

letters

Safety Patrol Thanks

On behalf of the staff at SafeSpace, I'd like to extend my thanks to Euan Bear for the wonderful article about the services and support our agency provides to LGBTQQ survivors of violence.

I would like to echo Euan's words that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning lives count. Our experiences, struggles, and celebrations mark a rich history. This social and political history reflects our struggles for equality, justice and the right to be treated as human. This history is a path of continual inclusion and exclusion.

As a young Queer person I am proud to be part of a community that has accomplished so much and made it possible for me to come out and be part of something bigger. SafeSpace 'came out' because of the dedication and hard work of

activists who realized that LGBTQQ people deserve the same support and advocacy that has been available to heterosexual and women's communities for so many years. There is much more work to be done and many more alliances to build with other social justice groups-- and this work is necessary for our movement to expand, welcome more allies and ensure that all of us can live without fear of violence and discrimination. I am confident that SafeSpace will continue to play an instrumental part in expanding and challenging Vermont's response to and education about violence to be ever-more inclusive.

SafeSpace services are available to people of all ages, statewide, and are free and confidential. We encourage you to call us (toll-free at 866-869-7341 or 802-863-0003 around Burlington) with any questions about our work, if you are interested in scheduling a

training for your group or want to volunteer your time.

Clark Sheldon
SafeSpace Youth Program
Coordinator

Thank you for your balanced reporting in this story [Safety Patrol, October 2004]. You have helped get rid of some old harmful myths and aided your community's progress. I'm sure this will be appreciated by your local residents.

You may be interested in my DVA2004 Media Recon Project at my website. I'm tracking media nationwide in hopes of finding stories of this kind.

More information is here: desertlightjournal.blog-city.com/.

Trudy W. Schuett
via the Internet

Define Feminist

I like Anne Moore's writing - it's fresh and she's observant. Or maybe it's the other way around ...

What I don't get is what's 'feminist' about it. In "Mean Girls" (Culture Vulture, October 2004), Moore relishes the camera that pans longingly in slo-mo over the body of a young and apparently luscious actress playing a high school girl and then rejoices because the camera represents two other high school girls and a gay boy, a group of outsiders. So what is it that makes the objectification and commodification of a woman's body okay when it's done by other women instead of by men? In my kind of feminism, it's equally dehumanizing either way.

Maybe there's room for some discussion of the (still) differing power dynamic among women as opposed to between men and women, and that's what makes it

okay - at least for Moore. But let's be careful about throwing around the label feminist when the analysis falls way short, eh?

Jane L. Allison
St. Johnsbury

Correction: Due to an editing error, Paul Olsen's degree was incorrectly identified in his tagline. He recently earned a doctorate in education (Ed.D.), not a Ph.D. ▼

In Memoriam: Ginny Clarke

BY GLO DALEY

With typical firm grace and clear-eyed strength, Ginny Clarke passed over into death in the early morning hours of October 11th. She was 72. For many years Ginny lived with and worked with Parkinson's disease which took an increasingly greater toll on her body.

Several months ago I visited her in Underhill where she had been living with her daughter Chris. I hadn't seen her in a while and, to my eyes, she appeared to be quite weak physically and suffering substantial discomfort. I asked her, "How is life being for you?" assuming I would hear of the many difficulties she was coping with every day. Her eyes grew bright and she said, "Oh Glo, I am loving every day!" Then, as I had seen her do before, she broke into a poem, this one about the grandeur of trees, reciting it in its entirety.

A Sagittarius, Ginny was an enthusiastic seeker of meaning



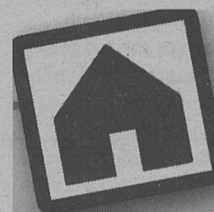
and truth. She shared with me, on that occasion, her excitement about the work of Eckhardt Tolle. Jeanette Andrew, with whom she had a long, deep and abiding love, had introduced her to Tolle's *The Power of Now*, and now she wanted to introduce me. She was clearly in the present as we sat in her back yard. She had been meditating and spoke of wanting to find an instructor. As she looked about her, she seemed to be in love with the trees, the flitting birds and the movement of her grand child.

For some time Ginny had been a main force behind a small group that met to discuss and contemplate any and all issues of living and dying. She spoke of how much benefit and support she'd been deriving from being in the group.

Thinking back, I remember Ginny as a proficient yoga teacher and a strong cross country skier. She invited me to join her one winter day and though I was ten years younger, I was unable to keep up with her amazing vigor.

She was never defeated or embittered by her long relationship with Parkinson's, choosing instead to be delighted by her life. When recently confronted with the prospect of new, far reaching and painful complications of her disease, she courageously chose to let go of life. Calling her loving and beloved family and friends together, she was able to swiftly, peacefully, and joyfully slip away. ▼

Glo Daley is an astrologer who lives in Huntington.



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