

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

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Vermont AIDS Money Goes South

• Local agencies lose support to out of state fundraisers

BY BENNETT LAW

PROVINCETOWN, MA – Prayer ribbons adorned the ocean side of the Boat Slip, site of Provincetown's legendary tea dances, on Saturday morning, September 6th, for the 10th annual Swim for Life. This 1.4 mile (108 lengths of a pool) open water swim is a fundraiser benefiting six Provincetown agencies: Provincetown AIDS Support Group, PWA Coalition, Unitarian Universalist AIDS Ministry, Helping Our Women, Family Tree Project, and The Art Archives.

Over the years a number of Vermont swimmers have

participated in this event. The Swim for Life is popular with competitive swimmers, as it is sanctioned by the US Master's Swimmers Association, and participants can use their official time in this event to help them qualify for later swims. Most of them are more than happy to raise, or pay, the \$150 registration fee.

But some are exceptional fund-raisers, carrying literally thousands of dollars collected from their families, friends, neighbors, and business associates here in Vermont out of state. Susan Aranoff of Montpelier and Gracie Johnston of Benson raised over \$1,000 each for the 1996 Swim for Life, and Johnston collected over \$2,750 for the '97 Swim.

For the second consecutive year, Johnston's determination made her the third highest fund-raiser at the Provincetown Swim. Johnston tapped her connections in the local Rotary Club, and believes she reaches people who wouldn't otherwise contribute to AIDS causes. "Most of them are conservative white males, who wouldn't otherwise get hit up for things they consider



Zora, daughter of Shelley Smith and Meredith Tredeau, "walks" in Montpelier's AIDS Walk '97 to benefit Vermont CARES.

gay-related." Despite her obvious success, Johnston declared, "The swim is cold, but the hardest thing is raising the money." But the whopping \$2,765 that Johnston alone raised for the Provincetown charities this year is well over half of the \$4,800 raised in total by over 100 walkers in Rutland County's AIDS Walk '97, which benefited Vermont

CARES. When potential supporters hesitated to contribute money for distribution out-of-state, Johnston requested contributions in support of her participation in Rutland's AIDS Walk '97. She readily admits, though, that it has otherwise been hard to raise funds for the AIDS Walk, as support-

OUTSIDE AIDS BENEFITS, p9



Courtside Seats:

Lois Farnham and Holly Puterbaugh a conversation with Vermont's most famous plaintiffs

BY CHRIS TEBBETTS

On July 22, Stan Baker and Peter Harrigan, Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles, and Lois Farnham and Holly Puterbaugh, filed suit against the state of Vermont and their respective townships after being refused marriage licenses. This is the second of three *Out in the Mountains* interviews, profiling the couples involved.

Discussing their current lawsuit against the town of Milton and the state of Vermont for civil marriage rights, Holly Puterbaugh and Lois Farnham are at turns polished and spontaneous. They show the practiced response of plaintiffs who have been well briefed by their attorneys; and they also complete each other's sentences, laugh together and use each other's memory to search for answers to certain questions.

In the lawsuit, Farnham and Puterbaugh are the faces of long-term Vermonters, and the longevity of their relationship shows in the way they interact. They are also the oldest of the plaintiffs and at twenty five years, have been together the longest. They share a home in Milton, where they run their Red Shovel Christmas tree farm in addition their individual careers. Holly, protective of her family's privacy, says she is from "some-

MEET THE PLAINTIFFS, p14



Cheryl Elinsky (center) rests with father and partner after a successful crossings of the English Channel

Vermonters Crosses Channel

BY BENNETT LAW

BRATTLEBORO – In 1875, when a swimmer first crossed the English Channel, it was thought this amazing physical feat would never be repeated. This past July, Cheryl Elinsky of Brattleboro became the very first Vermonter to swim the English Channel, completing a 30 mile crossing of the cold waters separating Dover, England from Calais, France in 14

hours and 20 minutes.

And that's one long, COLD swim. In an attempt to preserve the purity of this incredible athletic achievement, Britain's Channel Swimming Association, founded in the 1950's to regulate attempted crossings, does not allow the use of wet suits. In participating in what Elinsky describes as "the only major athletic feat

ELINSKY, p19

Gay and Lesbian Employee Groups Formed at IBM

BY JAMES MONTSTREAM

In February of this year IBM announced that employees in the US may now form Diversity Network Groups. The purpose of these groups is to focus on networking, mentoring or coaching, and community outreach for a single diversity constituency. Since the program was first announced, 26 diversity network groups have been approved. These groups cross several geographies and represent a variety of IBM employee constituencies.

Among the groups that have been approved is EAGLE for IBM Employees. EAGLE stands for Employee Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Empowerment. EAGLE's mission is to support gay and lesbian employees by promoting a safe and open work environment.

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