

drawn from the 2000 census. A study published by the National Black Justice Coalition suggests that black lesbian households are "almost as likely as black married couple households to include children, and that black same-sex households are twice as likely as white same-sex households to include children." The study also notes that black same-sex families "earn less, are less likely to own a home, and are more likely to hold public sector jobs." The study also notes that Sumter, S.C., is one of the top 10 metropolitan areas by proportion of black same-sex households.

"Why are so many of our leaders [in the black community] worried about being compared to the gay rights movement instead of being concerned about the women and children in these homes," said Alvin McEwen, secretary to Palmetto Umoja. Kenneth Hubbard, Umoja vice-president, said the black community in general must come to terms with the presence of African-American gays and lesbians who are a thriving and integral part of the South Carolina black community and should be acknowledged as such.

For more information about Palmetto Umoja, contact Hinojosa at 803-269-1496 or email PalmettoUmoja@aol.com. For a full copy of the study "Black Same-Sex Households in the United States," contact PalmettoUmoja@aol.com.

**Know your neighbors**

COLUMBIA — George A. Rekers (pictured), Ph.D., is Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, Research Director for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Chairman of Faculty in Psychology at the

University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia, S.C.

According to a recent column that appeared on Gay.com, Rekers believes homosexuality is a mental illness that can be cured, that same-sex couples make



inferior parents and he's devoting his career to proving it.

What's more, it appears Reker has become the religious right's leading "expert" witness in raging legal battles over the legal definition of family.

He is a key player in a burgeoning anti-gay legal movement, composed of dozens of well-funded groups seeking to block all legal recognition of same-sex relationships. It also has a related and even more diabolical aim — rolling back the gains gays and lesbians have made in adoption and foster-parenting rights.

**Pride Idol returns to Columbia March 4**

COLUMBIA — Pride Idol returns March 4 to Columbia's PT's Cabaret. This third annual fun and entertaining fundraiser will feature lots of live South Carolina talent and some of the state's most popular drag queens.

What started out of love for a certain reality TV show has grown into one of SCGLPM's largest fundraising events. Past local celebrity judges have included Columbia's premiere Queen of Camp Patti O'Furniture, star of Columbia stage Bobby Craft and Michael Callair, WWE wrestler.

But the audience is the final judge, and

they get the final vote! One lucky person will join past Pride Idol winners Leigh Burton and Elizabeth McLean as the best of the best in South Carolina, winning a chance to be featured at the Pride celebration at Finlay Park on May 21.

Do you have what it takes to be the next Pride Idol? For contestant and ticket information, contact SCPrideIdol@aol.com.

**MCC offers 'Something Special At Six' for February**

COLUMBIA — Metropolitan Community Church of Columbia will offer a special worship series throughout February, "Something Special at Six," a second weekly worship opportunity.

The additional worship service will be at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings. Sunday morning worship remains at 11 a.m., following choir practice at 9:45 a.m.

MCC Columbia is at 1111 Belleview St., three blocks north of the intersection of Main St. and Elmwood Ave.

Musicians and other worship leaders are being sought for this additional service.

For more information, call 803-256-2154 or 803-240-6873.

**USC organization provided campus office**

COLUMBIA — The University of South Carolina (USC) Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Alliance (BGLSA) was recently granted office space in the West Wing of the Russell House University Union.

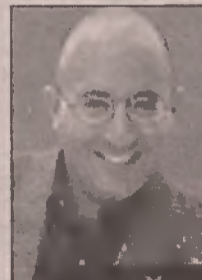
One of only five groups to receive this honor, including Fraternity and Sorority Councils, the Association of African-American Students (one of the largest student groups on campus) and Dance

Marathon (USC's largest student-run philanthropy), this office space will serve as a center for organizing efforts as well as expanded programming in upcoming years.

This marks the first time that any group like BGLSA has been granted a form of institutional approval outside of student government in several years.

**SCGLPM seeks historical material for banquet**

STATE — SCGLPM is celebrating its 15th Anniversary. The anniversary and awards banquet will be held on April 15. Special guest will be Evan Wolfson (pictured), director of the national coalition Freedom to Marry. The event will also include a special tribute to one of the state's most important GLBT activists.



As part of our anniversary planning,



SCGLPM is searching for GLPM memorabilia from the past 15 years. At the anniversary banquet, it hopes to include a timeline and audio-visual presentation that includes images and people from the past 15 years. Those who have anything that could be used (pictures, videos, pride guides, flyers, posters) and are willing to donate or loan them for the event, should contact Radar at Blanchard.Williams@gmail.com.

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