

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SERVING WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY

JOHN MCCAIN COURTS EXTREME RIGHT IN CALIFORNIA WITH SUPPORT OF ANTI-GAY BALLOT MEASURE

McCain's Support of Proposition 22 Sends Wrong Signal to Moderate Voters, Says HRC

WASHINGTON - GOP presidential candidate John McCain moved further to the right today by announcing his support of Proposition 22, an anti-gay California ballot measure that seeks to limit marriage. McCain's support for Proposition 22 - known as the Knight Initiative - comes as a surprise because earlier in a town meeting he had said that he opposed the measure which is also opposed by many of California's leading Republicans. While McCain's support for this divisive initiative might help him lure right wing voters away from George W. Bush, it may be at the expense of support from moderates who have helped carry him thus far in the primaries, according to the Human

Rights Campaign

"We are disappointed that McCain's Straight Talk Express has done a U-turn on this divisive issue and has chosen to pander to the right wing," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "But brazen appeals to the more extreme elements in his party could lead to the alienation of moderate voters." During a town meeting McCain said he would not vote for Proposition 22. According to the Associated Press, minutes after the town hall, when reporters asked him about his response, McCain said he had misunderstood the question and he noted he had voted for a similar measure in the Senate that would essentially outlaw gay marriage. "I would vote for Proposition 22," McCain said.

Many prominent California Republicans have opposed the Knight Initiative. Some leading Republican opponents include: Rep. Tom Campbell, R-Calif; Ward Connerly, Regent, University of California; All Republican candidates for mayor of San Diego; San Diego Mayor Susan Golding; and Assemblyman Jim Conneen.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

ASHEVILLE WELCOMES

POET MARK DOTY



Poet Mark Doty

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ACLU PRESENTS DIVERSITY PROGRAM AT UNITARIAN CHURCH

On March 21 (7 p.m.) at the Unitarian Universalist Church (Edwin & Charlotte) the Western North Carolina ACLU chapter will hold a diversity program featuring gays and lesbians in Asheville who are part and parcel of our community fabric. The program will feature several gay men and lesbian women who work and play in

Asheville in the same vocations as thousands of other citizens. There will also be a panel discussion after several "jobs" are fulfilled in a job search skit. Admission is free - except, bring twodesserts. One for you and one for someone who forgets to bring two desserts.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING SET FOR MARCH 30 - APRIL 2 IN ATLANTA

APPLICANTS FOR VICTORY TRAINING INSTITUTE SOUGHT BY GAY AND LESBIAN VICTORY FOUNDATION; SESSION TO FEATURE LOCAL OPENLY GAY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON - The Gay and Lesbian Victory Foundation today unveiled its southern regional leadership training, scheduled to take place Thursday, March 30, through Sunday, April 2, in Atlanta. The foundation's Victory Training Institute is seeking applicants and expects participants from throughout the country, especially from the southern United States. Local openly gay and lesbian public officials from Georgia will be among the featured speakers.

The sessions are designed to educate local gay and lesbian community leaders about the political process and give them the skills they need to become more active in public life. To make the series accessible to community leaders across the nation, the organization will hold trainings in every region of the country. More than 600 local leaders have been trained by the Victory Foundation in past years, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in public service. Among the alumni of Victory Training Institute is Atlanta City Council member Cathy Woolard, who became Georgia's first openly gay or lesbian elected official.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory **Victory** continued on page 14

From the Gut

Second Annual Feminist Art Show opens

From the Gut, Feminist Art Show, produced by Ellen Pfirrmann and Gayra Lynn, opened, Friday, March 3rd, to a huge turn-out. The show which is in its second year is filled has grown to include 34 artists.

Located on the river in the New Urthonia Gallery, 191 Lyman st., the show will include a month long series of lectures and dance events. See calendar and page 2 for more information.