

**THE MILLENNIUM MARCH:
What's all the fighting about?**

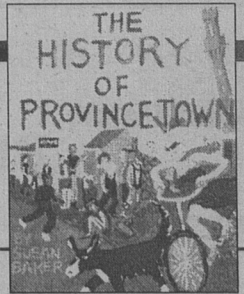
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**Orientation of
the Species**

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**Local Publisher produces
Gay Greats**

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

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 08

SEPTEMBER 1999

WWW.VTPRIDE.ORG

Reorganization Begins For Local Groups

■ VCLGR, Pride Vermont
Trying to Build Bridges
Between Groups

BY MAXWELL STROUD

Queer organizations throughout the state are receiving phone calls and letters asking for volunteers as two of Vermont's state-wide organizations strive to become more representative of Vermont's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex community.

The Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride Vermont are both trying to better reflect the needs of the state's community by working more closely with other existing GLBTQ organizations.

If the attempts do not succeed, their signature events may face significant changes — or worse.

VCLGR has already cancelled its best-known event, the town meeting, for this year. It's using the energies it would normally expend on the gathering to recruit a new board comprised of representatives from other GLBTQ organizations throughout the state.

The coalition has been with-

RECRUITMENT, P3

David Curtis Loses Long Battle for Life

■ Community leader
and tireless advocate of
the underdog dies

BURLINGTON — David W. Curtis, 61, died on Saturday, Aug. 7, 1999, at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vermont.

David Curtis was born on April 15, 1938 in Montpelier, Vermont. He was a graduate of the Montpelier public schools. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1960 and from Boston College Law School in 1963. After graduation from law school, he became a member of the Vermont Bar. He was engaged in private practice of law in Burlington through 1977. From 1977 through 1980 he was the deputy defender general and correctional facilities defender for the state of Vermont.

In 1980, David moved to Columbia, Tennessee and became senior counsel at Legal Services of South Central Tennessee. From 1983 through 1985, he was the director of Dakota Plains Legal Services in Mission, South Dakota.

David returned to Vermont in 1985; through 1987, he was the defender general of the state of Vermont. He returned to the private practice of law in 1987. In 1989, he was a co-founder of the firm of Hoff, Curtis, Pacht, Cassidy, and Frame, P.C. where



David Curtis (right) is pictured here with President Clinton during a campaign stop at Burlington's Oasis Diner, known to be a haven for local Democrats. (Photo provided courtesy of Nancy Cathcart)

he practiced until his retirement in 1995.

David was a devoted father and cared deeply about his three children, who survive him: David W. Curtis, Jr. of Burlington, Julia A. Curtis of Salt Lake City, Utah,

and Christopher J. Curtis of Seattle, Washington. Their mother, Nanci-Ames Curtis, M.D. resides in Rockport, Maine. David is also survived by his brothers, Newell Curtis, Richard Curtis, George Curtis, and his sis-

ter, Dorothy Lane, of Laramie, Wyoming.

As an attorney, David was a skillful and compassionate advo-

CURTIS, P9

You were there, and You Were There, and You Were There...

photo Scot Applegate



Counter demonstrators out-numbered the Westboro Baptist Church contingent by more than ten to one. An estimated 250 Vermonters came out to show their distaste for the visitors' hate-filled message.

■ Hate Group From Kansas Elicits Strong
Response from Vermonters

MONTPELIER - The face of hate came to Vermont and was turned away by the face of pride.

The most hateful, virulently anti-gay preacher in the land decided to spread his gospel last month in a state that doesn't take very kindly to being told what it should do or what it should think.

So, with the music and puppetry of the Bread and Puppet theater troupe to accompany them, Vermonters of all stripes — gay and straight, bisexual and transgendered — escorted the hatemongering followers of the Rev. Fred Phelps to their cars and sent back them to Kansas.

But the demonstration by just 10 members of Phelps' Topeka-based Westboro Baptist Church exposed some deep fissures in the ranks of Vermont's gay community.

When Phelps announced in a vile flyer that he was coming to warn of the dangers of allowing same-gender marriage, there was great dissent about how to respond.

HATE GROUP, P31