

Mass. Protest *from page 1*

"How dare you discriminate against us?" thundered Scondras. He proceeded to engage in a fist-shaking verbal confrontation with former House Speaker Thomas McGee (D-Lynn) who leaned over a balcony rail screaming, "Gay rights never!" McGee had filed legislation earlier this year proposing an investigation of funding for an explicit safer sex brochure distributed by the AIDS Action Committee.

Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, first drew boos and hisses, apparently in response to her earlier public statements criticizing direct political activism, but she soon swayed much of the crowd with stormy rhetoric.

"I told the senators," Isaacson shouted, "that these people, you and me, have every damn right to be here, every damn right to be angry, every damn right to demand our rights! They want us to go away but we won't go away..We'll be back again and again..."

Isaacson said the gay rights bill has already been reintroduced into the 1988 legislative session which began on Jan. 6. Gay rights supporters are already strategizing about how to pass the bill this year.

(Continued on page 15)

Easy Lobbying Suggestions

Here are some facts that have been compiled by The Vermont Statewide Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men (The Coalition) to help you talk to your legislator about S.278.

•Discrimination is a problem in Vermont. The point is not whether one's sexual or affectional orientation is right, but whether discrimination is tolerable! No person should be denied a job, a home, an education, or the use of a public place because of her or his sexual orientation.

•This bill does not advocate homosexuality.

•Over 90% of all sexual offenses involving children are committed by adult male heterosexuals. There are laws, regulations and rules that cover misconduct by all persons, homosexual or heterosexual, including criminal laws against child molestation. This bill would not change any such laws.

•Defending this bill is not a political liability. No legislator who has supported civil rights for lesbians and gay men has been defeated on this ground alone. In 1983, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed such a bill. No one who voted for it

was defeated for re-election. Two assemblymen who opposed it WERE defeated.

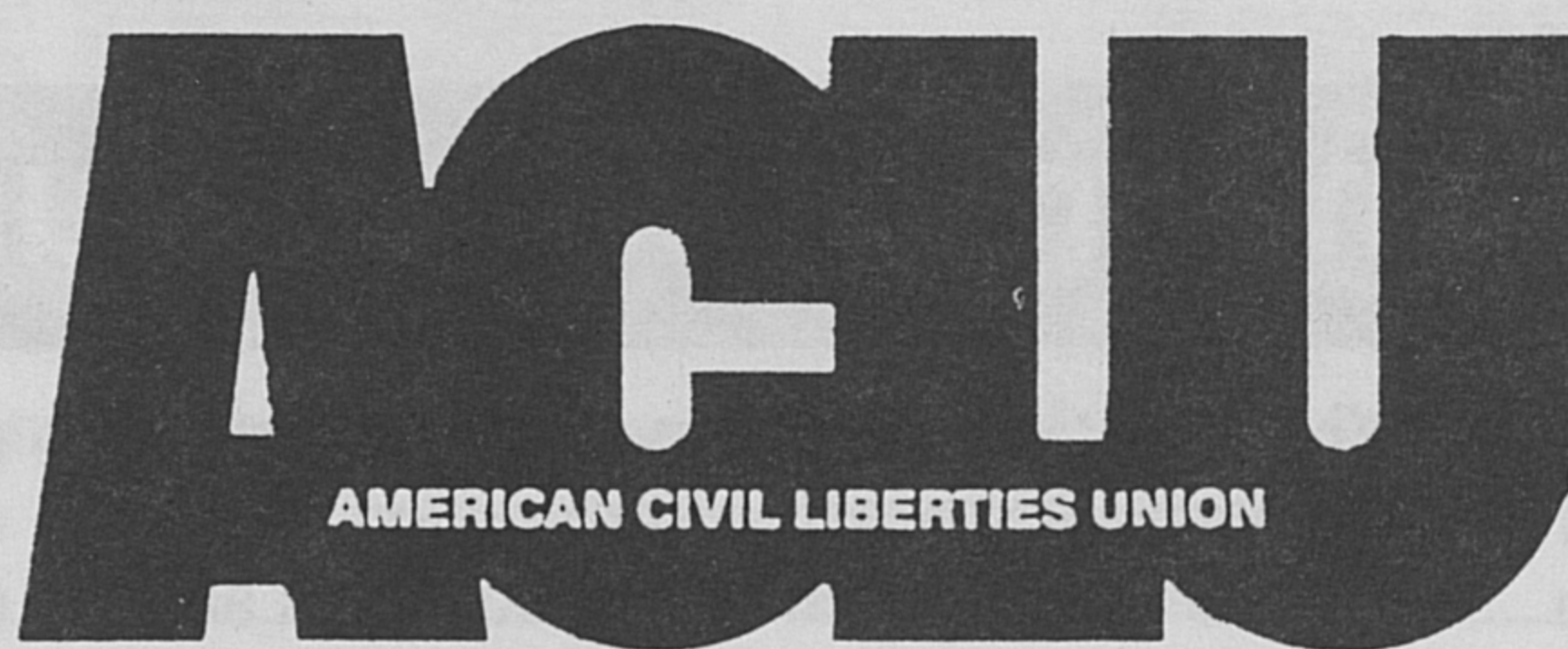
•Vermont has a long tradition of protecting equality. It constitutionally prohibited slavery before any other state. Our quest is no different from the battle against ignorance and bigotry that blacks fought the south.

•Remember: most people do not know that rights for lesbians and gay men are unprotected. Contact your senator (see the list of legislators in this issue.) Ask your friends, family, co-workers to call or write their senators. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper in support of the bill. Ask your church, labor, social, professional, or charitable group to join the growing list of Vermont organizations that support lesbian and gay civil rights.

•For a complete list of organizations that support lesbian and gay rights in Vermont and nationally, and for more fun facts to know and tell, send for a fact sheet. Mail to:

The Vermont Statewide Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men (The Coalition)
P.O. Box 1125
Montpelier, VT 05602

Support the Organization that Supports Your Freedom



I WANT TO SUPPORT THE ACLU.

- Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____
- I want to join. Credit my contribution towards membership:
- \$20 Individual \$30 Joint \$50 Contributing \$100 Patron

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send coupon and check to: ACLU, 43 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602