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# QNotes

Noted . Notable . Noteworthy . LGBT News & Views

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## 2008: A look ahead

Expectations for the  
LGBT community

by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

From almost-made-it legislation and Capitol Hill lobbying to youth activism and national

work for real, substantive improvements for the national LGBT community. Now, it's time to look forward to 2008 and the positive accomplishments we will hopefully see in this year.

### Election 2008

Whether we end up with a president and Congress more attuned to our needs is just one

tant is that our community's concerns should play a large role in the 2008 elections whatever the eventual outcome. Throughout the primaries and presidential campaigns, candidates and the media will speak at length on LGBT issues including marriage, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," employment non-discrimination, hate crimes and more. With these public discussions, more minds and hearts can be changed — or at least poked and prodded in the right direction.

### Marriage Equality

Once again, the community will have to unite to fight an amendment battle, this time in Florida. Playing host to dozens of national interests on both sides of the debate, Floridians will hear lots of vitriolic rhetoric to scare them into constitutionalizing second-class citizenship for LGBT people. Anti-gay, religious right "marriage advocates" will be jumping for their chance to smear the queer marriage movement; LGBT and allied organizations will be working hard on the other side. To date, the pro-LGBT Florida Red and Blue has raised \$2 million.

### Employment Non-Discrimination

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act

see look on 16



## John Edwards endorsed by Q-Notes

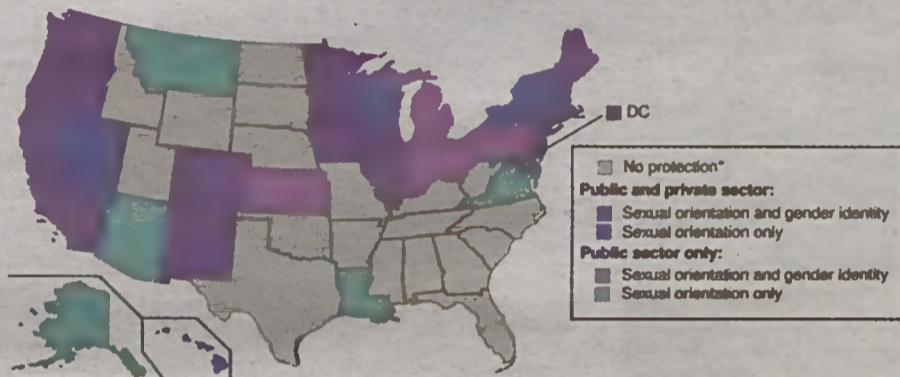
After a series of meetings between the editors, the staff and the publisher, *Q-Notes* has endorsed John Edwards for President.

His concrete, progressive policy positions (including steadfast support for pro-LGBT issues), his commitment to returning power to the people from moneyed special interests, his outstanding polling strength against the Republicans and his positive impact for down-ticket candidates nationwide combine to make John Edwards the best candidate in the race.

*Q-Notes* encourages all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender voters to support John Edwards in the primaries and beyond.

— See page 4 for full endorsement.

Policies Banning Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity Employment Discrimination\*



\* Current as of November 22, 2007. "Policies" include laws, executive orders or court decisions. Refers to policies at state level only. Sexual orientation discrimination is also banned for all federal civil service employees. Employees may also be protected under county or municipal policies.

### Employment discrimination laws and policies in the U.S.

movements for equality, 2007 laid the ground-

(admittedly major) part of the issue. Also impor-

## Appeals Court overturns custody restriction

Family court judge opposed gay dad's 'deviant lifestyle'

by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Court of Appeals has reversed a lower court ruling limiting the visitation rights of a gay father. The lower court placed prohibitive travel restrictions on the father because the presiding judge did not "condone [the] Husband's alternative lifestyle."

In 1992, Ernest Matthew West and Mary Denise West were married. In 2002, Ernest lost his job in Columbia and was sent to Dallas, Texas. He eventually moved to Maimi, Fla., where he became involved in an affair with a man.

In 2004, Mary initiated divorce proceedings. Fearing the affair would damage his ability to see his children and disadvantage him during divorce hearings, Ernest denied the existence of the affair until a week before the final hearing in the divorce case.

Lexington County Family Court Judge H.E. Bonnoitt, Jr., granted Mary and Ernest a divorce after living separately for one year. Mary was given custody of the children and Bonnoitt placed travel restrictions on Ernest's visitation rights, limiting his contact to his children only within the state of South



The S.C. Court of Appeals overturned a prejudiced lower court ruling.

Carolina. Bonnoitt prohibited Ernest from taking his children to Florida during visitation,

see custody on 18

## Gay vloggers get mixed reception in Iowa

Clinton supporters taken to task for non-assistance

by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

DES MOINES, Iowa — Video bloggers ("vloggers") and staff reporters from the new ImGay.tv, a fledging video site for the LGBT community, said they were surprised to find themselves ignored or shut out from covering caucus events by campaign workers and supporters of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"I'm really disappointed," said Michael Freinle, one of seven staff reporters with ImGay.tv who filed reports on the Iowa caucus in Des Moines, on his vlog. "[Clinton] has supporters who don't support all Americans, and yet Hillary's trying to govern all Americans."

Cate Colgan, an internet entrepreneur who founded ImGay.tv in the summer of 2007, decided in mid-December to take a crew to Iowa to track the gay side of the caucuses.

"As far as we know, we're the only gay medium that can do this kind of coverage"

Colgan said from the Des Moines Convention Center. "We do the interviews, videos or vlogs and post them that day. You don't have to wait for the paper or the evening news, and we're covering what's important to the GLBT community."

But ImGay.tv staff said getting campaign workers and supporters to talk to them and participate in interviews and discussions about LGBT issues was difficult, especially within the

Clinton camp. "We really didn't expect this from the Hillary campaign," Colgan said.

College students Freinle and Dayna Firth volunteered to cover the caucus with ImGay.tv during their winter break. Their initial vlogs highlighted the struggles they encountered. "The crowd is kind of looking at us like we're not really supposed to be here," Firth reported in her Dec. 31 vlog.

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