

VOICES FROM THE MOUNTAINS: Some of us are Republicans

Karen Ann Kerin

MONTPELIER -- To the Editor: Sir, you do my community and yours a great disservice with your posturing in politics. Many of us in the transgender community as well as in your community and the general population are not Democrats. A great many of us are REPUBLICANS, the party of Lincoln, the party that has most consistently advanced human rights. If you would have bothered to watch the Lincoln-Douglas debates re-enacted on C-SPAN, you would have known that Lincoln was opposed to the spread of slavery, while Douglas, a discredited Vermonter who emigrated to Illinois, was a pro-slavery advocate. Lincoln correctly pointed out that there was no dispositive grant in the U.S. Constitution authorizing slavery. Democrats like Douglas perpetuated that heinous and unconstitutional practice. You might note in those debates that Douglas was addressed as judge by Lincoln. That reason, of course, was that Douglas was a member of that judiciary of the times which clung to the very pseudo-Christian dogma against which you rail. If you will check your history, you will discover that the most telling advances in legal and legislative progress for minorities have been REPUBLICAN accomplishments. ...

Please do not deceive yourself about affirmative action legislation. It flat out doesn't work. It serves only effete elite. A good example is ENDA. I testified at the hearings in August, but only in writing because of the prejudicial actions of Senator (Edward) Kennedy's lackey in charge of the hearing, Mr. Iskowitz. ENDA was an ill conceived and star-crossed double cross, authored by Professor Chai Feldblum of Georgetown University School of Law. She admitted at the Lavender Law Conference to having specifically excluded the transgendered community because of her perverse political calculus taught at

the knee of Tim McFeeley of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and Ralph Neas, the quivering coordinator for ENDA.

We proposed to Senator (James) Jeffords that the term "sexual orientation" be replaced with "sexual or gender orientation". He agreed and there is a good chance that amendment will be incorporated into future versions of ENDA. That change of terminology extends protection to not only my community, but to all men and women as well. It shatters the glass ceiling for women, because promotion and job security would then be safe from the perfectly normal expression of gender orientation.

Still, ENDA is not the preferred way to go. There has been a long string of affirmative action that would not be needed if the Constitution were adhered to. A single law restating in explicit terms that no citizen should suffer discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations or health care would deprive the courts of the traditional use of the rebuttable presumption that has circumvented the Constitution almost from its inception.

As for your (editorial) in the January issue, please be advised that I wear a great deal of black to mourn the lack of good sense that seems to prevail in these mountains of my birth. Newt Gingrich is a refreshing change because he is dedicated to dismantling the evil socialist structure that has been built up in the nation since the days of the psychopathic Roosevelt administration that led us into world war and fifty years of cold war and nuclear confrontation afterward. Socialism and the practices of big government don't work. Seventy years of the greatest experiment in the former Soviet Union have left those people embroiled in civil wars, ethnic strife and poverty that will require generations to overcome. Get a life Fred! Docktor, governor, failed bureaucrat for life

(Howard) Dean was a monumental disappointment. His sole and only skill is at glad handling and baby kissing. I do not regard the legislature's actions as anything approaching adequate. It might make you feel good to be protected, but I have incongruous fundamental documentation (birth certificate) that does wonders for keeping me unemployed. Mine says "COURT AMENDED" at the top of it. It has a line drawn through my birth name and my new name typed in beside it. That is a public document and one needed as a certified copy for any responsible employment situations, for obtaining a marriage license or a visa for many of the Moslem countries as well as other countries. Does this remind you a little bit of ... ENDA? Is the fact pattern clear enough? It is a waste Susan Aranoff's time to liaise with Howie. ...

With regard to the lone Socialist Bernie (Sanders), I am disappointed how quickly you forgot that he swore when he won the first time, that he would not serve more than two terms. That among many other broken promises and outright lies should have kept him out of Congress. The single payer (health care) plan that you favor and Bernie likes is another piece of socialistic big brotherism. Bureaucrats can't run our lives as efficiently as we can. Grow up! I don't need or want a surrogate parent and most Americans don't either.

I don't know William Lippert, and accordingly will not comment other than to celebrate a win for diversity. God knows that sooner or later there is bound to be someone from your community elected without the blinders or the dogma of the bigoted Democratic Party.

How on earth can you count Senator Jeffords as a loss? He co-sponsored ENDA as you editorially pointed out at the end of Tim McFeeley's letter (Jan. 1995). The good Senator will be there for the next six years and it is downright stupid to insult him after he has supported your programs. You just don't get it do you? Human and civil rights are not a partisan issue. Quit making them a partisan issue so that all of us can enjoy our citizenship in this great country as the Constitution promises.

I am more that moderately astonished at your position with Barbara Snelling. I know Barbara personally and have a great deal of respect for her hard work. Unlike the "forward thinking" (not) Racine, Barbara works at the job. She doesn't spend a lot of time sucking up and I really don't care for politicians that do show up for an event they really don't support just to get votes. We have had too many of them in office and perhaps that is why the Congress is now REPUBLICAN instead of dumbocrat.

Thank God we have a more conservative legislature in Montpelier. Without the shenanigans of Ralph Wrong, perhaps some sane policy will emerge. Oh, by the way, there is no Vermont law preventing same sex marriage. All you have to do is get a license from a city or town clerk and find a priest, minister, rabbi or justice of the peace to perform the ceremony. Too bad you don't have a queer town clerk, eh!

I won't bother to tell you how I feel about the bigoted homicidal adulterer Kennedy. His record speaks for itself.

Just remember that human and civil rights are not a partisan issue and those who choose not to be a part of an inclusive solution are as much a part of the problem as those who are homophobic. Where do you stand?

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All readers are encouraged to take their turn at the editorial bat and let their voices be heard on the topic of their choice. Send articles/columns to Out In The Mountains, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402, or via the Internet at OutVermont@aol.com. ▼

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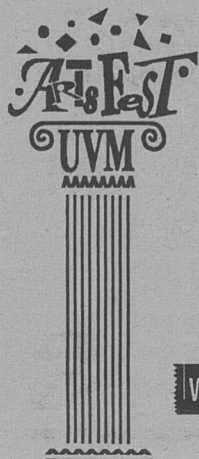


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