

# letters

OITM, POB 177, Burlington, VT 05402-0177 or oitm@together.net

On March 25 at 6pm, the Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights Board will meet at the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington to plan the fall conference.

All who have ideas and want to be involved are welcome. Those who would like to be involved, but are busy planning Pride Day are encouraged to come to this first meeting. Future meetings to address more detailed plans will be held after June. For those of you who want to be involved, but are unable to attend, please call us at 888-825-4989 We look forward to seeing all interested and creative individuals.

Sincerely,  
Virginia Renfrew

I am writing in response to Gay America's relentless and fashionable disparagement of Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Let's start by putting into perspective his great historical achievements:

If Newt Gingrich had been run over by a truck in 1993, it is almost certain that there would not be a Republican majority in the House today. Few other congressional politicians have made such a difference in partisan history as Speaker Gingrich.

Since the Republicans won the 1994 election — with the help of almost 40 percent of the national gay vote — the Dow Jones has doubled, the welfare rolls have been cut by 25 percent, and crime has fallen by almost as much. The American people — gay and straight — are richer, less dependent, safer than they were before, and by margins almost no one anticipated.

I think it can be plausibly argued that the first two would not have happened if the Republicans had not won and held Congress — and the last would not have happened if

gay-friendly Rudolph Giuliani had not been elected Republican Mayor of New York City in 1993. The Republican Congress and the Greenspan Fed gave heart to investors, including the generally affluent gay community, while the GOP Congress and Giuliani's police department withdrew the sanctions other officeholders a generation ago gave to welfare dependency and criminal behavior.

So give Speaker Gingrich some credit. His professorial style may turn off many voters; his pugnacity may get him in needless trouble with the straight and gay press. Still, Gingrich reminds me of one of the leading figures in Churchill's *Life of Marlborough*, King William III.

Cool in his personal demeanor, William III was unloved in his country and his capital; he was an outsider who took over a great kingdom almost by accident; as King of England, he undertook responsibilities far beyond the capacity of any one man, and so his performance was often ragged.

Yet he made a difference; in his reign began annual Parliaments, representative government and international finance as we know it today; he held the line against then repressive Catholic France and preserved the liberties of his sullen subjects and rebellious allies. Gingrich, approaching his twentieth year in Congress, is a stranger in insider Washington and a disliked figure beyond the Beltway and in Gay America; has taken on the responsibilities of long-term strategist and short-term tactician without the institutional means or all the personal skills needed to fulfill them.

Like William III, he inspires little loyalty and may not be missed when he leaves. William III had to wait until Macaulay wrote, 150 years later, to be appreciated; perhaps gays today should give Mr. Gingrich some credit.

Matthew Veritas Tsien

To suggest an analogy...

Our society is deeply familiar with harms of violence. We have publicly acknowledged the violent parent and the violent spouse, have condemned abuse and have tried to teach ourselves not to use force as a vent for frustration.

In our increasingly dysfunctional international family, the New World Order of George Bush is taking on the alarming dimensions. Nowadays, the United States is "Dad." Not just any Dad; but a father with a short fuse, a shaky and reactive ego, and fits of extraordinary violence.

The United Nations, with more frequency in the last decade, is "Mom." And Mom really doesn't have Dad's respect. After Dad whups 12-year-old junior (for not turning out his pockets for the suspected switchblade) and has broken teeth/bones/skull, he may turn on Mom. The freshly ordered New World is no longer safe from (face it, folks) us. Good old Uncle Sam has a problem.

Quite a few people are unable to sleep at night for fear of what Mr. Clinton will do.

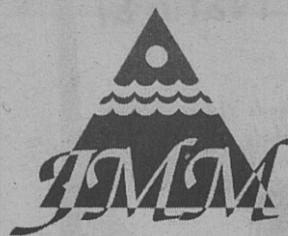
Here, in the United States, many fear Russia's participation. In Israel, anticipating a rapidly widening circle of conflict, families pick up tens of thousands of gas masks every day. Other fearful people live in nearby India and Iran and Jordan, often downwind from whatever we might unearth blowing up pieces of Iraq. Last time it was oil wells and nerve gas. This year, who knows.

No longer have we "nothing to fear but fear itself." Now we have Bully Bill.

Mr. Clinton loves following in the footsteps of his hero, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. He's had his brief flirtations with reform and liberalism, and now he's moving into the

LETTERS, P4

## financial services



Julie M. Miller  
Certified Public Accountant

Tax & Accounting Services

Browns Trace Building  
P.O. Box 910  
Richmond, VT 05477

802-434-6466 TEL  
802-434-6465 FAX

## Elizabeth Campbell

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

15 E. Washington St. Rutland, VT 05701  
(802) 773-4030 Elizabeth@sover.net

Serving the Vermont Community

## Serving the Financial Needs of Gay Men and Lesbians

Sound financial planning for:

- Investments
- Estate Planning
- Retirement
- Tax Management
- Risk Protection
- Domestic Partners



Call today for your complimentary consultation.  
American Express Financial Advisors Inc.

Financial  
Advisors

802.872.2775 Ext. 209

© 1997 American Express Financial Corporation

Personal Financial Advisors  
Chad M. Dubois  
Mark Bates  
Clara Charlebois

## legal services

### BETH ROBINSON LANGROCK SPERRY & WOOL

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
15 SOUTH PLEASANT STREET  
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT  
05753

Burlington Office:  
275 College Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05402  
802-864-0217

Area Code: 802  
Telephone: 388-6356  
FAX#: 388-6149

### BLACKWOOD

AND

KRAYNAK P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Eileen M. Blackwood  
Pamela Kraynak

- Employment law
  - Education law
  - Wills, Relationship Contracts
  - Commercial & Residential Real Estate
  - Small Business
- 131 Main Street  
P.O. Box 875  
Burlington, VT 05402  
(802) 863-2517

SUSAN M. MURRAY

LANGROCK SPERRY & WOOL  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
15 SOUTH PLEASANT STREET  
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT  
05753

BURLINGTON OFFICE:  
275 COLLEGE STREET  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05402  
802-864-0217

AREA CODE: 802  
TELEPHONE: 388-6356  
HOME PHONE: 877-3165  
FAX #: 388-6149

## Legendary Roy Hedrick On The Move — Has Listed Home With Bill Desautels

Burlington - You've heard him sing with the choir, you've been to his home for countless Rainbow Business Association meetings, you've even stuffed *Out In The Mountains* with him. Now this incredible southern gentleman is moving on. Being that Roy has become one of my most cherished friends, I'm hoping his house never sells. But, as his Realtor I must do

everything possible to sell it so that Roy's transition to his new home is a smooth one.

Offering four bedrooms, with vaulted ceilings, the master is complete with a romantic wood burning fireplace and a wall of windows for those sunny Vermont days. There's even another fireplace in the 23 foot long living room. What a great house for entertaining,

not to mention the private yard. Located on Prospect Parkway in Burlington, this home will surprise you at \$162,900.

**The Condo Guy**, Bill Desautels is at it again. He's selling homes and not just condos. Call Bill at RE/MAX North Professionals no matter what you plan to buy or sell. (802) 655-3333 X17 or (800) 639-4520 X17.