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next year."

Peggy Luhrs, angry about the intolerance of the American Freedom Coalition and their campaign against us said, "I am tired of their God of vengence who sits on high watching people's genitals while blessing wars all over the world."

Arte Foster explained how when he asked Rep. Richard Smith (R-Danville), why he opposed the bill so vehemently he responded "because I do not support cocksuckers." FrankCutler stood up and shouted "I object to his use of that word," which drew more warnings from Davenport.

Howard Russell asked "is the removal of a special burden the same as granting special priviledge?"

Robin Hopps pointed out that discrimination, like pollution, is accepted as inevitable by society, but said "discrimination is pollution of the heart and mind," and warned us that we must eradicate it from our society.

Alice Blodgett, a septegenarian summed it up beautifully when she said, "What a dull world it would be if everybody had to be thesame... Love is the thing that matters and we all know it."

Two people who testified for the bill did an exceptional job of capturing the essence of what we are fighting for. Excerpts of their testimony follow.

Dr. Jean Silva: When I started my practice in Waltham, I had nothing to my hame but my school loans. The bank was willing to loan money, but without collateral, term life insurance was required. This was not unreasonable. The man from Connecticut General was very nice, very friendly, but the small print says, "No homosexuals need apply." No insurnace, no loan; no loan, no practice; no practice, no job. By this time, I was helping to support myparents.

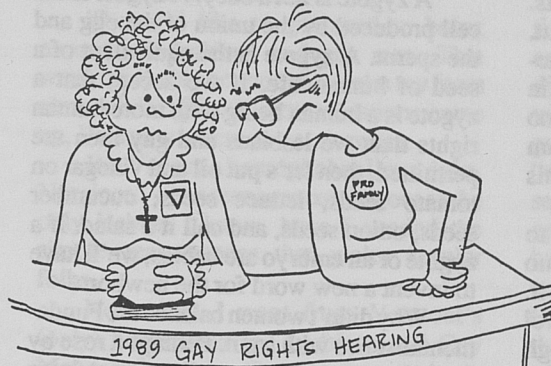
I lied. I denied a piece of myself that was no one's business but my own. I have been ashamed ever since. No matter what you decide about bill H211, I'm risking my job, my family and the fear of my neighbors. I'm risking the loss of my gay friends that now will be too afraid to be seen with me. But I'm no longer risking my self respect.

Peter Wagner of Lyndon: If enacted into law [this bill] will effect almost every area of my life. Without it, I am injured almost every day. Because, you see, I am a heterosexual.

Because I am a heterosexual, I am also the beneficiary of ill-gotten gains.

In Vermont there are, for example, a

limited number of housing units. Every time rental is denied on the basis of sexual orientation, my housing opportunities increase. (Continued on Page 15)



The scary thing is they don't always wear their buttons.



Amy Davenport-Committee Chair

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