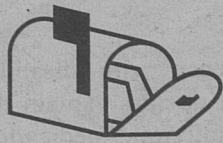


letters



OITM, PO Box 1078, Richmond, VT 05477-1078 or Editor@mountainpridemedi.org

Out in the Mountains welcomes your letters. Although we will withhold names from printing upon request, the letter must be accompanied by a verifiable name and address in order to be considered for publication. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity. Letters are also subject to the editorial policy stated in the masthead.

Many people think Anthony Pollina won the debates and would make a wonderful governor. They say, "I really like Pollina, but I'm afraid to vote for him."

Our Vermont Constitution provides protection against an extremist like Ruth Dwyer, because if no candidate draws a majority of the votes, the election goes to the legislature, which will then select the governor by secret ballot. Therefore, there is no way Ruth Dwyer can win, since a majority of pro-choice legislators would vote against her.

Choosing between the lesser of two evils breeds cynicism and apathy, but having the chance to vote for a candidate who actually supports the freedom to marry is tremendously exciting.

Vermonters who like Anthony Pollina have a constitutional obligation to not vote out of fear, and choose the candidate they think will make the best governor. This year, that candidate is Anthony Pollina.

Justin Francese
Waterbury Center

all Vermonters is Anthony Pollina. All Vermont women need full preventative and reproductive health care—regardless of whether they work full-time, part-time, or in their homes.

Finally, Anthony Pollina intends to make safe and affordable child care available to all Vermont families. He understands that child care workers must be paid properly and receive decent benefits, including health insurance, in order to continue working in a field which has always been underpaid. Working parents, especially single mothers, must have quality affordable child care in order to fully participate in the work force.

By instilling the fear that we might lose our reproductive rights, the Democrats are attempting to keep women "in our place"—that is, backing the Democratic Party. This is a scare tactic. We can best support women's rights by voting for Anthony Pollina, who will fight to improve the material conditions of women's lives.

Naomi Almeleh

Women's reproductive rights do not rely on the reelection of Howard Dean. The overwhelming majority of Vermonters support a woman's right to choose, and so do our legislators. All Progressive Party candidates are 100 percent pro-choice.

Anthony Pollina and the Progressive Party are the real champions of women's rights. Pollina has been out front fighting for a livable wage for all Vermonters—and women's wages are the lowest and most in need of an increase.

The only candidate committed to full health coverage for

In January, I called Neil Randal, representative for Bradford VT.

I asked politely if we could talk about the Civil Union debate.

I explained how and why my husband and I have considered ourselves married. Our marriage is the joining of two souls to one. We believe this is a spiritual, constitutional union, not for debate by our government or neighbors, a private matter.

I called to share perspectives; instead he told me the procedures forthcoming for public comments for the com-

mittee, nothing more.

Feeling my voice fall deafly, I wrongly, did not attend the hearings.

Today, I returned home to find a foul, inflammatory brochure in my back door from Neil. Among other things, it said the acts of love I perform with my husband are not acts of love, just sexual urges that are controllable, and that because we can't, there is just cause to not only discriminate against us, but for him to work diligently to make it so.

My reply to Neil's violent words was in kind. The phone message I left was as vulgar, obscene, and raw as is every Take Back Vermont sign I am forced to see, and though I publicly apologize to Neil for the message I left on his machine, I can't help but feeling, in my defense, while knowing it is no defense, the cowardly way in which this group applauds themselves for the perceived civility of their language.

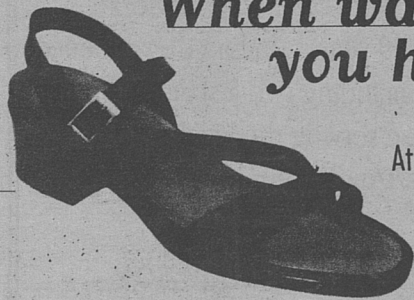
Being from a family at which their rhetoric is directed, I see, hear, and perceive it as grossly uncivil. Rather, it is cruel, aggressive, mean spirited, and constitutionally devoid of merit. Not understanding this is the problem.

Neil claims he will listen to the people, but his literature has no way to contact him.

More importantly, when given a chance to dialogue with a constituent family directly affected by the law, one willing to dialogue openly, peacefully, empathetically, he chose to ignore those Vermonters' voices, while choosing to ignore anything save but this debate is really about nothing more than the benefits.

Sadly, the fact ignored is equality between rights and

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established in 1986

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of *Out in the Mountains* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered people, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, insight, and affirmation. We also see OITM as a vehicle for the celebration of the culture and diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities here in Vermont and elsewhere.

EDITORIAL POLICY

We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of *Out in the Mountains*. This paper cannot and will not endorse any candidates or actions of public officials on issues of importance to lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered persons. We reserve the right not to publish any material deemed to be overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, xenophobic, or homophobic. Writers' guidelines are available on request. All materials submitted must include a name and a contact number. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles may appear anonymously upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed.

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