

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## NC PRIDE PAC CONDEMNS SUPREME COURT'S DECISION

BY M. K. CULLEN

(Raleigh) --Today, the North Carolina Supreme Court overturned the North Carolina Court of Appeals' ruling in Smith v. Pulliam. This ruling affirms a district court order to remove Fred Smith's two children from his custody only because he is gay, even though Mr. Smith was the court-appointed custodian. The Supreme Court's decision places the children with Carol Pulliam in Kansas where they have been residing since the initial district court ruling.

NC Pride PAC condemns the North Carolina Supreme Court's decision to overturn the Court of Appeals. This action permanently removes Fred Smith's children from his custody because he is gay despite the fact that throughout the trial Fred Smith was shown to be an excellent father.

"Being gay has no bearing on parenting skills," said M.K. Cullen, Executive Director of NC Pride PAC. "North Carolina voters concerned with equality will remember this homophobic ruling all the way to November's ballot box. It is truly a sad day for all North Carolinians when a majority of state Supreme Court justices chose ignorance over doing what is best for two children."

Joe Herzenberg, co-chair of NC Pride PAC's Political Committee added "Since gay and lesbian North Carolinians cannot rely on the judicial system for justice, NC Pride PAC will redouble our efforts to work with our members and family-friendly justices who respect and support the families of today's America which include healthy, happy children of gay

Pac continued on page 10

### Gay Games 1998



Annie, Kat and Celeste head for the Gay Games in Amsterdam

### PRIDE UPDATE CORNER

BY JESSICA BRITTON



Co-Chairs for Pride '98 Nancy Baker and Jessica Britton

Sometimes it's hard for me to believe that NC Pride '98 was only a short two months ago.

When the LOC committee started meeting in June of 1997, it seemed like the actual event was such a long way off and there was plenty of time to do all the work that is involved in a Pride celebration. Little did we know. Many of the people who attended NC Pride '98 have no idea of the struggle that goes into an event like this. The planning meetings, the late nights, the sharing of ideas, the sweat and headaches, the laughter and even a few tears. It couldn't have happened without all the people on the LOC and their committees. People like Beth, Jason, Christine, David, both Joys, Shell and Jen, Virginia, Clyde, Lisa,

Chairs Continued on page 20

## SOUTHERN COUNTRY REVIVAL

BY JERRI GOLDBERG

It makes you sweat. Most people do it with another person but it's often done alone, and it's FUN and FREE! What could we be talking about? Why, it's dancing! And it's happening every Wednesday night at 8 pm at O'Henry's in downtown Asheville.

Southern Country Asheville (SCA) has regrouped to bring to Western North Carolina the best that dancing has to offer...New dances, new music, new instructors. The dance schedule for the next few months includes the Cajun swing and 2-step, western 2-step, west coast swing, and featured line dances.

But more than just dance, SCA brings a

new social venue to Western North Carolina. So even if you're not into the dancing, but want to meet some great people, watch for upcoming events that include a boots and boxers party, a farmhand auction, and a red & white Valentine's ball, to name a few!

SCA is a non-political, non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of dance and the support of local community charities and organizations. It is also a member of the International Association of Gay/Lesbian Country Western Dance Clubs and as such, individual members of SCA participate in regional, national, and international gatherings.

For information on SCA, please call 255-0483.



Southern Country