

Out in the Mountains

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FREE

AIDS Memorial Quilt Comes to Saint Michael's College



(Photo courtesy of Saint Michael's College)
AIDS activist Jeanne White and her late son Ryan

Chris Tebbetts

COLCHESTER -- The largest exhibit of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt ever featured in Vermont will take place November 30 through December 2 at Saint Michael's College in Colchester. The display occurs in conjunction with World AIDS Day, annually observed on December 1. It is to be part of a week-long series of events, including an Interfaith Community Service on November 27 with an address by Jeanne White, AIDS activist and mother of the late Ryan White. All events are free and open to the public, with all donations gathered during the week benefitting Vermont CARES.

The Quilt exhibit is the product of over a year's effort coordinated by Project Remembrance, a combination of individuals and local businesses, formed at Saint Michael's. Working committees include Ceremonies, Education, Volunteerism, Media, Finance, Fundraising, and Merchandise. Assistance has also come from Fletcher Allen Health Care, the Vermont Junior Women's League, Vermont American Red Cross, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, Community Health Plan, the Vermont Department of Health, and Saint Michael's itself. The event is co-chaired by Father Michael Cronogue of Saint Michael's and by Don Duell of South Burlington. Mr. and Mrs. Duell, whose son died of AIDS in 1993, first brought the idea of a Quilt display to the college, and Project Remembrance was formed.

A total of 872 quilt panels, each measuring three feet by six feet, will be on view. They are featured in 12'x12' sections of eight panels each. While the dimensions are prescribed, the materials to be used are not. Panels are made by friends and loved ones, reflecting individual lives and stories, with such items as photographs, wedding rings, favorite clothing, teddy bears, and motorcycle jackets, in addition to the more

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Best and Worst of Gay Vermont 1995

Paul Olsen

COLCHESTER -- Submitted for your approval, here is *OITM's* annual look at the best and worst of lesbian and gay Vermont. Although not all the individuals and/or businesses listed are gay or gay owned, they just may represent the best or worst of lesbian and gay Vermont. "Best" individuals, organizations and/or businesses are judged on their level of support for Vermont's *g/l/b* community, the important services they offer, or by selling fabulous rayon outfits. "Worst" winners simply left no reading on the "Gaydar" meter. Thanks are extended to all the *OITM* readers who contributed suggestions for this year's playful list.

Social

Best gay bar:
Sorry folks, there are no gay bars in Vermont.

Best restaurant:
Loretta's in Essex Junction.

Worst restaurant:
Leunigs in Burlington -- with a coat of paint they increased the prices and eliminated Leunigs' European charm.

Best social event:
The Vermont CARES Annual Dinner -- a good cause and an even better time.

Best college for *g/l/b* students:
Bennington College.

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(*OITM* file photo)

Noel: Not much competition in the "Best Female Illusionist" category

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To Beijing and Back: Vermont Women at the NGO Conference



(Photo courtesy of Peggy Luhrs)
Vermonters Oak LoGalbo showing pride at the Great Wall of China

Miki Thomas

BEIJING/BURLINGTON -- The Fourth Non-Government Organization (NGO) Forum on Women, held from August 30 to September 4 in Beijing, China, began under a proverbial cloud of controversy. The jailing of Chinese-American human rights activist Harry Wu put Hillary Clinton's appearance at the UN conference in jeopardy while memories of the massacre at Tiananmen Square were still fresh in the minds of many in the world. However, nearly 25,000 women from around the world, both members of non-government organizations and UN delegates, gathered to voice their concerns about the effects of the global economy on women and violence against them. Between 30 and 40 women from Vermont attended the conference. Four members of the Vermont delegation, Peggy Luhrs, Oak LoGalbo, Kirsten Isgro, and Sharokin Betgevargiz, recently spoke about their experiences in Beijing.

The NGO conference had three main goals according to the Vermonters: to lobby the UN conference, network and share information with women around the world, and celebrate women's lives. Each day, the conference started with a plenary session featuring speakers on a particular topic which was then followed by workshops and cultural events held in different tents, including a lesbian tent, set up at the conference site. According to Luhrs, "There was more than you (could) do in three months." A typical day for her started at 6:30 in the morning and did not end until midnight.

OITM HISTORY: November Through The Years

1990 ... Protest in Barre Some people were content to go with the flow, stand in the lines, and be led along through the Barre Auditorium, where the Philip Morris Company began its national tour of the Bill of Rights. Members of ACT UP and the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men assembled outside to condemn the Philip Morris Company for its hypocritical presentation of the historical document.

1991 ... Assaults on Lesbians Latest in Series of Attacks Two incidents in late summer renewed concerns among lesbians and gays in the Burlington area about violence. The two attacks on lesbians raise a number of questions about the way in which such crimes are treated by the police and the local media.

1993 ... Middlebury College Grants Domestic Partner Benefits On September 1, Middlebury College joined a growing number of employers when it began extending to domestic partners the same benefit package, to the extent permitted by law, previously only available to married spouses. Tom Corbin, Acting Director of Human Resources, stated that this change in policy was the "right thing to do."