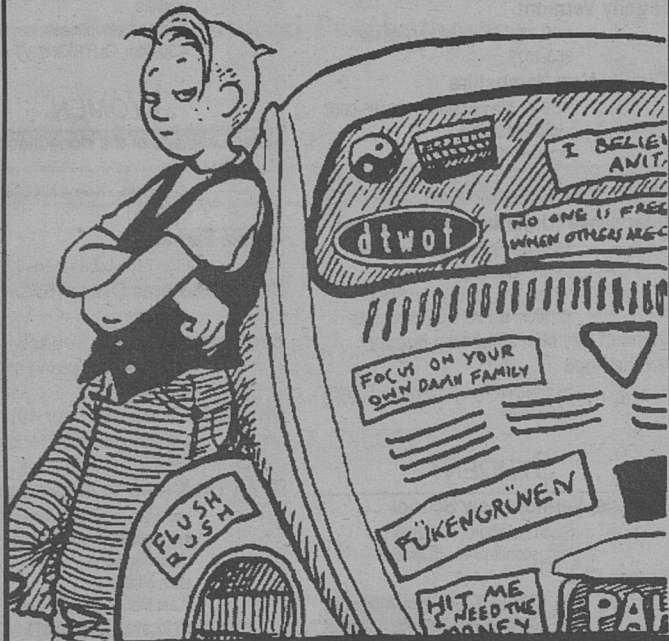


shopping

"I buy all my stuff
at the Peace & Justice Store,
where else?" -Lois, DTWOF



Peace & Justice Store
21 Church St., Burlington 863-8326 Open 7 Days

Open
7 days

CHASSMAN & BEM
BOOKSELLERS

Special
orders
welcome

We are proud to carry the area's
largest selection of gay, lesbian,
and bisexual books and magazines.

81 Church St., Burlington, VT
802-862-4332 1-800-NEW BOOK

Antiques, Collectibles, and Vermont Handcrafted Creations

McCleary Brook
Antiques and Gifts

Route 14 HC 65, Box 2320 Albany, Vermont 05820
One mile north of Albany village.

Open year round
Thursday-Sunday 10-6
Or by appointment or chance.

David and Louanne Nielsen
(802) 755-6344

★ phoenix rising ★
- spirited jewelry & gifts - ★

★ When your heart speaks,
take good notes. ★

104 main street, one flight up ★ montpelier 802.229.0522

LESBIAN BOOKS about VERMONT

Torrid Zone by Rebecca Béguin —About a back-to-the-land collective in Vermont. "More than mere mystery, however, it is a history of the last 20 years of the lesbian nation." Deborah Peifer

A Fire Is Burning: The Life and Writings of Michiyo Fukaya (she started Gay Pride in Vermont) edited by Gwen Shervington.

Orlando's Sleep: Autobiography of Gender by Jenn Spry —tells of his/her life in Vermont while changing gender.

Free catalog of over 75 great lesbian books
Call 1-800-326-5297 or email newvic@aol.com
New Victoria, PO Box 27, Norwich, VT 05055
Also available at your local independent bookstore

An Interview with Senator James Jeffords

(Ed. note. Due to some unforeseen error the introduction to the Jim Jeffords interview [OITM, July/August] was left out, along with Paul Olsen's name as the interviewer. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. As well as an apology to Mr Olsen. Below is the interview in its entirety.)

BY PAUL OLSEN

At first glance, Vermont Senator James Jeffords would appear to be an unlikely champion of gay rights in the United States Congress. His party's national platform "oppose(s) discrimination based on sex, race, age, creed, or national origin . . . [and] reject(s) the distortion of those laws to cover sexual preference." He often appears awkward discussing issues of concern to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered Americans. In 1996 he voted in favor of the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). A closer examination of his record, however, demonstrates his support for gay rights and confirms his reputation as a "maverick" in the U.S. Congress.

Jim Jeffords, 63, has served as Vermont's junior senator since 1989. Prior to his election to the Senate, Jeffords, an attorney, served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1975-1988, as Vermont's Attorney General from 1969-1973, and as a Rutland County State Senator from 1967-1968. Jeffords, a Republican, currently serves on the Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources Committees, and is Chair of the Labor and Human Resources Committee which has jurisdiction over the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA).

Jim Jeffords' votes on many issues often place him at odds with many Republicans (and conservative Democrats). Jeffords supported President Clinton in his attempt to lift the ban on gays serving in the military. "The time has come when we must make the transition to a military that does not discriminate against gay and lesbian Americans" Jeffords wrote in a 1993 letter to Clinton. In 1994 Jeffords became an original cosponsor of the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) which, if passed, would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation nationwide.

As a result of his favorable voting record, the Human Rights Campaign (a national gay lobbying group) gave Jeffords a 100% rating for the 101st Congress, a 91% rating for the 102nd Congress, a 100% rating for the 103rd Congress and, most recently, an 89% rating for the 104th Congress.

Jeffords has also been praised as the lead sponsor of ENDA. "It's enormously important to have a sponsor like

Jim Jeffords. He's in the majority and he's chair of the Labor and Human Resources Committee," said Human Rights Campaign Spokeswoman Kim Mills. "We definitely need bipartisan cooperation in order to get ENDA passed in Congress." Jeffords' support has not gone unrecognized by the gay community.

As a result of his work in the 104th Congress, the gay Log Cabin Republicans of Washington, D.C. awarded Jeffords its 1997 Walt Whitman Award. "He's a very reliable friend on gay rights and AIDS funding as well" Log Cabin Republican spokesman Kevin Ivers said.

"As more and more people came out, there's more and more alienation and evidence of discrimination which I thought was very unfair."

OITM: How do you view the prospects of ENDA passing in the 105th Congress?

Jeffords: It depends on what the scenario is when it comes up. Last time it came up in a way where there would be no filibuster. If we can get it up in a way there's no filibuster then it will pass in my judgment. Getting sixty votes could be quite difficult. The House is looking more optimistic and it could pass in the House too. The Senate is going to be the tough battleground.

OITM: What would the results of a Committee vote on ENDA be if it were held today?

Jeffords: I think it would pass out of Committee.

OITM: Do you plan to hold hearings on ENDA this session?

Jeffords: I haven't talked to Senator Kennedy. He and I work in concert on this and we haven't decided yet on hearings. I would expect we'll hold one but I'm not sure just when. We did it without a hearing last time . . . so the hearings not a necessity but it's always helpful.

OITM: In 1996 you voted in support of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). How did you come to support DOMA?

Jeffords: Because I think that's too much of a change in one time. I think it would be counter productive. I have to be candid. I don't know just what it means. When you get into all the legal ramifications

of a marriage that's traditional dealing with all the laws and common law that we have all those things, I don't know what happens.

OITM: You waited until the last minute to announce your DOMA vote. Was it a difficult vote for you?

Jeffords: Yeah, I had to think a lot about it. I think that anything a gay couple wants to do can be done by contract. Therefore the marriage is not as important as it might otherwise be except in areas where we don't know what it means.

OITM: Through 1,049 statutes the federal government provides marriage benefits, rights, and privileges. Do you think that gay and lesbian couples should be entitled to the same federal benefits provided to heterosexual couples?

Jeffords: I don't know the answer to that. That's a lot of benefits. I don't know whether it makes sense in all of them. I guess I don't know the answer to that.

OITM: Do you think that DOMA is anti gay?

Jeffords: I didn't consider it that. I considered it a statement that we really don't know what it does, we don't know how far it goes, or where it should go. I didn't consider it an anti gay bill.

OITM: Since the institution of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, there has been a 42% increase in discharges for homosexuality. What, if anything, do you think can be done about this?

Jeffords: The whole sexual deal in the military is such a mess right now. It's hard to say what can be done. You've got the same thing with sexual harassment with men against the women. The whole thing is a mess. So I don't know what can be done. I have to know how those cases came about. I'm troubled by it. I don't know what it means because the purpose of the law was to allow people to privately express their sexuality. It bothers me.

OITM: What do you believe should be the national strategy to combat AIDS?

Jeffords: The money we are spending trying to prevent it and to try to cure it is certainly the best way to end it. Education even more so. Enhancing people to have safe sex. All of those things. It's a troublesome one. Education on safe sex is probably the most effective way.

OITM: Legislation prohibiting sexual orientation-based discrimination has been proposed