

Out in the Mountains

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

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Some Facts About Anti-Gay Violence

On November 27, 1978, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Harvey Milk, a gay activist and city Supervisor, were shot and killed by Dan White, another city Supervisor who was angered by the growing political strength of the gay community. The murders of Milk and Moscone are just two examples of the alarming rise in reports of violence against lesbian and gay people during the past decade.

In a 1984 study of nearly 2,100 gay people surveyed in eight U.S. cities, nearly one in four gay men (24% and nearly one in ten lesbians (9%) reported having been punched, hit, kicked or beaten at least once in their lives because of their sexual orientation. Forty-two percent were threatened with physical violence and 93% had experienced some type of victimization for the same reason.

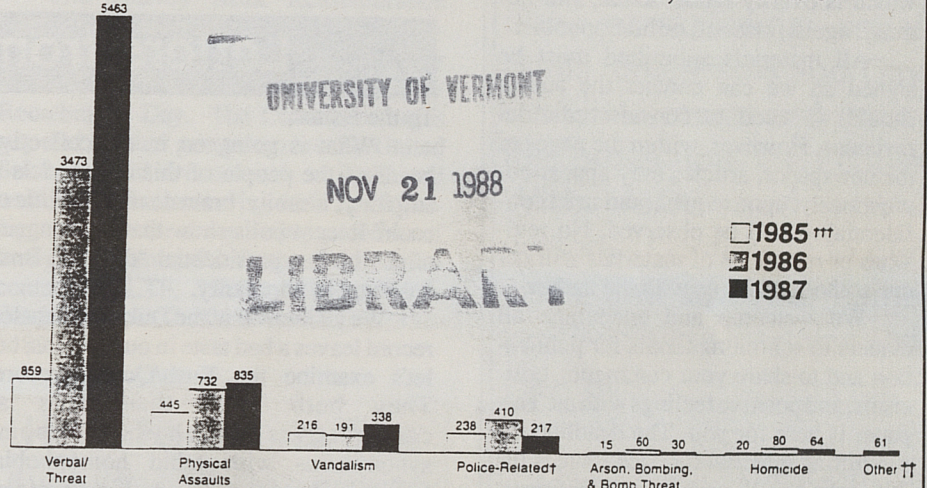
Episodes of harassment and violence reported by local groups to the NGLTF have risen dramatically in recent years. In 1987, 7008 incidents--ranging from harassment to homicide--were reported to NGLTF by local groups, as compared to 4946 incidents in 1986 and 2042 in 1985. These figures reflect only a small fraction of the actual number of incidents that occurred in the U.S. during these years.

According to a 1987 study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice of the response of the criminal justice system to bias crime, "The most frequent victims of hate violence today are blacks, Hispanics, Southeast Asians, Jews and gays and lesbians. Homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims." Anti-gay violence has also been acknowledged to be a serious problem by an ever greater number of leaders in law enforcement, religion, civil rights, and government.

As AIDS has spread, so has the fear

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REPORTED ANTI-GAY INCIDENTS: 1985, 1986 & 1987



† Includes police verbal and physical abuse, harassment, entrapment and negligence.
 †† Attempted arson, chased or followed, intimidation with weapons, smoke bombs, picketing, etc.
 ††† Also in 1985 there were 249 unclassified incidents



National March on Washington October 11, 1987. Pictorial Review inside.