

Preview

Beat Poet Allen Ginsberg to Speak

by Hugh Coyle

When I last saw Allen Ginsberg, he was sitting on a stool in the window stage of Passim's Coffeehouse in Boston with a squeezebox in his hands and wild poetry still dashing madly through his brain. Other members of the Beat generation joined him throughout the evening to offer lyrical visions of that bygone era, proving that to remember is both to revitalize and to prevent time from making a relic of oneself.

Vermonters will have the chance to witness Allen Ginsberg for themselves when he appears at the West Village Meetinghouse in West Brattleboro on Saturday evening, December 8, at 7:00 and 9:00.

Ginsberg is probably best known for his now classic poem "Howl," the publication of which led to the arrest of fellow Beat poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Ferlinghetti was charged with printing obscene material and was later acquitted following a highly controversial trial.

Ginsberg's highly personalized and volatile imagery set the standard for many of the writers of his generation. His continuing fascination with Eastern philosophy and meditation lends a mystical element to the harsh realities often set forth in his poetry. While some may find the stark honesty of his visions disturbing, others have commended him for the open intimi-

cacy of his expression, recognizing the battles he has waged to maintain that freedom.

Ginsberg, billed as a "world-renowned poet, literary scholar, political activist, arts advocate, co-founder of the so-called Beat Movement, Big Daddy of Boho Chic, and Famous Guy from the Sixties," is being brought to Vermont by Queen's Runs Concerts. Proceeds from the performance will benefit the Committee on Poetry, Inc.

Tickets are \$16.00 in advance (\$18.00 at the door) and available at Everyone's Books in Brattleboro, Toadstool Books in Keene and Peterborough NH, Beyond Words in Northampton MA, Folk in Hanover NH, or by calling the QRC Box office at (802) 254-5238. Student, youth, senior, and group discount rates are also available by calling (802) 257-7770.

G/L Alums Return to Middlebury

On November 4 five gay and lesbian graduates returned to Middlebury College to participate in a panel presentation entitled "Coming Back: Gay and Lesbian Alumni Return." The event was sponsored by numerous campus organizations, including the Alumni Office, the Center for Counseling and Human Relations, and the Middlebury Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance. A committee partially composed of gay and lesbian faculty and staff members did most of the organizational work.

The positive tone of the afternoon was set by Gary Margolis, Director of the Center of Counseling and Human Relations, who welcomed the panelists back as part of the Middlebury family. The two women and three men spanned the classes of 1973-1985.

None of the panelists was out publicly when he or she was a student at the College. In individual presentations, they spoke

movingly about the isolation they experienced as students, and about the satisfaction and fulfillment they've found in their lives since.

The panelists then answered questions from a friendly audience of about sixty faculty, staff, and students. The questions covered a broad range of topics including AIDS, advice for students in the process of coming out, job discrimination (none of the panelists had experienced it), political activism, and relationships.

This was the first time that Middlebury, whose anti-discrimination clause does not include sexual orientation, has officially acknowledged its gay and lesbian alumni. Panelists and audience members expressed the hope that the panel would spur the formation of a gay/lesbian alumni network to serve as a resource for gay and lesbian students and other alumni of Middlebury College.

Holiday Party Planned

There will be a holiday party for the gay and lesbian community on December 15th at the German Club, 20 Crowley Street, in Burlington. The festivities are scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m.

Virginia and the Wolves will be providing the entertainment for the evening, and there promises to be plenty of room on the dance floor for all. Door prizes and a cash bar will be available. Seasonal costume attire is also welcome.

Admission is on a sliding scale from \$8-\$12, with proceeds to benefit the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men as they once again venture into the legislature this coming year to introduce civil rights legislation.



ROBERT W. ZEUNER
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Member National
Lesbian and
Gay Law
Association

Bauer, Gravel and Watson
362 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
863-5538

**PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT
MAINTENANCE**

CARPENTRY
HOME SECURITY
INTERIOR PAINTING
MINOR HOUSEHOLD REPAIRS
WALL COVERING
YARD MAINTENANCE

ROY JOSEPH BAKER
AC802 863-3838

REASONABLE RATES
WE WELCOME SMALL JOBS