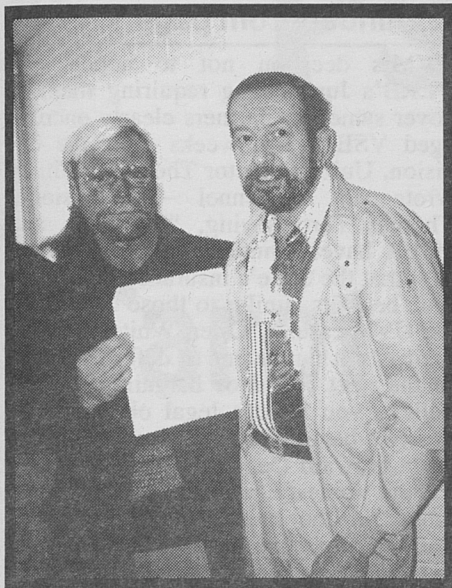


Just Notarized



(From left to right)
Bob Edkins and Ed Robichaud

photo by John C. Crane

agreed that no specific duration of partnership or evidence of certain financial ties would be required. College officials and coalition members worked together in a task force to help the college to broaden its definition of "family" to include same-sex domestic partners and their dependent children by July 1, 1993.

The college instituted this new policy with the intent that same-sex domestic partners be treated in a manner fully equitable to married spouses in all aspects of college life, to the fullest extent permitted by law. Benefits are extended also to the children of employees' domestic partners, including medical, dental, retirement benefits, library and locker privileges (to name a few.)

Extensive research was done by the subcommittee, and material from other institutions with which Dartmouth often compares itself was reviewed. Most institutions, with the exception of Middlebury, have declined to extend these benefits to heterosexual domestic partners saying that they did have the option of marriage, while same-sex partners did not. Dartmouth has followed this thinking and limited the benefits to same-sex domestic partners, though the Coalition urged that all domestic partners be covered.

Dartmouth College requires the signing of an "Affidavit of Domestic Partnership" to recognize a relationship. The signing may be notarized at the college Human Resources office or, to protect the confidentiality of employees, a notary public outside the college may be enlisted. Dartmouth does not require married partners to sign a similar form, rationalizing that a marriage license provides the necessary legal document. Some college employees signed the affidavit without needing the benefits, but wanted to have the document on file, to give added weight to beneficiary des-

ignations. One potential drawback to the Dartmouth Affidavit is the line which reads: ".....would marry or establish a legally recognized Domestic Partnership if it were available to us under the laws of the state in which the employee Domestic Partner resides." This may concern some gay, lesbian, and/or bisexual employees who take issue with the institutionalization of relationships.

Middlebury College extended benefits to their staff effective September 1 (November OITM) Effective January 1, 1994 Dartmouth College will join other institutions offering same-sex domestic partner benefits. Those institutions include Stanford, Columbia, Harvard, Yale, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Universities of Iowa, Chicago, Minnesota, and Vermont.

Folks left the party saying that the only oversight was bumper stickers for those who signed saying "Just Notarized!!"▼

Renee Risingsong and Fred Pond

The Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Concerns at Dartmouth celebrated their one year anniversary by sharing birthday cake decorated with pink triangles while several members signed and notarized their affidavits of domestic partnership.

The Coalition was formed in November of 1992 with one of several goals being to obtain benefits to domestic partners by the beginning of 1994. Almost as soon as this goal was articulated by the Coalition, the Dartmouth College administration quickly engaged in discussion on how to bring about this change. A Coalition Benefits Subcommittee provided the college with an acceptable definition and criteria for declaring a domestic partnership. Coalition members felt strongly that they did not want to be held to a more stringent standard than married couples-this would continue to be a form of discrimination. Employees are fortunate that the college



(From left to right)
Mickey Carter and Alison Ashe

photo by John C. Crane

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