

HRC Appoints Lesbian Lawmaker as ED



The Human Rights Campaign has appointed Massachusetts State Senator Cheryl Jacques (pronounced "jakes") as its new president and executive director. In a telephone "meet-the-press" conference last month, Jacques claimed that both the recent California domestic partnership legislation and Vermont's civil unions were HRC victories.

No one who was available and deeply involved with the civil union legislation in the spring of 2000 and the subsequent political campaign was willing to go on the record to affirm or deny the HRC director's claim. The consensus of comments made "on background" was that HRC's contribution was minimal at best and did not involve on-the-ground assistance with mailings, databases, or campaign help.

Jacques introduced herself as someone who has "been an activist my entire life." She was a prosecutor specializing in

child abuse cases, and campaigned for election to the Massachusetts state Senate on issues concerning victims of crime, senior citizens, and civil rights. Jacques beat a solidly entrenched incumbent for her Senate seat in 1992 at the age of 29 and was a co-sponsor of the state's hate crime law in 1996.

The new executive director said, "Coalition-building has been the secret to my success." She looks forward, she added, to working with Log Cabin Republicans director Patrick Guerriero, another former Massachusetts political office holder. LCR issued a press release praising HRC's selection of Jacques.

She said her job would be to continue the work of outgoing director Elizabeth Birch, but did not embrace Birch's support for a parallel legislative track for an ENDA-type bill that would include gender identity and expression.

Jacques said she wanted to "contin-

ue the work of educating America" that we should not be treating "others differently because of who they love." She would, she said, "meet with everyone I physically can," in an effort to move an equality agenda forward. "Civil rights is not a partisan issue," she insisted. "We have Republican allies and Democratic allies, and they have gay relatives and staffers, whether they know it or not."

At press time, the *Boston Globe* was reporting that Jacques would delay resigning from her Senate seat until after January 1, 2004, suggesting that the delay would increase the senator's pension and throw a monkey wrench into the campaign plans of Democrats seeking to hold onto her seat. The report quoted Jacques responding that her only concern was to resolve issues in her district. Birch leaves her post as director as of December 31. ▼

Montréal Walks Away From FGG

According to numerous press releases and reports, negotiations between Montréal 2006 and the Federation of Gay Games have failed to resolve a dispute over the size and financial control of the planned 2006 Gay Games. The talks broke off in the early morning hours of November 9 after a 15-hour session.

Montréal 2006 says it will hold games and cultural events under the name "Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006" without the sanction and logo of the Federation of Gay Games. An FGG spokesman said the organization will go to plan B, which – according to a previous statement – might include delaying the games and moving them elsewhere, probably to another city in the U.S. Atlanta, Chicago, and Los Angeles were

unsuccessful bidders of the 2006 games and will reportedly have a second chance.

An organization of gay nonprofits called The Purple Star issued a press release questioning the choice of any city in the U.S. for several reasons, including visa issues (declaration of the trip's purpose, photographing and fingerprinting of foreign visitors at the borders, and special registration for athletes from Arab countries), the U.S. ban on allowing HIV-positive visitors to enter the country, and anti-gay sentiment.

"We realize now that it is time to break with the past and with an organization that ultimately represents little more than itself, with only 21 of the 1000 sports teams around the world being FGG members," according to the Montréal 2006 press release.

"Rendez-Vous Montreal 2006 will, however, move forward as planned." Mark Tewksbury, co-president of Montréal 2006, declared, "Our event will take place without the FGG."

According to an FGG statement, co-president Roberto Mantaci said, "We deeply regret that Montréal 2006 made the decision to walk away from these negotiations which were planned with the best interests of future Gay Games participants in mind."

Mantaci continued, "The Federation made multiple concessions to Montréal 2006, and we are confident that we tried everything we could to reach an agreement with them while remaining true to our stated obligation towards safeguarding the fiscal responsibility by Gay Games hosts."

Montréal 2006 had planned for the largest games ever, with 24,000 participants at a cost of \$20 million (CAD). At the insistence of the FGG, it had presented an alternate proposal for 16,000 participants at a cost of \$16 million (CAD).

The FGG sought a fallback plan for 12,000 participants, because the last four Gay Games organizations were faced with financial disaster, at least one flirted with cancellation, and the Games generated substantial debts.

The Gay Games were conceived by Dr. Tom Waddell, an Olympic decathlete, and first held in San Francisco in 1982 with 1,350 participants. Subsequent Gay Games were held in San Francisco (3,500 participants), Vancouver (7,300 participants), New York (12,500 participants), Amsterdam (15,000 participants), and Sydney (11,000 participants). ▼

Flanagan To Run For VT Senate

BY PAUL OLSEN

At an evening campaign rally for Howard Dean's presidential bid, former Vermont Auditor Ed Flanagan told *Out in the Mountains* that he will run for the state Senate representing Chittenden County next year. "I have been asked to run by Senate leaders and I will run," he said.

Flanagan, an attorney, was first elected State Auditor in 1992. In a 1995 Associated Press interview, he publicly came out as a gay man. He made national history when, in 1996, he became the first openly gay statewide elected official in the United

States. In 2000, Flanagan became the first openly gay major party candidate to run for the U.S. Senate, a race he lost to incumbent Senator James Jeffords.

If successful next year, Flanagan would be Vermont's first openly gay state Senator.

Openly gay state Rep. Bill Lippert (D-Hinesburg) also said he will run for re-election.

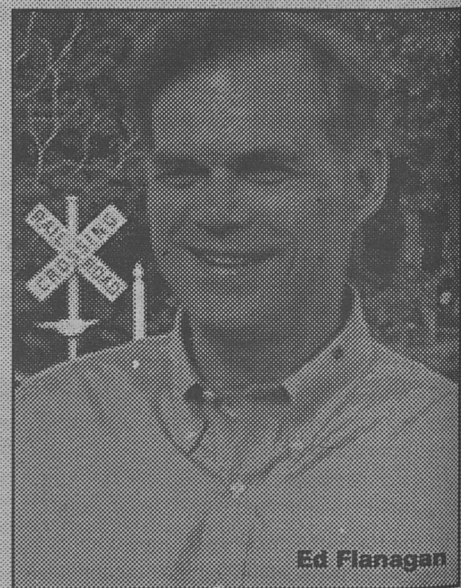
Lippert, who was originally appointed to his seat in the Vermont House by former Governor Howard Dean, said Dean's candidacy is good for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Americans. "There is a tremendous energy behind the

Dean campaign," Lippert told *OITM*.

"Howard Dean put himself on the line for the gay and lesbian community in a way that no other elected official has, and he has been steadfast in that support."

Flanagan also expressed enthusiasm for Dean's campaign. "He would be the natural next step from (President) Clinton's candidacy," he said. "Clinton took us through a lot of initial barriers and I think Howard Dean, having taken the initiative on gay and lesbian rights in Vermont, would bring that issue to the national stage." ▼

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Ed Flanagan