

the Russian people as political pluralism. Unfortunately increased freedoms have come hand in hand with economic hardship, which seems to decrease tolerance of diversity. Even a group of liberal psychologists visiting Vermont was unwilling to support gay liberation: the argument is that they have more important things to

worry about. No one can confidently predict what may happen next, but the Soviet Union will certainly be a place to watch for the next few years. ▼

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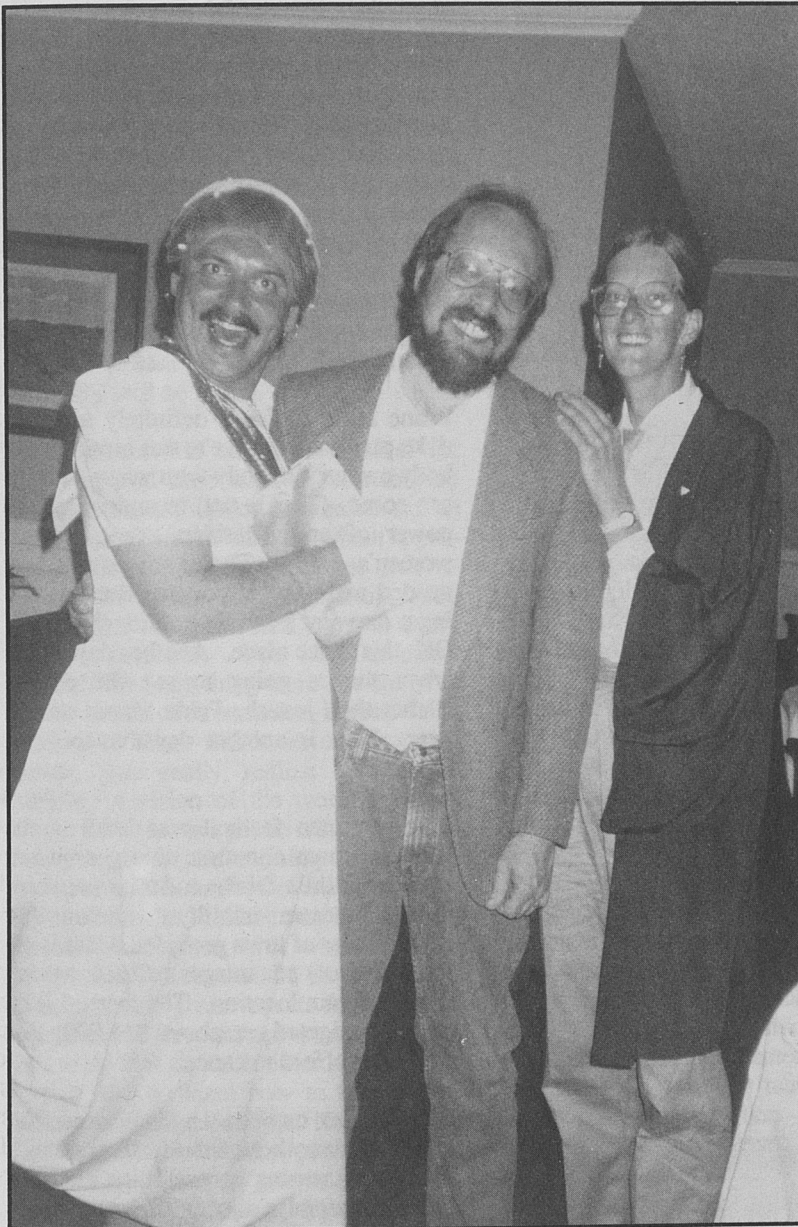


Photo by ACLU Staff

On June 22nd, the Vermont ACLU said good-bye to lobbyist Tim Mazur at a grand roast. Co-liasions Keith Goslant (l) and Holly Perdue (r), both dressed for the occasion, gave Tim an honary gay man's card and a t-shirt that said "No one believes I'm straight."

On Being a Lesbian Jew

Cheri Goldstein

In the Jewish community it is often difficult to come out as a lesbian or gay man. Even in the congregations that will "allow" us to be out we are still missing out on many of the blessings and rituals that are offered freely to our straight counterparts. It is okay to be there as long as we don't ask for too much.

In the gay and lesbian community it is often difficult to come out as a Jew. In a community that tries to be understanding of oppression and discrimination it seems that anti-semitism is one of the last to be noticed. At a recent gathering of lesbians and gay men I was taken aback by a woman who thought, "It was good that the treasurer was a Jew." Not long after that I heard two gay men talking about "jewing down" a car dealer.

We are all learning and growing and someday with enough education these types of racism and homophobia will stop. May it be soon and in our lifetime.

When I lived in Cleveland, Ohio I found a home at Cheivre Tikva (Children of Hope) a gay and lesbian synagogue. There I found a place where I could affirm all aspects of who I am - a lesbian Jew. Their friendship, support, and affirmation is part of what I miss most living in rural Vermont. I was never an extremely religious Jew-my Jewishness is more culturally based. It centers around my eyes, nose, and stomach.

There is a special peace I feel when I make holiday meals or light candles. I am taking pieces of the traditions that have stood in my family for generations and creating something of my own. Something that is lesbian/gay and Jewish within my family of choice. ▼

There now is a small group of gay/lesbian Jews and friends in Vermont who are gathering for special occasions. Erev Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year) is Sunday September 8th. We will once again gather to share tradition, culture and a meal. Anyone wishing to join us, call 229-0109 for details.