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UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

Out in the Mountains

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

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UVM Health Insurance Victory

Beth Mintz

We won! After a nearly three year struggle, the University of Vermont announced that it would not appeal a Vermont Labor Relations Board ruling that The University must grant health benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian employees. In what has been called a landmark ruling, the Board's decision demonstrates that nondiscrimination policies guarantee equal rights and equal access and that we can force institutions to comply. It also underscores our power as a movement and our effectiveness in instituting positive social change.

At this moment, benefits offices all over the state are evaluating the implications of the ruling for their employees. While the details have not yet been worked out, we are confident that the decision applies to many workplaces, especially for public employees in settings which have official nondiscrimination policies, including the Vermont State College system. The non-profit sector is also a likely place for implementation and Middlebury and St. Michael's Colleges are being mentioned specifically in this context.

On the eve of our victory, we would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement. Since the fight was a long one, our legal fees are quite high and we have much fundraising to do. We believe that this is an important win for all of us and we would very much appreciate your help.

Send contributions to:
One-in-Ten
c/o Esther Rothblum
Psychology, John Dewey
Hall, UVM, Burlington, Vt. 05405. ▼

Vermont Pride an Overwhelming Success

The tenth anniversary celebration of VT Pride expanded from one day to an entire week of activities, all a resounding success. Everywhere you looked there were events to attend, many of which were filled to capacity.

The Savoy Theater in Montpelier held a week long film festival which was sold out several times and was the best week in the Savoy's history.

A reading of by Vermont authors at Chassmen and Bem attracted over 65 people.

The Legal Documents Workshop on the morning of Pride had over 25 people in attendance.

Plays and concerts added to the week's attractions.

Then there was the rally and march in Burlington on June 26.

It was the biggest gathering of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals in the history of Vermont. Over a thousand people attended, with

the march itself stretching for four city blocks. Buses brought people from all over the state. It was a day of much celebration. Within the two weeks preceding Pride, lesbian and gay Vermonters had two major victories. On June 18th, the Vermont Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of the adoption by a lesbian of her partners' children. The following week, the University of Vermont decided to comply with the State Labor Relations Board ruling that it must provide health care benefits for the domestic partners of its employees.

At the pre-march rally in front of the Unitarian Church, speakers included Howdy Russell, Peggy Luhrs, and Peter Clavelle. Then the march wound around downtown Burlington, ending up at Battery Park From Vermont Lesbian and Gay Parents to Unitarian Universalists, from Radical Faeries to VT CARES, the diversity of the community was well represented. Floats, music, banners, costumes all added to the air of celebration. At Battery Park entertainment and vendors greeted the marchers. ▼

Supreme Court Approves Second Parent Adoption

On June 18, 1993 the Vermont Supreme Court set a national precedent by un-animously approving the second parent adoption by a lesbian. While second parent adoptions have been approved in several states around the country, including one case in Vermont, the issue has never before been decided at an appellate or supreme court level. OITM reporter Carol Hinchey interviewed the two parents a couple of weeks after the decision.

Carol Hinchey

In a two-story house with a screened porch shaded by trees live two small boys, their parents and a cat. A family car sits for sale out front, because the parents feel the need to replace the two-door vehicle with something with four doors. The 4 1/2 year old boy is discovering the power, wonder and confusion of being almost 5, so bedtime is not necessarily guaranteed. One of the parents has a new job that requires a bit of a commute. It doesn't sound newsworthy, and maybe that's just the point.

Jane Van Buren and Deborah Lashman met several years ago in Boston, and have been in a committed relationship since that time. Like many couples, they faced the challenges of job changes and consequent relocations. When Jane was offered a great

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