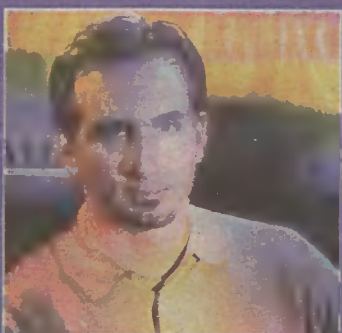




Brit comic duo takes U.S. by storm

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Do you think the U.S. should withdraw from Iraq?
. yes . no

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N.C. Gay Pride**

Homophobic Jamaican dancehall artists returning to North Carolina stages

Capleton and Sizzla performing in Charlotte and Raleigh

by David Moore
Q-Notes staff

CHARLOTTE — Despite a protest last Oct. 20 at Amos' Southend in Charlotte when reggae/dancehall artist Capleton showed up — and continued cancellations



Capleton and Sizzla will take to the stages of Raleigh and Charlotte — despite protests by LGBT rights groups last year.

of his performances world wide because of his anti-gay lyrics — the venue has booked the performer for a Sept. 14 show. He'll follow up that appearance with another at

Raleigh's Lincoln Theatre Sept. 15.

What's more, the equally homophobic Jamaican artist Sizzla will follow Capleton in both venues Sept. 28 and 29.

Capleton's lyrics have suggested gays be hanged, drowned, burned or shot. Among his songs is one with the Jamaican-dialect lyrics, "Bun Out Di Chi Chi," which translates to "burn out the gay man."

In an interview with the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* Capleton said he is not advocating violence against gays but said that he believes homosexuality is "against humanity. It's against your mother, it's against your father, it's against yourself." In using the word fire, he claims he is referring to a spiritual fire.

In an interview with the BBC last November, Sizzla refused to apologize for his lyrics advocating violence against gay men, despite his U.K. tour being cancelled after protests.

"They can't ask me to apologize," he told BBC radio station 1Xtra. "They've got to apologize to God because they break God's law."

One of his most controversial songs, "Pump Up," contains the Jamaican patois lyrics "fire fi di man dem weh go ride man behind." Translated to English it means "burn the men who have sex with men."

The movement against Capleton, Sizzla and other reggae dancehall performers like

Controversy surrounds 'Hearts on Fire' conference

Gay and lesbian Methodists urged to attend welcoming conference

by Neill Caldwell



LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. — The Lake Junaluska United Methodist retreat center has found itself in the center of a storm of controversy over rental of its facilities by the Reconciling Ministries Network, which advocates full participation in the church by people of all sexual orientations.

Email and official statements have passed back and forth in recent weeks and church-related blogs and internet forums are buzzing about the gathering. Several hundred participants are expected for the "Hearts on Fire" event Sept. 2-5 at Lake Junaluska, a Southeastern Jurisdiction ministry about 30 miles west of Asheville.

"SEJAC does not approve of or disapprove of the 'Hearts on Fire' conference program, said Jimmy L. Carr, executive director of Lake Junaluska Conference and

Retreat Center. "The participants in the event see **CONTROVERSY on 4**

HRC picks new co-chairs for dinner

Jay Biles, Jennifer Garner tapped for 2006 HRC Carolinas Dinner

by Bert Woodard

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jay Biles, a human resources business partner with Wachovia Corp., and Jennifer Garner, the associate vice president for University Advancement at Queens University of Charlotte, have been named co-chairs of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) 2006 Carolinas Dinner.

The annual dinner will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center on Feb. 26, 2006. Last year's HRC Carolinas Dinner drew a record crowd of 1,300-plus, earning the national dinner HRC Dinner of the Year distinction.

Biles manages human resources for the sales division of Evergreen Investments, a subsidiary of Wachovia. Prior to this current role, he worked in a centralized area within Human Resources designing



Jennifer Garner and Jay Biles are the newly named co-chairs for the 2006 HRC Carolinas Dinner.

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