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VERMONT

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE? Fun-loving Man, seeks other Guys who like cuddling, going out, talking and just being ourselves. (Bristol) ☎15335

WHAT ABOUT YOU? Discreet, straight-acting GM, 24, 5'8", 150 lbs, smooth, tight swimmers build, enjoys the outdoors. Seeks other straight-acting M for fun and more. (South Royalton) ☎14679

THIS IS THE MOMENT 38-year-old Male, 6', 175 lbs, clean shaven, enjoys the outdoors and music. Seeks long-term-relationship with someone who wants to settle down. Any age (Burlington) ☎14386

YOU CAN'T LOSE 40-year-old GWM, 5'11", 175 lbs, hairy, enjoys quiet evenings at home and cuddling. Looking for a relationship, but friendship is good too. (White River Junction) ☎13769

LOOKING FOR YOUNG GUYS, 18-25, to have fun with. You must enjoy the outdoors and boating. (Rutland) ☎10019

GAY OR BI GM looking for Gay or Bi Men for get togethers in the area. (Manchester) ☎12720

KINKY PLAY Muscular, well endowed Man, 6', into kinky play and all sorts of things. Seeking Guys, 30s, to have some fun. (Burlington) ☎11978

REGULAR HOOK-UP This in-shape Male, 5'9", 180 lbs, with red hair would like to meet other Guys for fun. I'm into everything, and would like to hook up on a regular basis if it works out. (Vermont) ☎16811

BASIC INSTINCT This 55-year-old Male, 145 lbs, with brown hair and brown eyes seeks sexual encounters with Males. (Vermont) ☎16923

LIFE SHOULD BE SHARED I'm a 32-year-old Male, 5'6", 200 lbs, moderately hairy, with brown hair and brown eyes. I enjoy camping, nude sunbathing, the outdoors, antiques, flea markets, yard sales, and trying new things. I'm seeking a long-term relationship with someone who wants to settle down and share life. Age is unimportant, as long as you're not too young or too old. I'm tired of games, so let's start slow and see what happens. I'm willing to travel throughout Vermont and New Hampshire. (Lindenville) ☎10261

WHO'S AFRAID? I'm a 40-year-old Male, 5'10", 180 lbs, tired of meeting wimps, creeps, and commitment-phobic people. I want a serious relationship. Call me if you do, too. (Vermont) ☎16686

YOU WON'T LOSE A THING I love to dance and go to the movies. I want to meet other Men for friendship, maybe a possible relationship. Call me and we'll see what happens. (Bennington) ☎18608

LET'S DO IT TOGETHER I'm a masculine, uncut Male in my 40's who loves phone sex, mutual jack off and videos. Let's talk and do it together. (Baire) ☎19418

JUST ME AND YOU This 39 year old, Man is looking to meet someone my age or younger, I'm an active person who likes working on my house and working out. I want to meet someone who I can be together with; I don't smoke, drink or do drugs and neither should you. (Rutland) ☎19240

THIS GUY'S SHY I'm a shy, honest 42-year-old Male. I like to dance, go camping, and enjoy good times. I'm looking for a long-term relationship, if that's possible. (Manchester) ☎15921

MASSACHUSETTS

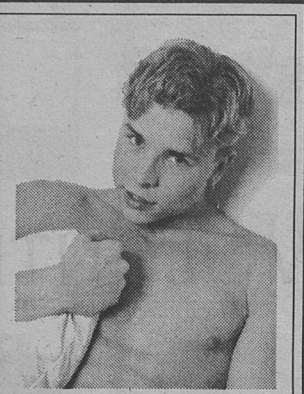
MOVING IN Muscular GM, 5'9", 175 lbs, into bike riding and movies. Seeks other sincere, honest Men interested in long-term relationship. (Boston) ☎15391

PLAY TIME Slender WM, 29, 5'8". Seeks healthy, in shape BM, 29-40, for fun and friendship. (Springfield) ☎14378

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FUN IN THE SUN 31-year-old Greek Male, 6'2", blonde/blue, great buff body, enjoys the outdoors. Seeks Men, 18-28, for friendship and summer fun. (Springfield) ☎30037

I'M THE BOTTOM Very, very attractive, 22, 6', 195, clean shaven M looking for another masculine top M, 18-40, in the area, for good times and a possible relationship. (Fall River) ☎20158

NEW HAMPSHIRE

SOME FUN I'm a Gay Male who is looking for a relationship and some fun. ☎10482

NEW YORK

CALL TO FIND OUT MORE WM, 29, seeking WM around the same age. If this is interesting, call to find out more. (Albany) ☎13967

CONNECTICUT

WHO'S OUT THERE? Well endowed GBM, 25, 6'2", 195 lbs, muscular. Seeks GM who are into underwear to enjoy myself with. (Hartford) ☎14068

THE CHOICE IS YOURS If you're very cute, lean, nice, bright, 18-24, GW or AM and seek a relationship with an older PM who's nice, intelligent and warm hearted, 5'11", 165 lbs. Please leave a message. (New Milford) ☎10885

3 WAY FUN Attractive Latino tops, looking for bottoms for some hot 3 way fun. ☎12560

SOME VERY HOT GUYS GM, 29 years old, 6', 175 lbs, would really like to hook up with some very hot Guys. (Hartford) ☎11766

HORSE HUNG TOPS Italian White Male, 29 year-old masculine bottom. Looking for Guys who are 18-23 years old and horse hung, smooth tops. (New London) ☎11755

JUST BE YOURSELF Happy go lucky GM, 44, 5'10". Seeks WM only, 45-65, who love me for me and can be themselves for a long-term relationship. (Hartford) ☎10142

DISCREET TIMES. I'm 25, 170 lbs, 5'11" and looking for Guys in the area for fun and discreet times. (New Haven) ☎10509

HOT, YOUNG BODY BUILDER 5'10", 200, goatee is looking for a M to have sex with, who is over 5'8" and likes having fun with me. (Hartford) ☎10306

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VERMONT

BEFORE THE SHIP SAILS Hi, I'm looking for a young, vibrant Female who likes to experience new things. I'm possibly looking for a long term relationship, so please call me. (Montpelier) ☎18155

ANIMAL LOVER This good natured, 31 year old, White female, seeks a womyn who's fun, caring, loving, and likes animals. ☎12624

MASSACHUSETTS

LET'S SEE THE SIGHTS This college student, 19, will be transferring to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the fall and would like to meet some new friends in the area who can show me around. (Amherst) ☎17249

YOUNG & SEXY? CALL ME I'm a Bi-sexual, feminine, Female who is looking for someone that is young, feminine, sexy and likes to have a good time. (Boston) ☎19416

NEW YORK

THE REAL ONE Hi, I'm a Gay, 28 year old, White Female, 5'5", brown hair, hazel eyes, who is looking for another Gay White Female between the ages of 28-40. You should be very interested in a serious relationship; I enjoy cooking, music, movies, and the beach, I am very romantic and passionate. (Albany) ☎18127

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Gay Vote '98

continued from front page

fense of Marriage Act. It's a question that he should be forced to answer at election time.

So, with the Senate race such a dud, the campaigns for Congress and governor are the most interesting. For governor, gay voters get a choice between a known quantity in incumbent Gov. Howard Dean. He's the guy who signed the gay rights law, who took the politically risky step of addressing gay and lesbian issues in a high school and who generally has stood with the community.

The Republicans give us Ruth Dwyer, a conservative state legislator from Thetford. Dwyer was not in the Legislature when the gay rights law was debated, so she has no record there. But she has made clear that she does not like the idea of gay marriage. She's also an opponent of abortion rights, although she says she would be prohibited by the courts from abolishing those rights.

In Congress, Rep. Bernie Sanders is looking for his fifth term in the House. Sanders' record is widely known and he has been a friend of the community for years. In his last campaign, he made clear efforts to court the gay vote and to understand issues important to the community.

The views of his Republican opponent, Rutland investment executive Mark Candon, are not well known. He's indicated he does not support gay marriage, but he has not spoken at length about that or any other issue of particular concern to the community, with the exception of abortion, which he opposes. Candon also served two terms in the Vermont House, but that was before the gay rights law was debated. The Democrats did not put up a candidate.

The last of the big four races is between incumbent Lt. Gov. Douglas Racine, the Democrat, and his predecessor, Republican state Sen. Barbara Snelling. They both have very different approaches to government. Both have shown that they are sympathetic to issues of concern to the gblt community, but it's not clear how they would vote on such divisive issues as gay marriage. The most important consideration in this race is that the candidate who wins will have the potentially very considerable power of casting tie-breaking votes in the state Senate.

Two other statewide contests bear watching. First is for auditor of accounts, where the incumbent is the openly gay Edward Flanagan. He faces Burlington businessman James Dwinell, the Republican, who has not held elective office before and therefore is little known. Also of interest is the secretary of state's contest, where incumbent Republican James Milne is facing a strong challenge from Democrat Deb Markowitz, a Montpelier attorney and long-standing supporter of the gay community.

But of importance equal to the statewide races are those for legislative seats. Gay voters will have the opportunity to vote for members of the community. In Hinesburg, state Rep. Bill Lippert is seeking re-election as a Democrat. In Chittenden County, Tim Palmer is seeking one of six seats for the state Senate. And Rutland County voters have the chance to vote for Steve Howard for one of three Senate seats from that district.

Each of the 180 races, however, could be vitally important to the community. Depending on how the Vermont Supreme Court rules on the pending lawsuit seeking to legalize gay marriage, the Legislature could have a large role in determining the outcome. The court could rule that it is the Legislature's responsibility to decide whether gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry under the laws of the state. And who makes it into the House and Senate will go a long way toward not only deciding such a question, but also in setting the tone for the debate.

Besides that issue, lawmakers are traditionally faced with a wide array of questions that affect the community in one way or another. There is always the annual appropriation for

AIDS treatment and prevention, for example, and there are many in the Legislature who would like to cut off such spending. Although it's unfair not to question individual candidates about their stands, it is hopeful to note that the Republican Party platform opposes gay marriage and, although the language was watered down, abortion rights. The Democrats have resisted taking a position on gay marriage but do support a woman's right to choose. The Democrats' state party chairman is David Curtis, who is openly gay.

So it makes a huge difference who is elected. The only way to have a say on that question is to take part. That could be as simple as casting a ballot on Election Day, Nov. 3, or by donating time or money to candidates who support all our gay brothers and sisters.

Why Vote?

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pation and from financial resources. The religious right is highly organized. They make certain that their supporters are registered and that they vote. We don't. They have power. We don't.

In this election, we cannot sit back and let them flex their political power without challenging them. We need to get registered and we need to vote.

The public officials elected in November will decide whether same gender couples have any rights and whether sexual orientation should remain in the human rights law. They will also decide whether legislative actions can be compelled or overturned in public referenda. They will determine whether judicial decisions on issues such as lesbian and gay rights and reproductive freedom should be a litmus test for the retention of judges. They will be making these decisions for us. Will they be making these decisions in response to us?

We have the power to make democracy work; but, that takes work. It requires us to give up the fashionable notion that we do not have time for politics. Or, the convenient sense that politics and government are outside our interest or control. Whether we like it or not, politics impact us disproportionately because we are an increasingly visible and disliked minority. We have no choice but to fully participate in politics.

Participation is easy. First, you have to register. That can be done at your city or town clerk's office or by a notary public. Second, you have to educate and question candidates about issues impacting your life. That can be done through letters, direct conversations, or participation in candidate forums. Third, you have to vote. That can be done at any time in October, up until Election Day on November 3rd, at your city or town clerk's office, by absentee ballot, or in person on Election Day itself.

We need to vote for open members of our community and straight candidates who publicly state their support for our rights. In this election, there are four candidates who are open community members. Edward Flanagan is seeking reelection as Auditor of Accounts. Edward is the first and only openly gay statewide elected official in the country. Bill Lippert is seeking reelection to the State House of Representatives from Hinesburg (Chittenden County). Bill would be the only open member of our community serving in the House; he sits on the Judicial Retention Committee. Steve Howard is attempting to move from the House to the Senate representing Rutland County. Steve has been a Representative for six years and came out in 1997. I am running for the Senate from Chittenden County.

Since announcing that I was running, the questions most often asked of me are: "Why would you do that?" and "Are you crazy?" To be honest, there have been times when I have asked myself those questions. It was not an easy choice. Public participation rarely is. But, it is something that we have to do to protect and advance our rights as Vermonters and as Americans. Please participate, register and vote. Our lives depend upon it.

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