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Have you experienced same-gender sexual harassment in the workplace?
yes . no

Congress stands against discriminatory marriage amendment

LGBT community elated but cautious
by Shin Inouye

Gays and lesbians around the country rejoiced as the House of Representatives rejected the *Federal Marriage Amendment* Sept. 30. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) called the vote a victory for all American families. The Senate had defeated the proposal, which would have written discrimination into the Constitution, earlier this year.

"President [George W.] Bush and the Republican leadership looked down the barrel of the biggest defeat for anti-gay extremists ever," said Laura W. Murphy, director of the ACLU Washington legislative office. "They played fast and loose with the Constitution in a cheap election year ploy, and they lost. Like the Senate did before, the House today said that discrimination has no place in the Constitution."

"This is the biggest gay-rights victory ever in Congress," said Christopher E. Anders, an ACLU legislative counsel. "The Republican leadership showed its true political stripes and failed miserably."

GOP leaders' cynical push for a vote they knew they would lose is evidence that the amendment strategy is driven by election-

year politics and the desire to create fodder for anti-gay campaign attacks on members of Congress, said People For the American Way President Ralph G. Neas. Neas praised those representatives who showed the courage to stand up to bullying from religious right leaders.

"Republican leaders have shamelessly admitted that they pushed this amendment so that they could create a wedge issue to benefit their candidates in this election," said Dave Noble, National Stonewall Democrats executive director. "The only institution that this amendment is designed to protect is the Republican Party. While this amendment maintains drastic and practical implications, at its core it is little more than a political prank. The small minority of Democrats who could not understand that fact, and who voted for this amendment, do not deserve the support of our community."

"Today's defeat for the Republican leadership prevents the defacing of the Constitution for now," said Neas. "but the vote should never have been held. This vote was engineered for short-term political gain by those who care little about the long-term harm they are causing to individuals and commu-



nities. The White House and its political allies are all too willing to foment and exploit unfounded fears in hopes of distracting voters and energizing their political base. It is crass and destructive politics at its worst."

Neas noted that a broad coalition of religious, civil rights and other public interest

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Former Panthers player becomes Gay Games ambassador



Former Carolina Panthers player Esera Tuaolo is the ambassador for Gay Games VII.

Esera Tuaolo, former Charlotte resident and Grand Marshal for N.C. Pride '03, takes on new role

by Jake Stafford

Former National Football League player Esera Tuaolo had just come out in November 2002 when the last Gay Games was held in Sydney, Australia.

But since that time Tuaolo has heard enough about the Gay Games that he is determined not to miss the next one in Chicago in 2006. In fact, he has become the latest Gay Games Ambassador promoting the event itself and the Gay Games movement's ideals of "Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best."

"Playing in the National Football League as a gay man has given me strength in areas that I never thought I could make a difference," Tuaolo said. "Now that I am out and proud I have learned that breaking stereotypes is a very important part of moving forward in our fight for equality. That's what the Gay Games are all about — breaking down stereotypes about athletes in the LGBT community. I'm happy to add my

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Margaret Cho plays Charlotte

Comic to appear at Equality NC party after performance
by Michael A. Knipp

Margaret Cho's been in the pink spotlight for years. With a bevy of one-woman shows, "Comedy Central" appearances and even her own television series, Cho is pretty much a household name in the LGBT community.

Cho brings her latest show, "The State of Emergency Tour," to Charlotte's Ovens Auditorium Oct. 15. Cho will knosh with fans who purchased tickets through Equality NC at a special afterparty following her presentation.

Raised in San Francisco, this comic clearly knows her homos.

She's a self-proclaimed fag hag and occasional bisexual. On stage, she has never steered clear of discussing her blithe confreres or her explicit lesbian encounters. She has shed positive light on issues regarding civil rights of all types. And her candid, over-the-top anecdotes about her family, weight and political preference are always on point. The truth, it seems, has set her free.



On the gay community: 'It's a mutual love thing. I'm in love with them.'

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