

HRCF \$ *from page 1*
 4,000). Rankings are based on the total amount raised by the PAC in the election cycle.

"A strong gay PAC is our calling card in Washington," said Basile. "There is power behind lesbian and gay money. It provides us with a tangible way of helping people who are our political allies and friends."

HRCF gave \$10,000 to key Republican Senator Lowell Weicker, long an advocate of AZT subsidies and other AIDS issues. Weicker's loss is considered irreplaceable to the gay and lesbian community and a serious blow to responsible AIDS legislation.

On the victorious side, many HRCF candidates trounced their opponents. Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA/4) and Gerry Studds (D-MA/10) both won their re-election bids by near landslides for the first and third times, respectively, as openly gay candidates.

Candidates aren't the only ones to receive contributions. HRCF gave more than \$33,000 to progressive groups, including the African American Political Fund, the Hollywood Women's Political Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the National Committee for an Effective Congress.

And then there's the enemy. Fighting notorious homophobe Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) took a big chunk of gay PAC money.

With an eye toward his 1990 Senate race, HRCF spent about \$66,000 in advertising and lobbying that helped overturn or weaken numerous "killer" amendments Helms tried to attach to federal AIDS legislation.

"There is no such thing as a free civil rights movement for the lesbian and gay community," said Robert Bray, HRCF communications director. "We've contributed close to half-a-million political dollars

to fight bigotry and advocate government AIDS action. We've had a few defeats, but the wheels have been greased by gay money for more critical victories on Capitol Hill."

From Vermont James Jeffords (R-Senate) received \$5,000 and Paul Pourier (D-House) received \$3,000.

Happy B-Day *from page 1*

new ads or chase down a last minute article. Maybe you'd like to learn desktop publishing (we'll train you) and work on layout. If you've got some time, we've got a job for you (did you ever wonder who licks all those stamps on the plain manilla envelopes?).

And another very important way you can help: February is the kick-off month for OITM's annual fundraising drive. Money helps get this paper out each month. Money buys the stamps, envelopes, computer disks. Money pays the printer and post office for our box. Please give what you can to help us continue improving. Thanks, you make all the effort worthwhile.

All donations can be made payable to OITM, Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402.

L/G Trivia

- Who was Michelangelo's longtime love?
- What is the Pride Institute?
- Where was the Valentine's Day kiss-in held (1988)?
- When was the term "homosexual" first used?

Answers on page 15

How to Advertise

If you would like to run an ad in OITM, please contact Ellen at 860-1922 for rates and information. Ads must be received by the 7th of the previous month to be included in the current month's issue. Copy can be mailed to: OITM, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05401..


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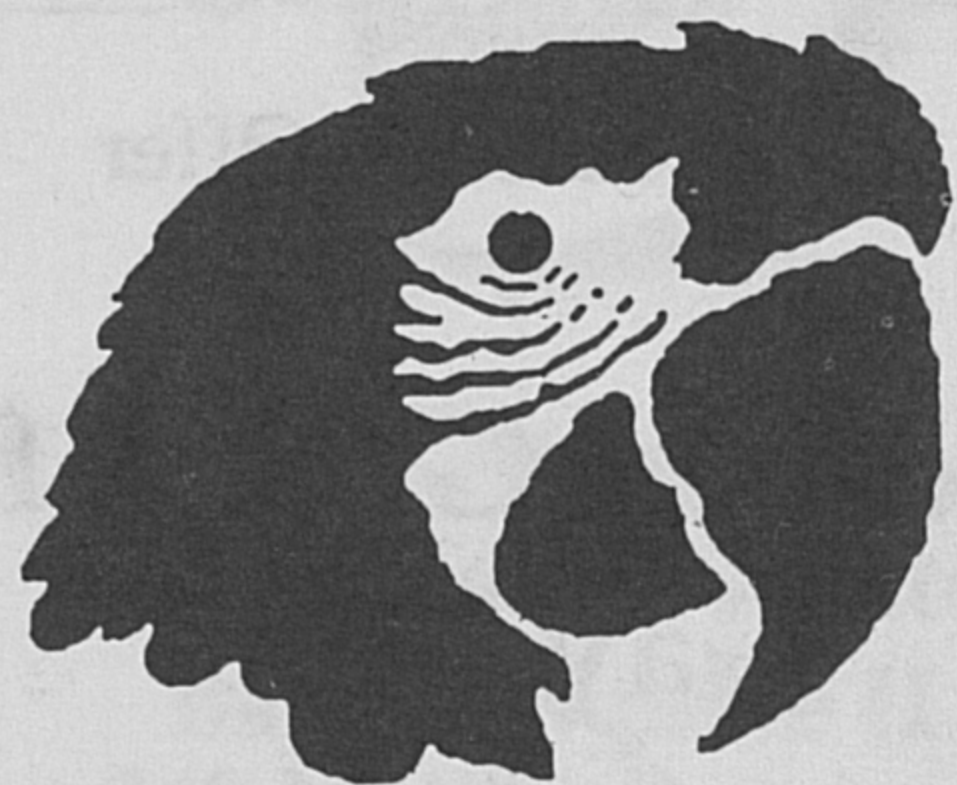
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