

PROGENY

Something and Something New...Business That Is

by Barbara Dozetos

• Parenting Groups and Resources

Happy Pride month, everyone.

I must admit that I've been rather blue this month. The almost total lack of response to my offer to publicize groups and meetings for queer parents had me feeling that my time would better spent otherwise. I whined briefly to our dear editor about this and he reminded me that unless I advocate drowning puppies, I'm not likely to hear much from my readers. So, onward I plod.

I now know of three fledgling parenting groups in the state. In the Springfield area, contact Donna at 885-6140 or Pam at 885-2368. She is very motivated and eager to hear from other parents and start making plans. Annie, in Montpelier, is hoping to start a parent's group with the intention of getting their children together soon. Call her at 223-3807 and offer your support and input. I'm going to attempt to get a group going in the extended Addison County area, so if you live nearby, call me at 388-8298.

There are three groups listed in the OITM source directory. The Gay Fathers Sup-

port Group can be reached at 879-7883. Contact the Vermont Lesbian and Gay Parents group at 860-1922. Also, there is the Friends in Adoption group, 235-2373.

If you are looking for on-line resources and conversation, I invite you to check out the PlanetOut (<http://www.planetout.com>) message board "Progeny." If you need assistance locating or subscribing to it, email me at wordsrus@together.net.

Out in the Mountains has graciously offered to sponsor a queer family picnic later in the summer and I intend to take up the offer. I'd like this event to take place in a location that will be accessible to as many of us as possible. Any ideas? Look for more news on that front in the July issue.

I'll be around the Mountain Pride Media information table on and off all day at Pride, hoping to chat with other parents about organizing groups, socializing and just to talk about our kids.

Courtney plans to be waving a banner in the Bread & Puppet Boat again, and would love to have the company of other children. I tried to resist this pun, but wouldn't it be great to see them together — in the same boat, literally?

Hope to see you there.

continually surprised to find members of the queer community who are resistant to the idea.

I understand that marriage is not for everyone and I'm not suggesting that even all of us with children should be married. However, I believe that in providing my partner and myself the legal protection inherent in civil marriage, I am also building a more solid foundation for my daughter. This means approval and validation on a level that, as adults, we may claim we don't or shouldn't need, but can be critical for children who feel they are different.

I hear and understand queers who complain that we should be fighting for a world that is more accepting rather than supporting something like civil marriage that is giving in to "their ways." But then I remember how changeable and, ultimately, flexible the institution of marriage is. The legalization of interracial marriages has helped to create an eminently more accepting world for these couples and their children. Why should it be different for us?

Marriage is a basic right provided for in the constitutions of both our state and our country. When the law tells me that I cannot marry the person I love and intend to spend the rest of my life with, it is labeling me a second-class citizen. That makes my daughter the child of a second-class citizen. The last time I checked, there aren't supposed to be second-class citizens here anymore.

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ways important enough just to be with my friends in a nice place where I could be comfortable talking with them. That was enough for me. I didn't need anymore; but apparently, for a lot of people, that isn't enough." The last official meeting was held on May 5th, but a final party is being planned for sometime in June. For more information contact Ed Robichaud at (802) 649-3133 or via e-mail at edsmedly@aol.com

A Different Soapbox

As long as I have your attention, I'd like to address the issue of civil marriage for same-gender couples. Although this may seem like I'm preaching to the converted, I'm

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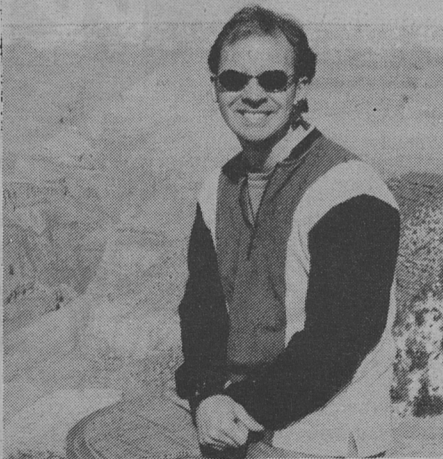
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