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Jennifer Helms Knox is a lesbian, should she tell her grandfather?  
yes . no

## Jennifer Helms Knox: Is Jesse's politico granddaughter a lesbian?

Knox defeated incumbent District Court Judge Michael Morgan in Wake County

by David A. Moore  
Q-Notes staff

RALEIGH, N.C. — Following her election as a district court judge for Wake County, the internet has been filled with reports that Jennifer Helms Knox — the granddaughter of notoriously anti-gay former Sen. Jesse Helms — is herself a closeted lesbian.

Neither Knox nor her reported partner and campaign treasurer Shields Carstarphen have acknowledged the claims, though friends of the two spoke anonymously with the websites RawStory and BlogActive after Knox apparently decided that a Helms endorsement was a plus in her campaign. Knox is a registered Republican.

The North Carolina Republican Party platform is unyielding in its stance against gays and lesbians.

"We believe homosexuality is not normal

and should not be established as an acceptable 'alternative' lifestyle either in public education or in public policy," the platform states. "We do not believe public schools should be used to teach children that homosexuality is normal."

The source who spoke with RawStory editor John Byrne admitted she had asked Knox whether Helms knew she was a lesbian.

"I could never tell my grandfather," Knox reportedly replied. "It would kill him."

"If Jesse Helms knew the reality and truth of his granddaughter, then I cannot imagine he would have anything to do with her," the source added.

Knox's first photo-op with Helms during her campaign trail began the day she filed paperwork to the state board of elections. The former senator was on hand, as reported by the Associated Press: "It means a lot to me that my granddaughter get this attention," Helms said, smiling at the reporters and photographers there to capture the event.



Wake County District Court Judge Jennifer Helms Knox

A former Wake County assistant district attorney, Knox would later successfully unseat incumbent District Court Judge Michael Morgan.

Her filing — with Helms in tow — presented a distinctly symbolic image: a descendant of a legendary North Carolina five-term senator entering into the world of politics.

"The biggest part to me is that my grandfa-

see INTERNET on 19

## Altman threatens SCETV budget after gay documentary airs

Congressman angered by AFFA-produced documentary

by Monica Simpson  
Q-Notes staff

A documentary aired in South Carolina that gave residents a chance to look into the lives of the LGBT community has come under fire for "promoting the gay agenda."

"We Are Your Neighbors" was shown in early November as part of SCETV's twice-monthly "Southern Lens" series that discusses life in the South. The documentary was independently produced and cost the state nothing.

"We try to provide a space for independent film makers and films to have a voice," said Maurice Bresnahan, SCETV president.

The documentary was produced by Sunhead Projects and The Alliance For Full Acceptance (AFFA) and was aired last year on network affiliates during purchased



Images from 'We Are Your Neighbors.'

see AFFA on 7

## Shake-up at HRC

Former Sen. Cheryl Jacques leaves HRC, interim replacement a straight man

by Donald Miller

Less than a year after replacing former HRC director Elizabeth Birch, former Massachusetts State Sen. Cheryl Jacques has reportedly resigned from her post as director of the organization, amidst rumblings of disagreements about management. Her departure comes in the aftermath of a devastating election campaign that saw 11 states ban same-sex marriage, though organizers at HRC say that had nothing to do with her decision to leave.

Following speculation that Jacques was actually forced to resign, an official statement from HRC said that Jacques had resigned over "a difference in management philosophy."

In the statement, Jacques is quoted as saying, "My priorities were to defeat the *Federal Marriage Amendment*, expand the organization's membership and fundraising capacity, increase our diversity and maintain a strong voice in the media."

Three days later HRC announced it was appointing a heterosexual man co-chair of its board of directors.

Michael Berman will serve with lesbian Hillary Rosen on an interim basis in leading the HRC while the organization searches for a new leader.

Berman is president and one of the founders of The Duberstein Group, a government affairs consulting group. Prior to that he served as coun- see JACQUES on 17



Former Sen. Cheryl Jacques, prior to leaving HRC.