

Continue to fight for marriage equality.

north & south CAROLINA

# Q-Notes

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It's a New Year.  
Hopes & resolutions  
from Carolina queers



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ONLINE Q-POLL  
www.q-notes.com

Have you kept your resolutions for 2005?

yes no

## 36 gay activists dead in Sri Lanka

Most Thai gay venues spared

by Rex Wockner

The Dec. 26 tsunami in the Indian Ocean killed 36 members of the Sri Lankan gay organization Companions on a Journey. Twelve additional members remain unaccounted for. One hundred twelve of the group's members had their homes destroyed by the waves.

"These are numbers that we have received so far," said Sherman de Rose, the group's executive director. "The coastal line which the tourists frequent is destroyed entirely. So, along with it, whatever the gay-friendly places were, were destroyed as well. Mind you, we didn't have any out and open gay/lesbian spaces, although it was accepted in tourist areas where a lot of LGB tourists from Western Europe and Scandinavian countries visit for holidays.

"Fortunately for the gay community," de Rose said, "the tsunami didn't make its appearance in the evening; otherwise lots of gays cruising along the beaches would have perished."

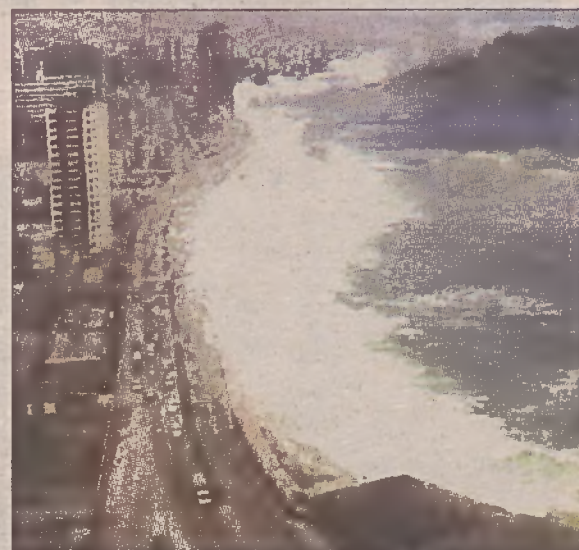
Companions has received many requests for assistance and offers of help.

"It's amazing how the gays and lesbians responded to the calamity," de Rose said.

"Many volunteered with relief work and donated to relief programs. We have received many calls from gay/lesbian people who wanted to support the affected in any possible way.

"We have also received lots of requests from affected members to assist them with building their destroyed shelters. We have donated clothing, dry rations, cooked food, water and medicine. Our principal donor, Hivos-Netherlands, has informed us that we could utilize some of the funds they have provided for HIV/AIDS- and sexuality-related activities for relief purposes."

The executive director of the Sri Lankan gay and lesbian organization Equal Ground, Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, said: "The magnitude of the catastrophe that affected Sri Lanka on Boxing Day is something that is hardly describable. Members of Equal Ground have not only given of their time and energy to volunteer for relief efforts, but also have spent their own monies buying essentials like medicine and food, and donating it to the larger organiza-



A depiction of how the Tsunami wave may have looked as it crashed into the gay resort town of Phuket, in Thailand.

tions sending the trucks to the north, east and south."

Flamer-Caldera said "many of the gay 'spaces' in the south and also in Negombo to the north of Colombo were damaged or

see **TSUNAMI** on 13

## Andrew Reyes to get early release?

Openly gay, former Mecklenburg County Democratic Chairman could be out of prison in May

by David Moore  
Q-Notes staff

According to an article published on Jan. 1 in *The Charlotte Observer*, convicted embezzler Andrew Reyes may be walking out of his prison cell sometime in May of this year, some 17 months earlier than he was originally sentenced to.



Andrew Reyes at the time of his arrest in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg jail.

King, the now-deceased part-owner of United Building Contractors, a company Reyes had once worked for.

In December 2003, U.S. District Judge Lacy Thornburg

see **REYES** on 15

## Settlement reached in Foot Locker anti-gay discrimination case

Lambda Legal client gets settlement, company guarantees sensitivity training and policy enforcement

by Lisa Hardaway

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Lambda Legal announced an agreement with Foot Locker on Dec. 16, settling its anti-gay discrimination lawsuit against the company. Under the agreement, Foot Locker will train its managers and employees more aggressively about anti-gay harassment, including emphasizing to its employees access to support and services to handle such harassment. The agreement will also provide an undisclosed monetary settlement to Kevin Dunbar, Lambda Legal's client.

"Kevin Dunbar's nightmare can't be undone, but [he] helped make one of the country's large employers a better workplace for gay people. All across the country, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people face discrimination or harassment at work. Kevin Dunbar's case showed how we can change that when one person stands up and demands fairness," said Greg Nevins, senior



Kevin Dunbar: 'I am very pleased to have this over and to be able to move on with my life.'

see **FOOT** on 8