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## News notes: nc

from the tarheel state

by Lainey Millen  
Q-Notes staff

### It's RAIN-ing bingo

CHARLOTTE — Get out those cards and markers for some fun-filled game playing. Gay BINGO is back again.

Emcee Shelita Hamm (pictured) and her gang have announced the 2005 spring schedule, which is chocked full of the usual hilarious-themes.

Gay BINGO is held at the Carole A. Hoefner Center, located at 610 East 7th St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Games start promptly at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at Paper Skyscraper, White Rabbit Books & Things, City Supply Co., The Furniture Connector or by calling RAIN at 704-372-7246.

Scheduled events are:

- Mar. 4 Country Club BINGO
- Apr. 1 Disco BINGO
- Mar. 6 Beach Blanket BINGO

To learn more about RAIN's BINGO nights, visit [www.gaybingocharlotte.org](http://www.gaybingocharlotte.org).

### CRN's website has new look

GASTONIA — Carolina Rainbow News (CRN) now has a new website. With old, favorite features coupled with a new interface and selection choices, CRN hopes to provide timely information to the LGBT community.

Website subscribers will need to re-register, however those who receive the newsletter will continue to receive updates as they are broadcast.

CRN is busy compiling its CRN Business List for 2005. Those who have a gay-friendly or owned business in both Carolinas are encouraged to add their names to the database. Simply use the email link located in the contact section of the website to provide business name, city, state, type of business, website and email address, along with phone number. Also, write a brief description of the business for cataloging purposes.

For more information visit [www.crninteractive.com](http://www.crninteractive.com).

### Statewide summit on horizon

GREENSBORO — The first N.C. Statewide LGBT Leadership Summit has been slated for Mar. 5, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Replacements, Ltd., 1089 Knox Rd.

Equality North Carolina (ENC) and N.C. Gay and Lesbian Attorneys (NC-GALA) have joined forces to bring together leaders from every part of the state. Much discussion has been held for years regarding the lack of communication between LGBT organizations. Some local communities have formed networks of leaders, but on a statewide level it has been limited.

"That's a shame, because there is so much we can learn from each other and so much we can accomplish collaboratively,"

said Summit Co-Chair Ian Palmquist.

Summit facilitators urge every community group to send one or two leaders to the meeting.

Goals are:

- To learn what LGBT community groups around the state are doing.
- To learn what resources groups have that they can share with others.
- To share procedures and practices.
- To connect similar community groups from across the state with each other.
- To inform groups of capacity building and advocacy opportunities they may want to participate in.

If you are interested in attending, contact Palmquist at [ian@equalitync.org](mailto:ian@equalitync.org) or call him at 919-829-0343. Because they feel that the benefits and importance of the meeting outweighs strict adherence to the Feb. 25 reservation deadline, organizers will accept RSVPs from late registrants.

### City Council speakers sought

CHARLOTTE — MeckPAC and the Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Employees of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (GLOBE) have united to develop a list of volunteers who will regularly speak, as an ongoing effort to show visibility, at City Council meetings.

Needed are individuals who are able to speak to the Council about domestic partner benefits and employment non-discrimination for City employees. Additionally, they encourage interested parties to write or call Council members to voice support for Charlotte Pride.

Speakers are asked to deliver a three minute presentation. MeckPAC and GLOBE are available for coaching, along with statement development. The objective is to show the importance of treating everyone fairly and equally regardless of sexual orientation. Personal stories may also be shared as it relates to educating Council members.

Over the recent past, two speakers go to each month's meeting to talk to the Council. They have been City employees, representatives of MeckPAC and GLOBE, family members of City employees, religious leaders, attorneys and business leaders.

Dates that speakers are needed are: Feb. 28, Mar. 28, May 23, June 27, July 25, Sept. 26 and Nov. 28. The Citizens' Forum portion of the City Council meeting is at 6:30 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer contact MeckPAC's Connie Vetter at 704-567-5530, email [MeckPAC@bellsouth.net](mailto:MeckPAC@bellsouth.net) or email GLOBE at [GLOBEofCharlotteMecklenburg@yahoo.com](mailto:GLOBEofCharlotteMecklenburg@yahoo.com). A complete list of Council members, along with contact numbers, is available from either group.

### Workshops to focus on caregiving

CHARLOTTE — Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church is sponsoring two nondenominational workshops on caregiving facilitated by writer/instructor Jeanette Leardi, M.A.

*Preparing for Caring* (Mar. 5, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) will focus on exploring personal issues and expectations relating to caregiving and on the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual challenges of giving care.

*Caring for the Caregiver* (Mar. 12, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) will focus on how to address the stress, isolation and alienation that often accompany the caregiving role. Both work-

