

View From The Gym: One player looks back on Vermont Gay Volleyball

David Barber

BURLINGTON -- Vermont Gay Volleyball (VGV) began way back in the summer of 1982. In the beginning, we played on a field which was part of Baldwin Acres Estates in Hinesburg. The grass was rough and our playing skills were even rougher. After a succession of volleyball and potluck supper gatherings, the inevitable happened -- winter arrived. Fortunately, we had made plans to move the operation indoors.

Years of playing followed. Players came and went, but legends were made -- the bullet style serving, the famous infuriating dinks, the unbelievable saves. Over the years, we had the usual number of broken fingers, sprained wrists, and bruised knees. But we also celebrated many birthdays complete with cake, shared brownies and cookies around the holidays, and exchanged news and gossip the whole year round. Many a match was made over the salad bar at Bob's Big Boy after the game. We sent contingents of players to compete against teams from Boston and New York City in regional tournaments and even sent a team to the Gay Games.

They say "all good things must come to an end". Summers were always difficult for VGV -- we lost players to the sunny weather and oppressive heat of the gymnasium. This past summer was no exception. When we tried to start playing again in the fall only a few of the die-hard, old-time crowd showed up. VGV's bank balance (always shaky to begin with) slipped into the red, so we could no longer afford to keep reserving and renting the gym. No one was to blame, but I don't mind saying that I miss Vermont Gay Volleyball. I don't even mind admitting that it became my weekly fix for exercise and socializing. I've played on other teams but it wasn't the same. VGV wasn't just fun, it was family.

Vermont Gay Volleyball is back and currently meeting Sundays through April 29 at 5:00 pm at Christ The King School in Burlington. The cost is \$4 per person. For more information, call (802)878-5406 or (802)865-7406. ▼

OUTSPOKEN:

OITM's Quote of the Month

"AIDS is a dirty trick, but it doesn't prove anything. It isn't there because sex is bad! Sex isn't bad! I think it's insane to attack AIDS as some sort of retribution for sexual behavior. Statistically, it makes no sense. And if that's what God is doing, then He's an idiot!"

Anne Rice, author of *The Vampire Chronicles*

Happy Birthday to you

Out in the Mountains

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR LESBIANS, GAY MEN, AND BISEXUALS

and thank you for 10 years of
news - information - entertainment - support
advocacy - leadership - commitment

Happy Birthday to us

Join Vermont Gay Social Alternatives (VGSA)
as we celebrate our fifth birthday Saturday, April 1



8:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist
Church, Burlington

Naked Brunch

Boston's only gay improv comedy troupe

Tickets: \$10 for VGSA members (available only through the mail)
\$12.50 for General Public (on sale March 1 at Peace & Justice Center)
and also available at the door



Vermont Gay Social Alternatives
P.O. Box 237, Burlington, VT 05402-0237



OCTOBER 11

National Coming Out Day

recognizes and honors

Out In The Mountains

for its achievements in 1994 to promote lesbian, gay and bisexual visibility.

By coming out, gay and lesbian people serve to inspire,
educate and inform gay and non-gay Americans by
presenting the true diversity of the gay community.

Wesley Combs

Wesley Combs, NCOD Project Director

Amanda Bearse

Amanda Bearse, 1994 NCOD spokesperson