

significant role of fear, attachments and addictions; and exploring victim consciousness — victim and victimizer.

Additional planned activities slated are: Toning; laughing meditation; Oneness Blessing (Deeksha); stretching and breathing exercises; drumming; and channeling Archangel Michael around the campfire.

Cost for the retreat is \$111 and pre-registration is required. Lodging and meals are not included. Accommodations are available at Spirit Winds Ranch and other area motels. There is convenient, free onsite tent camping at Spirit Winds. A limited work-exchange program is offer for fee reduction.

For registration, directions or more information, call Joanne Sobek at 336-877-9633 or email innkeeper@spiritwindsranch.com.

Want to know more about the teaching model for this retreat? Then visit College of Christ Consciousness at www.trans4mind.com/mother_mary.

STATEWIDE

Q-Notes needs you!

STATEWIDE — Want an opportunity to win an iPod or roundtrip airline tickets? Then click on through to the annual Community Marketing Lesbian and Gay Consumer Survey.

Q-Notes has partnered with Community Marketing, Inc. (CMI), the San Francisco-based gay and lesbian research, marketing and communications firm, to produce the most comprehensive LGBT market research report ever conducted, the Gay Consumer Index™ and the Lesbian Consumer Index™.

Taking just 10 minutes out of your day to complete this survey will help Q-Notes and countless other LGBT news publications and Community Marketing serve your unique consumer interests better and more fully.

By completing the survey and providing an accurate email address at the end, you'll be entered in a drawing for one of five iPods or the grand prize of two round-trip airlines tickets.

To complete the survey and be qualified for the prize drawings, you must participate by Sept. 14.

Visit Q-Notes Online at www.q-notes.com/ survey to participate.

Carolinas rank in Center top 10

CAROLINAS — According to the GLBT National Help Center, North Carolina and South Carolina are among the top 10 originating states for calls to the group's two national hotlines.

The 24-hour hotlines, the GLBT National Hotline and the GLBT National Youth Talkline, are confidential resources offering support, counseling and community information.

Last year, according to the group, 55 percent of all callers to the hotlines were in their teens or 20s. Another 25 percent were in their 30s. The remainder were in their 40s or older. The group also notes that in 2007, they spoke to a total of 30 individuals who said they were age 12 or younger. Eighty-eight percent of all calls were individuals seeking peer-counseling. Of those, the majority were individuals looking for support for coming to family and friends.

North Carolina had the eighth most calls to the GLBT Help Center's hotlines. The Tar Heel

State is usually seen as being more moderate on LGBT issues and has managed to keep an anti-LGBT, anti-family marriage amendment off the ballot for five years. It remains the only state in the South to have accomplished such a feat.

South Carolina, with about half as many residents as its northern neighbor, was ranked 10th. The Palmetto State is home to the arch-conservative Bob Jones University. Its voters passed a marriage amendment in 2006.

Other top 10 originating states included Massachusetts, which was listed first; Maine; New Hampshire; Nebraska; New Jersey; Connecticut; Kentucky and Maryland. Only four of the 10 were Southern states. Five were New England states.

For more information, visit www.glnh.org.

Carolinas pubs say yes to gay nups

NEW YORK — The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced Aug. 18 that 72 percent of all U.S. newspapers now have in place inclusive policies for recognizing same-sex relationships in wedding, commitment and other union announcements.

The 1,049 newspapers include the majority of all the major newspapers in North and South Carolina. That includes 34 daily newspapers in North Carolina and nine in South Carolina. Among those Carolinas publications listed include *The Charlotte Observer*, *The News & Record* (Greensboro, N.C.), *The Sun News* (Myrtle Beach, S.C.), *The News & Observer* (Raleigh, N.C.) and *The Winston-Salem Journal*.

The State (Columbia, S.C.), the largest daily newspaper in the Palmetto State, was not among those papers listed.

For a full listing of newspapers, visit www.glaad.org/AnnouncingEquality.

Survey participants sought

STATEWIDE — Are you African-American and in a long-term gay or lesbian couple relationship with another African-American? You might qualify to participate in research exploring Black gay and lesbian couples.

Valerie Q. Glass, marriage and family therapist from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va., is conducting this important one-of-a-kind research. No other study has looked at Black gay and lesbian couples.

Glass is involved in a bi-racial lesbian relationship and curious about Black families and gay life. She is passionate about presenting the positive side of Black gays and lesbians and their families through research.

Criteria for participants include: Both members in the couple would be willing to participate; both members in the couple identify as gay or lesbian; and the couple should identify as a committed couple (be in their relationship for at least a year).

If you meet the criteria are interested in participating, you will receive a \$30 gift card in appreciation for your time. The study involves an interview with the couple that takes about an hour.

This research study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of Virginia Tech.

To participate or for more information, call 540-355-6516 or email vqglass@vt.edu.

info: Announce your community event in NC News Notes. email: editor@q-notes.com or fax 704-531-1361.

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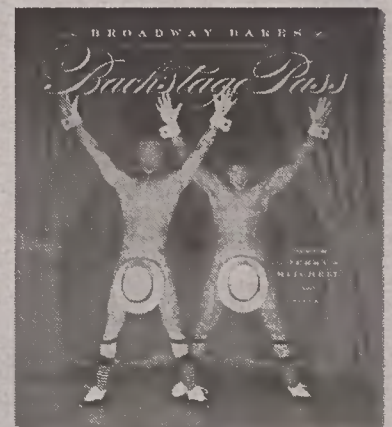
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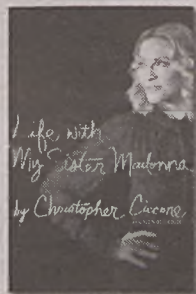
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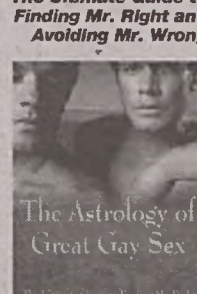
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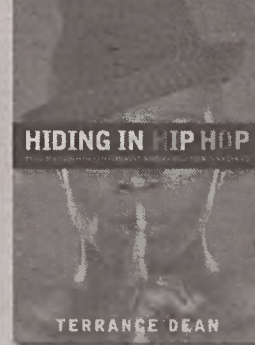
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