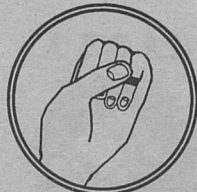


COALITION



NOTES

BY KEITH GOSLANT

“Moderate”, remember that word, moderate. Even before the full extent of the political changes were known, this word, “moderate”, was being said over and over by the media and political observers. This legislature will be more moderate in its actions, its manner and the laws they create. What will this mean for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning communities? It will be a challenge for us, a chance to see just how included we have become in mainstream politics.

There will be changes in this legislature. Some of our friends were not re-elected and there will be changes in leadership. A heavily financed anti-Act 60 opponent defeated Paul Cillo of Hardwick, House Democrat Leader. As a representative Paul had consistently voted in support of our communities. He believes in true equity, which is what made him a chief architect of Act 60 and a strong leader. His most likely successor as House leader will be the Democrat Whip, John Tracy. John has not had to vote on issues important to our communities, so his leadership is untested.

Also defeated was Lynn Bohi

## A Look at the “Moderate” Election Results

of Hartland. Lynn was an original supporter of the Hate Crimes and the Sexual Orientation Anti-discrimination bills. She was most recently Chair of Local Government. Local Government

Doug Racine’s return as Lieutenant Governor ensures the strong support for the HIV/AIDS communities will continue, in addition to issues of choice and equity. However, I’m not sure

*It will be a challenge for us, a chance to see just how included we have become in mainstream politics.*

is the committee that will first vote on any effort to establish a Citizen Initiative in Vermont. It is unclear who the new chair might be, or how the committee might vote.

Openly gay representative Bill Lippert of Hinesburg was re-elected and will likely be returned to the House Judiciary Committee. As we continue the debate regarding same gender marriage, his input into the committee discussion will be critical. The Judiciary Committee will also begin the process of judicial retention for all 5 members of the Supreme Court. We heard the campaign promises to oust those “liberal justices.” We will need Representatives such as Bill to ensure retention is based on good law and not political disfavor.

what Robert Ide not returning as Republican Leader might mean in the Senate. Will Vince Illuzzi move into a position of party leadership? Will he follow through on the promises his presence in Victory made? And what impact will the change in the Chittenden and Rutland delegations mean to our communities?

Regardless of the outcome of the Supreme Court arguments, this Legislature will be debating marriage. Expect new versions of DOMA to appear and a renewed effort for Initiatives. This worked well for our opposition in Hawaii and Alaska. Whether it will work here will depend on expanding the grassroots organizing being done statewide on this issue. And how well it will play in a Legislature taking a moderate course. ▼

### Op-Ed: Institutional Discrimination

continued from page four

cial privileges,” only the basic rights heterosexual citizens take for granted not to be ostracized or discriminated against or threatened — or murdered — because of who they are. My friends aren’t degenerates or promiscuous Sodomites or marauding destroyers of civilization or, in Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott’s characterization, comparable to kleptomaniacs.

Who they really are are lawyers and journalists, teachers and politicians, musicians, artists and pastors. They go to work and own homes and pay taxes and vote (Republican as well as

Democratic) and serve their country and community and worry about their retirement savings and fall in love — monogamously. They are citizens of America, but denied full rights, benefits and protection in her institutions. ▼

### More Letters

continued from page three

Unrestrained cheers of thanks poured from the multitude that rose as one person wildly clapping, laughing, crying, and hugging each other. For nearly ten full minutes the jubilant crowd refused to hear Beth’s pleas for order until she finally gave up and whispered, “Thank you.”

In their brief, the lawyers spoke on behalf of every gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Vermonter. They argued for equality in marriage, yes, but their main message was an argument for our dignity — the dignity every human being deserves and which many in the gay community have never experienced.

Beth Robinson, Susan Murray, and Mary Buonato: We heard you, we thank you, we embrace you! You gave us back the dream. You made us proud — proud of you, and proud of us!

Bobbi Whitacre  
Manchester Ctr, VT

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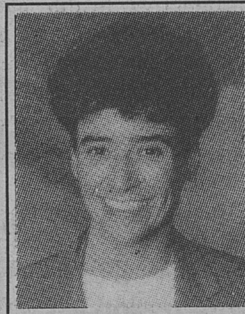
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