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Out in the Mountains

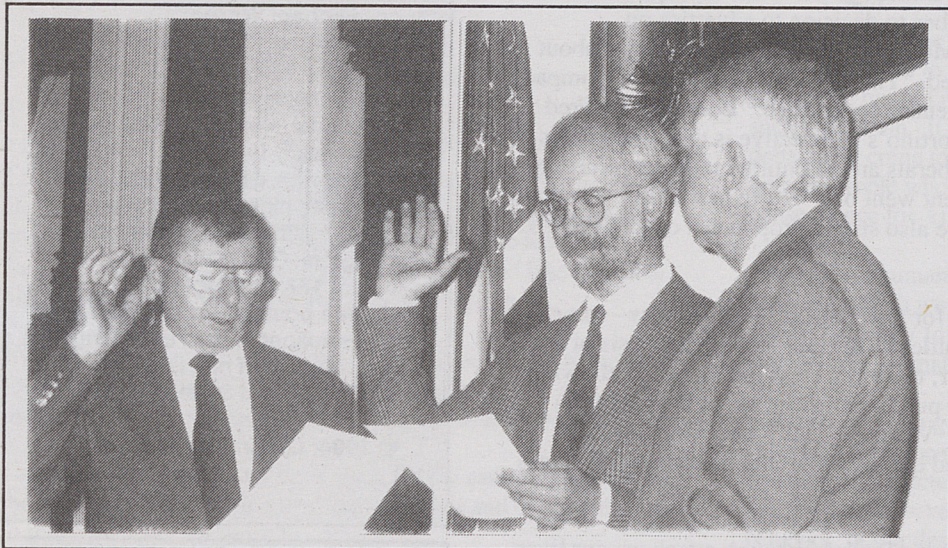
VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR LESBIANS, GAY MEN, AND BISEXUALS

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Dean Appoints Lippert to Vermont House

Anti-discrimination Bill Falls in NH



Left to Right Photo by Enrique Peredo
Donald Milne, Clerk of the House; William Lippert; Ralph Wright, Speaker of the House

Following the resignation of Chuck Ross (D-Hinesburg) on April 1 to work for Senator Leahy, Governor Howard Dean appointed William Lippert to fill the vacant seat.

On April 4th, Hinesburg Town Democratic Committee recommended three names to Governor Dean for consideration; Diane Gayner, Ed Feidner and Lippert. After interviewing all three, Dean appointed Lippert on April 11 to House Representative for District Chittenden-6 (Hinesburg).

Lippert, who moved to Vermont in 1972, has been a resident of Hinesburg since 1980. He has been a member of the Hinesburg Town Democratic Committee since 1985, and serves on the Chittenden Democratic Committee. Lippert was elected a Hinesburg Justice of the Peace from 1985-1988, actively serving on the Hinesburg Board of Civil Authority.

Since 1973, Lippert has been employed by the Counseling Service of Addison County,

Inc. in Bristol and Middlebury, where he has served as the Executive Director since 1985. He has served on the Board of Directors of Vermont CARES since 1989. Lippert is a member of the Vermont Council of Community Mental Health Services, and served as President from 1987-1989. He is a founding member of OutRight Vermont and of the Addison County Battered Women's Project. He currently serves on the Governor's Council on Mental retardation.

Most recently, Lippert was elected Co-Chair of the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men at the coalition conference last December.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Lippert received a BA in History from Earlham College in Indiana and an MA in Counseling Psychology in 1979 from Antioch University's New England School of Professional Psychology in Keene, NH.

Watch for OITM's interview with Representative Lippert in next month's issue.

Fred Pond JUN 14 1994

An anti-discrimination bill designed to add 'sexual orientation' to an existing law in New Hampshire failed to pass the Senate on Thursday, April 21. House Bill #1432 easily passed the House in February by 95 vote margin, and indications were that the liberal Senate would pass it also. But not this year--the Senate voted to kill the bill which would protect homosexuals in housing and employment. Supporters led an emotional but losing battle, failing to convince two undecided senators that current state law does not protect homosexuals from discrimination. The vote was close, 13-10, to reject the change. The two senators, Republican Richard Russman and Democrat Ann Bourque did not take a firm position on the bill, and supporters believed the two were in favor of the bill but worried it might hurt them politically. "I think it is already covered by law," said Russman after the vote, reflecting the view of the conservative Republican Governor Stephen Merrill.

Earlier in the week, Attorney General Jeffrey Howard said, "It is my view that the anti-discrimination statute can be used to reach conduct that in essence based on sexual orientation." But lawyers on both sides said the statutes apply only to acts of bias against someone because of their gender, not because of their sexual orientation. The Merrill administration continues to assert the current law covers sexual orientation discrimination--and a recent case involving a truck driver may test the Governor's promise to protect homosexuals from discrimination. The trucker filed a complaint March 3 after his application to be rehired was shredded in the presence of other employees.

Continued on page 11