

### Battles Have Been Won!

Support the Vermont  
Coalition of Lesbians and  
Gay Men

In their continuing efforts to maintain and ensure the legal protections won in 1992 for the members of the gay men's, lesbian, and bisexual communities.

Educational efforts bringing about lasting social change.

Add my name  
to your mailing list.

Accept my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ to help with expenses and general coalition building efforts.

Mail form and donations to:

Vermont Coalition of  
Lesbians and Gay Men  
PO Box 1125  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!**

## Defense Department Again Defends Policy: Schroeder Introduces New Legislation

As recently as May 8th, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney and General Colin Powell again defended their support of the military ban on lesbians and gays. Powell, the highest ranking African-American in the armed forces, called Rep Pat Schroeder's comparison of the policy regarding gays to earlier policies regarding blacks "invalid," and said he thinks the presence of gays in the military is "prejudicial to good order and discipline". Cheney retreated from earlier statements on the subject saying, "It is a policy I inherited from my predecessors and, having reviewed it with the Joint chiefs of Staff, we think it is appropriate to continue to maintain this additional requirement for military service. That is to say, that leads to the conclusion that a gay lifestyle is incompatible with military service."

In late May, Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) introduced a bill seeking to directly repeal the military ban. The Military Freedom Act of 1992 states that, "No member of the armed forces, or person seeking to become a member of the armed forces, may be discriminated against by the [military] on the basis of sexual orientation." Schroeder, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said, "Congress must take it upon itself to change the policy. We can be silent about this insidious discrimination no more. Silence is tantamount to complicity in the perpetuation of prejudice, discrimination, and fear." While chances for passage are slim, especially in an election year, introduction of the bill, which had 44 co-sponsors as of May 28th, increases the visibility of the issue. Schroeder may also attach similar language to the Department of Defense Budget authorization legislation. ▼

## Commentary One Courageous Pilot

Rob Roach

On May 21, Lieutenant Tracy Thorne, U.S. Navy, did the single most courageous thing I have ever seen a soldier do.

Tracy Thorne got tired of living a lie forced on him by an archaic, absurd law. Lieutenant Commander Thorne "came out," on national television, on the Nightline show, as a member of the armed forces who is gay. Mr. Thorne did this knowing that the result would be his expulsion from the Navy. That's the law. Anyone who is discovered to be homosexual is automatically expelled from the armed forces of the U.S.

Was he tired of the Navy? Did he just want out? Or was the issue bigger than that? Tracy Thorne made it clear that he loved the Navy, and wanted nothing more than to serve in it. However his beliefs made it impossible for him to continue to serve under the system as it now exists. These beliefs were more important to him than the many years he spent advancing his military career.

This, to me, shows incredible courage and belief in one's self. Lieutenant Thorne demonstrated this courage and self belief repeatedly during his naval career. I don't know his age, but he looks to be in his mid to late twenties. He has won several honors and awards, including the famed "Top Gun." He was at the top of his class, and always an exemplary pilot. The men who served under his command always respected and admired him. Tracy Thorne even "came out" to several of his fellow pilots over the past few years, and received their full support.

### Therapeutic Massage

**Pamela Gale**

Certified Massage Therapist



802-864-0903 Burlington, VT

Member VT Massage Guild  
Graduate Florida School of Massage

Gift Certificates/Sliding Fee Scale

### Howard Russell, M.A.

Individual, Couples, & Group Counseling  
Some insurance accepted - Sliding fee scale  
2 Church St., Burlington, VT 482-2335