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VOLUME 19 . ISSUE 9

SINCE 1986

WWW.Q-NOTES.COM

SEPTEMBER 11 . 2004

Q-Living:
Special Fashion Issue
interview with RuPaul



GOP shows its true colors at '04 convention

GOP gay group livid; VP's lesbian daughter nowhere to be found

by Rex Wockner

NEW YORK — The big gay story of the Republican National Convention, held in New York City Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, was the gay Log Cabin Republicans' new get-tough approach to the Republican Party.

Log Cabin declared that the GOP has been "hijacked" by "the radical right" and repeatedly threatened to withhold its endorsement of George W. Bush's re-election effort.

The group is upset primarily about Bush's outspoken support for amending the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage and about the GOP platform's denunciations of civil unions and domestic-partner benefits.

"For too long we have watched while the radical right hijacked our party," said Log Cabin Executive Director Patrick Guerriero. "And for too long we have been asked to be loyal foot soldiers on election day and asked to remain silent. This party platform is so outrageous and insulting to some of us, that some of us have to call our own party on it.

"If we don't do it, nobody will. And if we don't do it now, we'll be back in four years at a convention with language that's even worse," he said.

Log Cabin's strong language — and its new TV ad featuring Ronald Reagan — drew

heavy media coverage. In the ad, Reagan says, "Whatever else history may say about me when I'm gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears."

CNN refused to air the ad, calling it "too controversial." The ad shows photos of preacher Jerry Falwell, writer-activist Pat Buchanan and U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, and implies they "divide the American family with the politics of intolerance and fear that only lead to hate." It also shows the Rev. Fred Phelps holding a "God Hates Fags" sign.

Guerriero called it a "fight for the heart and soul of the Republican Party."

There were at least 26 openly gay and lesbian delegates to the convention. That compares with 19 in 2000, six in 1996 and two in 1992. About 255 GLBT delegates attended this year's Democratic Convention in Boston.

Bush sticks to script

President Bush did nothing to redeem himself among gay Republicans when he accepted the party's nomination the final night.

"Because the union of a man and woman deserves an honored place in our society, I

support the protection of marriage against activist judges. And I will continue to appoint federal judges who know the difference between personal opinion and the strict



George W. Bush: 'If you voted against the bipartisan Defense of Marriage Act ... you are not the candidate of conservative values.'

interpretation of the law," he said.

"My opponent recently announced that he's the candidate of 'conservative values,' which must have come as a surprise to a

see CONVENTION on 14

Charlie Smith stumps for seat in S.C. House

Sexual orientation not a factor in campaign thus far

by David Stout
Q-Notes staff

Charleston realtor Charlie Smith is on a mission to get elected to the S.C. House of Representatives and he's busting his butt to make it happen. "I'm raising \$100,000 and knocking on 3,500 doors by the Nov. 2 election," he tells Q-Notes.

Smith, a 44-year-old Democrat, is vying for the District 119 seat currently held by Republican John Graham Altman III. The district covers about half of the West Ashley suburb of Charleston, Kiawah Island, Seabrook Island, about half of Johns Island and the Riverland Terrace section of James Island. Neither candidate was opposed in their respective primaries.

Altman, a three-term incumbent, defeated Smith for the same seat two years ago claiming 59 percent of the vote. Smith says that seeds sown in the first race are being harvested in this rematch.

"One thing I've got going in my favor is the fact that no one who has ever run against John Graham Altman



Charlie Smith: 'I think voters are fed up with government by mean-spirited, selfish people.'

see SMITH on 5

N.C. man sues gay website over photo

Wake County resident Chris Harbinson says the use of this photo caused him to suffer "mental agony"

Outsports.com is being sued by a North Carolina man who said the website defamed him by running his picture in a photo gallery from the 2004 Los Angeles Marathon. Outsports is contesting the suit.

The suit was filed in North Carolina Superior Court in July by Chris Harbinson, a resident of Wake County, N.C. The suit is seeking damages in excess of \$10,000, along with punitive damages and legal fees.

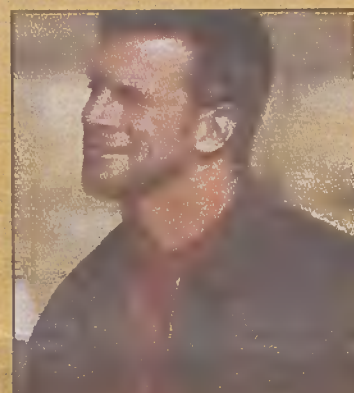
The photo in question was one of 150 photos from the race and contained no caption or identification. In his suit, Harbinson says he's not gay and that the use of the picture was libelous.

On March 7, Harbinson was photographed stretching prior to the start of the Marathon by Outsports photographer Brent Mullins, who was credentialed to shoot the event. On March 22, Outsports ran Harbinson's photo as part of a the

see WAKE on 7



Remembering
9/11 LGBT victims 26



Fashion trends for
fall and winter 31

N.C. Pride marks
20th anniversary 04

Report out on same-sex
marriage 20

National boycott for
equality 23

North and South Carolina

North Carolina:
Charlotte's LGBT
Community Center hires
new director 10

South Carolina:
SCGLPM and Lambda
Legal to host meeting on
workplace discrimination 12

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or have you ever been
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