

Our Final Issue! So Long, and Thanks for All the Fishwrappers!

Front Page

www.frontpagenews.com

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Serving the Carolinas For Over 25 Years!

Planned Moscow Pride Escalates Conflict

By Rex Wockner
Contributing Writer

Despite a threat from Mayor Yuri Luzhkov that he "will not permit such parades," GLBT people are expected to stage Moscow's first gay-pride march May 27.

In line with local requirements, organizers will request a permit for the parade on May 15.

They should receive an official response by the 17th.

If the permit is denied, organizers plan to make the final decision on whether to march just three hours before the parade's planned start time, during the closing session of a pride-week antihomophobia conference.

"Over the last days, and despite the fact that our site www.gayrussia.ru/en was hacked and offline for 12 hours last Monday, we have received many messages of support from inside Russia of people — gays and straights — who said that initially they did not plan to come for the pride, but that after the recent events, they will definitely take part," said one of the organizers, Nikolai Alekseev.

"The Russian medias have been quite supportive to gays and lesbians in their reporting of the situation," Alekseev added.

"People understand that this is a question of democracy. If the mayor of Moscow feels himself higher than the Constitution and bans a gay pride, then tomorrow ... which social group will be their target next?"

Mayor Luzhkov has said the march would "provoke society."

"I will not permit such parades," he said in February. "My philosophy is my negative attitude to these phenomena, as I believe them to be unnatural to the human nature."

Alekseev says pride organizers need support from abroad.

"If you want to help us, then, we hope to see you in Moscow soon," he said. "We don't need money in this fight. We need your presence with us."

As the parade date approaches, forces opposed to the march have escalat-

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Nikolai Alekseev

Q-Notes & Front Page Merge



QNotes publisher Jim Yarbrough and *The Front Page* founder and publisher Jim Baxter. The combined paper begins Friday, May 19.

This issue of *The Front Page* — which has been serving the gay and lesbian community in the Carolinas since 1979 — will be the last.

Front Page will merge with *Q-Notes* to form a single LGBT newspaper that serves both North and South Carolina.

The new publication will publish under the *Q-Notes* name and maintain offices in Raleigh and Charlotte.

For more details, please see the May 19 issue of *Q-Notes*, or visit www.q-notes.com.

AIDSWatch 2006

By Bob Roehr
Contributing Writer

"The voices of people with AIDS must be heard. We must not allow our society, or our country to normalize AIDS," said Frank Oldham in opening AIDSWatch 2006, the annual inundation of advocates that hit Capitol Hill on May 8-10.

The recently installed executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) pointed out that more than a half million

Americans, "and over 250,000 gay men of all colors have died from AIDS since the beginning of this epidemic."

The number of those lobbying Congress was down a bit from previous years. But earlier participation had been stimulated by numerous travel stipends; the crew this year had all paid their own way. They were more disciplined, experienced, and motivated.

Oldham quoted recent criticism by Vice President Dick Cheney of the

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South Carolina Pride May 13-22 Visit www.scpride.org