

Anderson Speaks at AIDS Forum from page 1

ter), he contends that the failure rate is primarily a result of improper use rather than faulty rubbers.

In the third program, attended by 130 people Michael Ferrell moderated a panel consisting of individuals with AIDS and their families and friends. "Living With AIDS: A Psychological, Social and Personal Perspective," reminded us that people must live with AIDS sometimes for years before they die from pneumonia or other diseases that the weakened immune system cannot battle.

The first speaker, Reverend Robert J. Hearn, a Baptist minister and father of three, was diagnosed with AIDS in September 1987. He encouraged those with AIDS not to be ashamed, not to feel like lepers and urged us all to be as supportive as possible. He said, "All of us live one day at a time. I want to use my time in a meaningful way—live to the fullest—live today as if it's the last day that I live."

Bob's daughter Lyndra Hearn then discussed what it feels like to love someone with AIDS. She began, "To those of you who are meeting my father for the first time he's simply a man with AIDS. But to me,

he's my dad, my one remaining parent; he's a special friend; he's a housemate—I love him very much, and I'm not ready for him to die." She credits Bernie Siegel's *Love, Medicine, and Miracles* for her present acceptance and peace.

Other speakers included: Pat Allen whose brother died of AIDS in 1984; Sonny, a person with AIDS, who appeared on the podium wearing a mask; Sonny's lover who was unable to attend.

The final two speakers were Steve Shepard, Chair of the Board of Directors of Vermont C.A.R.E.S., and Terje Anderson, Executive Director of Vermont C.A.R.E.S.

The fourth program in the "Action for Life" series concerned "The Legal, Political, and Social Response to AIDS." This presentation featured Sen. Sally Conrad of Chitt. Co. and Rep. Bennett Truman of Chitt. District 7-4. Sen. Conrad is co-sponsor of S-278, the anti-discrimination bill currently pending in the Senate. Rep. Truman is a co-sponsor and leading advocate of certain AIDS-related legislation in the House. Another speaker on the panel was Timothy Mazur, Legislative Director of the ACLU in Vermont.

The final two speakers in the series were attorneys Heather Wishik and David Curtis. Wishik serves on the Governor's Commission on Women, as a liaison to the governor from the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men, and as a cooperating attorney for Lambda Legal Defense. Wishik detailed the prejudices and discrimination experienced by those with AIDS or positive HIV tests, e.g., AIDS testing for immigrants. David Curtis, a private practitioner and former Vermont Defender General, expressed his feelings about the legal crisis surrounding AIDS as follows: "I'm just very angry. I'm angry because the legal, political, and social response to AIDS has been atrocious. I'm angry because even today not one single penny of the funds of the state of Vermont has been spent for the treatment, care, education, or anything else relative to AIDS. At the same time there is room for hope. It's a hopeful sign that there are people out there who have the courage, who have the commitment to human rights and individual rights to sponsor a bill like [S-278]."

The series was a comprehensive and informative program on AIDS in the State of Vermont. Let us hope that this program will help elicit a strong community response to a very difficult public problem.

JK JOAN KNIGHT Photography

- Families (Traditional and non-traditional)
- Couples
- Individuals
- Children

Williston
879-7810

creative approach

Black & White or Color

Partners in Recovery and Growth, Therapist

Erica Marks, B.A.S.A.C.

Substance Abuse, Sexuality, Parenting, Grief, Gestalt, Spirituality, Individuals, Couples, Families, Groups

Hearthstone Assoc.
182 Main St.
Burlington, VT 05401
Sliding fee scale° Phone: **865-2403**



M & S Construction

General Contractors


Remodeling ° No Job Too Small ° Free Estimates

Sally Fellows 862-4175 Mary Twitchell 878-3129

L & M Handywork

*Do you have a chore
Remodeling, sheetrocking, landscaping, or maybe more
No job too small - we'll do them all
Slatework, painting - in and out
just give us a shout*

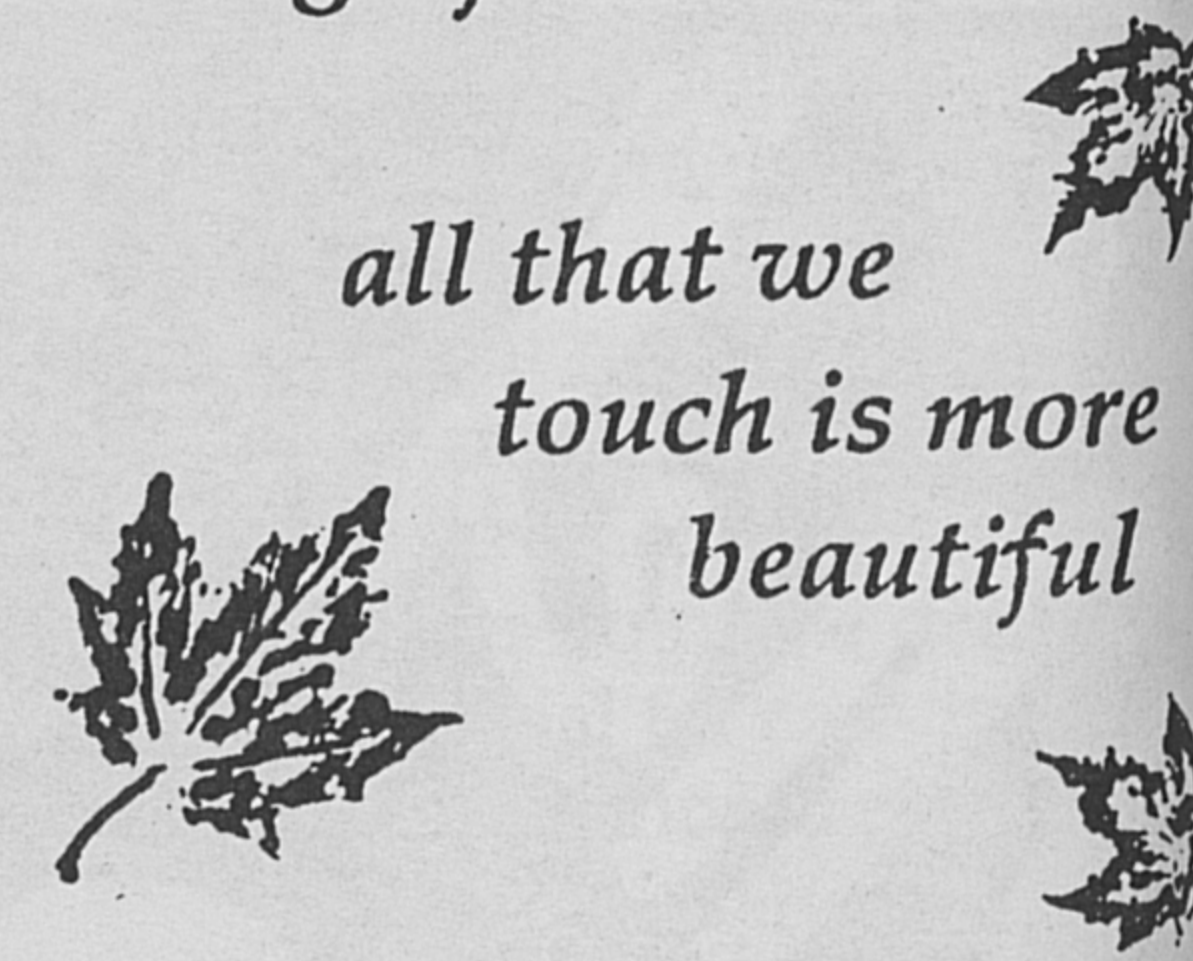
For all your repairs, we'll be there.



Call us at
879-4381

massage for women

*all that we
touch is more
beautiful*



Leah Wittenberg

864-6764