

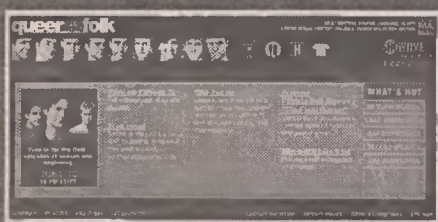
# QNotes

The Carolinas' Most Comprehensive Gay & Lesbian Newspaper  
www.q-notes.com

**QNotes**  
Serving for 15 Years  
1986-2001

We're still walking down memory lane as part of our anniversary coverage. See page 3 for more details.

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**The first season of Queer As Folk has ended, but rabid fans won't have to quit cold turkey thanks to Gene Falk at www.sho.com. See page 14 for details.**

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

### Take the latest Q-Poll:

**How important is spirituality in your everyday life?**

**Not important at all  
Of some importance  
Of great importance  
It is my primary concern**

**To participate in our Q-Poll, access www.q-notes.com See our latest poll results on page 17.**

## Bunky's in the house on CBS reality show *Big Brother 2*

by Leah D. Sepsenwol  
Q-Notes Staff

If "Big Brother 2" and "Bunky" are not in your vocabulary, you must have been living outside these last few weeks. Local offices, bars and gay gatherings are a-buzz about the popular CBS reality show and Bill (you-can-call-me-"Bunky") Miller, a local who is vying for the hope-you-can-take-it \$500,000 survival prize.

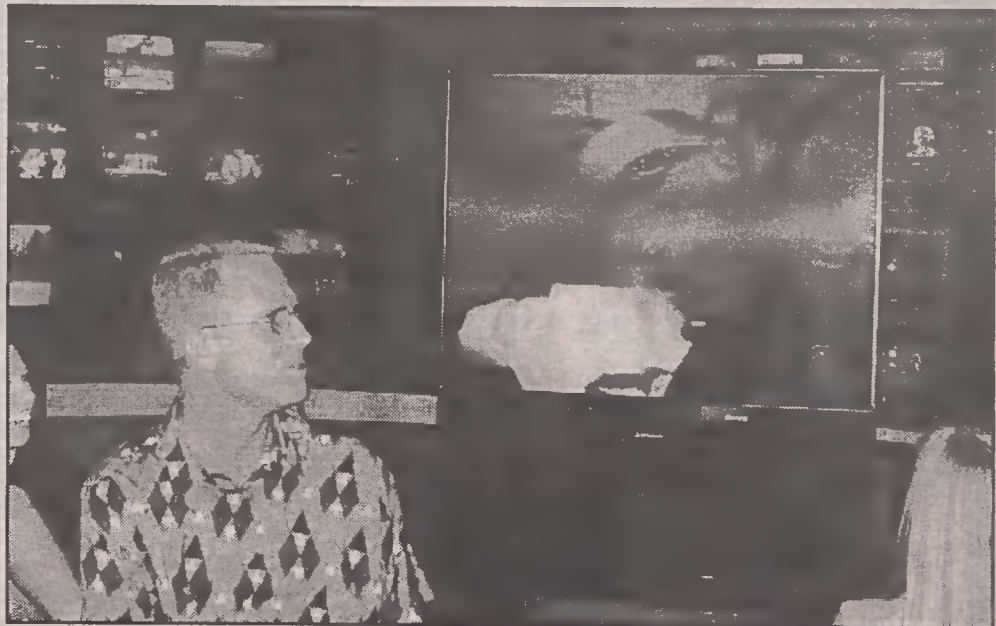
Bill's companion/house-husband of 12 years, Greg Ottman, believes Bill will bag the cash.

He believed it from the start — when he saw the downloaded contestant forms from the Internet...and when he "encouraged" Bill to send in the application...and when he drove Bill to Atlanta for the first interview in May...and when he helped pack Bill's bags for the Los Angeles interview in June...and when he convinced Bill not to back out the night before leaving for the show (a nervous Bill said, "I only wanted to see if I could make it to the final round")...and every time he sees Bill on TV.

The hardest part for Greg is loneliness. "It's quiet around here. I miss having someone to talk to when I feel down. But the neighbors and our friends are great, and my family will be coming up for a visit soon." The best part has been watching Bill and all the media frenzy.

Greg's parting advice to Bill was "watch your mouth; be yourself." Bill agreed. Well, almost. He kept his homosexuality a secret for the first episodes. Oy, the controversy!

Bunky's strategy, discussed with producers beforehand, could be called the "The King and I Coming Out Plan." An initial period of "getting to know you" followed by "getting to know



Greg Ottman watches his companion and Big Brother 2 contestant, Bunky, during a special gathering hosted by WBTV.

all about you" as the housemates become more comfortable. The jury's still out on the tactic.

### Viewing habits

Greg watched a recent episode with about 20 friends at WBTV Channel 3 studios, graciously hosted by Ellen Miller, the station's News Manager and a Bunky fan.

For the premiere of *Big Brother 2*, Greg had invited Miller to a festive gathering at his home in Harrisburg, NC. She reciprocated, inviting Greg and friends to visit the studios, munch

on a lovely buffet and, oh, yeah, watch the show!

The group wasn't exactly a finger on the pulse of America, but this bantering bunch was a lively, little cross-section of family, "family" and friends including Debbie Ray and Judy Ridings of Golden Tans salon, providers of Bunky's patina; John Vordermark, a technical consultant who has worked with Bill; Gayle Threatt, who lives next door; John and Linda Davis, from two-doors down; and WBTV anchors Denise Dory, who took group polls on  
See BUNKY on page 9

## Census data says NC gay households up 720 percent

by Anabel Evora  
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC — New census figures released for North Carolina show a dramatic increase in the number of households with same-sex partners compared to data compiled from the 1990 Census. National GLBT leaders say even these totals most likely continue to under-count the actual number, due to anti-gay bias.

In NC, the total number of households comprising same-sex partners was 16,198, a 720 percent increase from the 1,976 same-sex couples who reported a decade ago. A total of 8,349 were comprised of female couples and 7,849 households were comprised of male couples.

"Gay and lesbian families live in every county in NC," said David M. Smith, communications director and senior strategist at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). "As these families are counted, policy makers will have to take note that the law at every level of government does not treat them equally or fairly."

Basic family policy such as hospital visitation rights, inheritance rights, state income tax laws, and the right to inherit pension benefits are not available to gay families as most states do not recognize same-sex relationships.

In an attempt to explain the surge, Census officials issued a memo suggesting that it is inaccurate to compare the 2000 same-sex "unmarried partner" households to the same 1990 figures because of a difference in "editing."

In 1990, the Census Bureau termed it an error if both the householder and a second adult in the house were of the same-sex and the second person checked the box "spouse" and also checked the "married" box. In these cases, the Census Bureau changed the sex of the second

person in the household. When the same scenario occurred in 2000, census officials reclassified such couples as same-sex, unmarried partners. Officials have said that they do not know how many couples in 1990 were reclassified.

"We believe the increase is due to more couples being willing to identify themselves in a federal survey rather than an actual increase in the number of same-sex couples," explained Smith. "Regardless of the difference in the way census officials edit these data, there clearly is an increase."



## NC groups benefit from Gill fund

by James Ross  
Special to Q-Notes

DENVER — Organizations in Charlotte, Durham and Raleigh were recently awarded a total of \$84,000 in grants from the Gill Foundation, the nation's largest GLBT funder.

Among local recipients, a three-year \$50,000 grant was awarded to Duke University Press as program support for gay, lesbian and queer studies book promotion and distribution; a \$10,000 grant went to Equality NC Project for general operating support; and OutCharlotte received two grants: \$15,000 for general operating support and a two-year \$9,000 grant as program support for the Lesbian and Gay Community Center project.

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people live in communities of all types — urban, rural and suburban," said Katherine Pease, executive director of the Gill Foundation. "We

realize that resources often are not as available in rural communities as they are in urban areas. The Gill Foundation is committed to supporting work in these communities."

Nationally, a total of 93 organizations were awarded more than \$1.7 million during the foundation's latest grant cycle.

About 79 percent of the organizations that made requests were funded during this cycle.

Tim Gill, founder and former chairman and chief technology officer of Quark Inc., started the Gill Foundation in 1994 with a mission to secure equal opportunity for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Since its establishment, the foundation has awarded more than \$13 million.

For more information on the Gill Foundation or its grant program, call 303-292-4455, email jamesr@gillfoundation.org or access www.gillfoundation.org. ▼