

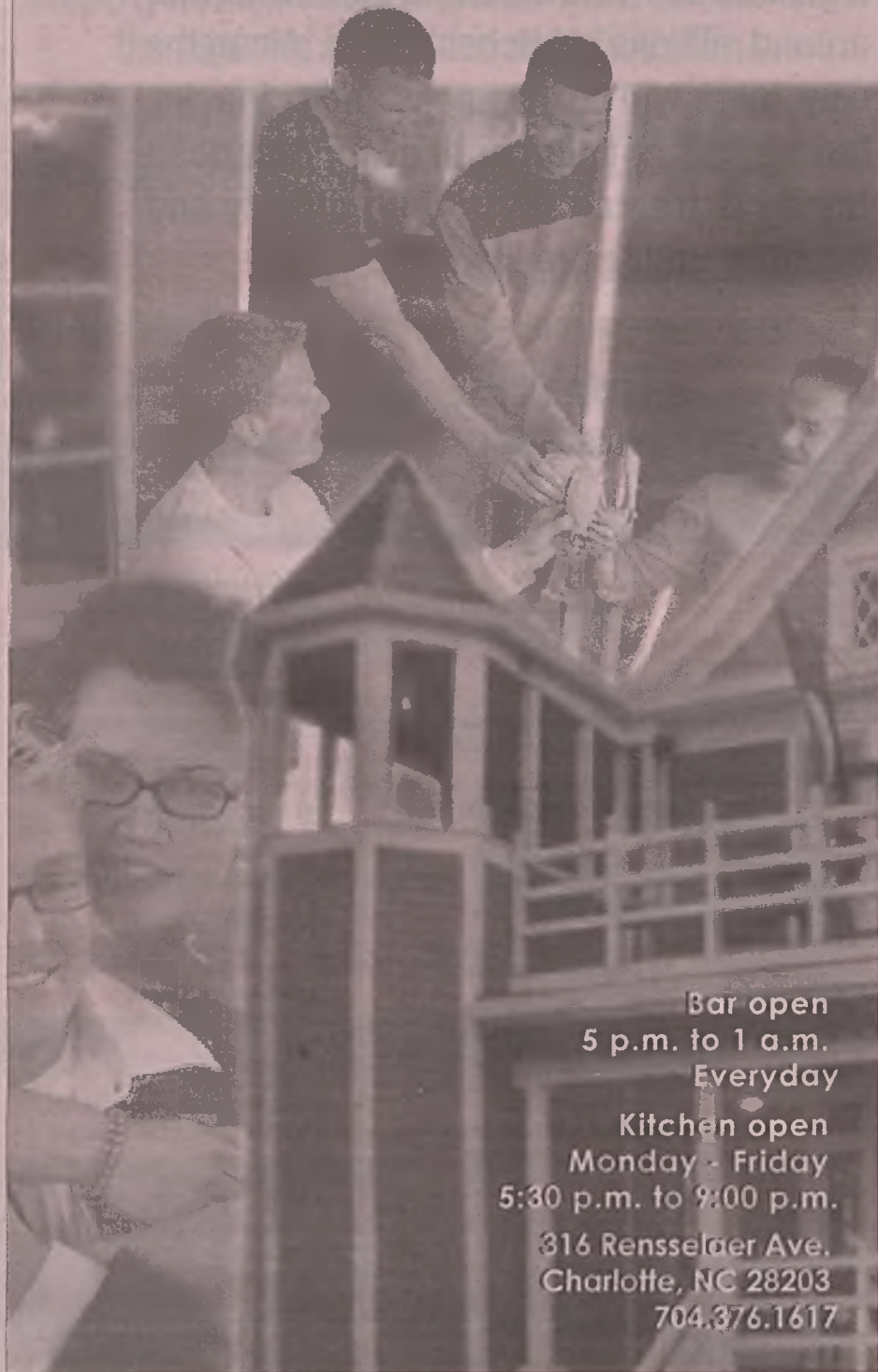
LI AISONS

Video bar

Thank you

to everyone who participated in
and helped us celebrate our
17th Anniversary Party!

- Linda, and the
staff of Liaisons



Bar open
5 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Everyday
Kitchen open
Monday - Friday
5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
316 Rensselaer Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28203
704.376.1617

International News Notes

by David Stout . Q-Notes staff

Survivors offered pension rights

ROSARIO, Argentina — On June 15 the City Council of Rosario, Santa Fe state, approved a measure granting pension rights to surviving LGBT partners of deceased city state employees who “had lived openly in marriage-like fashion for a minimum of five years prior to the death of [the] city state employee, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.” The initiative was introduced by Socialist Party Councilman Pablo Colono.

VOX Asociación Civil, an LGBT rights group active in the Santa Fe state, drafted the measure. It states in part, “It is time to take into account the new family structures of today. ... By acknowledging the new family structures, the personal right to free determination is also legitimized.” VAC also drafted the sexual orientation non-discrimination law enacted in Rosario last December.

On July 6, a second LGBT pension ordinance was passed in Santa Fe state, this one in the capital city of Santa Fe. The proposal was sponsored by Councilwoman Marta Fassino.

Anti-bullying DVD targets schools

LONDON, England — LGBT rights group Stonewall and London Mayor Ken Livingstone have jointly produced a new anti-homophobic bullying DVD for distribution to teachers in all London’s secondary schools. The Spell it Out DVD campaign was

launched July 4 at the Stonewall-sponsored conference “Tackling Homophobia In Our Schools.” More than 100 key decision makers from across the British education sector attended the conference.

Ben Summerskill (pictured), Stonewall chief executive, said “This DVD pack is an important step towards tackling the homophobic bullying that damages the lives of so many young people.”

Livingstone added, “There are many extreme examples of violent and unpleasant homophobic bullying, but we also have a huge mountain to climb to eliminate the so-called low level abuse and prejudice, such as using ... ‘gay’ as a term of denigration, which only legitimizes harassment and exclusion. I hope Spell it Out will motivate London’s school staff to work together to tackle homophobic bullying and make London’s schools safer and more pleasant for everyone.”

Mugabe’s war on gays continues

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Virulently anti-gay President Robert Mugabe (pictured) took his ongoing campaign against gays and lesbians a step further this month when his government greatly widened the scope of Zimbabwe’s sodomy law. Before, the law specifically prohibited sexual activity

between men. Now it bans any “act involving contact between two males that would be regarded by a reasonable person as an inde-

cent act.”

Human rights groups are concerned that the law potentially makes it a crime for two men to kiss, hug or hold hands. Their concerns are warranted under the rule of the 82-year-old strongman; Mugabe regularly declares gays to be “less than pigs and dogs” and says homosexuality is a “white man’s disease.”

During a recent public address Mugabe told the cheering throng that same-sex marriage is a threat to mankind. He condemned churches that bless gay unions and said his government would jail clergy for performing same-sex union ceremonies in Zimbabwe.

WorldPride still on sponsors say

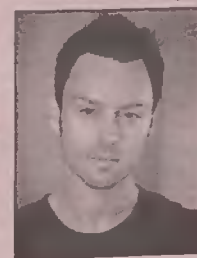
JERUSALEM, Israel — At press time the organizers of WorldPride say they intend to go forward with the international LGBT celebration, scheduled to take place here Aug. 6-12, despite the ongoing violence between Israeli military forces and Lebanon-based Hezbollah. However, they add that they are closely monitoring the situation with the opening date quickly approaching.

Hagai El-Ad, executive director of Jerusalem Open House, the sponsor of WorldPride, said, “We feel that these days, optimistic messages speaking for tolerance and against violence — as are indeed the core messages of the Jerusalem WorldPride events — are even more significant than during calmer times. ... During the current hostilities, Jerusalem is a calm spot, with a variety of public events going on as scheduled. We advise our guests from around the world to follow the news together with us, and hope together with us for peace.”

The complete schedule of events for Jerusalem WorldPride 2006 can be found online at www.worldpride.net.

Pop star announces gay union

LONDON, England — Singer-songwriter



Darren Hayes (pictured), who scored several hits as the vocalist for ’90s pop duo Savage Garden, revealed on his website earlier this month that he had a civil union ceremony with his boyfriend of

two years, Richard Cullen, here on June 19. The 34-year-old artist wrote, “I can honestly say it was the happiest day of my life.”

Hayes, who was briefly married to a woman in the late ’90s, noted, “I’m proud of who I am, and after what felt like an eternity, I’m finally in a place where my heart is secure and content. And I can finally make sense of all of the searching.” Just don’t expect him to talk about it: “I am and will continue to be a public person with a private life,” he explained.

Hayes co-founded Savage Garden with multi-instrumentalist Daniel Jones in Australia in 1994. They achieved worldwide success with a string of singles, including “I Want You,” “Truly, Madly, Deeply,” “To The Moon And Back” and “I Knew I Loved You.” The duo parted company in 2001 and Hayes embarked on a solo career. ▀

