

Celebrate spring by volunteering with your local LGBT organization

north
& south
CAROLINA

QNotes

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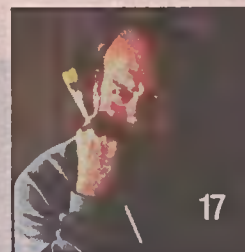
VOLUME 20 . ISSUE 25

SINCE 1986

WWW.Q-NOTES.COM

APRIL 22 . 2006

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Will you attend the
Rowan County School
Board meeting to show
support for GLSEN April 27?
. yes . no

Next Issue:
S.C. Gay Pride
Mother's Day

Growing acceptance of gay marriage, adoption and military service

According to a report from the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, public acceptance of gay and lesbian sexuality has increased in a number of ways in recent years, though it remains a deeply divisive issue. Half of Americans (51 percent) continue to oppose legalizing gay marriage, but this number has declined significantly from 63 percent in February 2004, when opposition spiked following the Massachusetts Supreme Court decision and remained high throughout the 2004 election season. Opposition to gay marriage has fallen across the board, with substantial declines even among Republicans.

Conducted among 1,405 adults from March 8-12, the poll also finds less opposition to gays serving openly in the military and a greater public willingness to allow gays to adopt children. A 60 percent majority now favors allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, up from 52 percent in 1994, and 46 percent support gay adoption, up from 38 percent in 1999.

Despite the fact that gay marriage initiatives are on the ballot in seven states this year, the atmosphere surrounding the issue of gay marriage has cooled off, and public intensity has dissipated compared with two

years ago. "Strong" opposition to gay marriage, which surged in 2004, has ebbed to a new low. This is particularly the case among seniors, Catholics and non-evangelical Protestants. Among people age 65 and over, for example, strong opposition to gay marriage jumped from 36 percent in 2003 to 58 percent in 2004, but has fallen to 33 percent today. White evangelical Protestants are the only major group in which a majority still strongly opposes gay marriage, but even here the intensity of feeling has receded somewhat.

Opposition to gay marriage declines

After peaking during the 2004 election, opposition to allowing gays and lesbians to marry has faded in recent years. The percent of those who favor allowing gay marriage has increased from a low of 29 percent in August of that year to 39 percent today.

These figures are in keeping with the long-term trend toward acceptance of gay marriage seen in surveys leading up to the 2004 race. In June of 1996 just 27 percent favored legalizing gay marriage, a figure that rose to 35 percent in March of 2001 and 38 percent in the summer of 2003. This growing support fell away



The public is divided about evenly: — 46 percent favor gay adoption while 48 percent are opposed.

during the debates surrounding gay marriage that were sparked largely by the Massachusetts Supreme Court decision in February 2004, a resurgence in opposition that lasted throughout the rest of the election year.

The turnaround over the past two years is particularly distinct in the change among those who say they "strongly oppose" legalizing gay marriage. Just 28 percent take this position today, down from 42 percent in February of 2004, and the decline has been sharpest among

see SURVEY on 15

Half million raised at GGF gala

by Cecelia Thompson

GREENSBORO — The Guilford Green Foundation (GGF), in collaboration with the National Community Funding Partnership for Lesbian and Gay Issues and the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, announced April 4 at its annual Black Tie Gala that nearly \$500,000 was raised during its most successful fundraising campaign ever.

Marking the first time the three nonprofits have collaborated on this scale, this initiative netted more than \$182,000 in 2004 and more than \$173,000 in 2005 from area businesses, foundations and philanthropists. Greensboro is one of only 40 cities nationwide to receive the matching grant from the National Community Funding Partnership for Lesbian and Gay Issues and

has raised funds faster than any other location.

In addition to the Piedmont Unity Project, GGF's annual Friendship Drive raised more than \$70,000 surpassing last year's total by see GGF on 13



'...Our community is one
where diversity is valued.'
— Greensboro Mayor
Keith Holliday

A soldier's story Explosive possibilities

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.

I had a near encounter this past week of the wrong kind. For a brief moment, I saw my life flash before me.

It started like this. I was on the charter bus going to the dining facility. We saw a truck that looked like one of ours in an accident so I asked to get off the bus to investigate — I told them I would eat later. So they dropped me off with my gear. I suited up and went to see what had happened. This was not an accident at all. An Iraqi Army soldier had pulled off to the side of the road and discovered a land mine.

About three minutes back up the road, I had seen the Engineer Unit doing a training exercise, so in the back of my mind I thought it was possible that this, too, was another training exercise. When I get to the scene I see that there are no other Coalition members there and only one Iraqi who could speak good enough English to explain the situation.

There it was, an anti-personnel/tank mine, cleverly placed and concealed. When I saw it, I nearly had a heart attack. The blast zone on a mine like this is around 250 meters (about 275 yards) and with the ingenuity of the IEDs see SOLDIER'S on 14

