Becoming Out in the Mountains:

Governor Kunin Hears Lesbian/Gay Concerns

The article discusses an "historic first," when five Burlington area lesbians and gay men met with Governor Kunin and her chief of staff to discuss lesbian and gay rights. That meeting provided the very early stages of what is now known as the equal rights amendment. The meeting explored the use of the Attorney General's office to documents cases of discrimination toward gay and lesbians to gather further information on it's nature and extent.

Social Worker Lobby Politicians

The article outlines a series of meetings between The National Association of Social Workers Lesbian and Gay Issues Committee (NASW-LGIC). The discussed meetings between Governor Kunin, the Attorney General's office, and Senator Pat Leahy. The outcome was the introduction of federal civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians.

Breaking the Taboo Against Women Loving Women

Longtime lesbian feminist activist Peggy Luhrs points out in this article the historical link between the dissolution of bonds between women and patriarchal oppression. Since lesbians actively refuse to let these bonds be broken, they occupy a central space in the struggle for women's rights. Luhrs illustrates how homophobia has been used by conservative forces since at least the turn of the century to "divide and conquer" women, enforcing self-hatred and distracting women from issues such as economic inequality. In a particularly telling example, due to its fate in a nationwide vote, she highlights the struggle to pass the ERA as one place where separating women based on homophobia has been particularly successful.

Civil Rights Protections Lacking

This article lays out the definition of civil rights, and how, although strides had been made in many arenas regarding civil rights (race, creed, color, national origin), lesbians and gay men had yet to benefit from civil rights protection in any state. This seems to mark the beginning of the eventually successful bid for gay and lesbian civil rights on the congressional level.

Note: gay marriage is mentioned here as a civil right not accorded to lesbians and gay men. "Certainly lesbians and gay men are not entitled to marry."

The Times of Dan White

Dan White, the convicted killer of San Fransisco's mayor George Moscone and city council member and gay activist Harvey Milk, committed suicide in

November 1985. In this touching and still-relevant article, Euan Bear deconstructs her reaction to White's suicide, ranging from "a kind of angry relief" to "grief that a society so discriminates against [her] that [she] feel[s] relieved at someone's death." She points out the anger and fear that come in reaction to a series of shockingly lax sentences for murderers of gay men and lesbians, and the necessity for us to take pride in our identities, to "show that we live our lives strongly in spite of harassment and threats, to show that we are not ashamed of who we are.'

an overview of the debut issue Out in the mountains



Statewide meetings slated

An informal statewide lesbian and gay working group has scheduled open sectings of lesbians and gay men for Sunday, February 16th.

Women will caucus at 1 pm in South Royalton, and men will caucus at 1 pm at Noble Hall, Vermont College in Montpelier.

The meetings spring from a December 15th statewide gathering of nearly 50 leabians and gay men held in White River Junction. At that meeting, it was agreed to meet again to discuss possible directions for statewide lesbian and gay activities and organization. Topics likely to be covered at the February meetings include the choice of male and female liaisons to the

Governor's office, the challenges of lesbians and gay men working together, and the level of interest in developing a statewide lesbian and gay men's network or organization.

On Sunday, March 2nd, there will be a statewide meeting of both lesbians and gay men to discuss the results of the February 16th meetings and further explore future directions. That meeting will be held at the South Royalton House at Vermont Law School at 1 pm, and is being hosted by the Vermont Law School Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. For further information on the seetings or organizing efforts contact Louise at 763-7112, Susan at 234-9589, or Terje at 658- 0883.

discrimination on the basis of HTLV-3 antibody test results has been introduced in the Vermont House of Representatives by Rep. K. Micque Glitman (D Burlington) and 14 co-sponsors. According to Glitman, the bill is designed to "ensure that our policy is based on sound medical facts, com sense and respect for individual civil rights, not hysteria." The legislation, similar to laws already

passed in Wisconsin and California, covers employment and housing, and refere educational matters to guidelines being developed by state health and education authorities. Unlike the Wisconein and California laws, Glitman's bill does not deal with the problem of health insurance

Glitman cites medical evidence that the HTLV-3 virus is not transmitted through casual contact, the high incidence of false- positive results in the ELISA test, and the threat of widespread discrimination against high risk groups as reasons for the legislation. Rep. Toby Young (D - Westminster), chair of the House Health and Welfare

Committee, has promised that the bill will receive "full and fair hearing and consideration" by the committee According to Terje Anderson, who is informally co-ordinating lobbying on the bill, "we are working to line up support from medical, legal and social service authorities for the committee hearings." Anderson emphasized the importance

of making contact with state legislators by mail or phone to urge their support for the bill, "There is a good chance that we can get this bill passed," according to Anderson, "but only if people concerned about civil liberties get actively involved in lobbying their legislators." Anyone interested in working on the

bill should contact VLGR at Box 281, Hinesburg, Vermont 05401, or call Anderson at 658- 0883.

Stay in touch with the Vermont community between issues of OITM.

We've set up three new e-mail listservs to keep you up to date with everything from the local gossip to national issues.

VTPrideNet: an e-mail discussion list. LGBT folks from across Vermont — and the people who love them — can now exchange messages

If you'd rather get your chatter in one neat package instead of individual messages, check out VTPrideNet-digest. Instead of getting each e-mail separately, you'll get one long message that contains all the day's postings.

For those who aren't up for chatter but want to keep up with major newsevent notices and paper deadlines (of course). there's VTPrideNet-announce. There's no discussion on this list

- just announcements as events warrant.

To subscribe to any of the lists, send e-mail to

majordomo@queernet.org

In the body of your e-mail, you should include one of the following lines to specify the list you want to join:

subscribe vtpridenet

subscribe vtpridenet-digest

subscribe vtpridenet-announce

If you need assistance, email us at oitm@together.net

Join the virtual *OITM* community today!