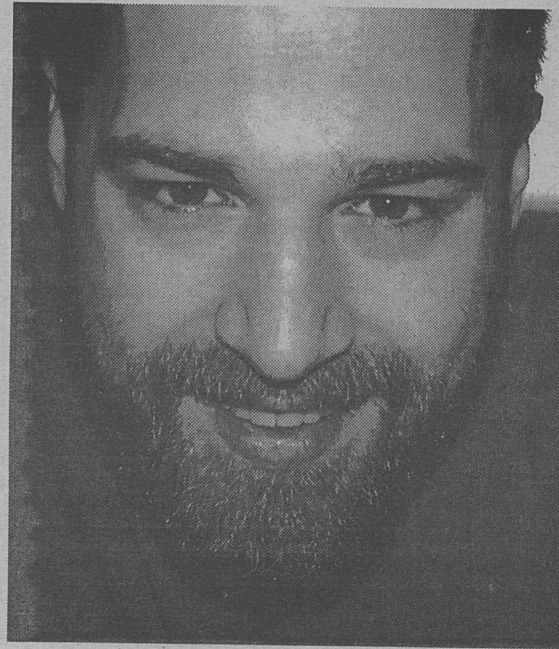


# A Renewed Faith

BY JASON WHIPPLE



Since September 11, I have been in an intense state of self-analysis to help me understand the enormity and atrocity of that now infamous day. I had a terrible weight throughout my body while trying to articulate how I have been changed. It is only the beginning though, because it has tested a faith I never knew I had.

As a child, I had always heard the word *secular*, but I was never able to fully comprehend its complexities because my thought process was not yet able to grasp such abstract words. All of this uncertainty about *belief* was uncomfortable and difficult. In personally dark times, I would stare at myself in the bathroom mirror, asking and wondering if there was someone else inside me.

I was never forced to answer to a higher being. I asked my mother once what religion I was. She told me that I was never baptized because she and my father wanted me to find my own beliefs. Because my personal possibilities have never been permanent, my imagination was 'the other,' free from the linear thought that numbs one's intuitions.

## ... Actions we choose to make today will create a ripple effect into the previous and coming centuries.

I have been given the ability to question and continually revise myself. Everything is inside of me. So, with no God but myself to turn to, how do I make sense of September 11?

In those seconds while watching those two towers collapse on the television in front of me, that fantasy life I lived as a child ended suddenly. How could this happen here, in the United States? I never felt the fear that was intended by the attack. Instead, I felt the anger of those individuals who felt the need to express themselves in this tragic way. The sadness within me was not my own, but the sadness of the families who had abruptly lost loved ones.

I cannot change what happened, but I can continue to revise how this event will affect me throughout my life. In every second, my past, present, and future is constantly changing. We will be different individuals in our future's past.

I have not traveled since last month, choosing to stay here in Vermont. My only real connection to the outside world has been through the sensational media, through the constant stream of e-mails informing me about the latest news, and the row of national and local newspaper headlines at the local bookstore.

War has begun. Violence has begat violence. We continue to punish each other because we are afraid of the otherness inside each one of us. Let us look deeper within ourselves to make small changes. Let us put that otherness in our own quivering middles. All the actions we choose to make today will create a ripple effect into the previous and coming centuries.

I believe that the impossible is possible. Uncertainty is my only certainty. I have faith in change.



"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."  
-Virginia Woolf

For over 10 years, Cloud 9 Caterers has been bringing creative, customized menus to the table. Cloud 9 boasts an extensive variety of signature menu items that take advantage of produce unique to Vermont. We also feature lavish custom cakes and desserts created by our Pastry Chef, Patty Berringer.



CLOUD 9 CATERERS  
VERMONT

Whether the event you're planning is a civil celebration for 300, or dinner for 6...call Sarah Moran at Cloud 9 Caterers:

Phone (802) 655-7370 Fax (802) 655-7765 Email salncloud9@aol.com

Practice limited  
to male clientele



**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE**  
William Coil, NCMT



802-658-2390  
800-830-5025

OTTER CREEK ASSOCIATES  
MATRIX HEALTH SYSTEMS  
Psychiatric and Psychological  
Services for Adults, Children and Families

**Edward R. Langlois, LICSW**

Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Diplomate in Clinical Social Work

86 Lake Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Tel. (802) 865-3450  
Fax. (802) 860-5011

OTTER CREEK ASSOCIATES  
MATRIX HEALTH SYSTEMS  
Psychiatric and Psychological  
Services for Adults, Children and Families

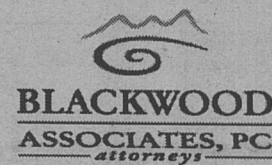
**Robert L. Keith, Ph.D.**

Director of Training  
Licensed Psychologist - Doctorate  
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

789 Pine Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Tel. (802) 951-2089  
Fax. (802) 951-2093

P.O. Box 875  
90 Main Street



Burlington, VT 05402  
802-863-2517

blackwood@verizon.net

fax: 802-863-0262

Concentrating in Employment, Special  
Education and Civil Rights Law. Also Wills,  
LGBT Issues, Estate Planning, Personal  
Injury, other litigation and mediation.



**Laurie S. Rosenzweig**

Attorney at Law

18 South Main Street, P.O. Box 1455,  
Rutland, VT 05701

802-786-2251

e-mail: Sabu234@AOL.com



Real Estate, Wills & Trusts, General Practice

**WOMEN'S CHOICE**  
GYNECOLOGIC ASSOCIATES

23 Mansfield Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Cheryl A. Gibson M.D.  
Susan F. Smith M.D.

802-863-9001  
Fax: 802-862-9637

**Rebecca Sherlock M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W.**

Diplomate in Clinical Social Work  
Gender Specialist  
Montpelier, Vermont  
Phone: 802-229-2946

Individual, couple, group and family psychotherapy.  
Evaluations for hormone and surgical therapies and  
referrals to medical services for transsexuals.