north & south CAROLINA

Notes

noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues

VOLUME 18 . ISSUE 16

SINCE 1986

Para Todos!

GLAAD Candidatos de la Espanol-Lengua

Audiophile Grammy predictions include Luther Vandross as a possible winner

Luther Vandross as a possible

DECEMBER 20. 2003



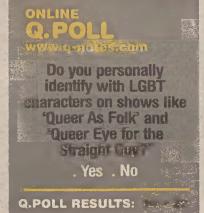
GLAAD announces award nominees; Cherry Jones among honorees 25



Liberal leader, friend to LGBT community and former Illinois Senator Paul Simon dies

Judge questions harsher sentence in teen	
sodomy case	07
High ranking military officers come out	09
Taiwan VP calls AIDS 'God's wrath'	15

MCC opens new	
facility for	
Aiken-Augusta area	26



Former gay political leader sentenced

One-time gay activist, philanthropist and Democratic party chairman Andrew Reyes gets 57 month sentence

by David Moore Q-Notes staff

STATESVILLE, N.C. — A political career that



Andrew Reyes'
Charlotte-Mecklenburg
mug shot.

A political career that started off with a bang in Charlotte in the late 1990s went out with a quiet whimper in Statesville on Dec. 1, as openly gay Andrew Reyes, an accountant and former chairman of Mecklenburg County's Democratic Party, was sentenced to almost five years in federal prison for bank fraud and tax evasion.

At the high point of his career in local politics, Reyes mingled with celebrities like Ellen

DeGeneres and even met former President Bill Clinton on a trip to the White House with then Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles in 1998.

According to a federal indictment, Reyes was charged with stealing \$3.6 million from accounting client Doug King. He pleaded guilty earlier this year to the aforementioned charges and conspiracy to commit income tax evasion. Federal prosecutors agreed with the four year, ninemonth sentence, saying he had provided substantial assistance that could lead to more criminal prosecutions.

"In short, he has embraced the process of cooperation," Assistant U.S. Attorney Josh Howard told WSOC-TV.

At press time Reyes was still being held at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg jail, where he has been since Oct. 29, 2002 following his capture and arrest earlier that month while crossing the border from Tijiuana, Mexico into California.

Reyes and his attorney James Wyatt have requested that Reyes be sent to a minimumsecurity facility in Ashland, Ky., to serve out his sentence. If their petition is granted, Reyes will



Being sworn in to run for Mecklenburg County Commissioner.

pass his sentence in relative comfort in the same prison writer Dashiel Hammet did time in, as well as openly gay civil rights figure Bayard Rustin.

see ANDREW on 13

Harriet Redic: On the edge of 17

AIDS survivor celebrates another miraculous year

by David Stout
Q-Notes staff

22

Their are countless descriptives that can be used to characterize Harriet Redic — devout



Harriet poses with a friend on July 4, 1970, wearing her infamous, wandering wia.

Christian, African-American, transgender woman and transplanted Charlottean being just a few — but one is drawing the lion's share of the attention these days: longtime AIDS survivor.

Harriet, 55, just marked her 17th year with the disease. To better appreciate this milestone, consid-

er that Harriet has lived with HIV so long that when she was first diagnosed the virus was just starting to be called that (it was previously known as HTLV-III), no president had ever mentioned AIDS in a public address (Ronald Reagan didn't say the word until the following year), the first AIDS drug AZT was a year away and the red ribbon was still five years away.

Harriet found out she was HIV positive on Dec. 18, 1986. Further tests determined that her T-cell count was below 250 so she already had AIDS according to the medical standards of the time. She says it was like "receiving a death sentence" when the doctor dispassionately broke the

"The doctor who gave me the results said she was sorry to tell me that I was HIV positive. She

said she hoped I had good insurance and wouldn't wear out the emergency room. Then she walked out the door."

In the aftermath, with little available counseling or support, Harriet tumbled into a crushing depression that culminated one fateful afternoon six months later.

"I lived about eight to 10 blocks from Independence Blvd., and I got out that day and started walking toward it. It was almost five o'clock rush hour and my intention was to continue right out into traffic and let it kill me."

But just as Harriet was approaching the frenzied thoroughfare, she stopped. "I said to myself, 'You fool, what if you walk out into traffic, get ran over, get all broken up, laying up in the hospital and don't die?' I thought about that and knew I didn't want to suffer, so I turned around and walked back to the house."

She says that soon after this pivotal event she emerged from her period of grieving ready for battle: "I stood and looked AIDS in the face by virtue of a mirror and I pointed my finger and said, 'You may take me out of here, but you will say that you had a fight on your hands because I'm going to give you the fight of my life."

The new girl

Fighting adversity was commonplace for Harry S. Truman Burch, the second-youngest of nine siblings raised by a single mother in Ruby, S.C., during the segregated 1950s. It didn't make things any easier that Harry knew he was supposed to be a girl and had the moxie to show it.

"In fifth grade I took one of my fourth-oldest sister's outfits — shoes, dress, everything — to school in a bag and at recess went into the bathroom and put it on. When I came out nobody could believe it. My classmates tried to shame me; the teacher tried to shame me— she even

see HARRIET on 12

Celebrating the Season

LGBT folk in the Carolinas talk about their plans and share their favorite memories

by David Moore Q-Notes staff

What are you celebrating this year? Throughout much of North and South Carolina.



many people are celebrating Christmas, while others are celebrating Hanukkah, Kwanza and the Winter Solstice.

For members of the Christian religion, December 25, or Christmas, is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Some historians claim its roots go back as far as the third century in Italy. In contemporary times, however, the holiday has become meaningful to many people

see CELEBRATING on 4