

Make a difference in 2006 — volunteer!

north
& south
CAROLINA

QNotes

noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues

VOLUME 20 . ISSUE 18

SINCE 1986

WWW.Q-NOTES.COM

JANUARY 14, 2006

Q-Living:
New LGBT TV
in '06



Queer Carolinians talk about the new year

From community activists and leaders to drag divas and politicians, the LGBT community is excited about 2006

by Donald Miller

Making resolutions for the new year — for some people — is an annual way of topping off the holiday season. After a two-month period of celebrating that generally begins with Halloween and continues through November with seasonal dinners, parties, the Thanksgiving holiday and a repeat of the same through December leading up to Christmas and Hannukah, the most common resolutions tend to be lose weight, eat less, drink less, exercise more and eat healthier foods.

Some people — on the other hand — don't make resolutions at all.

"I figured out long ago that I was always doomed to fail," says native Carolinian Steve Richardson. Now living in Birmingham, Richardson was recently back in Charlotte visiting friends and family for the holidays. "After trying so hard to live up to what I wanted to achieve and falling short, I figured out I didn't need to be so hard on myself. I could do whatever I wanted any time of the year — so why place the bar so high at the beginning?"

From across the Carolinas we've gathered here a collection from both camps: resolutions for the upcoming year — some of them personal, others political — and hopes and desires for change in 2006.



Harry Brown, Asheville, N.C.

I've been very fortunate over the last 16 years to be able to direct benefits that have

raised over \$2 million in revenue for HIV/AIDS causes. I have only accomplished that through the unselfish dedication of hundreds of volunteers that helped make it happen.

After being immersed in fundraising for so long, my hope for the future is that there is never a need for me or anyone else to ever have to have one more AIDS benefit. Another hope I have for the new year is for our young people — there are so many with time and talent to offer to others. I look forward to seeing them step up and make a difference in our community.

Harry Brown is a longtime LGBT community activist in the southeast.

L.S. "Bo" Dean Jr., Wilmington, N.C.

There are some things I have been thinking of regarding "resolutions" to help me be a better person and a more effective community member aside from a frontal labotomy and botox! I am going to wait 24 hours before I say yes to any new project or activity. I am going to ensure that prayer has at least a partial balance with meditation. I am going to have at least one day a week that is my day off completely and one night a week for my husband and I to just be together regardless of what is going on.

I am totally committed to reading at least one novel or major work per month by an LGB or T author and the most important resolution regarding my activism is to be aggressive in working on HIV/AIDS outreach for our youth as well as the community at large, not only addressing HIV/AIDS but positive, healthy behaviors for us all. Our success as a community is directly proportional to how well we nurture the health and well-



being of our own. All the political and social activism makes no difference if we are not being as healthy as we can be.

L.S. "Bo" Dean Jr. is the president of the OutWilmington Community Center.

Miss Della, Charlotte, N.C.



Well, I should start with a diet, but that's no fun. I'd love to get my act together in 2006, but if you know me, that's so much easier said than done. I'd love to enjoy life more, and not just chocolate

and Latin men. One thing I am looking forward to — things will start heating up where the next presidential election is concerned. I'm sure we'll have plenty of opportunities over the next year to watch DUBYA squirm. The days of that pompous ass being in the White House are numbered, baby!

Miss Della is the author of *Drag Rag*, a monthly column appearing in Q-Notes, that focuses on drag and female impersonation.

Mark Kleinschmidt, Chapel Hill, N.C.

I'm so bad at New Year's resolutions. Last year's was to get re-elected — I'm glad that one worked out better than the promise to myself to get to the gym 3-4 times a week. This year I hope we can continue to turn back a marriage amendment to the N.C. Constitution. I also plan to do more to support gay-owned enterprise and businesses that support our community. In 2005 I was swamped with professional and



see **LGBT** on 10



Audiophile:
DJ Brett Henrichsen and more share their highlights and lowlights of '05 23



Tying the knot screens at Charlotte's Gay & Lesbian Center Jan. 19 27

Corporate America unlikely LGBT ally 15

Top 10 weight loss tips 21

A healthier you 21

North and South Carolina

North Carolina:
'L Word' actress to speak at HRC Carolinas Dinner 06

South Carolina:
Billy Porter to appear at S.C. Black & Latino Pride 08

ONLINE
Q.POLL
www.q-notes.com

Have you been to see 'Brokeback Mountain?'
. yes . no

Next Issue:
Black History Month
Winter Getaways

Notes from a gay soldier

Iraq during the holidays

Editor's Note: These are the thoughts of a gay soldier — a North Carolina native — who has been deployed to Iraq. Because of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, he must remain anonymous.

By the time you read this, the holiday season will have come and gone. It's been a time of reflection for me — thinking about about new year's resolutions and starting the year on a good note. My first holiday season spent in Iraq has been unlike anything I've ever experienced before.

I had a Christmas tree and many wonderful gifts, but it was a day like any other day in the desert, except we had holiday music and a lot better chow in the mess hall.

The past few weeks have been extremely stressful. Our security levels have been heightened from the recent Iraqi elections and extended through the Christmas and New Year's holidays. I have seen many things that I will never forget. From the election day jubilation to a deadly Christmas week, the tension levels have been high and the possibility of an attack at any moment has been a continued reality.

Since I came to Iraq I have seen death very graphically and firsthand. It's worse than any horror film or car accident I have ever seen. War is ugly. On the 22nd of



December, I witnessed the aftermath of a very deadly explosion at the south entrance to our camp. The entrance to our camp is off

see **NOTES** on 18