

Buy Gay

Paul Olsen

Shortly after the riots in Los Angeles, U.S. Representative Maxine Waters was interviewed on a national news program. In response to the helplessness and frustration expressed by a group of young African-Americans, Representative Waters recommended that rather than complain they should "use the power that they've got". Her advice to those young men and women reminded me of campaign mounted by some clever queers some years ago in Philadelphia.

"Buy Gay" was soon known by the lesbian and gay community throughout the city. The premise behind the campaign was simple: lesbians and gay men throughout Philadelphia would economically support allies by shopping at their stores, purchasing their services, and asking others to do the same. In thinking about how this idea might apply to residents of the Green Mountain State we needn't look any further than the most recent issue of *Out in The Mountains*. Patronize our advertisers! A quick glance through the paper lists a wide variety of services including auto/home insurance, pet care, real estate, therapy, legal representation, carpentry, and bookstores. Additionally, get your hair cut by a gay stylist

(sorry about perpetuating the stereotypes), ski in Vermont and cancel your reservations for Colorado, frequent the businesses that employ lesbians and gay men, and purchase the products of companies that provide domestic partner benefits (good news for fans of Ben & Jerry's).

To those lesbian and gay Vermonters who at times share the alienation expressed by some of the African-American youth of Los Angeles my advice is similar to that of Representative Waters. Use the power that you've got. Within the past year, victories have been achieved with the passage of Vermont's civil rights bill and the election of Bill Clinton, Howard Dean, Patrick Leahy, Bernie Sanders, and many other state and local advocates. Let's keep the pressure on at the grassroots level and buy gay! ▼

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Monthly

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Information



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1-800-882-AIDS

Health Resource Organizations

AIDS HOTLINES:

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New Hampshire	1-800-752-2437
New York State	1-800-541-2437
Massachusetts	1-617-522-4090
Maine	1-800-851-2437
National	1-800-342-2437
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AIDS Community Awareness Project (ACAP)

PO Box 608
St. Johnsbury VT 05819
(802) 748-1149

AIDS Community Resource Network (ACoRN)

PO Box 2057
Lebanon NH 03766
(603) 448-2220

Bennington Area AIDS Project

PO Box 1066
Bennington VT 05201
(802) 442-4481 or 1-800-845-2437

Brattleboro AIDS Project

67 Main Street
Brattleboro VT 05302
(802) 254-4444 (Helpline)
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Franklin-Grand Isle AIDS Task Force

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St. Albans VT 05478 • (802) 524-7742
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Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous

GLAA, P.O. Box 5653
Burlington, VT 05402

H.E.A.L. Vermont

(Holistic Education and
AIDS Alternatives Liaison)
PO Box 795
Montpelier VT 05602 • (802) 229-4325

Lesbian Cancer Support Group

(802) 660-8386

North Star (Holistic Health Care)

RR2 Box 3255
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Vermont AIDS Council

PO Box 275
Montpelier VT 05601 • (802) 229-2557

Vermont C.A.R.E.S.

(Committee for AIDS Resources,
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Burlington VT 05401
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1-800-649-2437 (Rutland and
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Vermont Department of Health

1-800-882-2437 (AIDS Hotline) or
(802) 863-7245 (AIDS Program office)

VT PWA Coalition

PO Box 1055
Brattleboro, VT 05502
1-800-69-VTPWA or (802) 257-9277

Vermont Women's Health Center

336 North Avenue
Burlington VT 05401 • (802) 863-1386