Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Community Center

Courtney Fisher

On December 18, 1991, a group of interested individuals met for the first time to discuss the creation of a lesbian, gay and bi-sexual community center for the greater Burlington area. The group included members from the Mansfield Bucks, OITM, OUTRIGHT Vermont, V.G.S.A., VT. C.A.R.E.S., VT. Lesbian & Gay Parents, and VT. Gay Volleyball.

The goal of the Community Center would be to provide a safe physical environment where lesbian, gay and bi-sexual people and their friends could gather for networking and socializing. The Center would be a place where we, as individuals, organizations, and a community, could share resources and gain strength from working together. Over time, the Community Center could

provide, among other things: Office space for lesbian, gay, and bisexual organizations and groups;

A community bulletin board;

Meeting space with kitchen facilities for groups, boards, and community events:

A lending library and reading room;

A daycare center:

A retail shop; and,

A coffee shop for meeting and social-

The Community Center would be located in an attractive, well maintained building. Preferably, the building would be owned, not rented, and would be located in a safe, well lit, attractive neighborhood with plenty of parking. The Center would be accessible and a showplace of community pride, and would serve and be open to all members of our community including kids, high school and college students, the elderly, parents, and friends.

The meeting came to an end with an agreement to form a Community Center Committee and an open invitation to anyone with any interest to contact John Olson at 863-2437. The Committee will hold meetings every month to six weeks and is looking for more members from our diverse community. We need your ideas and your support! We will keep you posted and report our progress in future editions of OITM.

Kudos to the Free Press

The article on the front page of the Burlington Free Press Living section on December 28th (Living with Loss) by Molly Walsh was a pleasant suprise. What one might expect to be the standard postholiday article about straight couples breaking up included several paragraphs on the experience of a gay man.

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