MOVING MARRIAGE FORWARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pennsylvania re-introduced the measure in January of this year, and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee promised supporters, including the American Family Association, that he will bring the matter to the floor for a vote on June

The discriminatory amendment won't go anywhere, however, if Sen. Patrick Leahy has his way. Leahy's office said last month that he will continue to oppose such an amendment, as he has in the past. Sen. James Jeffords echoed Leahy's stand against such an amendment.

The Human Rights Campaign, which worked to defeat the Federal Marriage Amendment in 2004, continues the fight against the initiative, now called the Marriage Protection Amendment. In its fight to defeat the amendment, the HRC noted that its passage would not only deny same-sex partners the right to marry, but would also "seriously endanger civil unions and domestic partnerships." ▼

PARTY POLITICS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the same effect.

"We're in the middle of a national movement," Robinson said. "It's important that we keep moving."

Rep. Mark Larson of Burlington introduced the new Marriage Equality bill to the legislature last month. Larson, who was one of three co-coordinators of the Task Force in 2000, chose to run for office largely because of the marriage issue. He said the issue for him has never been controversial, as it is for many, but is the "right thing to do." As so many states have put discriminatory marriage policies into their laws and constitutions, it's especially important for Vermont to consider this bill now, Larson said. We have the opportunity, and the responsibility to do so, he added. Larson noted that we have restored the majority of legislators who lost elections due to the civil union law, and believes we have the numbers in the statehouse now to pass the Marriage Equality bill.

Robyn Maguire, field director for Vermont's Task Force, talked about her previous work on the marriage issue in Massachusetts. When the issue came up there, supporters had to build a field campaign quickly because of the strong opposition coming from outside the state. At the onset, marriage supporters could count on only 35 of 200 legislators, she said. But because organizers reached out to all communities in an intensive campaign, they were able to push the legislation through. Every legislator who voted for the equal marriage law later won election, Maguire said.

The Freedom To Marry Task Force will hold a phone-a-thon March 7th and 9th. Maguire said the campaign needs to build a financial war chest, more volunteers in the Burlington area, signatures on the marriage resolution, and greater connections with clergy of various denominations.

The possibility of the Marriage Equality bill becoming law is real, Maguire said, "We just gotta do the work."



oh, the places we go!

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Newport Newport CCV, 100 Main St Suite 150, Newport

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Randolph Kimball Public Library, 67 Main St., Randolph

Cover To Cover, 27 North Main St., Randolph

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The Bagel, 394 Mountain Road Ste 10,

Main Street Footworks, 245 Main Street,

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Depot Beverage, 1 River Rd, Waterbury Planned Parenthood, 55 Main St.,

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