

Letters to the Editor

Politics or Not?

As a somewhat new resident of Vermont, (I've only been here since 1986), and having moved here from an area where the liaison to the governor was a job that was considered important and gay and lesbian people helped out, it appears to me that since the inception of our liaisons in 1984, we as a group have done nothing to help. To the contrary, we have undermined their efforts by doing nothing.

The time is coming this legislative year where we have a good chance of receiving our equal rights like everyone else. But it can never be done unless we all help. I don't think it is at all fair to expect our liaisons to the governor to do all the work. Don't we care anymore? Why have we become so complacent? Are we happy with the way things are? I know I'm not.

A letter was sent out to about 150 people pertaining to a very important meeting of the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men and asking for a response as to whether or not they were still needed. A total of 5 responses were received. The civil rights bill can't get passed without help.

If we are closeted or if we are out, we can all do **something**. I certainly hope that we as a community don't loose out because we didn't try or because we passed the buck. Let's work and do everything we can to pass **our** bill. Phone numbers for the liaisons are on the back page of this issue. Use them to find out what you can do to help.

Burke Burr
Waterbury ▼

Dear Friend,

America's lesbian and gay community has recently been dealt several defeats at the hands of the Federal government. Like you, I have watched in dismay and disgust as Congressman William Dannemeyer helped ban HIV-positive travelers and immigrants, as Jesse Helms championed mandatory testing of doctors and nurses, and as the Defense Department continued to harass gay men and lesbians in the military. We have taken a beating at the hands of homophobes in Congress and the White House, and its time to fight back.

Who defends us against this political gaybashing in the Capital? Who speaks for you in Washington? The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. NGLTF has served you well by lobbying congressmembers to sponsor the Federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill, collecting and publicizing statistics on anti-gay violence, and monitoring grassroots activists through their Creating Change conference.

As a longtime supporter and a recently elected board member of the Task Force, I strongly believe in the need to help the group that represents our interests to the nation. There are over 20 million gay Americans, and only one in one thousand is currently a member of the Task Force. I urge you to back NGLTF with as generous a contribution as you can possibly give (send to NGLTF, 1734 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-4309). I am so confident that the Task Force deserves our support that I pledge to match any contribution you make to the National Gay and Lesbian Task force dollar for dollar. Just write or call me and tell me

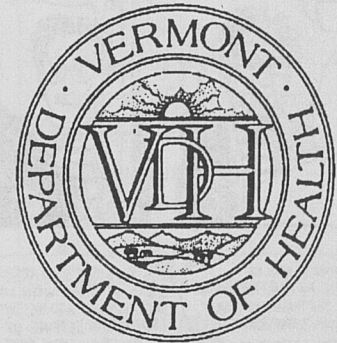
how much you have donated, and I will send a check for the same amount to the Task Force offices. I can be reached at the following address: Drew Siegel, 1420 Clayton Street, Apt. 203, San Francisco, CA, 94114, Tel: (415) 552-8382.

Don't let Helms and Dannemeyer bash us with impunity. Support the men and women who fight for your rights every day, and join the Task Force.

Warmly,

Drew Siegel ▼

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