

National News Notes

by David Stout . Q-Notes staff

TWO to battle ex-gay movement

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new national group called Truth Wins Out (TWO) has formed to counter the misinformation of the so-called "ex-gay" ministries and to chal-



lenge their political influence. The latter was evidenced when President Bush included Alan Chambers, head of Exodus International, in his June 5 press conference calling for a constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage.

Several ex-gay survivors shared their stories at the unveiling, including 18-year-old Lance Carroll (pictured) who was forced into an ex-gay boot camp in Tennessee after he came out to his parents. Carroll said that none of his fellow attendees actually changed.

"While I was there, it just seemed to make people more depressed and self-loathing than they already were." For more information, visit www.truthwinsout.org.

"With the president embracing the leader of the ex-gay ministries, there has never been a more crucial time to expose the faith-based folly of these harmful programs," declared TWO Executive Director Wayne Besen at a June 7 National Press Club event trumpeting the group's formation.

Dance music star gaybashed

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Dance chart-topper Kevin Aviance (pictured), 38, was attacked by four men in Manhattan's East Village around 1:30 a.m. June 10 as he was leaving a gay bar. According to reports, Jarell Sears, 20, Gerard Johnson, 16, Gregory Archie, 18, and Akino George, 20, shouted anti-gay slurs as they beat and kicked the singer.



Afterward, Aviance was admitted to Beth Israel Medical Center where he was treated for a broken jaw and a knee injury.

The gender-bending performer, known for such club hits as "Give It Up," "Din Da Da" and "Alive," was released from the hospital June 12. His jaw was wired shut and his leg was in a brace. The attack outraged N.Y. activists and political figures. Mayor Michael Bloomberg called it "a disgrace."

The four suspects have been charged with first-degree gang assault and first-degree assault as a hate crime. They are being held on \$25,000 bail at press time. They face up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

LGBT rights law survives challenge

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Opponents of a state law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity failed to gather enough voter signatures to force a public vote on the law, allowing it to take effect June 7. The non-discrimination measure passed earlier this year after 30 years of struggle. Washington is the 17th state to outlaw gay bias and the 8th

to protect transgender people.

"It's amazing to wake up in a state today where you can no longer be fired from your job because of your sexual orientation or gender identity," said John Vezina, campaign manager of Washington Won't Discriminate. "This shows that the people of Washington don't want to discriminate against their [LGBT] friends, colleagues and family members."

Barbara Green, interim executive director of Equal Rights Washington, added, "Washington residents believe in fairness for all, and they have demonstrated that by their refusal to sign onto this mean-spirited effort."

HRC head set for the airwaves

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Human Rights Campaign and XM Satellite Radio are launching a weekly, live talk show hosted by HRC's president. "The Agenda with Joe Solmonese" will explore politics, entertainment and culture through interviews with newsmakers and celebrities and listener call-in segments. "The Agenda" will premiere July 17, exclusively on XM.

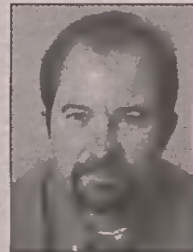
"This is a unique opportunity to engage millions of Americans in a real conversation about what it means to be [LGBT] today," said Solmonese. "Our goal has always been to engage more Americans in a dialogue about fairness and equality, and XM's more than 6.5 million subscribers give us an incredible reach into rural as well as urban American homes and cars."

Broadcasts will include celebrity guests like Cyndi Lauper and George Takei; political leaders like Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) and

Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI); religious leaders like Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson; and national and local community leaders.

Appeals court OKs visitation fight

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — The California Court of Appeal ruled June 9 that Charisma R. may seek visitation with the child born to her former female partner through artificial insemination. The case, *Charisma R. v. Kristina S.*, is the first appellate decision to apply the California Supreme Court's groundbreaking trio of 2005 decisions recognizing lesbian parents.



"Finally, the law is catching up with the reality of same-sex parent families," said Shannon Minter (pictured), Legal Director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "This decision is particularly important because it protects children whose parents separate shortly after a child is born. As the Court of Appeal recognized, children benefit when the law protects their relationships with both parents from the outset, regardless of whether the parents stay together."

Charisma and Kristina were in a committed relationship for several years before their daughter was born. Shortly after, Kristina abruptly left the couple's home and took the child with her. Charisma filed a petition asking the court to rule that she is a legal parent in May 2004. The trial court dismissed her action. ▀

Get Your FUN On!

Don't miss the excitement of Charlotte Sting basketball this summer

JULY

SAT	1	SACRAMENTO	6:00 PM
FRI	14	SAN ANTONIO	7:00 PM
SAT	15	INDIANA	6:00 PM
THU	20	SEATTLE	11:30 AM
SAT	22	PHOENIX	6:00 PM
TUE	25	MINNESOTA	7:00 PM
SAT	29	NEW YORK	6:00 PM

AUGUST

TUE	8	HOUSTON	7:00 PM
SAT	12	CHICAGO	6:00 PM



Join us in our new
Uptown home
at Charlotte
Bobcats Arena

**TICKETS START
AS LOW AS
\$6 PER GAME**

704-424-WNBA
CharlotteSting.com



Former Duke star &
Sting rookie Monique Currie