

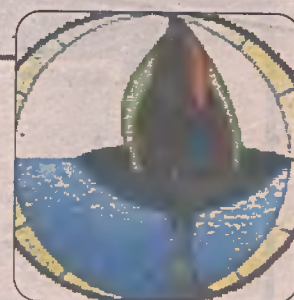
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QNotes

Noted . Notable . Noteworthy . LGBT News & Views

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Marriage gains are a two-edged sword

Carolinas LGBTs could face
backlash from California ruling
by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

In 1970, two gay students at the University of Minnesota attempted to obtain a marriage license. When they were denied, they took their case to the state's court system. When the suit reached Minnesota's Supreme Court, the students lost.

Forty years later, the push for basic marriage rights for same-sex couples has eclipsed employment non-discrimination, hate crimes legislation and repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy to become the number one advocacy issue of national LGBT organizations and influential LGBT activists.

There's no doubt that civil marriage — and the plethora of federal, state and



They didn't forget the wedding cake at the California marriage ruling celebration in the City of West Hollywood.

Photo Credit: Karen Ocamb

local rights and privileges that come with it — would allow same-sex couples to better care for themselves and their children. Full marriage equality would also further assimilate the gay community into mainstream American society.

On May 15, the push toward these ideals was given an enormous boost when the California Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional state laws limiting marriage to one man and one woman. After surviving a right-wing attempt to have a stay placed on the decision, on June 16 at 5 p.m., the ruling becomes effective and same-sex couples will begin to marry.

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LGBT youth group CEO under scrutiny

Critics charge that Time Out Youth is moving in the wrong direction

by Jack Kirven & David Stout . Q-Notes staff

exclusive

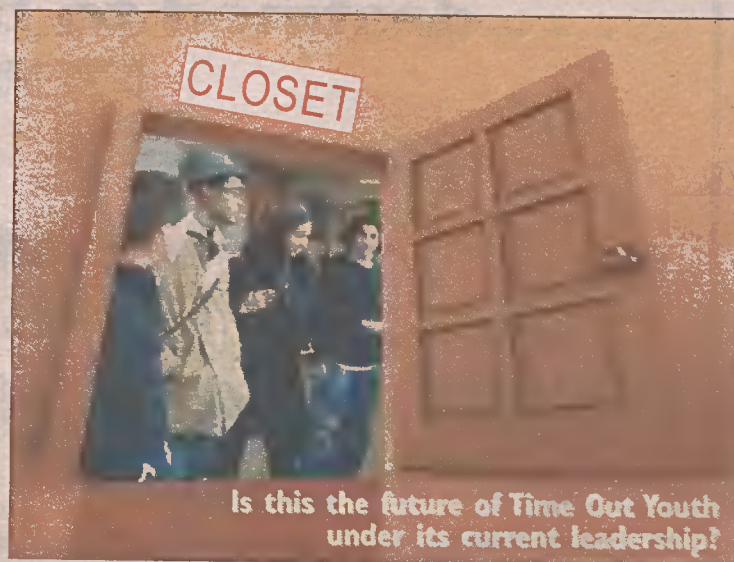
Ed. Note: In keeping with Time Out Youth's policy of confidentiality for youth members, Q-Notes has chosen to withhold the names of youth quoted as sources in this story. Individual youth are identified as "Youth A," "Youth B," etc. Some of the youth specifically requested anonymity due to fear of retaliation by Time Out Youth CEO Janine K. Eustache or the Board of Directors.

Also, readers should know that Q-Notes Editor Matt Comer has been an active member of Time Out Youth since mid-October 2007. To avoid potential personal conflicts, he ceded full editorial control of this article to Associate Editor David Stout.

CHARLOTTE — Time Out Youth (TOY), a local support, advocacy and education organization for LGBT youth founded in 1991, is coming under fire from some youth members, former interns and volunteers who feel that the agency is moving in the wrong direction under the management of current CEO Janine K. Eustache.

Eustache took the helm at TOY last fall. She brought with her an impressive employment history that included 18 years of work with non-profit organizations. She was formerly the southeast regional director of Save the Children, a global child relief organization; an executive at LaFace Records in Atlanta, Ga.; and the executive director of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus. In 2003, she was appointed by Gov. Michael Easley to the N.C. Human Relations Commission.

Despite her dazzling resumé, Eustache's critics charge that she isn't



Is this the future of Time Out Youth under its current leadership?

experienced and comfortable working with the LGBT community and, in particular, serving the unique needs of LGBT and questioning youth. These alleged shortcomings have directly led to internal problems at TOY, they assert.

Community members and leaders, including current and past TOY donors and supporters, are beginning to take notice of the growing controversy and are asking questions of their own.

Q-Notes became aware that things might be amiss some weeks ago when TOY claimed that two of its interns left willingly, but it was later

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Male rape victim shares his story

Part Two: Alleged victim's dealings with assistance agencies

by Matt Comer & David Stout
Q-Notes staff

HICKORY — The first half of this two-part series, published in the May 31 issue of Q-Notes, began with some eye-opening statistics. To recap: The U.S. Justice Department reports that one in every 10 rape victims is male. A national study found that three percent of American men (2.78 million) have been the victim of an attempted or completed rape, and 60 percent of those men identify as gay or bisexual.

The Hickory Police Department said a total of 31 adult sexual assault or rape cases were reported in 2007. Of those, only one — the case of our alleged victim, identified here with the pseudonym Brian — was an instance of male-on-male sexual assault.

North Carolina law does not recognize that

a man can rape another man. Therefore, when both parties are male, cases that would be considered rapes elsewhere are prosecuted as sexual assaults in North Carolina.

Part two of Brian's story, presented here, details his experiences and interactions with the community agencies charged with assisting victims of sexual assault and rape.

Hospital visitation

The harrowing ordeal of Brian's alleged rape didn't stop once he returned home in the early morning hours of Sunday, April 29, 2007.

After sleeping the entire day, he woke up that evening and talked to his parents. He told them that a man he met at a gay nightclub the previous night had drugged him, driven him to a motel and raped him. Brian's parents immediately took him to the local

hospital, Frye Regional Medical Center, arriving around 8 p.m.

After checking in, Brian said he waited three hours to be seen by hospital staff.

Once he was called back to an examination room, he continued to wait for assistance.

Brian told Q-Notes that at approximately midnight, an officer with the Hickory Police took his statement. He said the officer didn't take the note he

had from the alleged assailant or the clothes he was wearing at the time of the rape.

He said a nurse told him the hospital would not do a rape kit because "there would be no evidence" due to lack of complete penetration and ejaculation. The nurse took blood and collected a urine sample, although Brian

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