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**Are you out to family,**  
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Yes . No

**Next Issue:**  
**S.C. Gay Pride**

## Eric Rudolph gets plea bargain

*Former fugitive shows little remorse, speaks out against gays*

by Mark Smith

Nearly 10 years after a bomb exploded at the Atlanta Olympic games and later at an Atlanta lesbian nightclub, Eric Rudolph — the man who has confessed to the acts — has been spared the death sentence with a plea bargain that will require him to serve four life sentences.

In Birmingham, Ala., Rudolph admitted to being responsible for a 1998 abortion clinic bombing that killed a police officer.

In Atlanta he admitted to the 1996 Olympics explosion that killed a woman and injured 100, an explosion at an abortion clinic and the attack on the lesbian nightclub the Otherside.

After being identified following the attacks, Rudolph went into hiding in the North Carolina mountains, avoiding capture for five years.

A former soldier, he used survivalist techniques to live off the land while he was on the FBI's list of 10 most-wanted fugitives.

In May 2003 he was captured behind a grocery store while scavenging for food in a dumpster.

According to press reports, Rudolph arrived at the federal court in Birmingham in a car surrounded by 10 marked and unmarked police vehicles, wearing a red prison jumpsuit and a white T-shirt with sleeves rolled up to the shoulders.

When asked by the judge if he planted the bomb outside the abortion clinic he replied: "I certainly did, your honor." A similar scene unfolded at the federal courthouse in Atlanta.

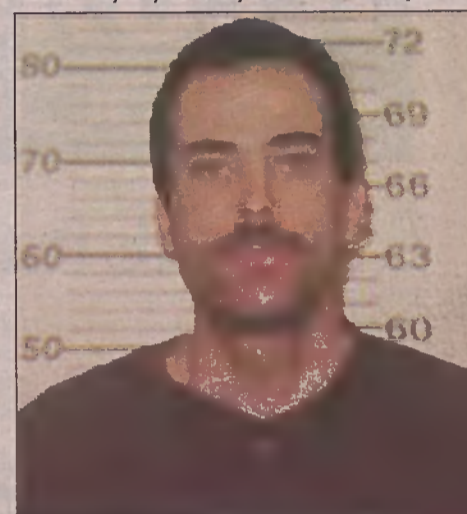
In an 11-page written statement handed out by his attorneys following the plea bargains, Rudolph offered bizarre explanations for the attacks.

### Abortion and gays and lesbians

"Abortion is murder. And when the regime in Washington legalized, sanctioned and legitimized this practice, they forfeited their legitimacy and moral authority to govern.

"No politician in Washington will ever seriously threaten abortion on demand. And the fools who listen to them, in their hearts, know this but do not care. You so-called 'Pro-Life,' 'good Christian people' who point your plastic fingers at me saying that I am a 'murderer,' that 'two wrongs don't make a right,' that even though 'abortion is murder, those who would

use force to stop the murder are morally the same,' I say to you that your lies are transparent.



**'Every effort should be made, including force if necessary, to halt this effort.'** — Eric Rudolph on the gay and lesbian rights movement.

"Along with abortion, another assault upon the integrity of American society is the con-

see **RUDOLPH on 4**

## Charlotte Pride just around the corner

*Despite challenges faced — effort forges ahead*

by Donald Miller

If all goes as planned, Charlotte's annual Pride weekend celebration will kick off without a hitch on Friday, May 6, with Beach Blanket bingo, a popular bingo party and fundraiser for RAIN hosted by drag diva Shelitta Hamm.

The official festival takes place Saturday, May 7, in Charlotte's downtown Marshall Park, with an expected line-up of performers that includes the drag cabaret performance group

"Drag Out Your Pride," and entertainers Eric Himan, Jen Foster, Sasha Sacket, the Southern Country Outlaws and Josh Zuckerman. Emcees for the event will be Derek Hartley and Romaine Patterson from Sirius Radio's OutQ.

In addition to numerous booths from LGBT organizations and specialty retail dealers throughout the park, this year there will be several new food vendors, including Gus's Greek Foods, Lava Java Express, Queen City Smoothies, Rainbow Campus Connection, Starbucks Coffee Company, Steakboys, Inc. and VIP Concessions.

Other related and coinciding events include the RAIN AIDSWalk Charlotte 2005 (see story page one), the official Charlotte Pride After Party at Illusions (a portion of the ticket price will benefit PRIDE), a performance by dance music artist CeCe Peniston at the Charlotte Eagle and "Picnic in the Park" at Freedom Park on Sunday, May 8.

see **PRIDE on 4**



**Charlotte Pride**

## RAIN to host ninth annual AIDSWalk

*'Many lives, One road, Walk together' slated for May 7*

by Rodney Tucker

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Regional AIDS Interfaith Network's (RAIN) annual AIDSWalk Charlotte will take place Saturday, May 7, 2005 at



**Bank of America organized an employee group to participate in AIDSWalk 2004.**

the Gateway Center Atrium at 800 North Trade Street. The walk kicks off at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

AIDSWalk Charlotte 2005 is a two-mile walk through historic Fourth Ward and is the largest HIV/AIDS awareness and fundraising event in the Carolinas.

While many people feel that the see **AIDSWalk on 6**

