

# Biases in Anti-Sanders Editorial Don't Match Facts as Reported

The Free Press' voracious desire to continually malign Mayor Sanders and his handling of city government has once again gone asunder.

Your latest bombast (June 28 editorial) accusing Sanders of cronyism and favoritism in his choosing of Jane Driscoll to head the city's youth office smacks on the edges of unethical journalism, and, at the very least, uninformed reporting.

You claim "the secret, of course, is to watch the deeds, not the words." I find this an extreme contradiction as you then raise the question of Driscoll's qualifications and her level of competence in obtaining the permanent job of city youth coordinator.

If you were truly concerned about her status why didn't you consult your files? Had you done so you would have found an article which you published two years ago about Driscoll and her qualifications as youth coordinator.

Let's look not at words, but at deeds:

- Driscoll has spent most of her life working with children of all ages, in many capacities, including running a foster home for juveniles.

- Since becoming volunteer youth coordinator for the city she has raised \$63,000 for numerous youth programs.

- She established an after school performing arts program.

- She created a youth employment program for summer jobs.

The list goes on but I think her qualifications and past performance speak for themselves. Deeds, not words. The important thing is that she has responded enthusiastically to a major need of the youth and communities of Burlington. Sanders' choice of Driscoll for the permanent position is therefore quite justified.

The "verbal legerdemain" which you accuse Sanders of shows nothing more than your own frustration and ineptitude in dealing with the facts rather than unsubstantiated biases. ...

ANDY GREEN

Vergennes

## Another Location

I am a Christian and a Re-



Forum

publican: Those facts hold my concerns in innumerable areas. Consequently, I am wondering, if in light of the nationwide AIDS scare, the Democratic Party might be reconsidering holding its national convention in San Francisco.

EDWARD F. PREWENTOWSKI  
Colchester

## A Tribute

God bless the gay people in Burlington.

ROGER COLEMAN

Burlington

## Class of '59

As a member of the Class of '59 (not UVM), as well as a reader and admirer of Gail Sheehy, I read with interest the results of the survey she took of those attending their 25th reunion at UVM the weekend of June 18.

I would hope those who also read the Free Press coverage, and even those who participated, weighed the fact that responses came from only 23 percent of the class, whereas most surveys reflect a sampling of the group questioned. I suggest that characteristics of those who attend class reunions are distinct from characteristics of non-attenders. Attendees tend to be those who are economically more successful and socially more stable and traditional.

As always, when I've either attended reunions or heard of others, I find myself enormously curious about those who were absent and not at all surprised by those present.

An assessment with which I would agree is that we who left the undergraduate world in the late '50s were indeed a "conservative bunch who had lived by the rules." However, I found it disappointing that now, 25 years later, this same group still ranks

imagination and playfulness as the least important personal qualities.

Is this only another reflection of reunion attenders, or could it be that the re-examination process for most of us has yet to start?

ANNE BEVERLY SUCHAR  
South Burlington

## Why Be Afraid?

In reading the June 24 Forum I found support of "Gay and Lesbian Pride Day" noticeably lacking. I'd like to offer some.

First of all, lesbians and gay men must continually "support" the heterosexual lifestyle simply by living their daily lives. Virtually every aspect of our culture is based on the assumption that "everyone is heterosexual." Seen any happy homosexual relationships on TV lately? It doesn't seem like too much to ask to support one day and one march to acknowledge that many people choose different lifestyles.

Instead of voicing indignation, disgust, and fear, it seems that the "straight" ones among us should be asking ourselves, "What am I so afraid of? Why do I react to this with such irrational paranoia?" Homophobia is a culturally instilled attitude, and we need to actively challenge it.

Whether we like to admit it or not, gays and lesbians are our friends, neighbors, co-workers, even our brothers and sisters. They are wonderful human beings, just like everyone else, and they deserve to live their chosen lives just like everyone else, without fear of losing their jobs, being estranged, or being subject to verbal and physical abuse.

Homophobia hurts all of us, not just gays and lesbians. As long as we are paranoid about being called "queer," we will not be able to fully love, appreciate and enjoy each other, no matter what our sexual preference.

I congratulate the aldermen on their position. If I had been able to march Saturday, I would have carried a sign saying "My Friends are Gay and Lesbian, and I'm Proud!"

MAC PARKER

Burlington