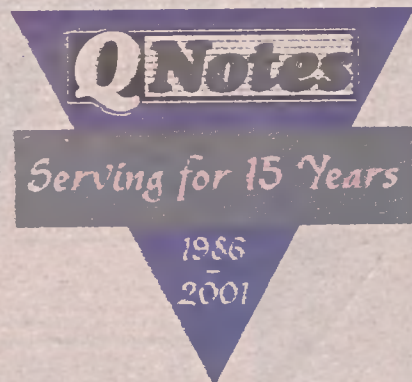


QNotes

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Controversial second Safe Sex Card too explicit. See page 3 for more details as we continue our Out of the Past coverage.

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Bouncing from Bill to Bunky

by Leah Seppenwol

Bunky Miller was back from the Big Brother2 compound for only a brief hiatus. He re-landed in LA on September 17 for the "big vote" on September 20.

Bunky FAQ answers

Yes, of course, he will vote for Monica. No, he holds no grudge against Hardy and plans to give him an "I-told-you-so hug." Yes, he continues to body buff: up 5 lbs. of muscle, down 17 lbs, waisting away from 36" to 33" and crunching to 31". Yes, he really does cry easily. No, he has not seen a minute of the BB2 episodes — totaling 27 hours.

Big Brother 2 House

"It is strange living completely isolated and living so closely with strangers.

"The most bizarre thing, though, (besides Nicole, I presumed) was not having clocks, watches or any electronics. No news. No sense of the world at all."

Being home again

"It is great to be home with Gregg, and back to the real world and some sanity."

During our phone interview, Bunky reveled, raved, regaled, but bore no ill will. Only good



words for the housemates, the opportunity and his undying gratitude to everyone: "Thank you America for voting to let a gay guy get a letter from home."

About his homophobe Harrisburg, NC mayor, "(sigh) We'll just pray for him!"

Bunky says he has been "overwhelmed" by the wonderful straight-community responses

from Harrisburg citizens and across the US.

Big Brother goal

"When CBS chose me as a housemate, my first goal was to open the eyes of people who aren't willing to see us gays and lesbians as individuals, as regular people."

See BUNKY on Page 11

Ray Warren explores possibility of US Senate bid

by Leah Seppenwol

CHARLOTTE, NC — Ray Warren, a superior court judge in Charlotte, NC, and an openly gay Democrat, is considering a US Senate bid to fill the seat US Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Jesse Helms.



Judge Ray Warren

Warren will be exploring the feasibility of such a run with local supporters, community activists and Democratic party leaders. He will announce his decision in October.

Because Warren and his partner purchased a home outside his judicial district, he will also resign from the bench in October.

Warren's political career began, ironically, as a Republican. And even more ironically, as paid summer staffer for Senator Jesse Helms — while in law school student at University of

North Carolina—Chapel Hill.

In 1984 Warren was elected to the state House as a Republican and served one term as minority leader. He was elected a judge in 1994 and in 1996 lost his bid to become the chief justice for the state Supreme Court.

He came out publicly in 1998, becoming the first openly gay judge in state history. Log Cabin Republicans, the nation's largest gay Republican organization praised Superior Court Judge Ray Warren for courageously coming out.

"He was under pressure to lie, and he would not lie. This shows he is a man of integrity and eminently qualified to hold public office."

Local republicans were not nearly so impressed. Lee Currie, executive director of the North Carolina Republican Party, obviously does not hold with the Constitution banning religious pre-requisites for office: "Ray Warren stood before the Republican Party Executive Committee and professed to be a born-again Christian," Currie said. "We trusted him. He has betrayed that trust."

The judge then referred to his electoral future in the Republican party as "cloudy," given the conservative entities who framed local politics. And indeed, a year later Warren switched political parties when GOP lawmakers helped defeat a bill that would have included sexual orientation in the state's hate crimes law.

And he's preparing for a change and a new political challenge.

According to an online interview, Warren had already decided to explore the feasibility of a Senate bid even before Helms made his announcement.

"After seven and a half years as a judge I am ready to move onto a more proactive job."

So, Ray Warren is weighing options and opportunity carefully. He can not declare his candidacy while on the bench. He will leave the court on September 30. "I am going to fulfill my responsibilities to the judicial system," he said.

Which ever way Ray Warren decides, he has the truth and integrity to make it happen. ▼



Atlanta Freedom Marching Band at NC PrideFest

The Atlanta Freedom Marching Band, an all volunteer community organization of nearly 40 lesbians and gays from the Greater Atlanta area, will be featured at the North Carolina Pridefest on Saturday, September 29.

North Carolina's Sixteenth Annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Parade and Festival will be led by the North Carolina Pride Marching Band and held on Main Street in Durham on Duke East Campus. Both the NC Pride Band and AFMB are members of the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America, the national musical organization comprised of concert and marching bands from cities in the US, Canada, and Australia. LGBA provides a national network of lesbian and gay bands at all stages of development, promotes music as a medium of communication among people, improves the quality of artistic and organizational aspects of member bands, and stimulates public interest in the unique art form of community bands in our culture. The Atlanta Freedom Marching Band is Atlanta's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender marching band. In its eight-year history, it has grown to become one of the nation's largest and most active marching bands of its type.

Performances in the Atlanta area include the Inman Park Festival, the Atlanta Pride celebration, the AIDS Walk, Sunday in the Park with

See BAND on Page 10



2001 winner (L) of the 22nd Annual Miss Continental pageant with 2000 winner. Details in Della's column, p 20.

What's inside...

Comic strip for the better p 4

Gannet: domestic partner benefits OK p 6

Build reserves, reap rewards p 10

OutCharlotte presents FTM p 10

"No-dress" code for transexual p 11

Nightline: "A Matter of Choice?" p 23

See these and more news, editorials and features when you step inside! See the Index on page 6.

Take the latest Q-Poll:

Who is your candidate to replace Jesse Helms?

Dan Blue (NC State Representative)

Elizabeth Dole (NC Born, Bob's wife)

Elaine Marshall (NC Secretary of State)

Richard Vinroot (former Charlotte Mayor)

Ray Warren (gay, superior court judge)

Your write-in

To participate in our Q-Poll, access www.q-notes.com See our latest poll results on page 23.