

GREENSBORO

Questions surround charged gay leader
page 5



TRIANGLE

Youth attend prom, work
for change
page 17



CAROLINAS

'Southern Queen' hits
statewide comedy scene
page 21



Q Notes

Noted . Notable . Noteworthy . LGBT News & Views

Volume 23 . Number 02

www.q-notes.com

May 31 . 2008

Male rape victim shares his story

Part One of this two-part series
details the alleged crime

by Matt Comer & David Stout
Q-Notes staff

The U.S. Justice Department says one in every 10 rape victims is male. According to a national study, about three percent of American men (2.78 million) have been the victim of an attempted or



completed rape. Around 60 percent of these men identify as gay or bisexual.

Despite the sobering figures, the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network says male victims are less likely to file a crime report. Much of this has to do with the myths attached to male-on-male rape.

see victim on 11

Pride: Not just for state capitals anymore



Festivals popping up in locales
across the Carolinas

by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

In 1981, gay and transgender North Carolinians celebrated their "day out" at the first statewide NC Pride festival in Durham. The same year, Charlotte had its first local Pride gathering, on the campus of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. The Queen City event would return two years later, while the statewide Pride would be held the next time in 1986, and then each year thereafter.

The sustained Pride movement in Charlotte began in 1987 with the launch of an annual picnic in Bryant Park. The now-defunct group Queen City Quordinators oversaw the event until 1989, when Q-Notes assumed responsibility. The picnic was

replaced with a more traditional Pride festival in 1993.

Since those early days, both events have continued to grow. Along with them, in more recent years local Pride festivals have popped up across the Carolinas. Today, from the mountains of North Carolina to the coast of South Carolina, LGBT communities hold their own celebrations.

The phenomenon has raised some intriguing questions: What's behind this movement? How are local communities organizing their own festivities? Are there larger trends afoot? Are these events a fad, or is this the new paradigm?

Proliferating Prides

LGBT folks have taken to the streets since the first rumblings of queer liberation. What started out as a riot in New York City's Greenwich Village in the hot and sultry

summer of '69 has become the city's annual celebration of life, liberty and the spectacular and frivolous pursuit of Pride in the years since.

Now, along with New York, there are massive Pride events in such cities as San Francisco, Atlanta and D.C. We all know about these hundreds of thousands-strong parades: Dykes on Bikes up front leading blocks of raucous marchers waving a sea of rainbow flags and carrying signs addressing every type of social concern. It's what these events are famous and beloved for.

The question is: In this new era of proliferating Pride observances, have these festivals lost any of their appeal?

"From my limited experience with Prides such as the San Francisco event, large gatherings

see complexion on 16

California Supreme Court legalizes marriage

Conservatives rally to issue stay,
amendment initiative

compiled by Q-Notes staff

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — The Supreme Court of California ruled 4-3 May 15 in favor of legalizing marriage for same-sex couples and knocked down the state's ban on gay marriage. The court also ruled that domestic partnerships are not a good enough substitute for the extension of full marriage rights.

The case was brought by the City of San Francisco, two dozen gay and lesbian couples and Equality California.

"I respect the Court's decision and as

Governor, I will uphold its ruling," California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said after the publication of the decision. "Also, as I have said in the past, I will not support an amendment to the Constitution that would overturn this state Supreme Court ruling."

"This is a historic day for the state of California, and a long-awaited day for the plaintiffs in this case and their families," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The California Supreme Court has made clear that same-sex couples in committed relationships and their families deserve the same level of respect afforded to opposite-sex couples. The court did its job by ensuring that the state constitution pro-

vides the same rights and protections for everyone. This is a decision that strengthens California families."

It is expected that conservative groups will be successful in their attempts to place an anti-family marriage amendment on the state's November ballot. The groups are also pushing the Court to issue a stay on its ruling until voters head to the polls for the ballot initiative.

The full opinion as issued by the Court is available online at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/S147999.DOC

— Be sure to pick up the June 14 issue of Q-Notes for an in-depth look at how this marriage ruling will impact the Carolinas LGBT communities and marriage movement.

From the opinion, written by Chief Justice Ron George:

In light of all of these circumstances, we conclude that retention of the traditional definition of marriage does not constitute a state interest sufficiently compelling, under the strict scrutiny equal protection standard, to justify withholding that status from same-sex couples. Accordingly, insofar as the provisions of sections 300 and 308.5 draw a distinction between opposite-sex couples and same-sex couples and exclude the latter from access to the designation of marriage, we conclude these statutes are unconstitutional.

(Pages 118-119)

S.C. group demands termination
page 14

Editorial: Help us help you
page 4

Spoletto returns to Charleston
page 21