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

# OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

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## Jeffords Receives National HIV/AIDS Leadership Award

BY BARBARA DOZETOS

Vermont's Senator James Jeffords is being honored as a leader in the fight against AIDS by an organization representing Americans affected by HIV/AIDS and 3200 community-based organizations that serve them.

AIDS Action is presenting the legislator with one of five National Leadership Awards at a ceremony in Washington, DC this month. The group calls Jeffords "the leading voice of moderation on health care issues in the Republican Party."

Senator Jeffords sponsored the renewal of the Ryan White Bill, which doubled the small state block grants for HIV and AIDS care.

Along with Senators Kennedy, Roth, and Moynihan, he also recently introduced a "Back-to-Work" plan designed to allow the disabled to return to work without losing health coverage. The bill easily passed out of the Senate Finance Committee and currently has 68 co-sponsors.

Tim Palmer, executive director of Vermont CARES, the state's largest AIDS service organization, said, "Senator Jeffords has made a real difference in making sure that Vermonters living with HIV have access to quality care."

Jeffords says he is proud to be recognized for his work in helping people living with HIV and AIDS. "It's a glowing feeling; it's nice to be known for something positive."

The senator adamantly maintains that his Vermont upbringing is the reason for his more-moderate-than-many-Republicans attitude. "It's the storehouse of independence, with a history of not allowing others to tell it what to do," Jeffords says, adding that he is "emotionally involved in preserving people's freedom."

Other individuals being honored at the April 5 ceremony are actress Rosie Perez and Jeanne White, President of the Ryan

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## Flanagan to Run for US Senate in 2000

### Auditor to Take on Jeffords

BY BARBARA DOZETOS

This country's first openly gay statewide elected official has announced his candidacy for the office of United States Senator in 2000.

If he is successful in the Democratic primary next spring, Ed Flanagan will oppose Senator James Jeffords in the November 2000 general election. If he defeats Jeffords, Flanagan will become the first openly gay senator in the nation's history.

Flanagan says the timing of his announcement is partially based on financial reality — the need to start fundraising. "You can't allow yourself to be put at a disadvantage when you're running against somebody who started the race years ago and has spent and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars toward his 2000 campaign."

Under current regulations, a person who has raised \$5000 must file as a candidate.

Although his recent experience has been in Montpelier, Flanagan is no stranger to Washington. As a high school, college, and law student, he worked on the floor of the United States Senate. He also served as a policy analyst in President Carter's administration.

First elected as Vermont's auditor in 1992, Flanagan explains that his duties have extended beyond balancing the state's checking account. Although "crunching numbers is obviously important," he says that most of his duties involve checking for legal compliance. "Frankly, we look for trouble, because where there's

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photo Maxwell Stroud

At the RU12? Community Center First Supper on March 27, Flanagan reminisced about headlines declaring him the first "openly gay or lesbian" individual elected to a statewide office. He quipped that he would choose between the two labels soon.

## It's 1999. Do You Know Where Your Representative Is?

Last month, House Bill 479 was introduced to the Vermont legislature. If passed, the legislation would make it illegal to perform or recognize same-gender marriages in Vermont. Fifty-six representatives co-sponsored the bill introduced by George Schiavone of Shelburne. Following is a list of the sponsors and the text of H.479.

- |                                  |                                 |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Starr</b> of Troy             | <b>Fyfe</b> of Newport City     | <b>Lehman</b> of Hartford        | <b>Quaid</b> of Williston          |
| <b>Allard</b> of St. Albans Town | <b>Gervais</b> of Enosburg      | <b>Marron</b> of Stowe           | <b>Randall</b> of Bradford         |
| <b>Atkins</b> of Winooski        | <b>Gray</b> of Barre Town       | <b>Maslack</b> of Poultney       | <b>Richardson</b> of Weathersfield |
| <b>Baker</b> of West Rutland     | <b>Gretkowski</b> of Burlington | <b>Mazur</b> of South Burlington | <b>Schaefer</b> of Colchester      |
| <b>Barney</b> of Highgate        | <b>Hathaway</b> of Barton       | <b>McGrath</b> of Ferrisburg     | <b>Sheltra</b> of Derby            |
| <b>Blanchard</b> of Essex        | <b>Helm</b> of Castleton        | <b>McNamara</b> of Burlington    | <b>Sherman</b> of St. Johnsbury    |
| <b>Bourdeau</b> of Hyde Park     | <b>Hoag</b> of Woodford         | <b>Morrissey</b> of Bennington   | <b>Smith</b> of New Haven          |
| <b>Brown</b> of Walden           | <b>Holmes</b> of Bethel         | <b>Mullin</b> of Rutland Town    | <b>Sweetser</b> of Essex           |
| <b>Buckland</b> of Newport Town  | <b>Houston</b> of Ferrisburg    | <b>O'Donnell</b> of Vernon       | <b>Towne</b> of Berlin             |
| <b>Clark</b> of St. Johnsbury    | <b>Howrigan</b> of Fairfield    | <b>Palmer</b> of Pownal          | <b>Valsangiacomo</b> of Barre City |
| <b>Cleland</b> of Northfield     | <b>Hudson</b> of Lyndon         | <b>Peaslee</b> of Guildhall      | <b>Willett</b> of St. Albans City  |
| <b>DePoy</b> of Rutland City     | <b>Krawczyk</b> of Bennington   | <b>Pembroke</b> of Bennington    | <b>Winters</b> of Williamstown     |
| <b>Dominick</b> of Starksboro    | <b>Larocque</b> of Barnet       | <b>Pike</b> of Mendon            | <b>Wood</b> of Brandon             |
| <b>Flory</b> of Pittsford        | <b>Larrabee</b> of Danville     | <b>Pratt</b> of Castleton        | <b>Young</b> of Orwell             |

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to clarify existing law concerning marriage.

AN ACT RELATING TO CLARIFICATION OF EXISTING LAWS CONCERNING MARRIAGE  
It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 15 V.S.A. § 1 is amended to read:  
§ 1. MAN FORBIDDEN TO MARRY RELATIVES OR ANOTHER MAN

A man shall not marry his mother, grandmother, daughter, granddaughter, sister, brother's daughter,

sister's daughter, father's sister "[or]", mother's sister or another man.

Sec. 2. 15 V.S.A. § 2 is amended to read:  
§ 2. WOMAN FORBIDDEN TO MARRY RELATIVES OR ANOTHER WOMAN

A woman shall not marry her father, grandfather, son, grandson, brother, brother's son, sister's son, father's brother "[or]", mother's brother or another woman.

Sec. 3. 15 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:  
§ 5. MARRIAGE ENTERED INTO IN ANOTHER STATE

(a) If a person residing and intending to continue to reside in this state is prohibited from contracting marriage under the laws of this state and such person goes into another state or country and there contracts a marriage prohibited and declared void by the laws of this state, such marriage shall be null and void for all purposes in this state.

(b) This state shall not give effect to any public act, record, or judicial proceeding of any other state or jurisdiction regarding legal marriage that does not also meet the requirements of sections 1 and 2 of this chapter.