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## Ready, set, shop!

### Gift giving ideas for all!

**Gift Guide 2011**



**H**o ho ho. Merry Christmas. Happy Kwanzaa. Jubilant Hanukkah celebrations, to you. Yes, it's that time of year when all the world's focus turns to the merry winter holiday season.

**qnotes** has teamed up with White Rabbit to provide you with an assortment of affordable and unique gift giving ideas from their Charlotte store (920 Central Ave.) and from around the web. The gift list ideas range from the geeky to the cool and from the kid to the grown and sexy man.

But, don't take our suggestions as the end-all, be-all. Use them as inspiration to get your holiday gift list ideas flowing!

**For kids and teens ::** You might not have kids of your own, but most of us inevitably find ourselves shopping for children at some point in the holidays. Whether it's a niece, nephew or cousin, you can find just the right gift for that little someone. Does the tike still love their fluffy buddies? How about a teddy bear in their favorite color (WR: \$4.99 each)? Can't pick just one color? Get them a rainbow beanie teddy (WR: \$6.99 each).

Does your little one like music? Maybe they like frogs? A two-in-one: Get them this colorful musical frog! Let them ribbit and croak all day long (WR: \$10 and up).

You remember those slap bracelets from back in the day, right? Lots of schools banned them, but they are back with a twist. One of the most popular gifts this year has been the SlapWatch. The teen on your gift list will love one of these trendy, colorful accessories (WR: \$21.99 and up).

**Power up ::** One of the side effects of accumulating different types of electronic devices is ending up with separate chargers for each device. Keeping track of all these chargers can be difficult both at home and on the road. A helpful gift for any gadget lover is a mobile power pack that's compatible with many different types of devices. For example, the Rayovac rechargeable power pack has micro USB, mini USB and Apple device plug-ins that cover most recharging needs (Prices vary store-to-store, available at Walmart and other retail outlets). Or if you know the recipient has a bunch of battery-operated devices, consider

see **Gift on 12**

## North Carolina can make history, says new Equality NC director

*Stuart Campbell chats about his advocacy past, opportunities and challenges he sees in forthcoming anti-amendment campaign roll out*  
by Matt Comer :: [matt@goqnotes.com](mailto:matt@goqnotes.com)



**Stuart Campbell was chosen the new Equality North Carolina executive director on Oct. 12.**

**RALEIGH** — The name Ian Palmquist was nearly synonymous with North Carolina's movement for LGBT equality in the decade he worked for the statewide LGBT advocacy and education group Equality North Carolina. His departure in July came right as a Republican-controlled legislature was poised to consider an anti-LGBT constitutional amendment banning recognition of marriage, civil unions and domestic partner benefits for same-sex couples.

Now, after three months of steady and careful stewardship under Interim Executive Director Alex Miller, Equality North Carolina has new, permanent leadership in place. On Oct. 12, the group announced that it had chosen Texas anti-poverty advocate Stuart Campbell as its new chief officer. Campbell officially started work on Oct. 24, a month after the North Carolina General Assembly approved the amendment's placement on the May 2012 primary ballot.

Campbell spoke with **qnotes** three days after his first day in the office — his first interview with North Carolina press. Fresh on the job and living in an apartment in Raleigh until he can fully move his partner and belongings from Austin, Texas,

Campbell said he'd received a warm and embracing welcome.

"The staff here is terrific and the board of directors has been very welcoming," Campbell said. "People really couldn't have been nicer and more welcoming. It's great to meet so many volunteers coming through the office."

### Life shaped by justice, politics

Born in Fairfax, Va., Campbell's early life was shaped by his father's career. He lived in four different countries as a child, following his father in his career with the U.S. Foreign Service.

"I had an opportunity be exposed to a lot of difference cultures," Campbell said. "It really shaped my outlook on life."

When his father retired, the family settled down in California. There, Campbell volunteered for local political campaigns. He continued stoking his interest for public affairs while attending George Washington University.

"It's quite an interesting school," Campbell said. "Being in the heart of D.C. it's a very politicized university. Very big on politics — even the elections for student body president and vice president. It almost seemed like a lot of people were doing

see **Director on 9**

**25**<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary  
1986-2011