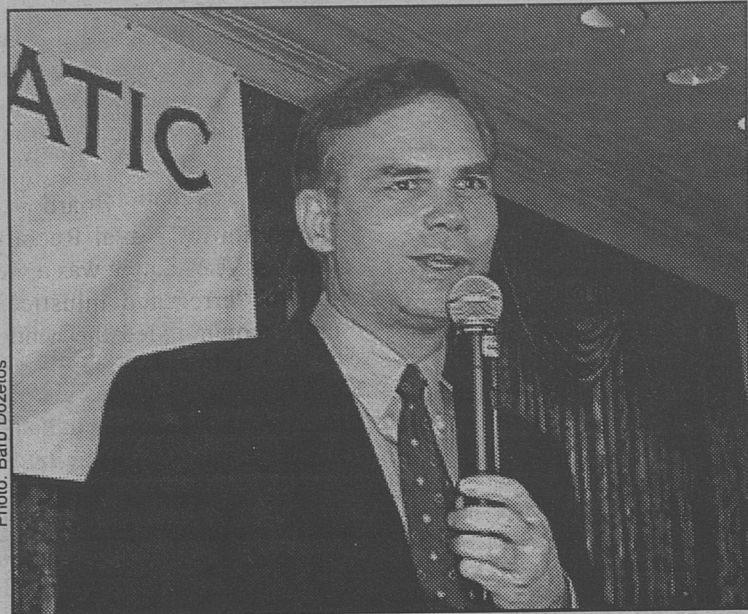


## Election Results continued from page two

state legislator. Robert Dostis, D-Waterbury, won in his first campaign for office and will bring a second out gay voice to the floor of the House.

The strongest repercussion will likely be felt in the change in leadership in the House. The Republicans have taken a majority of seats, so a new Speaker will be elected and the make-up of all committees will

change accordingly. "It will be a very sad thing to see the House Judiciary Committee reconfigured," said the panel's vice-chair, Bill Lippert. Only two members of the group primarily responsible for writing the civil union law were unsuccessful in their re-election bids.▼



Edward Flanagan, the first openly gay individual to be nominated by a major party as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, was unsuccessful in his attempt to unseat Vermont's Republican junior Senator James Jeffords. He told supporters on election night, "The bulldog will return."

## Dartmouth continued from page one

The gift creates the Roger B. A. Klorese and David L. Haney Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Program Fund. Dean of the College James Larimore called the fund's establishment "a significant step forward" in the college's history.

The money is intended to support educational, cultural, and social programming for GLBT students, educate the larger Dartmouth community about GLBT concerns, and secure an existing staff position to coordinate these efforts on a full-time and permanent basis.

"While it will provide programmatic opportunities and education about GLBT concerns for the Dartmouth community," said Larimore, "I have a special appreciation for what it will mean for our students in their day-to-day lives."

Pamela Misener, assistant dean and advisor to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender students, said the gift will be used to determine and address specific campus needs annually.

Students have already moved from an old office into a larger, more accessible GLBTQA Resource Center,

and are improving book, video, magazine, and organizational literature resources as well as Internet access.

Cultural, educational, and social initiatives will include on-campus events such as addresses, lectures, and performances.

"We are particularly interested in supporting programs that address the multiplicity and intersections of identity," said Misener, "for example, how race or ethnicity impacts the experiences of our students who are also LGBTQA."

"This gift will help us create and sustain an environment at Dartmouth where LGBTQ students can thrive, not just survive," said Misener.

Klorese was a founding member of Students for Social Alternatives, Dartmouth's first student organization addressing respect around diversity. Ten years ago, after his move to San Francisco, Klorese established and still manages the QueerNet Project, a non-profit organization that provides GLBT Internet communities. Haney, a graduate of DePauw University, is a cellist with the Redwood Symphony of Redwood, CA.▼

## Legislature continued from page one

things might go. "This whole election was about listening to Vermonters, and 60 percent of Vermonters voted for a pro-civil union governor," said Robinson. "It is clear that there is not a mandate to muck with the law. If the legislature is serious about listening, then they should move on."

The reaction to the election from outside Vermont, Bonauto said, is relief. "The perception is that Vermont remains in a position of strength to keep the law intact," she said. But she warns against resting on victories and cites *Roe vs. Wade* as an example. "We know we can't rest, because the battles will continue," she said.

Opponents of the civil union law point to several possible amendments to the civil union law they might introduce. Take it to the People's Jerry Smiley is espousing adding a residency requirement, eliminating access to civil unions for anyone from outside Vermont. Others want to expand the law to include blood relatives, such as maiden sisters who live together.

There is little room for change to the law, Robinson said. "What people are forgetting is that the civil union law is the result of an incredibly painful compromise by our community," she said. "There's nothing left to chip away."

GLAD's Bonauto agreed. "Any proposed changes should be rejected," she said. Giving in even to the smallest of changes to the civil union law, she said will not serve to appease the opposition. "It would be a building block to dismantling the entire structure. This is a long-term civil rights issue, and you don't concede on the basics."

"Governor Dean has given me a personal assurance that he will veto any repeal of the civil union law," said Bill Lippert, D-Hinesburg, "but we haven't had occasion to discuss the possibility of changes." The pressure, said Lippert, the only openly gay member of House last session, will be on the Senate. "They will have to act, or not act, on anything the House passes," he said. Having a Democratic majority there, he said, will make a big differ-

ence in preserving the law.

Virginia Renfrew of the Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights said the Republican-controlled House will give the GLBT community in Vermont an opportunity to do some significant education. "They need to talk to their legislators," she said.

Renfrew thinks coalitions will be vital. "This will be a time for groups out there to work together," she said. "We all have to support each other: the labor unions, children's groups, women's groups."

The citizen's initiative movement is likely to come up again, Renfrew said. "The groups have always been able to defeat it before," she said. If such a measure were to pass, she said, it would be devastating for the community. "It's a small minority going after a small minority while the majority stands back and watches." She offered Maine as an example. That state's civil rights law was overturned two years ago by 30 percent of the state's citizens voting.▼

Maybe... well... not exactly, but... No!

OK, I'm GAY.

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## Questioning & Coming Out Support Group

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- ★ Co-facilitated by supportive health professionals and peers
- ★ 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6:30-8pm at the Peace & Justice Center, 21 Church St., Burlington

For more information, please feel free to call 802.860.RU12 or email [thecenter@ru12.org](mailto:thecenter@ru12.org)

Youth 22 and under are encouraged to contact Outright Vermont at 1-800-GLB-CHAT.

For a transgender-specific group, contact Genders R Us at Vermont CARES, 1-800-649-2437.

**RU12?**  
community center

R.U.12? Community Center (Are You One Too?) is a charitable organization with the purpose of providing venues for the social, cultural, artistic, and educational endeavors of our gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and allied communities through visibility, awareness, and community building.

Currently there is no permanent, substance free, safe place where GLBT people can go and learn about their history, participate in cultural events, and hold group meetings. At the future center we hope to provide small offices for new groups, internet access, and multipurpose social space where people can meet informally.