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# views: Daley Bend

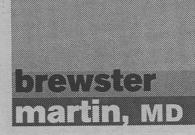
y brother says if we do this too often, it will make us foolish."

"I don't believe it."

After a moment or two to digest what my naked buddy had just admonished me, I suggested from the depths of my 14-year-old wisdom reservoir that we go ask my mother.

Daley Bend was a small branch of the White River that bordered one of the meadows on my father's farm. Dubbed the bend because of an abrupt change in the direction of the water's flow which created a delightful swimming hole, it was bordered on one side by a precipitous ledge from which to dive and on the opposite side by a gravelly, narrow beach exposed to sunlight during the Vermont growing season.

It was here that I became aware of what testosterone was doing to my skinny pubescent body. At that decade in one's life, it is amazing how much someone who is two years older knows. The growth of hair on various parts of our body was



checked. The size of the equipment was a weekly comparison, measured by an average-sized sugar maple leaf that was stored under a decaying log (I really think the leaf was shrinking, however, it was good for my ego).

After a bit of gentle persuasion, my hairy buddy decided we should put on our clothes and run up through the meadow to interrogate my mother. It was midafternoon and she was sitting in a rocking chair on the back porch still wearing her morning work apron, placidly shelling peas which she had picked from the garden within the hour.

I posed the question while my buddy froze with embarrassment. My educated, articulate mother never missed a beat of the pea shelling rhythm and said, "If that were true boys, the world would be filled with foolish men. However there is a time and place for everything and when I am entertaining the Ladies Union" (a group of pious Methodist women who met monthly to discuss the sins of anyone who happened not to be present that day) "it is best to adjourn to the haymow or some other equally private spot."

Mama was right!
After an appropriate number of years of formal education, I became a country doctor and practiced for 40 years in the small town of Chelsea. Whenever an overly concerned mother asked me a question about a beloved son's habits, I told

They rarely made any further inquiries. ▼

her the story of Daley Bend.

Brewster Martin is a retired doctor who lives in Chelsea.

#### letters > continued from page

chance ... it is the only chance ... think about it and vote for Anthony Pollina for Lt. Governor.

Rep. David Zuckerman (P.-Burlington)

Anthony Pollina is our ally. I am writing to ask Out In The Mountains readers to take an active role in electing Anthony Pollina as Lt. Governor. It looks like it could be a close race between the three candidates. But if we got behind Anthony there is a real possibility that he could be elected by the legislature. Our community and our friends could provide the critical votes in this race. I want to elect a Lt. Governor who can work with all the parties and move our critical issues forward. I believe that Anthony Pollina is the only candidate that has the capacity to do this. Here we have an opportunity to vote for a true ally who really has a shot at winning. My vote is for Anthony Pollina.

Lindsey Ketchel Starksboro

I hope the GLBT community will disregard Chuck Kletecka's letter in the last issue and vote their conscience on November 5th. The fact is that Anthony Pollina has as good a chance as Peter Shumlin to become lieutenant governor. There is no need this time to hold one's nose and vote for someone we don't want. I'm a gay man and I worked hard supporting civil unions. I also happen to have an uncle with Parkinson's disease for whom I have to buy meds from Canada. We need help with prescription drug prices and we didn't get it from Peter Shumlin who took 50 percent of his 1998 campaign funds from pharmaceutical companies. We need to protect our environment and we need someone who will actually work at it and not just talk about it. Shumlin killed a bill expanding the bottle law. Pollina supported it. Vermonters need a liveable wage and they need someone to stand up for them. When workers in Island Pond were laid off only one politician

was there for them to help them gain the benefits they were entitled to under NAFTA. It was Anthony Pollina: There are so many issues other than civil unions that concern gay Vermonters. That's why I'll vote for Anthony Pollina.

Ross Laffan Rochester

### **Vote Racine for Permit Reform**

It's apparent that both Act 250 and Vermont's permit process will undergo changes when a new administration takes office next year. All three major candidates have pledged to address this issue in their campaigns for Governor.

The independent Hogan wants to "scrap it" and rewrite the entire law. Not a good idea considering 80 percent of applicants make their way through the process successfully. It's the 20 percent who don't make it that we need to worry about.

The conservative [Republican] Douglas wants to limit the access of "out-of-state environmental groups" from the process. A slippery slope that Mr. Douglas, an out-of-stater himself should seriously reconsider. It's another example of Mr. Douglas' misdirected focus and finger pointing.

[Democrat] Doug Racine has proposed a single point of entry for individuals and businesses seeking permits. He also proposes bringing the permit process into the 21st century by allowing Vermonters to access permits online.

Finally someone who understands the real problem! It's not surprising since Doug Racine has been on the frontlines of this debate. The choice is clear: for permit reform, Racine is the man with the plan.

Mike Fisher Burlington

#### **Women for Racine**

Vermont women will play a crucial role in this year's election. Viewed collectively, our votes are different from those of our dads, brothers, husbands, and sons. Issues of particular concern to women voters were the central focus of a recent gubernatorial debate sponsored by the Vermont Commission on Women (formerly the Governor's Commission on Women), the Business and Professional Women, and the League of Women Voters. Among the so-called "women's issues" are access to affordable, quality health care, paid family leave, early childhood education, privacy and choice in reproductive matters, livable incomes, and equal pay for equal work.

The Commission on Women educates the legislature and administration on these and other important issues and advocates for needed change. I learned a few things at their well-attended debate. For starters, when certain members of the legislature tried to eliminate the commission, only one candidate for governor took a stand for women. That candidate was Doug Racine.

Doug's leadership came through loud and clear at the debate when he spoke out in strong support of paid family leave, early childhood education, and equal pay for equal work.

Doug knows that "women's issues" concern all members of our society. He knows that the economy is a "women's issue" and that an administration that reflects the demographics of Vermont is not only a good idea, it reflects some of our most strongly held values. Doug Racine understands that strong families are the foundation of Vermont's future. Vermont's families will not be strong unless our next governor pays attention to the concerns of Vermont women. We can count on Doug for leadership that recognizes the fundamental importance of women's

Sandra Dooley South Burlington