

WILB
QUARTO
HQ75
0971

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

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS



Volume XIX, Number 4

MAY 2004

www.mountainpridemedia.org

GLBT Expo: The Good, The Bad, & The Fab

Does purchasing power represent political power or is consumption the ultimate distraction? Last month Ric Kasini Kadour cruised through a place where these concepts clash.

At one time in America, your identity was shaped largely by what you did. America has changed, however. It is no longer what you do, but what you buy that is important. Access to social enfranchisement comes not from producing but from consuming. As such, be you an immigrant or a queer person, driving the right car, vacationing at the right destination, buying the right food, or wearing the right clothes signals that you are an American and tells other people to accept you.

"Advertising to gay men and lesbians has often promised that full inclusion in the national community of Americans is available through personal consumption," observes Alexandra Chasin in *Selling Out: The Gay and Lesbian Movement Goes to Market*. "In other words, consumption has been held out as a route to political and social enfranchisement."

The nexus of this cultural, political, social phenomenon is the 11th Original Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,

Transgender Business and Entertainment Expo held this past March at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City. Over the course of a weekend, the Expo put 21,000 "affluent, brand-loyal, well-educated, and business-minded" consumers in front of 500 vendors hungry for the "perfect market niche."

At its heart, the Expo is like any event where you wander around checking out vendor booths. Think really gay Home Show.

I was in heaven at the Expo – and a little aroused by the promises of the rainbow-draped booths and other assorted pretty, gay stuff. As I descended the escalators and passed through the enormous rainbow-balloon arch, nostalgia for the time I lived in Seattle's gay ghetto overwhelmed me. Having been back in Vermont for three years now – where the worlds of queer and commerce rarely meet – I crave that place where sexuality and pocketbook blend together like two colors in a painting, where one can pur-

cont'd on p. 9

Groundbreaking Ruling Recognizes Trans Rights, Hardwick Case Sets Precedent

BY EUAN BEAR

In a case characterized by Vermont attorney Beth Robinson as "a huge step forward for transgender rights," the Hardwick Selectboard voted to accept a settlement on a transgender discrimination claim investigated by the state Attorney General's office. As required by Vermont law, former Hardwick patrolman Tony Barreto-Neto, a female-to-male transsexual, filed with the A.G.'s office his complaint of harassment so severe that he was forced to quit.

The settlement agreed to

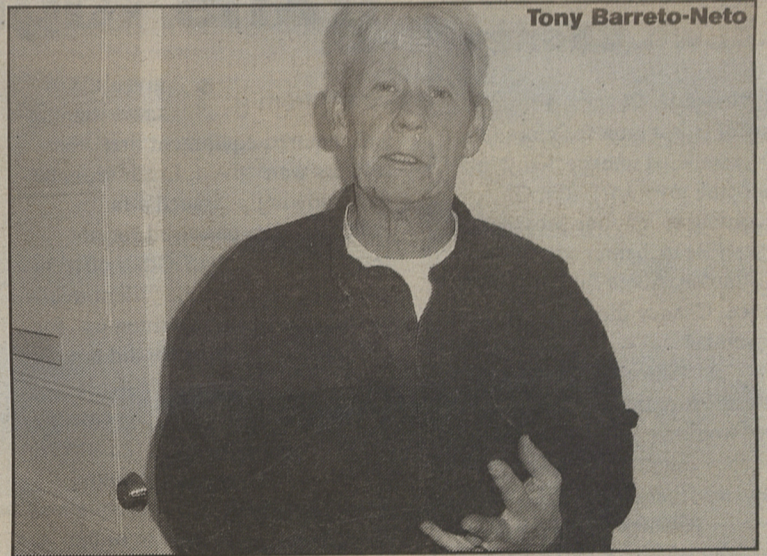
by the town specifies that it will pay \$90,000 to Barreto-Neto, adopt a formal policy of nondiscrimination against transgender persons, and train its employees on transgender issues.

The details of the case began to surface in February, when news of the complaint, an investigation by the state Attorney General's office, and a potential settlement broke in local newspapers.

According to news reports, the complaint alleged that Hardwick Town Manager Dan Hill urged newly hired police chief Gregory Rambo to make Barreto-Neto so uncomfortable that he

would quit. Hill allegedly had discovered that the officer is a female-to-male transgender person, and therefore would not accept him on the police force, regardless of his performance. Rambo left after only two weeks, but the harassment went on. Hill was quoted in one news story as declaring that if he was found to have done anything wrong, he would offer his resignation. Barreto-Neto said in a brief comment when the news broke, "I'm offering to buy him a pen."

GLAD attorney Jennifer Levi described the discrimination as taking several forms: a ranking member of the Hardwick Police



Tony Barreto-Neto

directed that Barreto-Neto not be given necessary information, officers were slow to respond or did

not respond to Barreto-Neto's calls for backup, and he was not

cont'd on p. 2

inside out: this issue's contents

▼ Peaceful Homes and Safe Spaces p. 6
Rape Crisis Director Celia Cuddy's activism moved from global to local.

▼ Ally Under the Dome p. 8
Paul Olsen interviews Sen. Pat Leahy on DOMA, ENDA and other issues.

▼ The Next Generation p. 11
Outright Vermont turns 15 – and how it got there.

▼ 21st Century Outing p. 17
David Hinz reviews Signorile's decade-old classic, re-issued.

▼ News 1-3
▼ Editorial 4
▼ Letters 5
▼ Features 1 - 11
▼ Views 12 - 16
▼ Arts 17 - 21
▼ Calendar 22
▼ Community Compass 22
▼ The Source 25
▼ Classifieds 25
▼ Gayity 30 - 31