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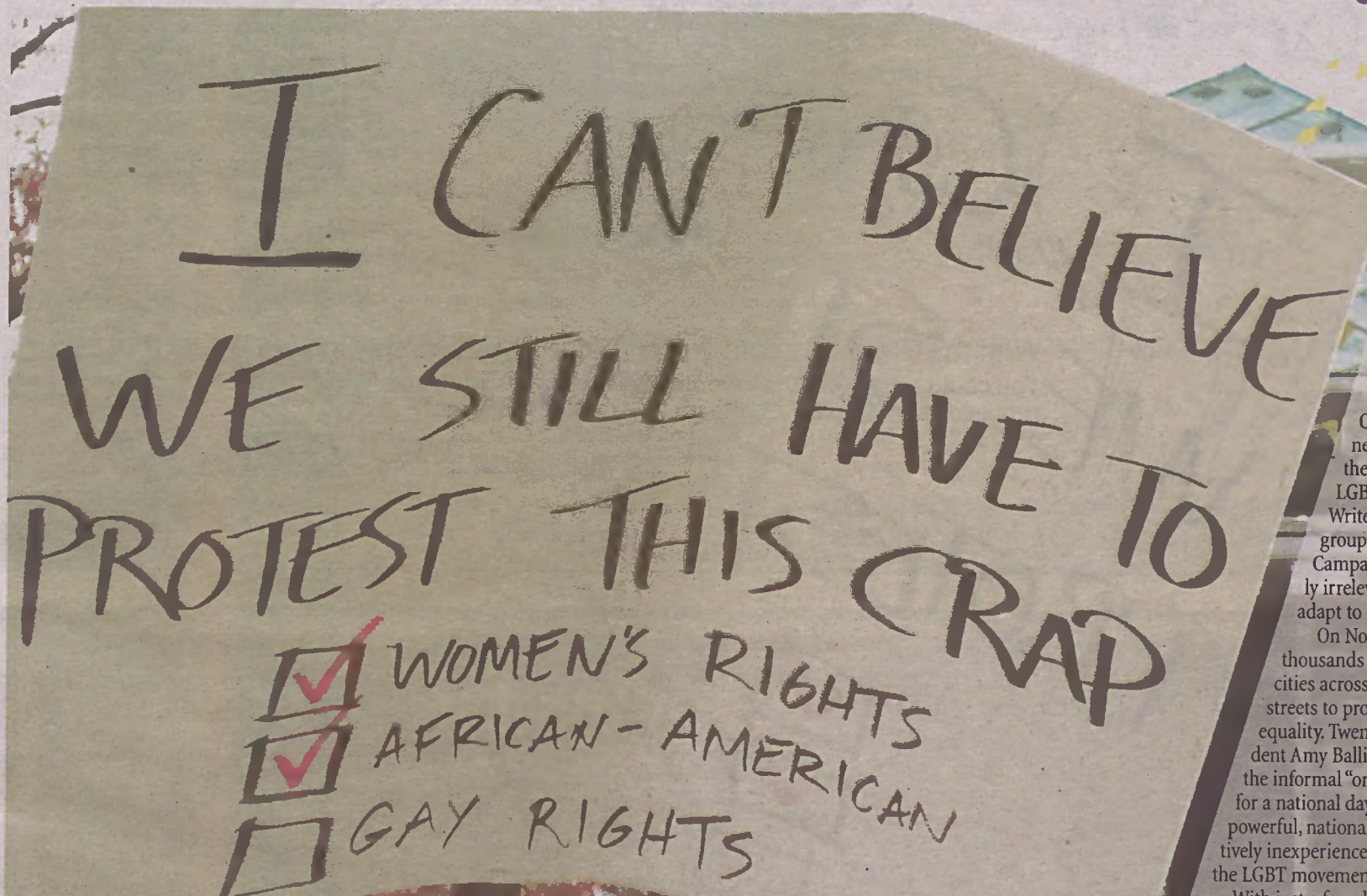
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Second Stonewall

by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

One gay man's impassioned rant on the state of Queer Equality.

This protest sign effectively captures the impatience of a new generation's fight for civil liberties at the 1,400-person anti-Prop 8 rally and march in Raleigh on Nov. 15. Photo Credit: Shelly Houghton

It's a national turning point. A figurative call to arms for the queer community. The cross-country response to the passage of California's Proposition 8 and other anti-gay ballot initiatives is among the greatest and loudest rallying cries for equality ever heard from the LGBT community.

Journalist Rex Wockner is calling it "Stonewall 2.0" Others are talking about a new wave of inspiration and the death of a "passive era" of LGBT lobbying and advocacy. Writer Andrew Sullivan says groups like the Human Rights Campaign are becoming increasingly irrelevant in the face of the need to adapt to new realities and challenges.

On Nov. 15, untold hundreds of thousands of citizens in more than 300 cities across the nation took to the streets to proclaim a new movement for equality. Twenty-six-year-old, Seattle resident Amy Balliett's JoinTheImpact.com — the informal "organization" behind the call for a national day of protest — created a powerful, national coalition of young and relatively inexperienced activists the likes of which the LGBT movement has not seen in decades.

With just a few clicks of the mouse and the dedication of local, self-appointed organizers across the country, Balliett tapped into the growing frustration and stirred more passion than the national LGBT movement has been able to muster since the days of ACT-UP and Queer Nation. The visibility and level of public debate created in the firestorm of Nov. 15's public outcry over California's, Florida's, Arizona's and Arkansas' patently offensive violations of civil equality is priceless.

If only we'd seen such a movement before the election. Or perhaps before the other 27 states in the union defined me as a second-class citizen. I guess now was the appointed time for the bubble to burst.

The Carolinas' almost 3,000 protesters pale in comparison to the thousands-strong protests in cities as far flung as New York and L.A. But for a region of our size and political climate, our local participation in this national moment of anger, frustration, hope and Pride — joining the protests in other rural,

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Gala success

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