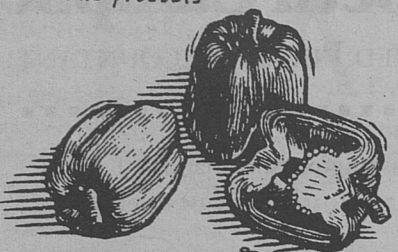


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Queer Studies in Vermont Colleges

continued from front page

some interesting questions that went beyond our genitals."

The queer theory panel at Goddard transpired outside of regular classes, which frequently include Queer Studies courses. A professor of Gender Studies, Shelley Vermilya offers a course in Gay History, occasionally facilitated by graduate student David Boyce. The actual curriculum is generated by both students and faculty; recent studies have dealt with the Harlem Renaissance, ex-patriots in Paris and the Holocaust. Texts consist of numerous articles from myriad sources and individual novels by writers such as Zora Neale Hurston and Gertrude Stein. In addition to actual history, classes often examine the literature, art and music of a period.

Bennington College is another which offers a course in Queer Studies. While no specific curriculum exists, students often create tutorials dealing with a wide array of queer-oriented issues. Occasionally, a regular study will be offered, such as Gay and Lesbian Cultural History; however, enrollment remains small.

As a result of their liberal stance on education, both Marlboro and Goddard allow students to focus on Queer Studies when pursuing a degree. Neither school uses the term 'major;' consequently, individual plans of study are initiated. At Goddard, a student must complete a 'Senior Study,' which often includes a lengthy paper resembling a Master's thesis as well as an oral presentation. Similarly at Marlboro, students conclude a two year 'Plan of Concentration,' dealing with at least two interdisciplinary subjects. The topic of Queer Studies could be dealt with in the form of a lengthy manuscript, exhibit, video,

QUEER, p6

Behind the scenes at T.I.P.

continued from front page

\$9,000 that it cost to stuff the flier in five of Vermont's daily newspapers came from somewhere. Craig Benson, however, will not say where the money came from. The right has learned from other battles the importance of hiding how its money is being funneled into local fights.

It also is clear that out-of-state interests have tried to help the Right as it organizes in Vermont. A meeting regarding opposition to same-sex marriage, organized by the Catholic church, was held Dec. 9, 1997 at the Bishop Brady Center in Burlington. The featured speakers were Father Mark Alexander from Honolulu and Dave Coolidge, who teaches at Catholic University. Among the Vermonters attending the meeting were TIP's Craig Benson.

According to a source who attended the meeting, Alexander focused on the similarities and differences between Vermont and Hawaii and drew the conclusion that both states were targeted by well-funded and well-organized "outsiders." "One of the co-counsel is from Boston," Coolidge said.

The focus of the discussion seemed to be on how to motivate the "silent majority" to write legislation if the Supreme Court should decide the case in favor of same-gender marriage. "Who gets to decide what marriage is?" is the question to be asked, speakers said. They also suggested: Shouldn't the people through their elected officials — not the court — have that right? The idea is to give people talking points so they can be articulate about their opposition to same-sex marriage and assure them that they are not bigots. People will be assured they have the

VCLGR COALITION NOTES

On April 15th approximately 35 people joined the Co-liaisons for Visibility Day at the Statehouse. The intent of Visibility Day is to provide members of the Legislative body with a greater awareness of the issues and concerns for VT's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities. Representatives attended from Outright VT, OITM, GLEARN, Youth Aware, GSAs, PFLAG, Freedom to Marry, in addition to Coalition members.

This year the primary focus was on youth issues. The day started with a legislative breakfast with members of the Judiciary, Health & Welfare & Education committees of both the House & Senate. Due to the push for adjournment and additional committee work, the attendance was less than anticipated. However, all members were left with information packets outlining issues faced by youth.

Legislators were struck by the youth risk survey results indicating LGBTQ youth experience a higher risk of suicide. Members in general were receptive to and support of the concept of a safe school model in VT schools. Next people were formally introduced to the House of Representatives by Bill Lippert, D, Hinesburg. Following this people were introduced to their individual representatives and encouraged to attend committee hearings.

An informal meeting was held with Gov. Dean in his ceremonial office at the Statehouse. He voiced strong support for youth issues and the safe school model. A tour of the Statehouse was given by David Schutz, Curator of the Statehouse. An information table was set up for the day with pamphlets from individual groups and candy to tempt legislators. The Coalition banner was hung above

the display and prompted at least one state employee to stop and thank us for our presence in the Statehouse.

Legislators were impressed by the information provided and welcomed the



Cabot High School's Gay/Straight Alliance enjoyed the sunshine outside the Statehouse on Visibility Day, April 15th. Palmer Legare, Ruth Blackwell, Steph Kilian, Neal Clark.

opportunity to speak with constituents. The Coalition would like to take this opportunity to thank Tammi Eldredge of Outright for her outreach to the youth groups, and to Dee & Anneke of Red Clover Cafe at the Statehouse for donating the food for the legislative breakfast and reception.

The Legislative Session: As this column is being written the Legislature is still in session. A complete review of new legislation will be provided in next month's Coalition Notes. Of interest, at this time an additional \$100,000 is still included in the State budget for direct services to people living with HIV and AIDS. When passed this will provide \$300,000 in funding to ASOs and \$300,000 for AMAP (AIDS Medical Assistance Program). Much credit goes not only to

Virginia and Gail, who had been hired as lobbyist by the AIDS Policy Committee, but also to members of the PWA Coalition who testified at public hearings and to Tim Palmer of VT CARES and Chuck Kletecha.

The Conference/Our Town Meeting The Coalition has begun organizing for this year's Our Town Meeting and Coalition Conference. The next

planning meeting is scheduled for May 20th beginning at 6:30 pm at the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington. We need your input and support to make this a successful conference. If you have time to devote for publicity, workshop organization or site planning, please contact Virginia (#496-4333) or leave a message via the Coalition toll free number #888-825-4989. Or if you have ideas for workshops you'd like to see, workshops you'd like to give or suggestions for a keynote speaker.

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence The Co-Liaisons continue to talk with the VT Network regarding services for our communities. If you are interested in participating in this process please contact Keith (#454-8552) or leave a message via the Coalition's toll free number #888-825-4989.

The Coalition Needs

You The Coalition needs people who are interesting in serving on its Board of Directors and as volunteers. Since 1986 the Coalition has provided a strong presence within the mainstream political structure advocating for the rights of LGBTQ Vermonters. However, to maintain this presence and continue our goal of equal rights for all Vermonters, we need your active support, your time & your energy. Please consider joining us in this work.



Tami Eldridge, Executive Director, Outright VT and Linsey Ketchel, Chair, Board of Directors Outright VT take it to the capital.