

Vermont Scouts

(continued from page 1)

1. Employee benefits for domestic partners;
2. Funding for a gay and lesbian studies course which had already been approved;
3. The ROTC program at Dartmouth and its conflict with the equal opportunity statement of the College;
4. United Way of the Upper Valley's funding of the Green Mountain Council.

The Coalition, an employee organization whose membership is not restricted to those who are gay, lesbian or bisexual, now has more than 100 active members, and has been successful in obtaining benefits for same sex domestic partners. (Unmarried heterosexual partners are not allowed benefits). There has been no commitment to date on the gay and lesbian studies course, and the ROTC situation on campus is unresolved. According to John Crane, there is a great deal of support from straight Dartmouth employees for the Coalition's concerns.

The Dartmouth College Coalition expressed its concerns regarding the funding of the Boy Scouts to the Upper Valley United Way, which formed an Equity Committee with Barbara Hill as chair. This committee worked through the winter and spring, and presented the United Way with three recommendations. The first was a recommendation to rewrite the organization's bylaws regarding discrimination with respect to employment, volunteer participation and provision of services. The next was to encourage all agencies to comply with the revised anti-discrimination policy in time for 1996 funding. (Applications for 1996 funding are due in February of 1995). After that time, funding for agencies not in compliance would be de-

termined by the United Way of Upper Valley's Board of Directors. The final recommendation of the committee was that a program of continuing education and dialogue between the community and United Way member agencies be established in order to move towards consensus on issues of inclusion.

On July 15, 1993 Upper Valley United Way approved its new anti-discrimination policy which now prohibits discrimination on the basis of veteran status, disability, and sexual orientation, (policy revisions) as well as age, gender, race, religion, or national origin (stated in the original policy).

In correspondence to the United Way of Upper Valley, Dartmouth College Coalition expressed its gratitude to the organization for its actions in revising the anti-discrimination policy. The Coalition also expressed its concern, however, regarding the possible ambiguity that may result from the wording of the policy, which "encourages" compliance from groups seeking funding. The Dartmouth group hopes that the intent is to mandate rather than encourage compliance with the revised anti-discrimination policy.


According to Upper Valley United Way president, Stephen Marion, "The intent and anticipation of this board is that if there is no change in the policy, practice, or relationship with the national (organization), they probably would not continue to receive funding." Funding for the Green Mountain Council is assured for 1994. Future funding is in question.

To express their appreciation to the Upper Valley United Way, Dartmouth College Coalition will encourage em-

ployees to give even more than ever to the organization. They will also encourage employees to "deselect" the Green Mountain Council as a recipient of their contribution. This option can be used by anyone who contributes to the United Way, whether Upper Valley or elsewhere.

Note: The United Way of Chittenden County, which also has an anti-discrimination policy, continues to fund local Boy Scout troops to the amount of \$25,000 this year. Executive Director, Gretchen Morse, in an interview with *OITM* in October of last year, said that while the "issue of the Boy Scouts is troublesome", her organization could not force anti-discrimination policies on member agencies receiving United Way funds. ▼

reative Design,
Training and
Support Services
for the Mac



BURLINGTON—502-863-1884
187 ST PAUL ST

Questions?

Call the
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth Info-Line
1 800-GLB-CHAT

Outright VT
Youth Group Meeting
Friday 7-9 pm

Stephanie Buck, M.A.
Psychotherapist

Elm Street Feminist Counseling
155 Elm Street • Montpelier, VT 05602 • 802 223-7173