

Bittersweet Morning

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54% to 46%. In Tampa, Florida a measure to repeal gay rights passed by 59% to 41%.

Closer to home, the attempt to repeal Portland Maine's anti-discrimination ordinance was defeated by 57% to 43%.

In Vermont, gay rights supporters, Governor Howard Dean, Senator Patrick Leahy and Representative Bernie Sanders all easily won reelection. However Senator David Wolk, sponsor of the civil rights legislation and a strong supporter of gays and lesbians, was unsuccessful in his bid for Lieutenant Governor, losing to Barbara Snelling. Perhaps the biggest disappointment for gay Vermonters was the defeat of Howard "Howdy" Russell in his attempt to win a seat in Vermont's Senate. Russell ran in Chittenden County's hotly contested race, where the leading vote getters were three Republican women, headed by victim's rights advocate Susan Sweetser. Helen Reihle, a supporter of the civil rights bill, was among the three. Representative Ron Squires, top vote getter in every town in his district, was easily re-elected to his seat in the Vermont House, leaving him the only openly gay person in the legislature.

Other good news for Vermont gays and lesbians was the record win of Attorney General Jeffrey Amestoy, a strong advocate of both the Hate Crimes bill and the anti-discrimination bill. Dick Smith, who referred to "cocksuckers" during the debate on civil rights was defeated by Caleb Pitkin.

As *OITM* went to press on November 3rd, it was too early to know the results of all the races, however among the disappointments was the defeat of Mary Just Skinner, a supporter of gay rights, by Matt Krauss who voted against both hate crimes and gay rights; the defeat of Peter Youngbaer, a supporter on the appropriations committee by conservative David Hudson; and the reelection of Frances Howrigan, who referred to gays as "cornholers" during the civil rights debate. ▼

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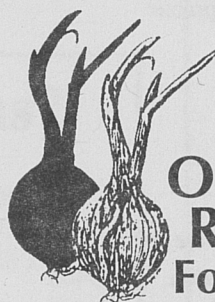
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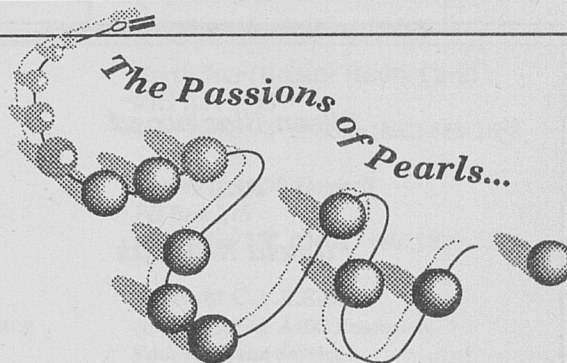
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