

WILB
HQ75
.0971

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

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 9

OCTOBER 1998

WWW.VTPRIDE.ORG

inside OITM

OP-ED

▼ Bill and Monica AGAIN? **4**

PROGENY

▼ Going on Daycare Hiatus **6**

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

▼ The Kingdom's Compost Gallery **13**

DYKE PSYCHE

▼ Being an Old Lesbian **22**

The Gay Vote

'98
MONTPELIER – This could be a pivotal election year for Vermont's gay and lesbian population.

Stark choices are offered in some of the statewide contests and in several cases the choices are between a proven friend of the community and someone who is at best non-committal on important issues and at worst outwardly hostile.

And then there are the 180 legislative races across the state, contests that this year include three out-and-proud candidates. The campaigns for the House and Senate carry far greater potential for gay men and lesbians, however, because it is the Legislature in 1999 and 2000 that may well be called on to decide one of the most divisive issues of our time: gay marriage.

Normally, the campaign for US Senate would top the agenda. But this isn't a normal year. Sen. Patrick Leahy, the incumbent Democrat, is up for re-election. Republicans - with the help of some other interested folks - nominated amiable dairy farmer Fred Tuttle. That means there won't be much of a debate on any issues this fall, let alone on gay and lesbian concerns.

Both candidates are generally considered friends of the



Tami Eldridge, Executive Director of Outright Vermont, (center) discusses the needs of GLBTQ youth with Vermont State Representative Bill Lippert-D, Hinesburg (left) and State Senate candidate Tim Palmer-D, Burlington (right) at a fundraiser for Vermont State Auditor Ed Flanigan-D.

community - Tuttle has appeared with those fabulous drag queens Cherie Tartt and Yolanda on several occasions, after all. The unfortunate part about the non-campaign for the gbt community, though, is that it will offer no real chance to question Leahy on his record, which includes a vote in favor of the De-

GAY VOTE, p26

Lordy, Lordy, Look Who's 40!

Burlington drag celebrity Cherie Tartt was properly "roasted" at her fortieth birthday on September 13 at 135 Pearl by her immediate family and fabulous friends: (l. to r.) Prune Danish, Mrs. Tartt, Margurite LeMay, Yolanda, Cherie Tartt, unknown woman, Cherie Crisp(p), and Honey, the Waitress.



Giving Back to the Community: Physician's Computer Company

BY CHRIS TEBBETTS

John Canning and Jay Schuster, like everyone these days, are busy. In addition to the demands of day-to-day business, they are moving the offices of their Physician's Computer Company (PCC) from Colchester, where they have been for the last five years, into Winooski's Champlain Mill. An appointment to talk about their long history of contributions to the Burlington area community is squeezed in before Canning takes off for Montreal and Schuster for San Francisco.

Begun sixteen years ago

as a college project ("because we didn't like our summer jobs," says Canning), PCC now works with medical offices in

"They improve the overall community," he says, "by giving us lots more well adjusted people."

40 states, providing software, hardware and technical support. Asked for their titles — Canning is President and Schuster is Vice President —

both seem reluctant to answer. They are quick to de-emphasize the hierarchy of their firm. "It's relatively informal here," they say, almost in unison. Likewise, on the subject of giving back to the community, they do not seem anxious to toot their own horns. Regardless, it is clear that PCC has made it a priority to share their time, equipment and profits in the gay community and elsewhere.

One of their focuses is on the arts. Most recently PCC has sponsored "Angels in America" at the University of

PCC, p23

ELECTION '98

Ignore It At Your Own Risk

BY TIM PALMER

The religious right is on the verge of its greatest victory ever. They can do it without you doing anything. In fact, that is what they are counting on. That is the only way they can do it.

Most voters are so sickened by what has happened in Washington over the last year that they are not going to vote. Most experts predict that voter turnout in November will be the lowest ever. Some estimates have only 30% of registered voters actually voting in the fall elections. With less than half of all eligible voters registered, that means 15% of Americans over the age of 18 will be deciding our future — your future. That means 8% constitutes the majority. And, guess who is going to make sure that their voters vote.

That's right. Your future is in the hands of Pat Robertson, Pat Buchanan, Phyllis Schlafly, Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond. If you can sleep soundly tonight after reading that statement, your denial needs to be checked. You may try to comfort yourself with the thought that "that's in Washington — Vermont is different." Think about that again.

Here in Vermont, people who oppose lesbian and gay

WHY VOTE, p22

Gay Marriage

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments this month on whether same-sex marriage is legal in this state.

The court has not issued its schedule for its October term, yet, but the case was listed on the court's backup schedule for last month. Cases that are on backup but are not heard one month generally are put on the formal schedule the following month.

Three couples — one gay and two lesbian — are suing the state and several towns arguing that they should be allowed to marry. Each of them applied for a marriage license from their town clerk and were denied.

The couples, through their

MARRIAGE, p4