



Happy 13th Birthday!



WILB
HQ75
.0971

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

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 01

FEBRUARY 1999

WWW.VTPRIDE.ORG

Town Rallies Around Targets of Anti-Gay Graffiti

■ Reward Offered for Leads in Investigation

Homophobic graffiti on a shed in a northern Vermont town has startled locals into expressing support and esteem for the targets of the slur.

When Michael Bindler and Glen Bartolomeo found the words "Go Fag" spray-painted in gray at the end of their bed and breakfast's driveway in late December, they were hurt and frightened — and angry. "I was livid and teary-eyed," said Bindler.

Apparently they weren't the only ones outraged by the incident. According to *The County Courier*, a group of citizens has started collecting donations toward a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party responsible for the vandalism.

"As far as I'm concerned, when someone's attacked, especially citizens who contribute to the community, I consider it an attack on the community," said Brent Godin, one of the organizers of the reward drive.

Residents of Montgomery for seven years, both Bindler and Bartolomeo are out in the community, active in local government and volunteers for several organizations. "Michael and Glen are such a vital part of this town. I don't care what it is you ask, they will contribute. I've never known them to say 'I'm too busy,'" Sue Wilson, a Montgomery resident, told the *Courier*.

Bindler says he and his partner are convinced that the unprecedented demonstration of hate was "the act of one idiot" and they have drawn strength from the outcry by their fellow townspeople. "Everything has been positive, the only bad part was the paint."

Citizens of Montgomery and people from all over the country have contacted Bindler and Bartolomeo to express support for them and disbelief that something like this could happen. "We got a call from Ohio! It has just been amazing," says Bindler. "We're here and people love us." ▼

Golden Threads Matriarch Dies

Christine Burton died of pneumonia on December 28, 1998. She was 93.

Burton founded Golden Threads to help older lesbians connect with each other and was dedicated to helping women overcome loneliness.

In November she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Seniors Active in a Gay Environment.

Burton asked that no funeral or memorial service be held. She will be honored by Golden Threads members at the closing ritual of the 13th Annual Golden Threads Celebration in Provincetown in June.

A former resident of Burlington, she died in a nursing home in Northampton, Massachusetts. She was surrounded by close friends.

In June, PBS will air a film about Burton written and produced by Lucy Whiner. ▼



Christine Burton (right), with friend Sarah Harrington.

Congressman Asks for GLBT Input

■ Sanders assembles community leaders to discuss political concerns

BY BARBARA DOZETOS

On January 4, representatives of Vermont GLBT organizations met with Congressman Bernie Sanders to discuss political issues of importance to the community.

Sanders invited members of groups such as the Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, People With Aids Coalition, the Pride Committee, and the Rainbow Business Association to the gathering. Also present were delegates from Vermont CARES, Outright Vermont, and other service agencies.

After presenting a brief overview of his voting record and stance on issues he perceived to be of interest to the GLBT community, Representative Sanders listened as his guests voiced their concerns.

He participated with those present in detailed conversations about the cost of health care for

HIV-positive individuals, taxation of domestic partnership benefits, the potential harm in reporting names of AIDS patients and other identified priorities.

Tage Lilja, who represented Outright Vermont at the meeting, left with a sense of amazement to have been a part of such a diverse



group of people seated at the table. Sarah Harrington of the Rainbow Business Association agreed, "I was impressed with both the representation of the GLBT community and with Bernie's wanting to sit down and discuss things with us."

The congressman was adamant about his need to be informed of how issues affect his constituents. "As a result of that meeting, I've taken on the duty of forwarding information on issues important to our clients to his office," noted Lilja.

Harrington said she was com-

Absent from the meeting were rosy campaign promises of immediate results. Sanders repeatedly commented on the slow but steady change in societal attitudes toward GLBT issues and cautioned the group to expect progress to take time. He encouraged the development of

Sanders participated in detailed conversations about the cost of health care for HIV-positive individuals, taxation of domestic partnership benefits, and the potential harm in reporting names of AIDS patients.

forted by the fact that Sanders is in Washington at least attempting to pay attention to the issues affecting the GLBT community. "That's one of the reasons I live in Vermont," she continued. "Our representatives are accessible. I feel like my vote counts."

coalitions around progressive issues and reiterated the need for everyone to engage in the political process. "It breaks my heart on a daily basis," he said, "that the people most in need are the least involved." ▼