

replay

Join us in celebrating our 15th anniversary as we revisit past issues of the paper throughout 2001.

Out in the Mountains

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN
Volume IV, Number 10 January 1990

This is OITM's last issue

Burlington

Yes, it's sad but true. OITM is officially folding this month, on its fifth anniversary. Our collective energy no longer registers a blip on the radar scale of commitment.

Come to our forward-looking, open meeting at the FletcherFree Library, College Street, Burlington on Saturday, February 17th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. No guilt strings attached. We will discuss what kind of newspaper our Vermont lesbian and gay community needs and can sustain.

Come even if you've never been involved with OITM. Come even if you don't regularly read the newspaper. Come even if you don't intend to work on a new incarnation of OITM. Come because it matters to you that our far-flung community finds a way to keep in touch with each other. We've scheduled the meeting so people from outside Chittenden county can attend.

Maybe if new people step forward to take over the paper's operation, OITM can live on.

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Otherwise, help us collapse gracefully. Many of you have responded generously to our pleas for financial support. What should we do with any left-over funds? Donate them to Vermont CARES, the Statewide Coalition, or another newspaper?

Could OITM re-surface in another part of the state? Too many good causes, some people say, compete for attention in the Burlington area. They think

OITM might thrive in suburbia.

Others are enthusiastic about launching a lesbian feminist newspaper.

The bottom line is our community needs a voice. OITM, since it was launched five years ago, has grown tremendously. Each new advertiser, from Allstate to Capitol Lincoln Mercury to Mountain View Animal Inn, gave us a new way to do business with each other.

When gay rights legislation passed the Vermont Senate, OITM offered a way to hold legislators accountable. Through the years, our list of Vermont Resources grew right off its page. Even as we were deciding to shut down, new subscription requests were arriving.

Please come to our meeting on February 17th. Spend an afternoon discussing how we might salvage some of the wonderful progress we've made.

Out in t

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR BISEXUALS, LESBIANS AND GAY MEN
Volume V, Number 1 March 1990

OITM Alive and Kicking

Out in the Mountains, contrary to its name, may have been down but it's certainly not out, at least not in that sense of the word. An outpouring of help and support from OITM's readership has resurrected the paper and saved it from the point of collapse.

A lack of volunteers and burnout among the core members of the collective had put OITM on hold and drawn dire warnings that the last issue was just that - the last issue. However, a meeting on February 17th to determine the future of OITM drew nearly 45 people from across the state to the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington and showed that OITM must continue to fill a need among the gay, lesbian, and bisexual population in Vermont (especially those living in remote areas) to receive news on local and national events as well as listings of resources and connections.

Among the ideas the group came up with for the long-term survival of OITM was the hiring of a part-time coordinator paid for by a number of grants. The duties of the coordinator would include serving as a liaison to the community as a whole, doing office tasks such as responding to mail, and organizing the volunteers in their

respective duties as they get the paper out.

It was also decided that the paper needed to branch out more to other parts of the state as a means of preventing future burnout among collective members. Ideas to harness such energy included the establishment of satellite groups around the state, movement of the paper from community to community, or the use of existing local organizations such as college groups for support.

Following discussion on the above issues, the group broke up into three committees: financial, structural, and publishing.

The financial group discussed the present fiscal state of OITM as well as future potential sources of income. In particular, they addressed means by which the paper might hire a coordinator. Plans for an OITM fund-raising party may soon be on the drawing board to supplement the paper's income.

The publishing group drew up a list of ideas as to the content, format, and overall look of OITM. Suggestions included switching to newsprint in order to include more articles and advertising per issue, working out a satellite system around the state to get more local and regional Ver-

mont news, and making OITM a news monthly with a larger, quarterly features supplement. One immediate change enacted was the acknowledgement of bisexuality in the paper's readership; check out the new wording at the top of the page.

The internal structure group discussed the possible duties of the coordinator and volunteers in terms of making the paper run more efficiently.

More planning and input are still needed on all of the above issues to determine how OITM will continue to function as a viable source of information to our constituents. An additional meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 1990, at the Burlington Fletcher Free Library in the Pickering Room from 1-4:00 p.m. to work further on these ideas. Everyone is encouraged to attend, even if you could not make it to the first meeting (we won't even ask what your excuse was).

Out in the Mountains needs to hear from you, our supporters, about how the paper can continue to serve the best interests of Vermont's gay, lesbian, and bisexual population.

Relive our history online at