

## “Your Brother Doesn’t Have to Be Speaker for You to Make a Difference in America.”



Candace is the lesbian sister of Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives

— Candace Gingrich,  
National Coming Out Project Spokesperson

Most people who know someone gay or lesbian are far more supportive of gay issues. Coming out shows the true diversity of the gay community. But, you don't have to be related to someone famous to take your next step. For more information about coming out, or upcoming National Coming Out Day events, please call 1-800-866-6263.

**Come Out. Get Involved. It Truly Makes a Difference.**

National Coming Out Project  
is an education and outreach program of the



## ON THE OTHER HAND: Yes Virginia, There Are Bisexual Vermonters

Kimberly A. Ward and Kirsten Isgro

**BURLINGTON** -- "To classify is not to understand and even less to comprehend ... nomenclatures are working tools (not suitable) for tasks more subtle than external arrangement." — Octavio Paz, Latin American poet, from *The Bow and the Lyre*

Perhaps in high school, you were the bookworm who wound your way through the halls from class to class with a book under your nose. You were the girl in the back row who fell madly in love with your best friend, but never told her. Maybe you even came close to telling her, but the fear stopped you. Besides, you had dated boys before -- falling head over heels for Tommy on the soccer team, or Robert in the band. So, sadly, you fell quickly into line, did the het thing for years, always wondering what it would have been like to kiss that friend in the dark on one of those tortuous sleepovers.

Or perhaps you were the opposite, outgoing and brave, so completely in love with a girlfriend, you had to tell her and years later, single, ensconced in a warm and loving family of lesbian/gay friends, you have the dreadful task of telling them you're in love with someone new, and his name is Matt. What will happen? Will you be branded a traitor? Kicked out of the circle of friends? This was something you went through already, when you came out in high school. Who could understand?

These experiences are far more common than either the straight or queer communities may be willing to admit. The fact is, human sexuality is a fluid thing (literally and figuratively). Individuals' attractions, behaviors and orientations are continually shifting and may not always fit into a neat category. As national bi activist Robyn Ochs states, even a sexual "orientation that may not be permanent is still valid for the period of time it is experienced."

Bisexuality can be defined as the potential to feel sexually attracted to and to engage in sensual or sexual relationships with people of more than one gender. This month begins the first of, hopefully, many articles to address the issues of bisexual and questioning Vermonters. We hope to not only address issues, but open a dialogue with the bi and gay/lesbian people throughout the state.

Over the past year, a network has been slowly growing in Vermont, a place where people can talk about the complexities of human sexuality. The Vermont Bisexual Network is a very informal collection of folks seeking to end our isolation as bisexual and questioning individuals. Last year in Montpelier, over 40 people from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, gathered for the first regional BiNet community meeting, from which the Vermont Bisexual Network emerged. Our second Annual Northeast Bisexual Community Meeting took place on May 6th in Putney.

The purpose of BiNet, the National Bisexual Network, which formed under a different name in 1990, is threefold: 1) to collect and distribute information regarding bisexuality and to facilitate the development of bisexual community and visibility; 2) to work for the equal rights and liberation of bisexuals and all oppressed people; and 3) to work to eradicate all forms of oppression inside and outside the bisexual community.

Comments and future articles for this column are welcomed and should be sent to the Vermont Bisexual Network at P.O. Box 8124, Burlington, VT 05402. ▼

**OITM wants to know your picks** for Best and Worst of Gay Vermont for its 1995 list. Where is the best place to take a same-sex date?, the worst place to meet lesbians?, the best place for shopping?, and the worst place to dine? Send your suggestions for these and other categories to Paul Olsen, c/o OITM, PO Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402 or via email at [OutVermont@aol.com](mailto:OutVermont@aol.com)



# Don't forget your rubbers.

You don't get it from toilet seats.  
You don't get it from coffee cups. You don't get it from desk tops in a school room.  
It doesn't fly through the air or swim around in hot tubs.  
You don't catch it from shaking

hands, kissing, sneezing, wrestling or dancing.  
According to the Surgeon General, your best protection against AIDS, barring abstinence, is use of a condom.  
For the facts about AIDS, call the Vermont AIDS Hotline.

**VERMONT AIDS HOTLINE: 1-800-882-AIDS**

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