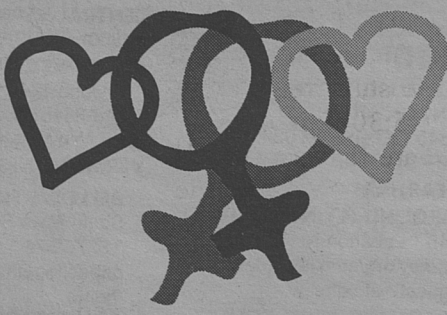
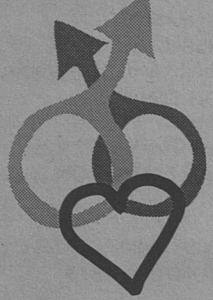
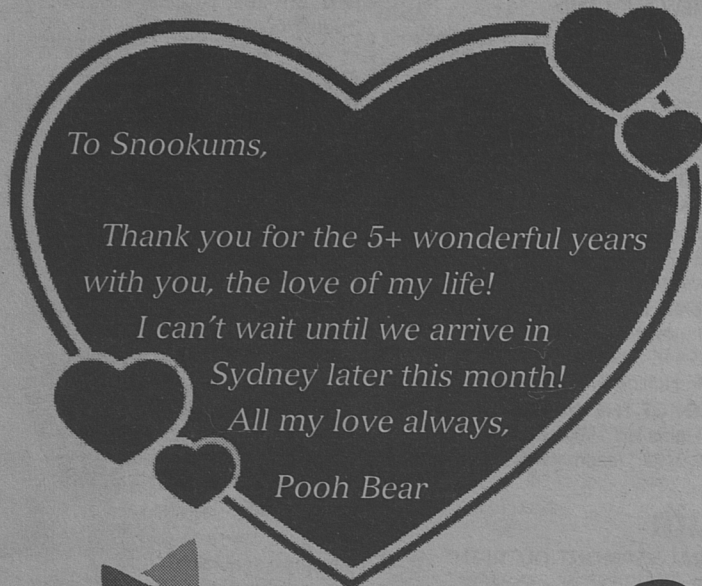


milestones

Linda Markin and
Marie LaPre Grabon
of Hardwick

celebrated their 21st anniversary with a civil union on December 2. They are grateful that so many loving friends and family from across the country attended the wintertime event. Many tears and laughter were shared at the People Barn in Greensboro where Judge Barb Zander officiated. Marie and Linda were surprised an event that "simply recognized our common humanity" could hold so much meaning for them personally. They look forward to that future day when justice prevails in every state.



Compass continued from page nineteen

Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force

In 2001, Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force will continue to focus on its mission of public education regarding the rightness of, and need for, full equality for same-sex couples. While the Vermonters for Civil Union Legislative Defense Fund (VCULDF) will focus on the challenges of the 2001 legislative session, VFMTF's emphasis will continue to be on reaching Vermonters in all walks of life, telling our stories, putting a human face on the unfamiliar. The political side is only one part of the struggle. Widespread popular support is equally critical to the goal of achieving and sustaining equal rights.

We have lots of ideas for

increasing public support in 2001, many of which boil down, in one way or another, to four simple words: neighbors talking with neighbors. No centralized design can bring the kind of understanding required; local interaction is the only way. More than ever, you can make a difference. If you'd like to work with us, or you've been working with us and taken a break, please give us a call at 388-2633 or send us an email at coord@vtfreetomarry.org to let us know of your new or renewed interest. We'll be in touch!

Fag Hag continued from page fourteen

Now that I was aware of that however, I took little steps forward, a few trips back, and more steps toward coming out as I am. I began to listen to my intuitive voice and let her speak for me. I began to wear what I wanted, even if it clashed. I identified how I felt and said it. I breathed deeply and worked through the fear of letting people see the real me. It was inspiring and surprisingly easy.

I am out, and now I am looking for others who are out here too. Despite that many of my out friends are gay, I am confident that there are straight people who have consciously come out too. It is unfortunate

that coming out has been assigned a gay label. If straight people do not consider the need to come out, it is because heterosexism is still the norm, making gayness deviant by de facto prejudice. While any intelligent, compassionate person understands this prejudice is ridiculous, heterosexism is the status quo. So, my friends, there is only one way to change that. Come out.

Sky DeMuro-Miller is a recent college graduate searching for some illusion called The Real World. When not ruminating on her honorary gay status, she busies herself with photography and painting. She lives in Burlington.

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