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How Not to Put Your Foot in Your Mouth

Here are a few words of wisdom from members of the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men on how to write letters to legislators and newspapers. For a complete rundown of tips, contact them directly.

1. Don't hesitate to take a strong position, but don't show your anger. While it may feel good to get your anger out, it is usually counter productive.
2. Don't threaten to oppose a legislator at election time although it is sometimes tempting.
3. Give praise when it is due.
4. Get directly to your point. Let your legislator know what you want them to do.
5. When writing to a newspaper, keep your letter brief.
6. Address only one issue per letter. Think of new reasons to write.
7. Try to know your legislator's history on this issue and other related issues.
8. Be willing to provide information your legislator would like. Follow up immediately to establish a good working relationship.

A Contest For You

Hey Hey Ho Ho
Along with homophobia
this chant has got to go!
Words and rhymes
you can send in.
You get it together
and you may win.

We want some new chants
to sing to the crowds.
Put on your thinking caps
and we'll sing it out loud.

Send your ideas to:
VT Coalition of Lesbian and Gay Men
Attn: Ronnie Bancroft
PO Box 1125
Montpelier, VT 05602

OOPS!!

OITM made a mistake last month (as usual)- In the Gay National News we reported GLAAD as the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. Actually GLAAD is the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Sorry to both organizations for the mixup!

To our subscribers- if you didn't receive a complete newspaper in February please let us know!

Natl News from page 5

Mayor George Moscone by former Supervisor Dan White. Britt was a close political associate and friend of Supervisor Milk.

President Britt was sworn into office by the Honorable Mary C. Morgan, a lesbian municipal court judge for the City and County of San Francisco.

In recent years, Britt has emerged as one of the strongest progressive voices in San Francisco politics. While effectively advocating the rights of gay people, he also has been a strong proponent of the rights and welfare of working people, seniors, women, minorities, and the disabled.

Kowalski, Thompson Allowed to Meet

On February 2, Karen Thompson made her first visit to Sharon Kowalski in more than three years, a visit that extended over a three-day period. In just that short span, Kowalski showed cognitive improvement from contact with her life partner, Thompson, who has been denied visitation by Kowalski's father since 1985.

After a four-year legal battle to get rehabilitative care for Kowalski, Thompson was able to convince the court to test her for competency last September. As a result, St. Louis County (MN) District Court Judge Robert V. Campbell issued an order on December 28, 1988, that Kowalski be transferred to Miller-Dawn Medical Center in Duluth for a period of rehabilitative care. The court order also stated that Sharon was to be allowed to visit with whomever she specifically and reliably requested to visit.

Thompson said that before her arrival, Dr. Dorothy Rappel, a psychologist working with Kowalski, had Kowalski why she thought Thompson had not visited her in so long. Kowalski's response was, "Too far?" She said that Dr. Rappel took the time to explain to Kowalski that Thompson had not been allowed to visit. She added that Kowalski "got tears in her eyes" when she saw Thompson for the first time, and that when visiting hours ended that evening, "Sharon wouldn't let go of my hand. She spelled right out on her alphabet board, 'I love you.'"

Thompson is optimistic that Kowalski will continue to receive the rehabilitative care she needs and eventually be able to move into an independent living situation. Donald Kowalski remains Sharon's guardian with all related powers, however, except those altered by the court.

For more info contact Caroline Foley, (310)251-0139.

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