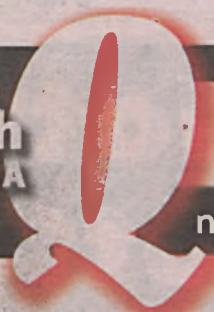


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Do you doubt the future of the separation of church and state?

yes . no

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## LGBT community reacts to Supreme Court nomination

Questions surround Robert's views on Roe v. Wade, support for Operation Rescue

by Mark Smith

After much speculation from the left and the right President George W. Bush nominated Judge John Roberts Jr. to replace United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who is retiring. Bush made the announcement July 17.

Little is known about Roberts, though many in the LGBT community raised a flag of caution.

"President Bush's announcement that he is nominating U.S. Court of Appeals Judge John Roberts to the Supreme Court of the United States gives us great pause, particularly in light of Roberts' role in the Counsel's office of President Reagan and the Solicitor General's office of President George H.W. Bush," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman. "In exercising its constitutional 'advise and consent' function, the Senate must take the time necessary to thoroughly review and evaluate Roberts' commitment to individual rights and equal justice under the law, including his record and thinking about civil rights, the right to privacy and the reach of Congressional power under the Constitution."

In the days following the announcement, some disturbing discoveries regarding Roberts' history as an attorney have come to light.

In 1991, he brought the government's case before the Supreme Court in *Rust v. Sullivan*, arguing for the right to restrict the speech rights of family-planning organizations that receive public funding. The result of that decision upheld a gag rule on such organizations, denying them the right to mention abortion as an alternative to pregnancy.

Furthermore, his brief addressed the legality of abortion itself. In regard to *Roe v. Wade*, the 1971 decision that struck down laws prohibiting abortion, Roberts wrote "We continue to believe that *Roe* was wrongly decided and should be overruled ... the Court's conclusion in *Roe* that there is a fundamental right to an abortion ... finds no support in the text, structure, or history of the Constitution."

Another, perhaps more disturbing, revelation about Roberts is his apparent support for the organization formerly known as Operation Rescue. Today, the anti-abortion and anti-gay group, now known as Operation Save America, is based in Concord and regularly protests Charlotte Gay Pride.

In the 1993 Operation Rescue ruling *Bray v. Alexandria Women's Health Clinic* — even though

the case did not involve the government (Roberts was deputy to then-Solicitor General Kenneth Starr) — Roberts felt compelled to co-author an amicus curiae brief in support of the extremist group.

Despite inklings of extremist right wing views, in his 2003 confirmation hearing for



President Bush with Supreme Court Justice nominee Judge John Roberts Jr.

his current seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Roberts told the Senate that he would have no

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## Success, Controversy: CBGP gets both

Organizers place attendance figures at 7,000

by David Moore

According to organizers attendance to Charlotte's Black Gay Pride Festival (CBCP) dramatically outnumbered attendance to the Charlotte Gay Pride Festival held in Marshall Park in May.



Board members of CBGP flank winners of Mr. and Miss Charlotte Black Gay Pride.

The figures might be somewhat misleading though, as Charlotte Black Gay Pride Festival spokesperson Monica Simpson indicated in an interview July 20.

Simpson told Q-Notes that the totals were gathered by adding numbers from all of the events that occurred during the four-day festival that was held July 14-17.

That includes a town hall meeting, an evening of live theater, film screenings,

see CBGP on 4

## Charlotte Business Guild honors Q-Notes, others

Presentation held at historic VanLandingham Estate

by Donald Miller and David Stout

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Members and friends of Charlotte's gay and lesbian Business Guild gathered at the VanLandingham Estate in the Plaza-Midwood neighborhood July 19 to pay tribute to the accomplishments and contributions of local LGBT activists and organizers Linda Breen and Shane Windmeyer with the Charlotte Business Guild/Don King Community Service Awards.

For the first time in the history of the guild, the board also chose to honor a business that has contributed to the LGBT community. Q-Notes and the newspaper's publisher Jim Yarbrough are the recipient.



Charlotte Business Guild/Don King Community Service Award winners Shane Windmeyer, Linda Breen and Jim Yarbrough.

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