

LBUR

Out in the Mountains

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Pride Day Celebrated ² 1992 in Montpelier LIBRARY

A crowd of 350 celebrated Vermont's 9th annual Pride Day June 6th, with a march through Montpelier, followed by a rally in City Hall and a dance that night. Unlike two years ago, when marchers had to contend with a torrential downpour, the rain stopped as marchers stepped off from the Statehouse. The atmosphere was upbeat and the reception from onlookers positive.

Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) was the lead speaker at the rally. Other speakers included Holly Perdue and Keith Goslant, Co-Chairs of the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men; John Olsen of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Community Center; Gene Barfield, Vermont Gay Veterans; and Howdy Russell, state Senate candidate from Chittenden County. ▼

Gays to Represent VT at Democratic National Convention

Gay people will have a highly visible role in Vermont's delegation to the 1992 Democratic Convention in New York. For the second time in a row, the delegation will be the only one in the country chaired by an openly gay person.

Democratic National Committeeman Terje Anderson of North Hero, a convention "superdelegate," was elected to lead the delegation, which is split three ways among Brown, Clinton, and uncommitted delegates. Anderson, who backs Jerry Brown, was supported by all three factions in a unanimous vote of the delegation. He attributed his selection to his "long history of working with all parts of the party, a reputation for fairness, and experience gained attending the last three national conventions."

Human Rights Campaign Fund Endorses Clinton

Deborah Lashman

On June 1st, the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HCRF) announced its endorsement of Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton for President of the U.S. This is the first time in its eleven year history that the organization has endorsed a presidential candidate. "Governor Clinton has made it clear that he will fight to end discrimination against lesbian and gay Americans and will push to secure funding for our health care concerns," said Laura Altschul, Co-Chair of the HRCF Board of Directors. Clinton was among the first candidates to answer a detailed questionnaire on lesbian and gay issues earlier this year. Among his responses, Clinton addressed the issues of military service, "Americans should have the right to serve...without regard to sexual or affectual orientation"; employment discrimination "It is imperative that the U.S. government work actively to end discrimination. (Discrimination) in federal hiring and contracting would be banned by executive order in my administration"; and mandatory HIV testing, "While testing and early detection

are a vital component in the fight against AIDS, I believe we must act vigilantly to protect the individual's right to privacy."

Clinton issued a statement on May 20th stating he will ask the Arkansas legislature to repeal the state's sodomy law. Arkansas' sodomy law, passed in 1977 when Clinton was state attorney general, outlaws sodomy only between persons of the same sex. The announcement came days after he delivered a widely publicized speech in Los Angeles before an overflow crowd of 600 lesbian and gay activists and his issuance of a new policy statement on AIDS. He also has expressed his support of Rep. Pat Schroeder's (D-Colo.) bill to repeal the Pentagon's ban on lesbians and gays in the military. In Los Angeles, Clinton praised the gay community for its work in AIDS and denounced discrimination saying "Every day that we discriminate, that we hate, that we refuse to avail ourselves of the potential of any group of Americans, we are all less than we ought to be." ▼

Openly gay state representative Ron Squires (Guilford) will also be part of the delegation as Vermont's member of the national Platform Committee. The situation is a reverse of 1988, when Squires was delegation chair and Anderson was Platform Committee member.

Vermont is the only state ever to elect an openly gay delegation chair, and has sent an openly gay Platform Committee member since 1984. (Squires in 1992, and Anderson in 1988 and 1984.)

"I think it is great that Ron and I are going again, and we can be proud of our high rate of openly gay representation," says Anderson, "but I hope we'll be able to broaden that and see some new faces as openly gay delegates to future conventions. I'd especially like to see more lesbians involved. Ron and I have proved that being gay won't stop anyone from being elected in the Vermont Democratic Party. Now we need more people to come into the system to take advantage of that."

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