

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

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

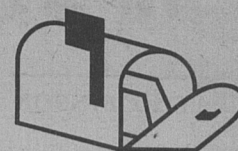
We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of *Out in the Mountains*. This paper cannot and will not endorse any candidates or actions of public officials 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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All letters must be accompanied by a verifiable name and address to be considered for publication. We will withhold names from printing upon request. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity. Send your letter to PO Box 1078, Richmond, VT 05477, or e-mail it to editor@mountainpridemedia.org



Assistance Sought

I am a lifelong Vermonter, now a Ph.D. student at the University of Connecticut, who is working on research for a doctoral dissertation on the passage of civil unions. I would like to ask for the assistance of OITM and its readers in my research.

I am interested in interviewing anyone willing to talk about their experiences during the legislative debates on the Civil Union law. I am hoping to be able to put together a clear picture of the methods used by activists in lobbying and testifying. I am also interested in the reactions of legislators to the activists. No matter what your level of involvement was, I am interested in your viewpoint.

Finally, I want to determine how the activists themselves viewed the process and what the future might hold for Vermont activists. This project is primarily intended to dispel the myth (quickly becoming a common misconception in political science) that the passage of the Civil Union law was an aberration brought

about by an overzealous Supreme Court. Anonymity is assured for those who prefer it.

If you are willing to be interviewed, e-mail me at paul.cook@uconn.edu. I will contact you to arrange a time and location convenient to you.

Thank you for your assistance.

Paul Cook

Department of Political

Science

University of Connecticut

Response

I had to write in after reading Karen Kerin's article in the August issue. Miss Kerin claims the reason people accused the Bush/Cheney ticket of stealing the election was because the Gore/Lieberman ticket won more popular but not electoral votes. I can only assume Miss Kerin believes this misassessment. We are enraged because the electoral votes in Florida were given to Bush by the Supreme Court in a partisan decision without each vote being counted. Most of the justices who voted to give Bush the election were

appointed by Nixon (in whose administration Cheney previously served), Reagan, or Bush Sr. Everyone I know has not gotten over these underhanded tactics. We do not approve of the faux-President and his flunkies taking steps to destroy our environmental and antibalistic treaties.

As for Senator Jeffords, only the most conservative Republicans could be upset by his defection. For years he has supported gay rights, a woman's right to choose, and environmental concerns. He was never a shill of the Vermont Republican Party and his switch made him a hero in the eyes of most Vermonters. Jeffords stood up for what was right against an administration that was selected, not elected. That seems to be what you, Miss Kerin, refuse to understand.

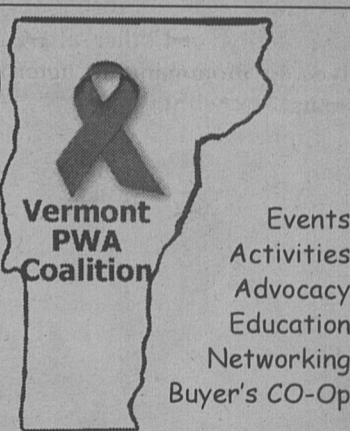
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