q.POLL

www.q-notes.com

What do you think is the
most important issue
facing voters in the
next election?

curbing terrorism
civil rights . healthcare
the economy
withdrawal from Iraq

John Kerry talks to the LGBT press

Dem Presidential candidate directly
addresses LGBT issues

by Lisa Keen

DES MOINES, Iowa — No major party presidential nominee has ever granted the gay media an interview during the general election campaign. But, on Sept. 9, U.S. Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic presidential nominee, agreed to two separate face-to-face interviews with the gay media. One, for this newspaper and others around the country, was conducted by this reporter, a veteran gay journalist and independent freelancer based in the Boston area. The other, for *The Advocate*, was conducted by the magazine's news editor Chad Graham. Both interviews were conducted separately and were strictly limited to 15 minutes, with only one other person in the room (Kerry spokesperson Stephanie Cutter sat next to the reporter, taking notes and marking time).

The interview took place at a campaign stop in Des Moines, Iowa, just after the senator spoke to an audience about healthcare. **Q: The gay community knows your record, generally, and the Human Rights Campaign has described it as stellar. But I don't think many of us know exactly what inspired you back in 1985, in your first term, to author the gay civil rights bill. Can you recall who or what —**

Sen. Kerry: I just think it's an important matter of fundamental fairness. I think, you know, all Americans ought to be treated fairly. And the equal rights clause and the equal protection clause mean something to me. And I think you have to take on some tough fights sometimes. And as president, I hope to

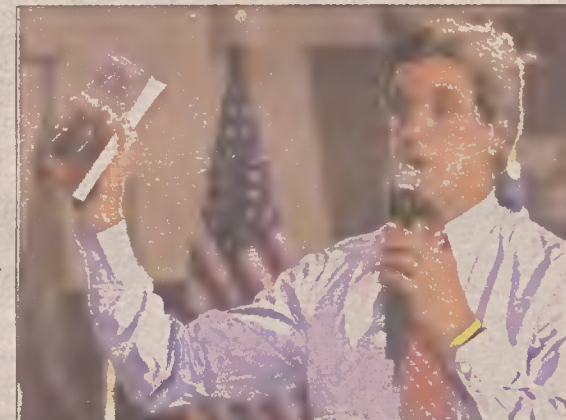
pass ENDA, I hope to pass hate crimes legislation. I hope to be able to advance the understanding in America of the difficulties people face in some of the choices in life and we have to be a country that's open and embracing people, period. I mean I just don't know how we're America if we don't live up to those ideals.

Q: I thought maybe you had a gay friend or gay family member that inspired you to take up that mantle.

Sen. Kerry: Well, I've had friends, obviously, and I've had supporters in my races and people I've cared about. But I just never spent a lot of time thinking about people as, you know, different. I mean, each to their own. People choose or don't choose — they are who they are. You are who you are. And that's who we are in America — a country that's understanding and recognizes that. We obviously have some distance to travel. We're still fighting discrimination over color and religion and a lot of hurdles to go.

Q: ...including DOMA and the Federal Marriage Amendment. You voted against the Defense of Marriage Act and you've spoken out against the Federal Marriage Amendment. In both cases you described it as "gay bashing for political gain." Many of us feel that the constitutional amendments to ban same-sex marriage in Massachusetts and Missouri also constitute gay bashing for political gain. I'm curious why you haven't spoken out against those two?

Sen. Kerry: Well, I think there's a distinction. I don't think that's gay bashing. It's, obvious-



John Kerry is the first major party presidential nominee to grant an interview with LGBT media during a campaign.

ly, a position that people in the GLBT community disagree with — I understand that. But I think that, historically, the definition of marriage and the application of marriage laws has always been state defined. It is up to the states, not the federal government. That's why I viewed the federal efforts, as specifically targeted, as gay bashing, because they were usurping into a territory that they didn't belong. There was no need to do that. Under the Constitution, no state has to recognize another state's decision, and it's up to the states. [Note: Under the Constitution, states must give "full faith and credit" to the "public acts, records, and judicial proceedings and acts of all other states." Constitutional law Professor Chai Feldblum says, "the Supreme Court has never directly ruled that, under the Constitution, states

see **PRESIDENTIAL** on 16

Pride returns to the Carolinas

Annual LGBT parade and
celebration in Durham expected to attract record turnout



This year's Pride Parade Grand Marshall is Bo Dean of Wilmington.

by David Moore
Q-Notes staff

North Carolina's annual LGBT Pride celebration may be kicking off a little later in the season than in previous years, but the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding the event is as solid as ever.

"We're celebrating 20 years of marching, struggle, love and pride," beams organizer John Short.

As the event celebrates its 20th year, it is also sharing the occasion with *The Front Page* — N.C.'s oldest

LGBT publication will celebrate their 25th see **RALEIGH** on 6

Charlotte LGBT Center hires new director

New Executive Director Kevin
Ferguson former Center board
member, volunteer for RAIN

by David Moore
Q-Notes staff

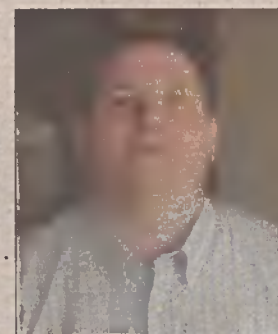
The newly-hired executive director of Charlotte's Gay and Lesbian Community Center doesn't live in Charlotte. In fact, he doesn't even live in North Carolina.

He lives just across the state line in the York County jail.

That might raise a few eyebrows until you hear the rest of the story.

York is essentially a suburb of Charlotte and more than just a handful of the South Carolina townspeople work and socialize in nearby Charlotte.

As for his jailhouse residence, Kevin Ferguson isn't on a work release program.



Kevin Ferguson is the new executive director of Charlotte's LGBT Community Center.

see **CENTER** on 4