

Out in the Mountains

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Car Vandalized

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Photo David Grist

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Morning After Bittersweet for Gay and Lesbian Voters

Deborah Lashman

It was a bittersweet victory celebration both in Vermont and around the nation for lesbian and gay voters and their supporters. Nationally, the Clinton sweep was a relief and a testimony to the Democratic party's efforts to return to the days of a more inclusive campaign. The Republican's efforts to use gay rights and "traditional family values" against the Democrats appeared to have resulted in a backlash, though the major determinant appears to have been the economy; cutting across all ethnic, social, and income levels, except for the wealthiest Americans. High voter turnout around the

country testified to voters desire for a change.

The defeat of Measure 9 in Oregon was also cause for celebration and a testimony to organizing and get out the vote efforts. While Oregon's harsh anti-gay measure was defeated 57% to 43%, opponents of Colorado's Initiative 2 were not successful. The initiative petition in Colorado, stating that there should be "no protected status" for lesbians and gays, passed by

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Civil Rights Victories Around the Country

Kentucky Sodomy Law

The Supreme Court of Kentucky overturned that state's anti-sodomy law on September 24, claiming that the law violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and a right to privacy guaranteed in the Kentucky state constitution. In a 4-3 decision the majority wrote, "Our guarantee that all persons are entitled to 'equal' treatment forbids a special act punishing the sexual preference of homosexuals." The justices noted that the Kentucky state constitution guarantees greater protection from privacy from government intrusion than the U.S. constitution and added that "The majority has no moral right to dictate how everyone else should live."

California Anti-Discrimination

On September 25, California became the seventh state to protect lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals from discrimination in public and private employment with the signing of AB-2601 by Governor Pete Wilson. The law takes effect on January 1, 1993. Last year Wilson vetoed a more comprehensive bill, AB-101, which would have provided protections in housing in addition to employment.

Salt Lake County Anti-Discrimination Law

On September 30, the first civil rights laws in the state of Utah to include sexual orientation were passed, prohibiting discrimination in the areas of employment and services in Salt Lake County. An August 1992 poll conducted by the *Salt Lake Tribune* showed 65% of Utahns agree that "Gays and lesbians should be protected by laws against housing and job discrimination." ▼