

A Vocal Minority Dons Its  
Gay Apparel



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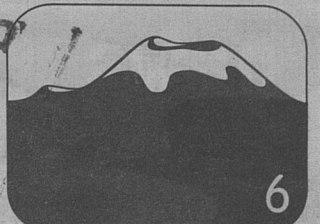
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And Bingo Was  
Her Game-o



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Voices Carry:  
Love Across  
the Generations



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

# OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

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www.vtpride.org

## Pride VT to Hold Officer Elections

BURLINGTON — The group planning our community's annual celebration will be selecting leaders and setting operating rules early this month.

Pride Vermont 2000 will elect co-chairpersons, a treasurer, a secretary, and board members in a meeting on December 4. The group will also vote on by-laws for the organization. Any member of the community who attends the meeting is eligible to make nominations and vote.

The two co-chairs will be of different genders and will be responsible for running meetings, representing the full committee at official functions, and delegating responsibility to board members and volunteers.

"A qualified candidate has a passion for making pride a quality event for the entire community, strong leadership skills, and a diplomatic, yet assertive, demeanor," read the committee statement. The co-chairs will work together and have equal responsibility.

The treasurer will manage the books for the organization, advise the board about budgets, and work directly with the bank. The job description for this position: "A qualified candidate should have some accounting or bookkeeping skills, possess the ability to explain budgets and figures, and be highly organized."

The secretary will take meeting minutes, be responsible for keeping official documents, and generally keep the committee's business organized. According to the committee, "A qualified candidate pays attention to details, works well with groups, and is very organized."

The December 2 meeting will begin with a vote on a set of bylaws. These will outline board member qualifications and responsibilities.

People who have attended two consecutive pride committee meetings this year will be eligible to become voting board members at the December 4th meetings. Anyone else interested in becoming a voting board member after this meeting must go through the nomination process outlined in the bylaws.

**For more on the Pride committee, see page 24.**

## Upset Victory in Plattsburgh Mayoral Race

PLATTSBURGH, NY — Dan Stewart made New York state history on Election Day when he staged an upset victory to become the only openly gay mayor of a city in all of New York state.

Stewart, a Republican, shocked the political establishment in the city just across Lake Champlain from Burlington, Vt, when he ousted five-term incumbent Mayor Clyde Rabideau, a Democrat who lost his party's nomination for lieutenant governor last year.

"I think I live in a city that knows how to treat people decently," said Stewart. "It's a huge win. It's something they said we couldn't do."

Indeed, his win was not expected. A poll in September said Stewart trailed Rabideau by more than 30 percentage points.

"We won because we dealt with issues," Stewart said.

A campaign stop by New York Governor George Pataki, also a Republican, didn't hurt, either.

Pataki said Stewart's victory proved that the Republican Party is inclusive.

"It think it shows what I have been saying all along, that the Republican

Party is an open and tolerant party," Pataki said at a news conference with Stewart the day after he won. "The fact that Dan is openly gay, I think, is not going to affect in any way his ability to govern the city one way or the other."

"He has a great vision for Plattsburgh," Pataki said.

Stewart said his first order of business after he takes over City Hall would be putting together a youth commission to determine the city's long-range recreational needs. He also wants to hire another person in the Community Development Office.

Prior to his election, Stewart was a used car salesman in Plattsburgh. He has been involved in city politics for six years, serving on the city council.

Stewart was in the Air Force when he moved to Plattsburgh in 1984, and



Photo: Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund

remained in the city when he left the military in 1988.

In some ways, Stewart seemed to be more excited about the fact that he'd beaten Rabideau than that he'd become the first openly gay mayor in New York.

"We had to beat a five-term incumbent. I don't know of any other challenge that could be more difficult," Stewart said.

## NGLTF Creates Change in California

all Creating Change coverage by Donald R. Eggert

### ■ GLBT activists discuss preparing the movement for the next century

OAKLAND — The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force held its largest ever Creating Change conference in Oakland, California last month, drawing over 2,000 GLBT activists from across the nation to explore visions for the movement, debate strategies for change and to celebrate their accomplishments.

The five-day conference included more than 120 workshops, plenaries, and other events on nearly every topic of interest to GLBT activists and those who support GLBT equality.

"Creating Change is about building an accessible, progressive, equality-based movement for the new millennium," said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director, during the opening plenary session.

Accessibility, gender identity, and religion as a vehicle for social change were among the topics discussed at plenaries throughout the conference.

The Body Politic Workout, a

series of eight all-day trainings, was a new offering at Creating Change. The program was designed to train activists in-depth on subjects such as sustainable leadership, effective organizational planning techniques, media essentials, and advanced fundraising for small organizations.

After three long days of networking, skills building, and consciousness raising, conference-goers kicked back on Saturday evening to enjoy a concert. Performers included San Francisco drag *a cappella* group The Kinsey Six, a safer sex educators/ comedic duo Safer Sex Sluts, lesbian comic/performer/singer Lea Delaria, and emcee Karen Williams.

**For more on the Creating Change Conference, see page 2.**

### ■ Creating Change Participants Protest Police Work on Oakland Attack

OAKLAND — Almost 2,000 GLBT demonstrators marched through downtown Oakland streets to police headquarters on November 12 to demand justice and protest prejudicial handling of an assault on a transgender youth of color.

March organizers demanded that the Oakland city police chief order a full hate crime investigation, properly reprimand the officer in charge of the investigation, arrange transgender sensitivity training for his entire department and establish a permanent position for monitoring hate crimes.

The march was sparked by an action alert circulated during late-afternoon sessions of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change conference. The bulletin described police mishandling of that morning's incident, which saw the youth severely cut with a broken beer bottle during an argument.

When the assault was reported to Oakland authorities, the dispatcher remarked,

"We spend enough time and money on you fags already." At the crime scene, officers refused to take statements from witnesses at the crime, claiming that "it would be too much paperwork [to do an investigation]."

Although the assault victim was not attending the conference, the Oakland city committee felt that the poor handling of the attack warranted a response from the gathered activists.

At 6pm, marchers assembled in the lobby of the Marriot City Center Hotel to march in solidarity with Oakland natives. Because there was no time to obtain official march permits, the crowd was instructed to follow normal pedestrian rules, making sure to stay on sidewalk and not restrict the flow of traffic. Several protestors carried makeshift signs that read "Transgender Rights are Human Rights" and "Protect and Serve?"

At Oakland Police Headquarters, several transgender speakers from

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