

Dykes To Watch Out For *By Alison Bechdel*

Partnership Benefits

Continued from page 1



tion. In Minneapolis last month, three city employees were awarded more than \$90,000 in damages when a civil rights panel ruled that by not providing health benefits to the employees' lesbian partners, the city was practicing discrimination.

This activity shows that employment benefits are a very important - and potentially successful - arena for fighting discrimination against gay men and lesbians. And while health care is the issue that is attracting the most attention, it should be mentioned that other workplace policies are as discriminatory and as devastating. In spite of the push for health care benefits at UVM, the university's recently drafted bereavement leave proposal excludes gay men and lesbians. Even in mourning, our relationships do not count.

The UVM health care issue will be settled in court. At present, we are waiting for a hearing date at the Vermont Labor Relations Board and we anticipate that the issue will then go to the Vermont Supreme Court. As the time drags on, our legal fees are increasing and so we have recently started fund-raising activities. This fight is important to all of us, not just those of us at UVM. It is time that we receive the respect that we deserve. ▼

To contribute to the fight for equal rights at UVM send contributions to : One in Ten, c/o Esther Rothblum, Psychology Dept, UVM, Burlington, VT 05405.



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