

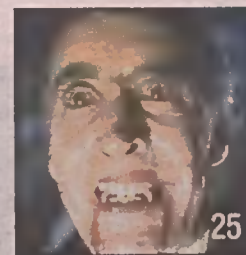
Stop the S.C. anti-gay marriage amendment!

north & south CAROLINA

Notes

noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues

Q-Living:
Top 10
Halloween Costumes



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ONLINE Q.POLL
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Would you volunteer for Charlotte Gay Pride?

yes . no

Next Issue: Throwing The Ultimate Party

Top 10 straight advocates for LGBT rights include actors, musicians and politicians

by Jay Smith Brown

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In celebration of National Coming Out Day, Tuesday, Oct. 11, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation released a list of the top 10 straight advocates for LGBT equality.

Included in the list are actress Kristin Chenoweth, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson, actress Felicity Huffman, talk show host Cristina Saralegui, the Rev. Norm Kansfield, Peter Hams, IBM executive Ted Childs, hip-hop artist Kanye West and Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Zapatero.

"Being out and open about our lives is not just for gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people, but for everyone who cares about equality," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "These 10 leaders for fairness represent millions of family members, people of faith, friends and co-workers who are helping make America fairer and more equal."

The list emphasizes this year's Coming Out Project theme "Talk About It," which encourages fair-minded people to talk openly and honestly about their lives and the inequalities LGBT Americans face under law.

"Every single time we talk about it, we are one step closer to equality," said Solmonese. "Each word helps build bridges

see STRAIGHT on 19



HRC Carolinas' team preparing for '06 dinner

Group wants more South Carolina involvement

by Donald Miller

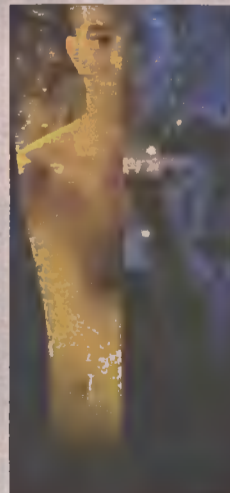
The Human Rights Campaign Dinner held in Charlotte earlier this year proved to be a tremendous success and gained nationwide attention. Organizers for next year's dinner want to outdo themselves once again with a splashier performance presentation and larger attendance figures — hopefully leading to more funds raised for the nation's largest LGBT lobbying organization.

"We had 1,350 people attending the event last year," says Jay Biles, co-chair of the 2006 dinner. "We have a room that will hold 1,600 people — so we're looking at 1,500 but hoping for 1,600."

In keeping with the tradition of building the dinner party around a theme, organizers have chosen "Fire and Ice" as this year's moniker.

So just what does "Fire and Ice" mean?

"It's specific enough and vague enough to do



'Fire & Ice' takes place Feb. 25 at the Charlotte Convention Center.

see HRC on 4

Charlotte gay Pride in trouble?

Current director unclear on future of event

by David Moore
Q-Notes staff

The future of Charlotte's annual gay Pride celebration isn't looking too bright these days. Earlier this year the festival was held in the city's downtown Marshall Park, reportedly attracting a crowd of 3,000. Although figures for the previous year's event were reportedly higher, organizers were undaunted by the increased presence of the the Concord-based anti-gay organization Operation Save America (OSA).

For many festival attendees, however, the presence of OSAers added yet another strike against Charlotte Pride.

"The blaring music and the anti-gay rhetoric definitely made me feel very harassed," said Q-Notes Associate Editor David Stout. "I heard one



Will Charlotte have a Pride celebration in '06?

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