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

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

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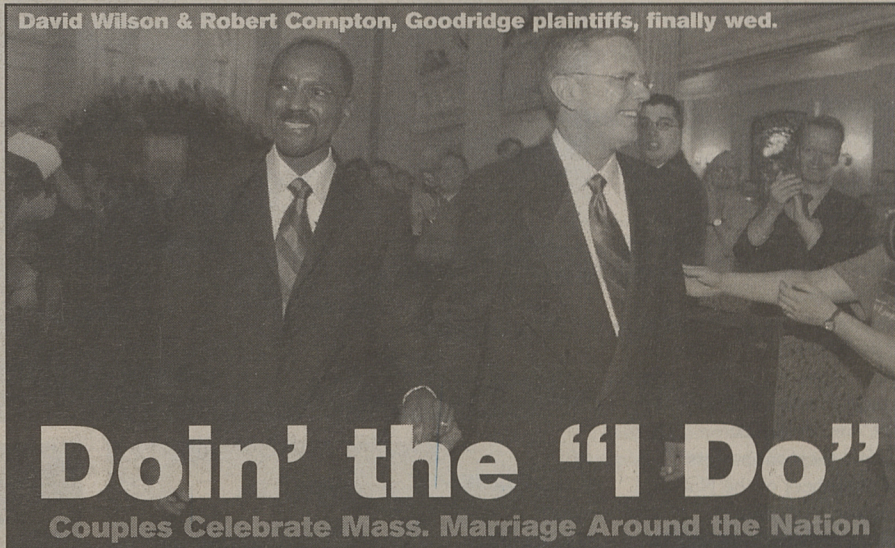
BY EUAN BEAR

Tears, shouts of joy, thoughtful discourses, bad jokes, heartfelt good wishes – the whole traditional wedding panoply of expressions came into play as the couples of the *Goodridge* lawsuit and other Massachusetts same-gender couples trooped off to their town clerks to apply for marriage licenses, then to court for waivers of the three-day waiting period, and to various justices of the peace or ministers for the long-awaited marriage ceremonies.

And yes, a few Phelps-connected protesters showed up waving their signs condemning gays and lesbians generally and equal marriage in particular as an abomination to their god.

Cambridge queers and allies partied on Sunday night to welcome newly marriage-eligible couples, who applied for licenses at 12:01 a.m. Monday. The first Cambridge couple got in line at midnight on Saturday. Provincetown selectmen had voted unanimously to defy the 1913 law widely viewed as racist that Republican Governor Mitt Romney used to attempt to restrict same-gender marriages to Massachusetts res-

David Wilson & Robert Compton, Goodridge plaintiffs, finally wed.



Doin' the "I Do"

Couples Celebrate Mass. Marriage Around the Nation

idents. Other town clerks declared they would ignore Romney's demand that they ask for proof of residence.

Asked whether Vermont would recognize Bay State same-gender marriages, attorney Beth Robinson declared, "Massachusetts marriages absolutely should be respected in Vermont. Vermont law clear-

ly recognizes marriages that were valid where celebrated – even if the couple would not have been able to marry in Vermont.

"There's no reason," Robinson concluded, "other than rank discrimination, to treat the case of same-sex marriage any differently."

State Attorney General William Sorrell disagreed in remarks broadcast on Vermont Public Radio, citing the definition of marriage as between a man and a woman included in the civil union law. Out of state marriages could be recognized as civil unions, however.

According to an informal joint survey of same-sex couples in Massachusetts conducted by the Freedom to Marry Coalition and MassEquality, more than half (55%) of nearly 500 respondent couples planned to have their ceremonies conducted by justices of the peace. The rest will engage the services of clergy.

Nearly two-thirds of the 493 responses to the survey were from lesbian couples. The overall group wanted hometown weddings and named 133 cities and towns where they will apply for licenses and get married. Boston, as might be expected, led the pack, followed by Cambridge and Northampton. Provincetown, Worcester and Newton tied for sixth place with 12 planned weddings each. P'town was preparing to be

besieged,

cont'd on p. 2

Quebec Declares War! Homophobia is the Target

BY RIC KASINI KADOUR

In a move that in the U.S. would be considered a great leap in understanding and support for lgbtqs, representatives of Fondation Émergence, which receives funding from several levels of the Canadian government from local to federal, proclaimed June 2nd to be the second annual National Day Against Homophobia.

The theme of this year's campaign is Declaration of War on Homophobia. Posters show either a man or a woman dressed in camouflage making a fist and holding a rose.

"This day is a privileged movement for students to talk about the facts of homosexuality, for employers to establish programs at work, for the media to present stories and reports on homophobia, for public officials to proclaim the first Wednesday in June a Day Against Homophobia, for individuals and organizations to take the initiative, for a symbolic gesture," the group explains.

During a press conference at Sky Bar in Montreal's gay village, the group outlined a media and poster campaign, along with a day of events to include a round table of community activists, journalists, and academics, a dinner in honor of

Senator Laurier La Pierre and a 'Solidarity Cocktail Party' later in the evening.

Fondation Émergence hopes to "show the harmful effects of homophobia; fight homophobia wherever it is found; work towards the inclusion of homosexuals in society; block the effects of homophobia, especially suicide; validate the contribution of gays and lesbians in society; promote harmonious relationships among all people; and work together with others interested in personal rights and liberty."

The campaign is asking the people of Quebec to look at homophobia the way people look at racism – as an evil the end of whose



time has come, as something that has no place in a just society. In the end, they will prevail not because of the forcefulness of their argument or the nature of their culture, but because of the righteousness of their position – and their willingness to advance it.

The question is, then, can we in America learn from their example?

In the United States, few, if any, organizations address homophobia as directly as Fondation Émergence. Quebec differs

cont'd on p. 3

inside out:

this issue's contents

▼ Queer Political Action p. 3

Gays are getting active in mainstream politics: get the buzz

▼ Legalizing the Gaybie Boom p. 8.

Queer creativity doesn't stop at marriage - legal options for kids.

▼ Gimme Some Skin

p. 11. Cathy Resmer talks to Mr. Empire State Leather - he's a Vermonter.

▼ The Hets Can Keep It

p. 14. Montrealer Eleanor Brown says marriage is not good for gays.

▼ News 1-3

▼ Editorial 4

▼ Letters 5

▼ Features 8 - 11

▼ Views 12 - 16

▼ Arts 17 - 21

▼ Calendar 22

▼ Community Compass 22

▼ The Source 25

▼ Classifieds 25

▼ Gayity 29 - 31