

Out in the Mountains

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

OCT 5 1990

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR LESBIANS, GAY MEN, AND BISEXUALS

Volume V, Number 6

October 1990

Coming Out Celebration Planned

This year, gay, lesbian, and bisexual Vermonters will have two chances to take the next step in their coming out processes (or, for those who prefer a good challenge when the opportunity comes along, will have a chance to take the next two steps in their coming out processes).

National Coming Out Day occurs on Thursday, October 11, across the United States. Participation involves each and every one of us doing what we can to increase gay/lesbian/bisexual visibility in our society. That could mean anything from wearing the emblematic pink triangle, taking your loved one out to an overtly romantic dinner at a public restaurant, or proclaiming for your first time to anyone the powerful statement "I AM GAY!"

Let whatever you do for Coming Out Day strengthen your spirit and sense of self, and let those feelings carry over to the weekend, when a Celebration Event will occur in Montpelier to commemorate Coming Out Day 1990.

Sponsored by the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men, the Celebration will consist of a number of daytime workshops on relevant topics and conclude with what is sure to be a memorable concert in the evening.

Registration for the daytime workshops will begin at 9:00 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, October 13th. All workshops will be held at the Christ Church Episcopal on State Street in Montpelier. A sliding-scale fee of \$5 to \$10 is requested at the time of registration.

From 9:30-10:30 in the morning, workshops will be presented on "Spirituality and the Movement," "Coming Out to Your Family," and "Personal Safety." Following that, from 10:45-11:45, presentations will include "A History of the Lesbian and Gay Community" and a workshop on racism. The members of OUTRIGHT Vermont will also present a panel discussion focusing on youth-related topics.

Everyone is invited to share lunch with the Vermont C.A.R.E.S. Cabaret Players.

Members of the Rutland Area Task Force will be offering lunch at the church; a nominal fee will be charged.

The afternoon will start off by separating the men from the women as "Safe, Sexy, and Sane" workshops are held for each from 1:00 to 2:30. The middle of the afternoon features a discussion of "Homophobia," or, for the more musical-minded, a percussion workshop with Kwanzaa. Should the rhythm become too intoxicating, there will be a Waltzing workshop following that at 4:00, as well as a talk on legal issues affecting gay, lesbian, and bisexual people.

The workshops will conclude with a reading by Sarah Dreyer from 5:00-6:00.

At press time, some of these workshop were still being finalized, so be sure to check at registration for actual offerings. Also, a number of artisans will be present to display and sell their crafts. Any lesbian or gay artisan wishing to reserve table space

should call Claire at 229-0109. Arrangements can also be made with Claire to have an ASL interpreter present at the workshops; such arrangements should be made by October 5 by calling 1-800-545-3323.

To cap off the day, Montpelier City Hall Auditorium will be the site for Edwina Lee Tyler and A Piece of the World. The concert begins at 8:00 p.m., with tickets available for \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Advance sales are being handled by Chassman and Bem in Burlington, Bear Pond Books in Montpelier, and Everyone's Books in Brattleboro.

The Coming Out Day Celebration is being sponsored and assisted by a number of Vermont groups including the Mansfield Bucks, Vermont C.A.R.E.S., Women of the Woods, the Rutland Area Task Force, the Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church, OUTRIGHT Vermont, and Kwanzaa.

Russell Wins Primary

In an impressive finish, Howard Russell won the Democratic nomination for State Senate in the Chittenden Senate District. Russell, an openly gay man who has never before run for office, was one of six candidates nominated in the September 11th Democratic primary. He will now go on to compete in the November general election.

Among the candidates Russell defeated was conservative incumbent Tom Crowley, a veteran of over twenty years in the Senate and a consistently anti-choice, anti-gay Senator. Many political observers credited the Russell campaign with bringing out the voters necessary to defeat Crowley. Also losing was Peter Freyne, a former newspaper reporter who was fired as Governor Kunin's press secretary after making lewd comments to a female reporter.

Popular incumbents Sally Conrad and

Doug Racine ran first and second in the September voting. The remaining four winning candidates finished in a virtual tie, with fewer than 150 votes separating third from sixth place. Russell appears to have finished in fourth or fifth place (final, official totals were not available at press time), running even or ahead of such figures as former Burlington Democratic Chair Caryl Stewart, former House Democratic whip Althea Kroger, and former legislator and gubernatorial candidate Ed Granai.

"Running tied for third place, particularly in such a strong field of veteran politicians, bodes well for November," said Russell campaign manager Terje Anderson.

Russell was likewise buoyed by the results of the primary, saying that "it was a gratifying and encouraging win, the first step to victory in the general election."

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