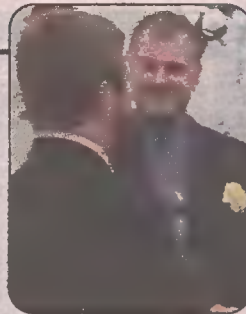


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Q Notes

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College project hopes to curb gay domestic violence

UNCG's Project Safe Love currently seeking research study participants

by Collier Rutledge
Contributing Writer

GREENSBORO — Researchers at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro (UNCG), aided by funds from the Guilford Green Foundation, are working for a second year to develop resources to offer those in the domestic violence service field information on preventing, supporting and rehabilitating victims and perpetrators of same-sex domestic violence.



The initiative, called Project Safe Love, incorporates counseling services for

both victims and their abusers, training for counselors and other professionals, and educational resources.

UNCG is partnering with Family Service of the Piedmont to test the training materials. "Not only can they benefit from the material, but they can give us some feedback," said Dr. Keith Mobley, a clinical assistant professor who directs Safe Love along with his colleague Dr. Christine Murray.

"Services delivered are generally very heterocentric, but domestic violence is always about issues of power," said Mobley. "This is an indirect way of addressing issues of oppression in relationships, which is a nationwide problem." *see project on 12*



The tide turns in N.C. politics

A look at the races for president, governor and senator

by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

The general consensus among political pundits is that North Carolina is primed for its most competitive elections for local, state and national offices in history. It very well could be that for the first time since arch-conservative television commentator Jesse Helms took his seat in the U.S. Senate, the Tar Heel state is truly up for grabs.

As an example, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) clearly thinks the state is in play. They are in full swing readying for a fight to oust Republican Elizabeth Dole from her seat in the U.S. Senate. Just a few months ago, Dole was generally thought to have an easy road to reelection.

And what about the other major races? Will North Carolina's suddenly competitive nature give Democratic Sen. Barack Obama a boost over his GOP rival, Sen. John McCain? Who will claim the governor's mansion?

Q-Notes looked into each of these three key races, read on to see what we found.

The sleeper race

In a recent email to supporters, the DSCC asked Democrats across the country to donate to a few, key "battleground" campaigns. Surprisingly, North Carolina's U.S. Senate race was mentioned in the list, along with other states like Virginia, Mississippi and Kentucky.

"Pundits called this one the sleeper race of

the cycle because Sen. Dole wasn't supposed to be vulnerable," the email said of the race between incumbent Dole and Democratic challenger Kay Hagan. "The DSCC's job is to

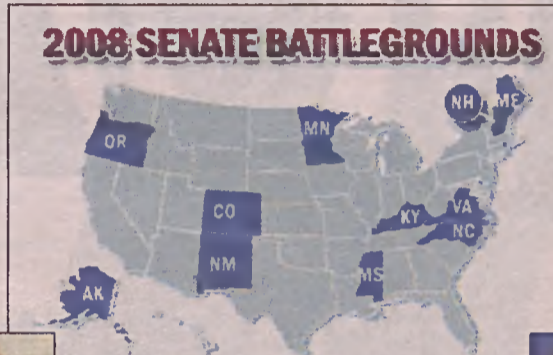


Photo Credit: DSCC



level the playing field and give Hagan everything she needs to keep fighting."

A recent three-page mailer from the Hagan campaign, obtained by Raleigh's *News & Observer* and its Under the Dome blog, claimed that the DSCC would "spend millions" on the fight against Dole.

Part of Hagan's surge is attributable to Dole's relative closeness to what Democrats and many independents (and even some Republicans) see as a failed Bush White House. According to the capital newspaper, Hagan has effectively "tethered" Dole to Bush.

"Hagan writes that Dole has spent 'hundreds of billions' on a 'mismanaged war, kept troops 'deployed indefinitely' and voted against veterans' benefits," the *News & Observer* recounted.

The candidate herself asserted in the mailer, "It is truly astonishing to me that Senate Republicans like Elizabeth Dole have worked hand-in-glove with George Bush



to force his agenda on America."

Dr. Charles Prysby, a professor of political science and expert on

Southern politics at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, told *Q-Notes*, "Kay Hagan has a good shot at winning. She's certainly still the underdog, though."

He added that there were lessons she could learn from two-time Senate candidate and current University of North Carolina System President Erskine Bowles.

"Erskine Bowles, even though he lost, ran pretty good races [against Dole and Sen. Richard Burr]," Prysby said. "He talked about how he'd be an independent Democrat and

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Fire in the Hole!

Carolina-raised author David Sedaris releases new essay collection

by Lawrence Ferber
Contributing Writer

In David Sedaris' latest collection of humorous essays, "When You Are Engulfed in Flames" (Little, Brown and Company), the North Carolina-raised, openly gay humorist shares laugh- and cringe-inducing experiences involving long-time boyfriend Hugh Hamrick, sex-obsessed cab drivers, airplane passenger drama, quitting smoking in Japan, run-ins with people



Photo Credit: Anne Fishbein

he despises and even a bizarre, brief friendship with a neighborhood child molester. Now living in France and

England, Sedaris returned to the states for a book tour and, during a stop in Chicago, took time out for a chat about his book, his Gawker-alleged advances towards male fans and whether he'd put on an elf suit again.

The last time I interviewed you a few years back, you mentioned that you had started an essay on befriending a neighborhood child molester, but couldn't figure out a way to fin-

ish it. That story appears in "Flames," so how did you find your way to completing it?

Well, it helped that he died. I didn't have to worry about him being hurt by the story, but even then it took me a few years to write it. Someone was commenting, "Why is it you have sympathy for a child molester but you have no sympathy for a woman who wants to swap seats with you on a plane?" And I thought, well, the child molester never did anything to me, he was always nice to me. But I think often you have to get a certain distance from a story in order to write about it.

So you're waiting for a lot of people to die right now so you can finally finish a bunch of uncompleted stories,

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