

withou
HQ
75
1097

out in the mountains

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER For LESBIANS and GAY MEN

Vol. 1 No. 2

free

March, 1986

MAR 28 1986

Lesbians meet, Liaison elected

Sixty Vermont lesbians met in South Royalton on Sunday, February 16th. Coming from as far away as Burlington, Brattleboro and the "Northeast Queendom", and coming from diverse viewpoints, the group shared and achieved several common goals.

The meeting finalized the selection of a liaison from the lesbian community to Governor Kunin's office. Beth Dingman has been the acting liaison since December and accepted the unanimous decision that she become the first official liaison. She can be reached at 649-5297. In the event that Beth is ever unavailable, Leslie Alicen, 456-8745, agreed to be our alternate liaison.

Vermont gay men also choose a liaison at Montpelier meeting. Story on p. 3.

After discussing if and how to become organized as lesbians in Vermont, two conclusions emerged. The first was a definite desire to create a statewide organization to fill the vacuum that currently exists. The second was that it would take another meeting to find a name, structure and

continued, page 8



Photo by Glenn Russell

Schlafly meets a lesbian

Outspoken lesbian Euan Bear questions Phyllis Schlafly after her debate with Sara Weddington. Schlafly denied having worked for Senator *Joseph McCarthy* and denied supporting capitol punishment. **STORY ON P. 4.**

Antibody discrimination hearing set

A hearing on House Bill 622, the HTLV-3 antibody discrimination bill, will be held on Thursday, March 13th, at 7.30 pm at the State House in Montpelier.

The hearing, a joint effort of the State House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees, will consist of presentations by a panel of experts followed by comments and questions from legislators and the public.

It was unclear until late February whether the House Health and Welfare Committee would schedule hearings or allow the bill to die without soliciting outside testimony.

State Rep. K. Micque Glitman, the bill's sponsor, credits "an effective and rapid statewide grassroots lobbying effort" with "putting the bill back on the front burner." Glitman said that

"the flood of phone calls and letters into Montpelier was the primary reason that we were successful in getting a public hearing scheduled, and proof of the necessity of having a statewide network to pass any legislation."

Terje Anderson, who is co-ordinating lobbying on H. 622, said "the incredible outpouring of support for the bill from across the state points out exactly how powerful constituent lobbying can be." He noted that "letters asking people to contact their representatives went out on a Friday and Saturday, and by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, we had the hearing date and format set. It only happened because so many people took a few minutes to write or call. We impressed Montpelier with the speed, depth and geographical range of our response."

Glitman and Anderson both

encouraged people to continue contacting members of the legislature on the bill, and to attend the March 13th hearing.

Anderson said he was certain that the expert panel at the hearing "will go a long way in helping legislators understand that AIDS is not casually transmitted, that the ELISA test is an inappropriate basis for employment or housing, that there are important civil rights questions at stake, and that protecting those rights is absolutely consistent with protecting public health."

For more information on the hearing, up to date reports on the bill's status, or to become involved with the lobbying effort, contact Terje Anderson at 862-5917.