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Would you consider
leaving the U.S.
for Canada?
yes . no

Where do we go from here?

Bush wins, Kerry concedes and allegations of voter fraud continue to swirl throughout the country

by David Moore
Q-Notes staff

Now a few weeks post election 2004, the sting of the Republican victory in the White House, the Senate and the Congress seems less painful. Looking back at an interesting battle about who would initially capture the nomination and then a vibrant Democratic convention, it hardly seems possible that Kerry could have lost his bid for the presidency.

According to countless polls he won all three debates hands-down. Never in American history has a candidate who claimed that achievement failed to capture the White House.

Kerry conceded to Bush rather quickly — especially given the numerous accounts of voter irregularities and accusations that range from Republican voter registrants literally throwing away Democratic forms to malfunctioning machines that counted votes for Kerry as a vote for Bush.

Is it all said and done yet?

In the minds of most Americans, the answer is yes. George W. Bush is our president for another four years. But in reality — the Electoral College has not yet chosen

Bush. The Electors will not meet and vote until Dec. 13. Questions concerning the results of this election would have to be addressed before that date.

Did same-sex marriage cost Kerry the White House?

The evangelicals and die-hard right-wingers want you to believe that. According to some political pundits, that's just what happened.

The final battle, so to speak, was played out in Ohio. There were well over five million votes cast with a difference between Bush and Kerry of just 136,483 votes. Ohio was also one of the 11 states that voted to amend its constitution to ban same-sex marriage — 62 percent to 38 percent.

The 'morality' vote

A survey by the Pew Center, regarding reports that most voters placed "moral issues" at the top of their list of reasons to vote, attempts to debunk the theory that the massive voter turn-out was generated by an anti-gay fervor.

According to an Associated Press story, The Pew Center polled over 1,000 voters who said they voted in the 2004 presidential election. When they were given a specified list, "moral values" was indeed at the



In happier times: John Kerry two days before the election.

top of the list (27 percent), followed by the war in Iraq (22 percent) and the economy at 21 percent.

But, when asked an open-ended question about the top issue, Iraq and the economy moved past moral values. Iraq was picked by 27 percent, the economy by 14 percent and moral values tied with terrorism at nine percent.

Man commits suicide

Bush's apparent victory was a crushing blow to most in the LGBT community and liberal voters throughout the country.

In New York City, a 25-year-old man from

see **LGBT on 5**

N.C.'s Mike Easley: friend or foe?

Democratic governor wins re-election while claiming to support a gay marriage ban in N.C.



N.C. Governor Mike Easley:
'I support current state law
(that was authored by Sen.
[Jim] Forrester) which
expressly prohibits gay
marriage.'

RALEIGH, N.C. — He's a Democrat. He just captured the governor's chair for a second time in a race against uber-conservative Patrick Ballentyne.

According to recently-elected New Hanover County Sen. Julia Boseman — an out lesbian — he encouraged her to run for office.

Equality N.C. PAC has said in the past that Gov. Mike Easley has been good on LGBT-related issues like employment discrimination and hate crimes.

It would appear, however, that Easley doesn't want any of us to get married anytime soon.

Not just once, but twice,

see **GOVERNOR on 4**

N.C. gets a lesbian state senator

New Hanover County's Julia Boseman claims victory in Wilmington-area race

by Donald Miller

Julia Boseman is no stranger to N.C. politics. She's served as a county commissioner for six years and is now preparing to take office as the first openly lesbian N.C. state senator.



N.C. State Senator Julia Boseman.

"I'm ready to get to work," says Boseman. "I appreciate the support of the citizens of New Hanover County and I want to keep bringing good-paying jobs and increase funding for education and things that are important to us."

Boseman also says she plans to introduce a bill for the film industry and a bill that will allow people to vote on a lottery.

"I'd also like to try to expand the prescription drug plan for seniors," she continues.

Born and raised in Wilmington, Boseman shares her life with partner Melissa Jarrell, a coach at The University of North Carolina - Wilmington.

The two are parents to a son named Jacob.

see **BOSEMAN on 4**