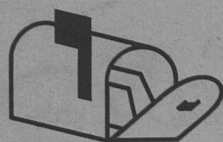


letters



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.

From the MPM Board

When Barbara Dozetos became editor of *Out in the Mountains* in the fall of 1998, she brought with her a passion for the paper characterized by discipline, accountability, and above all, consistency. In more than two years of editorship, she applied these principles to the paper, and a good deal more. Barbara committed herself and others to higher journalistic standards, and in so doing brought to the paper a journalistic integrity reflective of the ongoing growth and maturation of our community. Barbara was convinced that *Out in the Mountains* could be a better, more respected paper, and she made it one.

The next editor of OITM will step into a very different environment, indeed, a different job, than Barbara encountered just over two years ago. In conjunction with the board of directors of Mountain Pride Media, Barbara helped to delineate the roles of editor and publisher, and worked hard to separate the editorship from potentially compromising advertising sales responsibilities. As the board assumed responsibility for the business aspects of sustaining the paper, Barbara focused on sustaining a balanced representation of perspectives from our community, in-person coverage of important issues and events in our community, the writers and the writing. Barbara re-asserted *Out in the Mountains* as a newspaper, held to the standards accepted by other newspapers, and tirelessly promoted that informed writers and sharp, skilled writing are the keys to sustaining a vibrant paper.

The spotlight that shone on Vermont as civil unions slowly and contentiously became reality also directed attention to Vermont's only GLBT newspaper and Barbara's work as editor. Throughout formulation of the civil union legislation and afterward, as the law went into effect and men and women from around the nation and the world traveled to Vermont to claim personal recognition as respected members of the broader society, Barbara fielded calls and interview requests from publications around the country. Contacts forged and nurtured at GLBT journalists' and writers' conferences called on Barb to provide the in-person perspective their own

reports on Vermont lacked, and soon she was contributing under her own byline to *Newsday*, *Bay Windows*, *Alternative Family*, and other publications and online news services. It is a continuing goal of Mountain Pride Media,

ing for the successful tenure of our next editor, by offering him personal encouragement, a commitment of your own volunteer time, talents, and energy to OITM, and your financial support of its publisher.

It would be unthinkable to

We call on all of our readers to join us in providing for the successful tenure of our next editor, by offering him personal encouragement, a commitment of your own volunteer time, talents, and energy to OITM, and your financial support of its publisher.

while advancing our mission, to also provide advancement opportunities for the editor through the development of useful skills and important contacts. This only succeeds, however, when an editor is able to rise to the challenges and opportunities presented. Barb did, and we look forward to her continued reports and essays on news services throughout New England and the nation (and, we trust, in *Out in the Mountains*).

As much as the OITM editorship continues to evolve, one thing that hasn't changed is that it is, ultimately, consuming. Success in this position represents a huge challenge for anyone, and the Mountain Pride Media board of directors join Barbara in thanking all the community members and allies who contributed content, volunteered their expertise, or provided support, both emotional and, through donations to MPM, financially. It has been a struggle for MPM to provide a livable wage to the editor, but is a goal we remain deeply committed to. We call on all of our readers to join us in provid-

thank Barbara without also acknowledging the tireless, even-tempered and professional (though completely volunteer) support provided by her partner, Tina Giangrande. As copy editor, coach, sounding board, and most effective critic, Tina helped sustain sanity in the office, and surely, in Barb's life. *Out in the Mountains* is a stronger paper for Tina's efforts, too, and we are grateful for her ongoing participation.

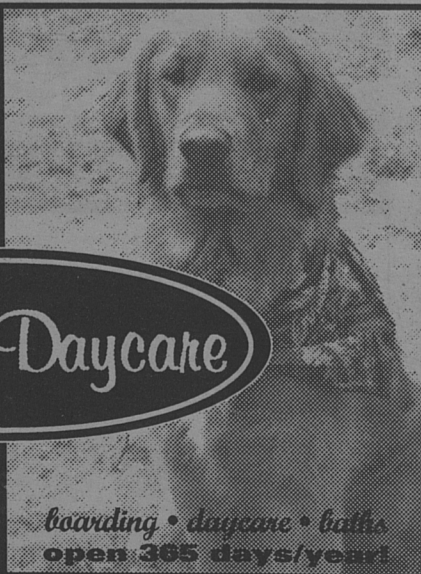
In thinking about Barbara's contributions to *Out in the Mountains* I have been unable to shake the somewhat cheesy refrain from 'To Sir with Love:' "How do you thank someone who has taken you from crayons to perfume?" Like the students in that '60s film, we'll have to settle for the simple "Thanks, Barbara—for everything."

Bennett Law, President
for the Board of Directors
Mountain Pride Media



Mountain Pride Media

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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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Mountainpridemedi.org is updated to include the current issue of OITM, generally by the 10th of each month. OITM is available in alternative formats upon request.