

Out in the Mountains

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

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Pro-Gay Candidates Take HRCF \$

Now that the dust has settled on the recent election battles, one thing has become crystal clear about the 1988 congressional campaign: More candidates than ever took record-breaking contributions of gay and lesbian PAC money- powerful political greenbacks that helped most of them win their races.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest gay and lesbian political action committee (PAC) and lobbying organization, contributed more than \$400,000 in cash and in-kind gifts to Republican and Democrat candidates and progressive groups during the 1987-88 election cycle. That's 60 percent more than 1985-86 contributions.

But who takes gay money and why? And is it "politically risky" for candidates to take such contributions?

Political analysts believe the increased number of politicians willing to take gay money and support what some perceive as

controversial issues points to the progress gays and lesbians have made in mainstream American politics.

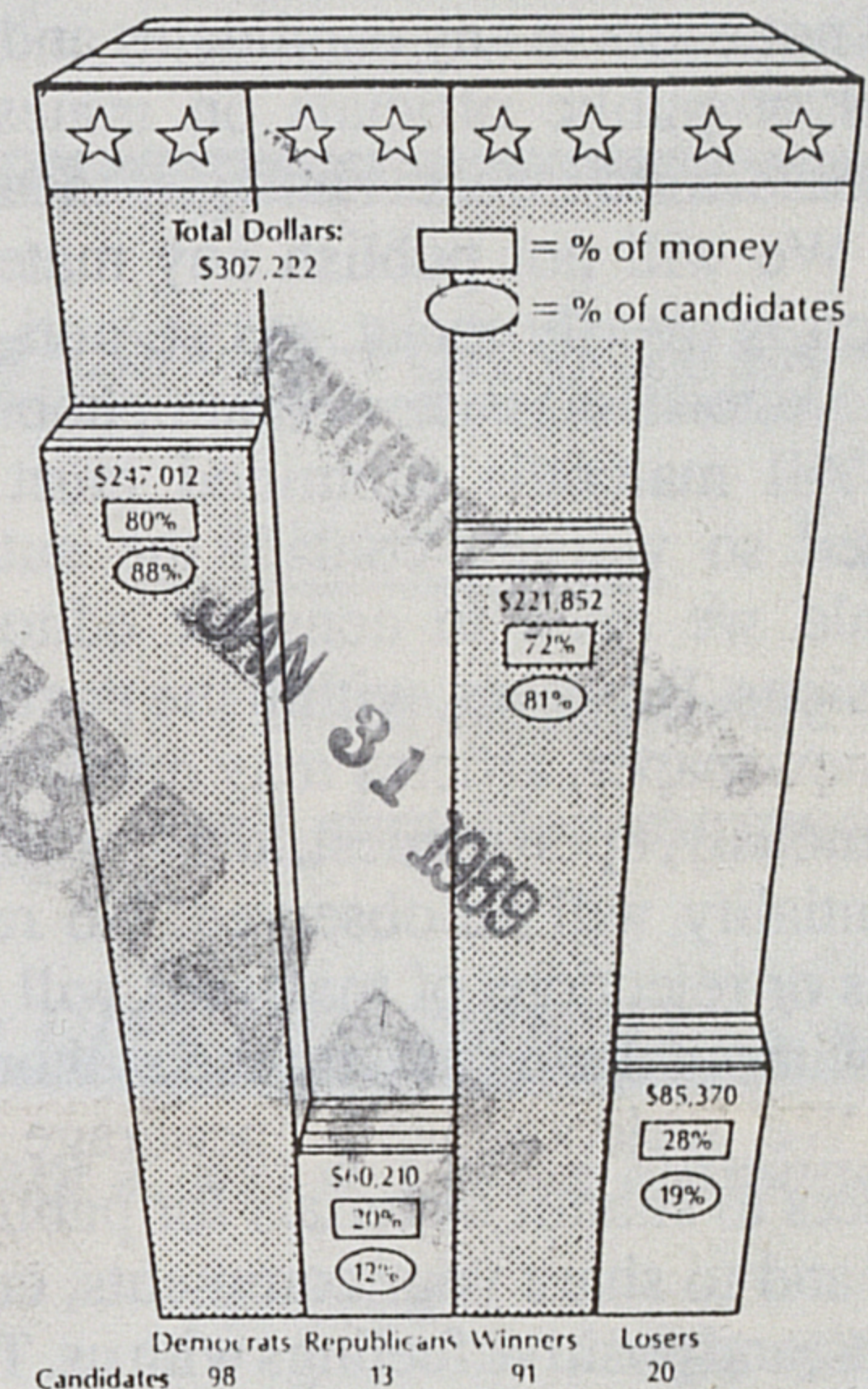
"In the past, some candidates considered it a liability to publicly stand up for us and take our money," said Vic Basile, HRCF executive director. "And some still do. But the fact that 81 percent of the candidates we supported won--some by landslide margins--is a sound argument that gay money is an enhancement, not a hindrance."

HRCF criteria for contributing to candidates include their voting records or positions on gay and lesbian issues, such as federal AIDS legislation, hate crimes, immigration, the gay and lesbian civil rights bill, and others.

Last spring, the Federal Elections Commission ranked HRCF the ninth largest independent PAC in the U.S. and the 24th largest PAC overall (out of more than
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Where the Gay & Lesbian Money Went

HRCF 1987-88 Political Contributions*



Happy Third Birthday OITM!

by A.L.

It's February 1989 and that means OITM is beginning our fourth year of publication and our third annual fundraising drive. As in any small business at this age, we are expanding rapidly and suffering growing pains. We have ambitious dreams and hopes for the future. Vermont may seem to be a small and rural state but there is much here to cover.

We would like to be able to print news from every group of lesbians and gay men meeting in Vermont, many of whom are doing some wonderful things. We would like to have done more analysis of the local elections from a gay and lesbian perspective (as at least one reader suggested). We'd like to see Out in the Mountains distributed to every rural corner of this state. Our dreams go on and on. When we step back and take an accounting of what these dozen or so volunteers manage to produce, it's wonderful but we'd like it to be more.

This past year we took some major steps to help make that happen, difficult steps. OITM began as a consensus organization, and with much struggle at times, we have remained largely true to that beginning. This year we divided ourselves into two groups, long-range and short-range planning.

After nearly six months of meetings, it is not clear whose task was easier or when either group's work will be done. Short-range planning means frequent crises in getting the paper out on time every month. The group faces constant challenges, the most obstinate being the lack of ready access to facilities for typing and layout. This means long hours and marathon weekend sessions for the brave group who bring you the finished product month after month.

The long range planning group wrote a grant to try to buy ourselves out of this predicament with desktop publishing computer equipment. This group put into writing why this paper is important to Vermont,

and why the equipment is essential to our long-term success. The Ben and Jerry's Foundation expressed their welcome support with a \$1000 donation, for which we are very grateful. Unfortunately we need over \$10,000 and plan to continue submitting applications to other foundations.

In the meantime, we come to you, our loyal readers. You know why it is important that OITM continue to print. You understand that we reach out to a Vermont community that is not served by any other paper. No other paper in the state will tell you how to do business with fellow gay and lesbian Vermonters. We need your help.

We would love to have additional reporters and photographers to call upon. Don't be intimidated by the titles. None of us are professional newspaper people. All of us have other jobs, and manage to find time to give to the paper.

We need you. Come to our meetings and brainstorm ideas for articles, help get
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