



health & wellbeing

Practice limited
to male clientele



THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE
William Coil, NCMT



802-658-2390

802.660.8396

Diane M. Felicio, Ph.D.

mediator *constructive conflict resolution with an emphasis on encouragement, clarity, and support.*

relationships
organizations
higher education

Sari K. Wolf, RN, CCRN, TMP, CAP, Reiki III

Release Fatigue and Pain

Massage/ Myofascial Therapy
Deep Tissue, Aromatherapy
Acu-Pressure


By appointment only 802-223-4715

MAGGIE FRAMPTON MSW ACSW
LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

PSYCHOTHERAPY • CONSULTATION
ADULTS • ADOLESCENTS

MONTPELIER, VT (802) 229-5071

PROFESSIONAL
CONFIDENTIAL



PHONE: 802/524-9595
FAX: 802/524-2867

Carol Thayer, M.D.

PO Box 1160, RD2 • Fairfax, VT 05454

Michael Gigante, Ph.D.

Psychosynthesis
Counseling & Therapy

(802) 254-8032 15 Myrtle Street, Brattleboro VT 05301

DYKE PSYCHE

Being an Old Lesbian

by Esther Rothblum



I recently met with three members of the Crones, a group for old lesbians in Vermont. "We were at a dance one night," said Alverta, "and I asked the woman I was with,

in a personal ad and got almost no responses. "It's even hard for older lesbians to meet someone to be a friend or just someone to hang out with," said Alverta. "Where do older

go off to socialize together and don't include old lesbians. But the women did feel that they have become more outspoken as they have become older.

The women reminisced about living through extremely homophobic times. They talked about being in the military and working as school teachers. But now, as older women, they were living in times that were more affirming of lesbians, but hostile to old women. Yet everyone agreed that ageism was worse in the gay male and in the heterosexual community.

For more information about the Crones, write to 143 Rollin Irish Road, Milton, VT 05468.

Esther Rothblum is Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont and Editor of the Journal of Lesbian Studies. She can be reached at John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405 and esther.rothblum@uvm.edu. DYKE PSYCHE is a monthly column.

The women agreed that discrimination due to age was more severe than discrimination due to being a lesbian.

where are all the lesbians our age?" They put an ad in the local lesbian newspaper, and had to drop the minimum age to 40 because there were so few lesbians older than that who were out in the community at that time. They started as a political group, but it quickly became a social group because so many women wanted just to meet someone their age.

"And even now," added Mary Wallmyn, "here we all sit together in your living room and wonder where are the lesbians in their 60s and 70s like us." The women agreed that some of these older lesbians are extremely closeted or out to only one other person. They lived through times that were very hostile to lesbians and aren't willing to be too out, even to other old lesbians. Many don't even use the word "lesbian"—they refer to themselves as "that way" or use other euphemisms.

I asked what Alverta, Mary, and Joy thought the major issues were facing lesbians over 60. Getting a job and facing ageism, said Alverta. Leaving a husband, coming out as a lesbian, and being thought too old for full-time work yet not old enough for social security, said Mary. Being closeted on the job and needing to move in order to live near a lover, said Joy. Working for a non-profit organization that has no retirement benefits. Getting sick in old age.

In fact, the women agreed that discrimination due to age was more severe than discrimination due to being a lesbian. Mary had noticed that even the personal ads in the local newspapers had "seniors" under a special section. They mentioned a lesbian friend who had stated her age

lesbians disappear to?" the women wondered. Perhaps some leave to take care of families of origin, they thought.

The Crones talked about interacting with younger lesbians. When older and younger lesbians become lovers, people may assume that one is the other's mother. It's hard to go to the health care center and have a 20-year old woman do the intake exam.

Old women are called wise, said Alverta, yet they are ignored in meetings that include younger women. Joy found that the younger women

Why Vote?

continued from front page

rights, reproductive freedom, equal educational opportunity, environmental protection, and a system of representative democracy with judicial review are working together to make certain that their common views are victorious this November. They want to make sure no matter what the Supreme Court decides on same gender marriage, that the legislature will act to ensure that lesbian and gay couples have no legal rights. Their stated mission is to repeal the inclusion of sexual orientation in Vermont's human rights statute. They also want to use the judicial retention process to remove Supreme Court judges who do not tow the line on "traditional family values". They are working for a system of voter initiatives that would permit referendum on issues that the legislature must address or on legislation that has been adopted. They see that as a vehicle to overturn the state's new system of educational financing (Act 60), to repeal the sexual orientation clause of the human rights law, and to compel actions to limit a woman's reproductive choices among other things.

They are organized and they are focused. Their voters are motivated and they will vote. The question is will we?

In September, Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) warned his Burlington audience that we are at risk of losing the war for equal rights even though we have won the long battle of public opinion. Most Americans now believe that sexual orientation should not be the basis for someone to lose their job or their home. Yet, we do not have any federal protection and only ten states have enacted laws that establish such rights. Those rights have also been repealed in several states and cities. The block to those rights is no longer public opinion - it is political power.

Political power emanates from voter registration and partici-