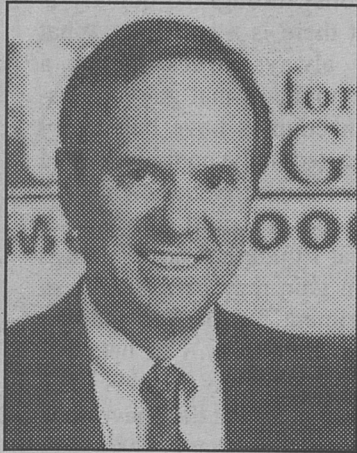


Gubernatorial Hopeful Bill Meub Discusses GLBT Issues



BY PAUL OLSEN

If Republican gubernatorial hopeful Bill Meub defeats Ruth Dwyer in the GOP primary, he is convinced he can beat incumbent Gov. Howard Dean in November. In an interview with *Out in the Mountains*, Meub characterized himself as a fiscal conservative who, unlike his primary opponent, is moderate on social issues.

Meub graduated from both Lehigh University and Vermont Law School, and has worked as an attorney since 1978. He's a member of the Vermont Business Roundtable and the Republican City and County Committees. In 1998 the American Library Association awarded him the John Philip Immroth Memorial Award for "remarkable personal courage in resisting censorship" at the Rutland Free Library. Meub is married and has one child.

OITM: Why should gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Vermonters support your candidacy for Governor?

Meub: If they don't support Howard Dean and they want some other choice, I'm the best choice for them. I'm confident enough to be a leader and to be Governor. I think I would have the best opportunity to defeat Howard Dean in November. People have described me as a

very thoughtful, concerned person. I've tried to create a different impression of Republicans. There are many Republicans who care about people, care what happens in their lives, and respect people. That's the position from which I come from. I'm not a reactionary.

OITM: As Governor, would you appoint openly gay men and lesbians to the Legislature, state commissions, and/or your Cabinet?

Meub: It would depend on the person that is most qualified. I don't believe that I am prejudiced in one way or the other. Therefore, I would pick the person who is most qualified to serve the particular position.

OITM: In the state budget \$12,000 has been provided to Outright Vermont for support services for gay and lesbian youth. As Governor, what would your position be on this funding?

Meub: I'm against that \$12,000 expenditure. Most of the schools already provide what I think is very good support. I know we did in the Rutland City Schools. I think that is really where it belongs and funding private organizations to carry out something like that is not something that I would favor.

OITM: Had you been Governor, what would your position have been on legislation prohibiting sexual orientation based discrimination in housing, employment, credit and public accommodations?

Meub: I would be in favor of it. I don't believe that they should be discriminated against. I don't have a problem with that.

OITM: As Governor, would you maintain a relationship

with Vermont's gay and lesbian community through an official liaison?

Meub: Why would I need an official liaison? I'm a person who likes to talk face to face to people. If they identify a person that you want to have as a representative and that's the person that I'm supposed to talk to, then that's fine.

OITM: How would you characterize the behavior of Vermont's gay and lesbian community during the gay marriage debate?

Meub: I think that there were exemplary behaviors on both sides and I think that there were some examples of behavior that were not particularly exemplary. I have a hard time with that kind of broad brush. Since I was opposed to the bill that was passed I would not like to be painted with the same brush as people that I thought acted inappropriately in opposition. I thought that there were some very thoughtful positions in opposition to the bill that was crafted and I wouldn't want to have any of the bad conduct thrown at me.

OITM: What role, if any, do you think homophobia played in the civil union debate?

Meub: Certainly it played some role. I think that the [legislative] leadership did a very good job at minimizing what was there and the debate itself focused on some legitimate issues.

OITM: You've called for changes to Vermont's new civil union law. What are your concerns with the new law?

Meub: I believe that there are public policy reasons that gay and lesbian unions should be treated differently than heterosexual unions. I see a potential problem coming

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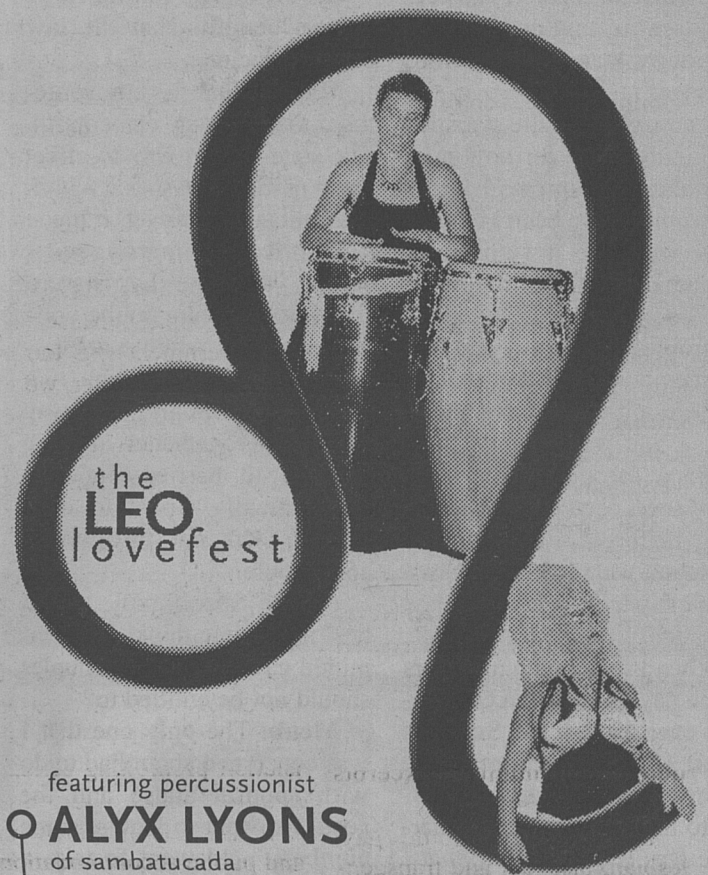
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