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

# OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

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## Queers Protest at Bread & Puppet

### ■ Twelve Tribes, aka 'Island Ponders', Provide No Common Ground at Theater Festival

BY BARBARA DOZETOS

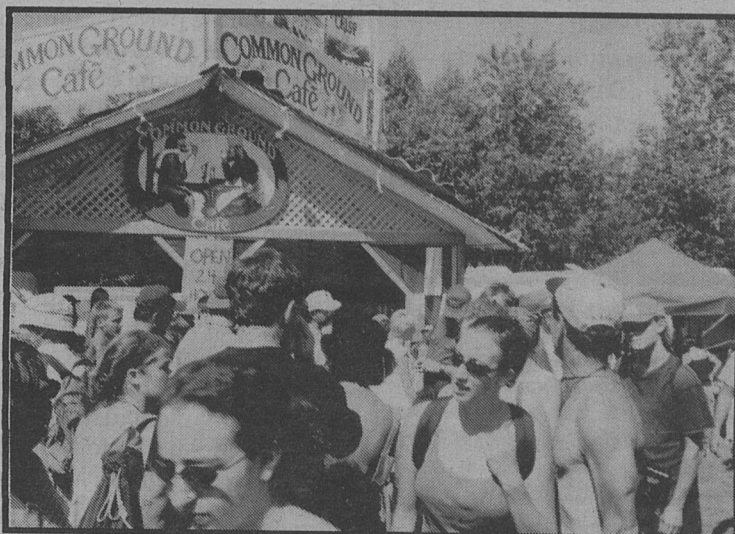
A noisy collection of queers and allies banded together in the vending area adjacent to Bread and Puppet on Sunday, August 9, to educate would-be customers of the Common Ground booth.

The group of approximately 20 people used chants and one-on-one conversation to enlighten the passing crowd to the background of the group who was running the coffee concession.

Steve Penn of Syracuse, NY said, "I guess it is unfair to call them the 'Island Ponders' since there are a lot of other folks living in Island Pond, and

it seems that the group is now referring to themselves as the "Twelve Tribes." They are also known locally as "The Community." (See "Skeeter Bites" column for details on the history of the group and its teachings.)

As the crowd and noise level grew, a Cassella's Waste Management truck pulled up. After emptying the trash cans at the neighboring booth, the driver maneuvered the vehicle into the group of protestors without warning. The truck's came to rest against the leg of Mithcell Cohen from Brooklyn, NY.



Security appeared on the scene and told the group to leave. "Leave or go to jail," was the repeated threat from an ADA Security officer. Two ADA officers confronted Penn, Cohen, and several others, including one man confined to a wheelchair.

The protestors maintained their right to be present

and claimed that they were not blocking the traffic to the Common Ground booth. When asked why he was so hostile toward the group, the burly male Officer said, "You faggots make me sick," and radioed for State Police backup. He was shortly informed that there

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## More Than Sports at Gay Games V

Peter Thomas of Essex Jct., VT joined 55 other musicians from 10 US states, Holland, Germany, and Norway to form a band which performed five concerts in Amsterdam during Gay Games V. The highlight of the band's week was their performance at the closing ceremonies which were held at the new Amsterdam Arena. The band is pictured here performing at the Gay Games Friendship Village in Amsterdam.

The trip was organized by the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America, a national organization which is comprised of concert and marching bands from across the United States, Canada, and Australia. The Vermont area band is the Green Mountain Freedom Band. For more information regarding LGBA or the Green Mountain Freedom Band, you can write to Green Mountain Freedom Band, P.O. Box 5322, Burlington, VT 05402-5322 or email gossamer@together.net.

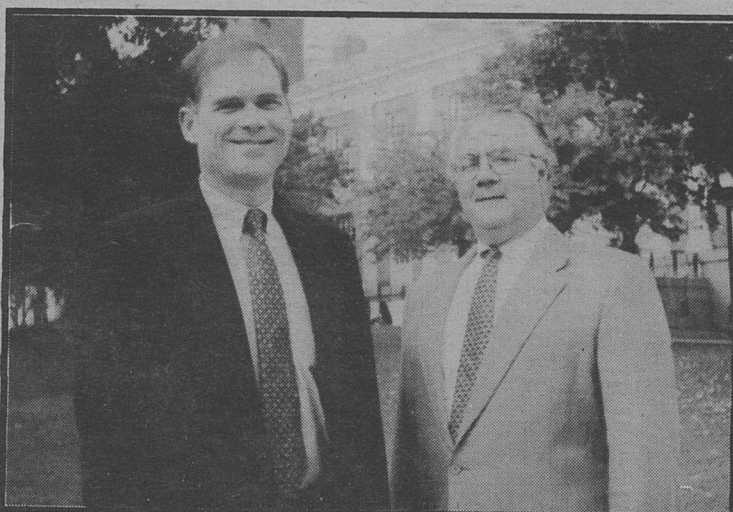
## Barney Frank to speak at Flanagan Fundraiser

Democratic Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts will be the featured speaker at a fundraising event for State Auditor Edward Flanagan on Sunday September 13.

Frank's will be speaking out against the current Congressional attacks on the human rights of the GLBT community in the United States. Openly gay, Frank is extremely vocal on queer issues.

Flanagan is running for reelection to the office of for Vermont State Auditor.

The event will take place in the Lake Champlain Room of the Radisson Hotel in downtown Burlington, at 1:00 p.m. Suggested donation to the Flanagan re-election campaign is \$25. Call (802) 862-3203 for ticket information.



Vermont State Auditor Ed Flanagan and Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts at an earlier meeting

## It's almost time for Vermont CARES AIDSWalk '98

This September and October, Vermont CARES is holding AIDSWalk '98 in Rutland, Montpelier, St. Johnsbury and Burlington. The Walk raises funds for Vermont CARES programs, raises public awareness and creates a community of support for people with AIDS.

The Rutland Walk is Saturday, September 19, 1998 at 11:30AM at Main Street Park. On Saturday, September 26, 1998, the Montpelier Walk will start at Christ Church, 64 Stage St at 11:30AM. In St. Johnsbury, the Walk starts at 12:30pm on Sunday, September 27, 1998 at Courthouse Park. The fourth Walk is in Burlington on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at 6PM. It begins at the Unitarian Church

This is the third year Vermont CARES will have an AIDS Walk. Last year more than 600 walkers raised more than \$30,000. Some walkers raised \$1000 each; others formed teams at their workplace and raised more.

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