

## Join The Fight

### Support The Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men

in their work to pass legislation guaranteeing equal rights to Lesbians and Gay men in Vermont and insuring protection for People With AIDS and HIV+ persons. Contribute to our cause and add your name to our mailing list. We need your help.

Yes, I want to be a part of making Vermont safer for Gays and Lesbians. Add my name to your mailing list

Accept my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ to help with expenses and general coalition building efforts.

See Address on VT Resources Page

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## How to Advertise

If you would like to run an ad in OITM, please contact Ellen at 860-1922 evenings for rates and information. Ads must be received by the 7th of the previous month to be included in the current months issue. Copy can be mailed to: OITM, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402..

## Gay National News

### Sexuality is "Normal and Good"

Society should acknowledge sexuality as normal rather than deny it as we have been doing for centuries, said Dr. Sylvia S. Hacker, Associate Professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, when addressing the 8th International Convention of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) recently.

While some other countries are trying to wipe out teenage pregnancy, she said, "in this country we are trying to wipe out teenage sexuality." Indeed, she noted, telling a turned-on teenager to "just say no" is "like telling a psychotic depressive to 'have a nice day'."

If we are to end misconceptions about sexuality, including homosexuality, Dr. Hacker said, we should acknowledge that sexuality is "normal and good," and that it is far more than intercourse.

The Federation of Parents FLAG was incorporated in 1982 and has as its main objective offering support to parents, families, and friends of gay men and lesbians, and educating its members and others about issues related to homosexuality.

For more information on Parents FLAG, contact Parents FLAG, PO Box 27605, Washington, D.C. 20038; (202) 638-4200. Readers who wish to receive materials should send a 45-cent stamped, self-addressed envelope and enclose \$1 for handling costs to Parents FLAG, PO Box 20308, Denver, CO 80220.

### NGLTF Calls for Implementation of New Military Report

"I Want You," the old Uncle Sam military recruiting slogan, may one day include gays and lesbians if a recently surfaced, pro-gay military report is any indication.

A new report ordered by the Department of Defense (DoD) concludes that the American military should reexamine its homophobic policy and consider ending

anti-gay and lesbian discrimination. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has called for the immediate implementation of the report to stem the rising tide of court martial and unfair discharges.

Citing changes in American society's acceptance of homosexuals, the report states the Government will most likely be forced to reexamine its anti-gay policies.

But the Pentagon has since rejected the report, calling it wasteful, flawed, offensive and exceeding its mandate.

### HHS Chief Sides With Dannemeyer on Gay Youth Suicide Report

Dr. Louis Sullivan, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has sided with the anti-gay forces of Rep. William Dannemeyer on the recently released HHS Youth Suicide Report, saying portions of the report dealing with gay youth run "contrary" to the aim of "advancing traditional family values."

The response from Sullivan stunned gay rights activists who say the study has been widely praised for its fair and factual analysis of the growing problem of youth suicide, especially gay and lesbian suicide.

The 110-page, pathfinding report analyzes and makes recommendations for stemming the increasing rate of teen suicides in the U.S. The study has a sizeable section on gay and lesbian suicide, reporting that "gay youth face a hostile and condemning environment, verbal and physical abuse, and rejection and isolation from families and peers."

"I am strongly committed to advancing traditional family values," says Sullivan. "Federal policies must be crafted with great care so as to strengthen rather than undermine the institution of the family. In my opinion, the views expressed in the paper run contrary to that aim."

In a sharply worded letter to Sullivan, and copied to major national media along with President Bush, National Gay and



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