

## **Coalition Notes**

Spring has finally come to the Green Mountain State, and the Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VCLGR) intends to continue its busy pace now that the weather is warming.

During March, VCLGR sponsored three very successful talks by Elias Farajaje-Jones in Brattleboro, White River Junction, and Burlington. The Coalition also spent the legislative session monitoring the adoption debate to ensure that our hard-fought right to adopt our partners' children was not denied by legislative action. As of the date of this article, VCLGR was successful in ensuring that these rights were preserved.

VCLGR also worked closely with the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force as they prepared for the inevitable backlash that will occur when the Hawaii Supreme court legalizes same-gender marriages. For more information on the Task Force, call Beth at 388-6356 during the day.

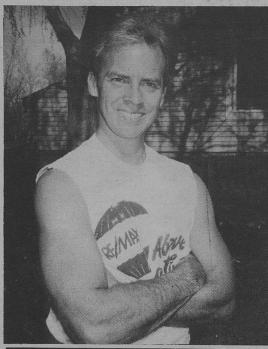
VCLGR has three priorities for the next few months. First, we will once again host our Annual Conference and "Town Meeting" in November. If anyone is interested in volunteering to work on this huge but fun project, please call Gabriel at 257-4871.

Our second priority is to conduct a survey of all candidates running for elective office in Vermont. We will ask their positions on a wide variety of issues of interest to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities, and report these results back to our members before the November elections so that we will be better informed about the various candidates' positions. Anyone wishing to work on this project should call Susan Aranoff at 229-6648 during the evening.

Finally, VCLGR is launching an ambitious effort to raise sufficient money to hire a lobbyist to represent us in the legislature beginning in 1997. Because things happen so quickly in the legislature, we can no longer simply rely on the energy and efforts of a few volunteers to represent our interests effectively in the State House. VCLGR has already hosted a few parties and fund-raisers in the Champlain Valley which have been very successful and a lot of fun. If anyone would like to host a party to raise money for a lobbyist, please contact Judith at 623-6131 nights.

In other VCLGR news, Susan Aranoff has agreed to act as Co-Chair until the next election. She replaces D. Dudley, who resigned earlier in the year. The Board is happy to have Susan's energies and commitment working for us again.

The VCLGR Board meets once a month at Gifford Memorial Hospital in Randolph. The meetings start at 9:30 a.m. The meetings are open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. VCLGR's meeting schedule is as follows: Sunday, June 2; Saturday, July 27; Sunday, August 11; Saturday, September 21; Sunday, October 6. V



## Celebrate Diversity

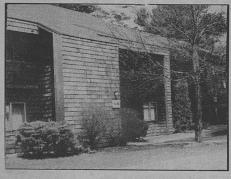
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