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VERMONT'S FORUM FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER ISSUES

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

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FREE

inside OITM

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College Campuses 'Spring' into Action

Queer Activists at Middlebury Demand Change, Respect

BY DD TAYLOR-GARCIA

Throughout this spring, queer student activists at Middlebury College have been gaining ground in the battle for a queer-friendly campus. When students returned from Spring Break on March 29, they were greeted with a flyer urging them to "Demand DKE for Dykes!" The flyer included a picture of DKE house, former home of the fraternity that was banned from campus when the Greek system became illegal in 1989. The flyer listed all

the reasons that GLBTQ students and their allies needed a living and learning center, including safe living space, the need for a home for the pursuit of gender studies and queer studies, and a center for cultural and educational events.

"There's this attitude that once a dialogue starts, it's time to stop activism."

On April 27, the Community Council approved the establishment of a Gender Studies "house" organization for the coming academic year, and the establishment of an actual physical structure for academic year 1999-2000. Their decision awaits final approval by College President John McCardell, Jr.

While members of the Middlebury Open Queer Alliance (MOQA) and other Gender & Queer

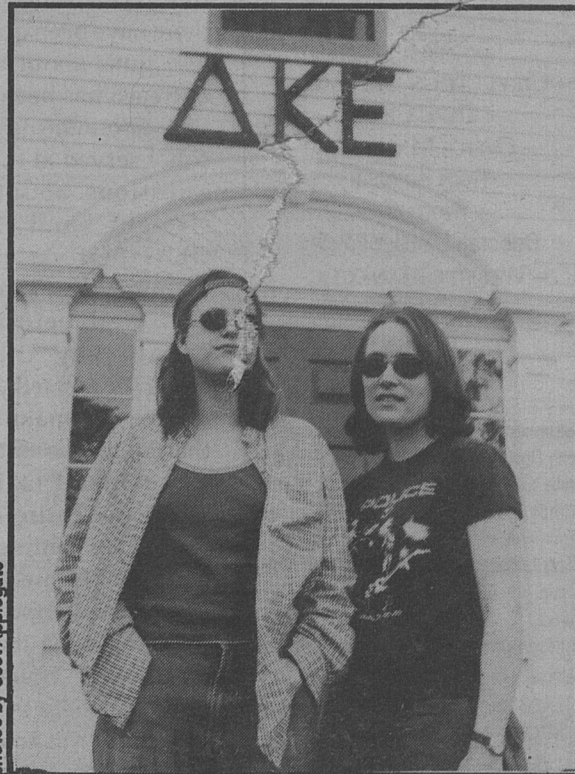
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NO TIME FOR TERM PAPERS

✓ Middlebury students protest the president's treatment of racism and homophobia on campus. Queer activists lobby for housing, staffing, and curriculum change.

✓ Goddard College cafeteria hosts a "queer" wedding amidst political strife.

✓ Dartmouth Rainbow Alliance demonstrates at Christian Coalition lecture.



photos by Scot Applegate



Above right: Sophomore Gwynn Guilford and Junior Stephanie Hunt led the "DKE for Dykes" campaign, which requested housing for queer students at Middlebury College.

Above: Middlebury College President John McCardell Jr. responds to student protesters who demanded that a Diversity Affairs Office be instated to advocate for minority students.

The Death of SAM

BY MICHAEL C. ALBERO

It was with great sadness that Ed Robichaud made the decision. Confronted by a lack of participation and seeing no real initiative on anyone's behalf to continue the group, he began to compose one final newsletter to all members and friends of the Upper Valley's Social Alternatives for Gay Men (SAM). At one time, the group served a vital function in Vermont as a support and social group for gay men, but times have changed. After eighteen years, SAM is closing its doors, leaving behind a legacy that will be cherished by many.

In August of 1981, Ed Robichaud arrived at Dartmouth College looking forward to the regular GLBT meeting, a rare opportunity to socialize with other gay men. As he glanced around the room, he noticed another man whom he had seen only recently at the last several meetings. During a break in the festivities, Robichaud approached the mysterious stranger, who introduced him-

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Disunity Among Goddard Students Relieved by "Queer" Wedding

BY MICHAEL C. ALBERO

This spring has been a particularly warm one for Vermont, but the temperature at Goddard College in Plainfield has been significantly hotter. With vicious rumors circulating about hidden agendas and a corrupt administration, a state of political upheaval has seized the school. At night, members of "rival" dorms have reeked havoc among the greater campus community, and a general feeling of disunity has settled amongst most of the student body. However, in what has become a very bleak semester for many, a rare ray of light was found on May 6th, 1998, in the marriage of two stu-

GODDARD, p5

Dartmouth Demonstrators Educate Campus About Gay Teen Suicide at Christian Coalition Lecture

BY JENNIFER DZURIA

On May 11, the steps in front of Dartmouth College's Cook Auditorium looked to be the site of a mass suicide. Queer students, protesting a speech being made inside by Ralph Reed, former executive director of the Christian Coalition, lay on the steps of Cook Auditorium dressed in black, with bloodied wrists. Posted near the students was a sign that read "30% of all teen suicides are by queer youth."

Though Reed's speech was sponsored by conservative student groups at Dartmouth, most of the crowd going into the speech was friendly towards the protesters. One protester wrapped herself in a giant rainbow flag and began to hand out rainbow stickers to the passers-by.

The protest was organized by Dartmouth Rainbow Alliance co-chair

Ezekiel Webber, a sophomore. About twelve students participated in the event, which was covered by a local television news station.

Although Ralph Reed has long been associated with the intolerance of the Christian right, his speech Monday, entitled "Values in Politics," was not itself particularly notable, recapping various incidents in American history, advocating school voucher programs, and offering some thin rhetoric against racism. Protester Peter Jacobsen commented "The protest was definitely a lot more interesting than this speech."

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