

SCHROCK AND AWE

Pat Robertson's congressman outed, will retire

by Bob Roehr

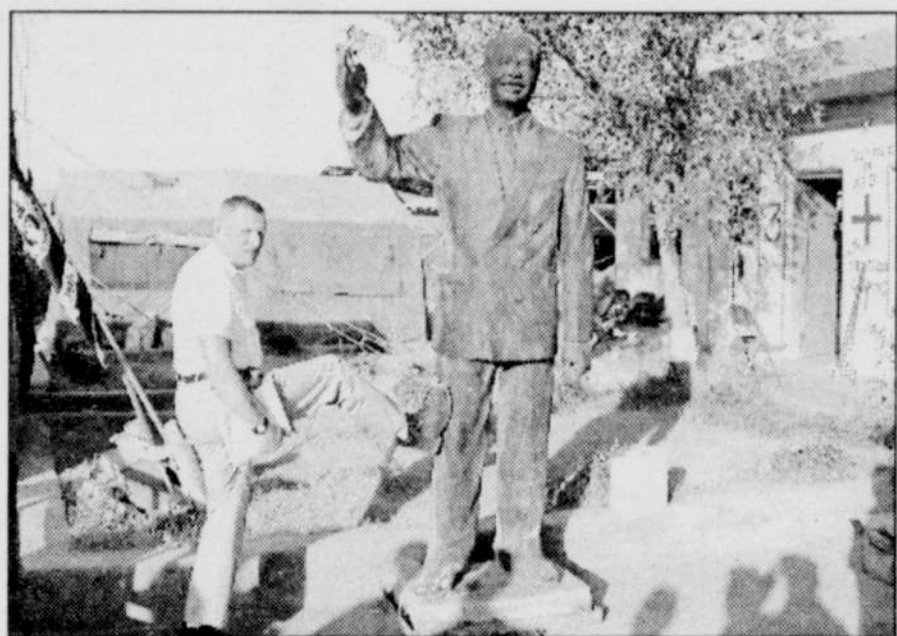
U.S. Rep. Ed Schrock, R-Va., hastily ended his bid for reelection Aug. 30 after getting caught seeking to have sex with men. The GOP has until Sept. 3 to replace his name on the ballot.

"In recent weeks allegations have surfaced that have called into question my ability to represent the citizens of Virginia's Second Congressional District," Schrock said in a brief statement announcing his withdrawal. "After much thought and prayer, I have come to the realization that these allegations will not allow my campaign to focus on the real issues facing our nation and region."

Schrock did not specify the allegations, but an Aug. 19 posting on BlogActive.com said that he "has made a habit of rendezvousing with gay men via the MegaMates/MegaPhone Line, an interactive telephone service on which men place ads and respond."

The Web site later added an audio file purported to be Schrock's ad, in which he describes himself as 200 pounds, 6-foot-4, "very muscular, very buffed up, very tanned. I'd like to get together with a guy just to play...just get naked and play and see what happens. Nothing real heavy duty but just a fun time...I'd like the guy to be in good shape, smooth, well-endowed...I have to be real discrete."

Schrock, 63, is a former career Navy officer who retired as a captain. He is married and has one adult child. His district includes the largest



Anti-gay U.S. Rep. Ed Schrock, R-Va., kicks Saddam Hussein's statue in Iraq. He allegedly prefers "smooth, well-endowed" men to "just get naked and play and see what happens."

military complex of bases in the world and is home to the Christian Broadcasting Network and Pat Robertson's Regent University.

He was first elected to Congress in 2000, became president of the freshman class and serves on the prestigious Armed Services Committee. He is a strong supporter of the Federal Marriage Amendment, with a zero rating from the Human Rights Campaign and a 92 percent rating from the Christian Coalition.

Voters in the district likely would have re-elected Schrock for the foreseeable future had it not been for this element of duplicity. A replacement GOP candidate, even at this late date, would have a strong chance of retaining the seat. Two of the suggested names have decent relations with the Virginia chapter of Log Cabin Republicans. **JR**

BOB ROEHR is a free-lance reporter based in Washington, D.C.

VEEP DISSENTS ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

"People ought to be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to," Vice President Dick Cheney said while responding to a question on same-sex marriage during a town hall meeting on the campaign trail Aug. 24 in Davenport, Iowa.

Cheney had stated the same position in the televised vice presidential debate during the 2000 campaign. Log Cabin Republicans have been using a clip of that debate as part of their million-dollar ad campaign against the Federal Marriage Amendment.

In February, President Bush endorsed the amendment, which would limit marriage to that between a man and a woman. Cheney subsequently said he supported the administration position.

Some thought that Bush softened his position somewhat during an Aug. 12 interview with CNN's Larry King when he said that if states "want to provide legal protections for gays, that's great. But I do not want to change the definition of marriage."

"Lynne and I have a gay daughter, so it's an issue our family is very familiar with," Cheney said in Iowa. "With respect to the question of relationships, my general view is freedom means freedom for everybody."

It was the first time Cheney had publicly discussed the fact that his daughter Mary is a les-



Dick Cheney

bian. She works as the re-election campaign's director of presidential operations.

Cheney reiterated his belief that "official sanction" of marriage historically has been handled by the states. While restating his preferences on the subject, he concluded: "But the president makes policy for the administration. He's made it clear that he does, in fact, support a

constitutional amendment on this issue. I think his perception was that the courts, in effect, were beginning to change, without allowing the people to be involved. The courts were making the judgment for the entire country."

Cheney noted that the amendment did not have the votes to pass and that 1996's Defense of Marriage Act "may be sufficient to resolve the issue."

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian task Force, said: "We are heartened that by taking a stand for his daughter, at long last Vice President Cheney is standing up for real family values. His words, however, mean very little unless the Bush/Cheney administration withdraws its aggressive support of the Federal Marriage Amendment, the so-called Marriage Protection Act and numerous other attacks on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families." **—BR**

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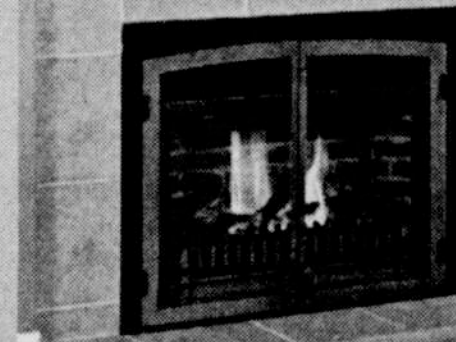


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