VERMONT'S VOICE FOR THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

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## UT IN THE MOUNTAINS

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# Racine in Aggressive Drive to Connect to LGBT Community

By BENNETT LAW

Candidate Doug Racine has begun an aggressive campaign of reconnecting with LBGT Vermonters. In separate meetings on December 12th and January 8th, Racine met with community members to learn first hand about the issues of concern to our community today.

"In the past several years, many issues of great concern to the LGBT community in Vermont have become secondary by virtue of the focus necessary to move ahead with civil union legislation," Racine noted. "I think it is important that those issues be brought back onto the political radar screen."

On December 12th,
Racine met at the Burlington
offices of Outright Vermont with
Executive Director B.J. Rogers,
Virginia Renfrew, and Tim
Palmer. The focus of this discussion was the Safe Schools programs of the Department of



Doug Racine, left, meets with Outright Vermont's Tim Palmer and Chuck Kletecka of the Freedom to Marry task force.

Education.

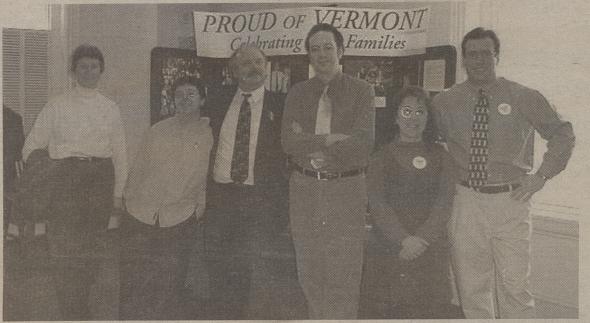
Rogers provided an overview of the work of Outright Vermont, and the needs of LBGT youth that the agency exists to address. It is the agency's focus

on youth that Racine believes made Outright "a rather convenient target for the backlash to the civil union legislation."

In response to protests from anti-civil union activists, the

State discontinued it's funding of Outright Vermont's Safe Schools program, asserting that the Vermont Department of Education would address the con-> continued on page 6

### **Annual Visibility Day Held At Vermont State House**



Above, from left to right: Susan Murray, (Vermonters for Civil Unions), Emily Clark (Vermont CARES), Keith Goslant, (VCLGR), Ted Looby, (Samara Foundation), Beth Diamond, (Freedom to Marry Task Force), Chuck Kletecka.

The Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VCLGR) held their annual Visibility Day at the Vermont State House on January 18, 2001. Six organizations from the community joined VCLGR: Kara DeLeonardis, SafeSpace; B.J. Rogers, Outright Vermont; Susan Murray and Beth Robinson, Vermonters for Civil Unions; Emily Clark, Vermont CARES;

Ted Looby, Samara Foundation; Beth Diamond, Keith Ribnick, and Chuck Kletecka, Freedom to Marry Task Force; and Keith Goslant and Virginia Renfrew, VCLGR.

"VCLGR started Visibility Day because we felt it was important to educate legislators about ourselves and the organizations in our communities. Legislators can stop by and meet the representatives of the different organizations and pick up organization materials." Virginia Renfrew, VCLGR

# R.U.1.2? Community Center Receives \$60,000 Grant

By JOEL NICHOLS

Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersex, and Questioning Community Center has received a \$60,000 grant from the Gill Foundation.

The Gill Foundation has also pledged to support the R.U.1.2? Community Center with fundraising training, donor development seminars, and organizational development programs.

The board of directors of R.U.1.2? have decided that the next step will be to hire an executive director to enable the organization to best serve the LGBTIOA community.

According to Don Eggert, cochair of the organization, one goal for the new executive director would include leasing or buying a building for the Center to better execute the Center's > continued on page 6