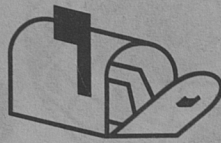


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LETTER FROM THE BOARD

This month, the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier will begin serving as official archivist of *Out in the Mountains*. The Vermont Historical Society recognizes the unique role *Out in the Mountains* has played in recording and facilitating the development of a GLBT movement in Vermont, and will be featuring our community newspaper in its extensive 20th Century Collection.

The Historical Society's interest in *OITM* coincides with the 15th Anniversary of the founding of the paper. In February 1986, *OITM* was started as a means of disseminating information to GLBT Vermonters, particularly information on and education about the expanding AIDS pandemic. Since that time, *OITM* has chronicled the founding and/or development of not just our AIDS Service and related organizations (ACoRN, BAAP, Vermont CARES, Vermont AIDS Consortium, Vermont PWA Coalition), but also the Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, Outright Vermont, Lavender Visions Productions, the R.U.1.2.? Community Center, the Samara Foundation, the Freedom to Marry Task Force, the Vermont Pride Committee and many social and activity-

oriented groups including the VGSA, the Green Mountain Freedom Band, the Vermont Gay Men's Chorus, and scores of others. By serving as an essential resource, *Out in the Mountains* helped bring people together to form the community from which these groups developed, the very community that came together to imagine and realize historic Civil Union legislation. From the germs of a social movement to Civil Unions - it has been an amazing 15 years.

As Vermonters compare our own advances against the struggles in neighboring states, we see demonstrable evidence of the impact of a vibrant statewide paper, chronicling and promoting the development of GLBT community. As a common touchstone for all those active in our community, *Out in the Mountains* helps bring GLBT Vermonters together. Mountain Pride Media is proud of the role *Out in the Mountains* has played in the advancement of GLBT civil rights, and with the help of many dedicated Vermonters, *OITM* will continue to play a crucial role in social change by being a stable, dependable forum for the exchange of ideas and information.

founded with high hopes and aspirations, and the original vision of the paper was realized and exceeded only because of the incredible devotion and perseverance of a number of individuals, especially the Editors of *OITM*: Terje Anderson, Deb Lashman, Hugh Coyle, Fred Kuhr, Chris Moes, and Barbara Dozetos - each has left a permanent impression. And as we celebrate *OITM*'s 15th Anniversary, Jason Whipple begins his tenure as its 7th Editor. Mountain Pride Media Board of Directors asks you to join us in welcoming Jason to this leadership position.

Jason's promotion to Editor ensures the introduction of new energies and perspectives, and with your help, as writers, volunteers, and financial contributors, Jason will keep *Out in the Mountains* a strong, vital resource for all of us. *Out in the Mountains* is gearing up for the next 15 years, and given the strength and commitment of the community it serves, it promises to be another 15 years to remember.

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

Out in the Mountains was


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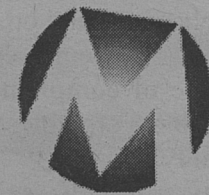
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