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Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Program: Vincent Berkeley, Chief Diversity Officer
Compass Group USA
Sponsored by McColl Center for Visual Art
Location to be announced in early January
Time: Cash Bar Social/Heavy Hors d'oeuvres @ 5:30 pm
Program starts @ 6:45 pm
Cost: \$15 members, \$25 non-members
To Reserve: Call 704.565.5075 by 12 pm
Friday, January 15, 2010
or email businessguild@yahoo.com
to request tickets for this event



CHARLOTTE BUSINESS GUILD

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2010 NC Gay Ski Weekend

February 5 - 7, 2010

Blowing Rock, NC



Event Information
Accommodations
Packages
Tickets

www.ncgayskiweekend.com

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itself” and to “serve as a salient reminder of the devastating results of disobedience, and hopefully, the beginning of a personal healing process for many hurting people.”

Prior to Haggard's appearance at the new age church, some had perceived the Elevation faith community as accepting of LGBT people. Gay member Chad Ellis told *Q-Notes* he was deeply hurt by Furtick's statements on homosexuality, offended by Haggard's presence and disappointed the church decided to bring in such a controversial figure to begin its conversation on homosexuality. Started in 2006 with the help of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Elevation Church now claims up to 5,000 or more members and has been named the second-fastest growing church in the nation.

Moller released

Stephen Andrew Moller, found guilty of the May 15, 2007, killing of openly gay Sean Kennedy, was released from prison on July 1, a week earlier than when his 5-year suspended sentence was scheduled to end.

Moller had been denied parole on Feb. 11. In prison, he reduced his sentence by two months after earning a good behavior credit for receiving his GED.

Kennedy's mother, Elke Kennedy, said Moller's early release was a failure of justice. “He should have served every single day of the already short sentence,” she said.

Eastern rising

Community members in Eastern North Carolina took to the streets and local media to raise awareness on LGBT issues this year. In July, nine community members protested the Pitt County Board of Commissioners in Greenville for their consideration of a resolution supporting a ban on marriage for same-sex couples. Protest organizer Randy Toler, a junior at East Carolina University, said he hoped the community would continue to rally together. Kevin Boyette, a recent East Carolina grad, spoke to the campus newspaper about the need for a center for LGBT youth, while another community member, James Smith, spoke out on the need for a more vocal, local community. One community meeting was scheduled in August, although turn out was low. Smith will try again in 2010.

God has a better way?

Charlotte's anti-LGBT religious community showed out in force for this year's Pride Charlotte festival at Gateway Village on July 25. As many as 500 protesters in red shirts reading, “God Has a Better Way,” stood across the street from the event and held a prayer and worship rally led by militant evangelical Lou Engle. As many as 12,000 to 15,000 people attended the Pride Charlotte festival, making the event the largest and most successful yet.

Local leaders take stance on D.C. march

In the fall, tempers across the nation flared as activists and community leaders debated the merits of a national march on Washington, D.C., planned by veteran activist and political organizer Cleve Jones. In the Carolinas, most LGBT leaders said they wanted a more local- and state-level focus on activism and advocacy. With Jones pushing for a federally-focused strategy,

Equality North Carolina's Ian Palmquist, longtime activist Mandy Carter and SC Pride's Ryan Wilson all said they disagreed. “Most of our movement's resources have always gone to the federal level and that's still the case. Yet, all of our significant victories have come from the work of state groups, usually on shoe-string budgets,” Palmquist said in a Sept. 5 cover story on the local and national disagreements.

Failed merger

Allegations concerning financial mismanagement, missing print editions and unfilled advertising contracts with Carolinas businesses and non-profits were the unfortu-



Community members in Eastern North Carolina got busy and took their message to the street this year.

Photo Credit: James Smith

nate result of a failed merger this year between the now-defunct *OnQ Carolina Edition* nightlife magazine and the Asheville-based *Stereotypd* formerly known as *Out in Asheville*.

Jamie Seabolt, founder and editor of *OnQ*, and *Stereotypd* staff each pointed the finger of blame at the other.

“You really have been fed a lot of false claims by Porscha [Yount] that they can not (sic) supported (sic) with documents,” Seabolt wrote in a statement to *Q-Notes*.

Yount, *Stereotypd* business director, and editor Lin Orndorf said the deal with Seabolt moved too quickly and that they later became uncomfortable with Seabolt's business practices and tactics.

Seabolt's troubles in the Carolinas followed a string of troubling allegations and past scrutiny involving his prior businesses in Charleston, W.Va., and Pittsburgh.

Clymore takes new position

After a two-decade-long service to Raleigh's non-profit HIV/AIDS service organization, Jacquelyn Clymore, former Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina executive director, became the new “state AIDS director” in November. Her move to the North Carolina Department of Health's HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch is a chance for her leadership to benefit HIV/AIDS care in new and different ways.

“They've gained a new brand and style of leadership, equal to any in the past and surpassing anything in the future,” said longtime friend and fellow advocate John Paul Womble. “In an economic downturn, when dollars are very tight, I can think of no one better. She's coming from the non-profit world and she's used to working with limited resources. Who better to sit in a chair on a statewide level and help the state learn how to manage resources like a non-profit?”

Clymore replaced longtime director Evelyn Foust, a strident advocate who helped the state lead on prevention and treatment across the Southeast. ▀