

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

Tragedy

Because the spiritual foundation of Twelve Step programs is anonymity, I can't sign this letter; but I feel compelled to share my thoughts in the face of this national crisis we're facing. I'm convinced that the media can be both good and evil. I was brought to tears by the news of the heroic acts, heart-felt anguish and sincere show of support all over the globe in the face of the September 11th tragedy. It gave me great hope for the spiritual transformation that can emanate from such a disaster. I also acknowledge that if it weren't for excellent reporting (OITM being a prime example) our Civil Union Law might never have passed.

On the other hand, if it

weren't for our sick attachment to viewing all the horrors of the planet on our little screens every night, terrorism would never be able to get a foothold in society. Watching this latest atrocity on our own soil felt eerily familiar, like viewing a grade B movie — planes crashing into tall buildings, bodies falling out of skyscraper windows, people in New York City running panicked in the streets glancing at the mayhem behind them. And now the threat of seeking revenge on civilians from tiny, third-world countries like Afghanistan in some sort of bombing campaign for another one of our infamous military "operations" promises to "entertain" us with more thousands of hours of media "adventure." I am not exempt from this pull as I felt myself drawn into the information

web in order to get a handle on this trauma. Still, I am profoundly frightened of this media monster we have created.

And yet we are an open society which is probably why we are so vulnerable to nasty men with knives who can sneak into our airports and in one half hour, snuff out the lives of untold thousands. There is no winning this war. There is no way we can stop the media from reporting these wars. We need to cling to freedom of speech as one of our precious rights.

So if I believe that lashing out at more poor people in foreign countries (like the tens of thousands we killed in Iraq during "Desert Storm" or the thousands we massacred in Vietnam) is not the answer, what are my suggestions for resolving these conflicts short of blacking out the media during periods of national crises and developing less sensational (infinitely dull) ways of communicating vital information which sidestep drama-rama? How about communicating to our leaders that it's OK to admit we are powerless over terrorism and that our country has become unmanageable? That only calling upon the potential of goodness within all of us can restore us to sanity. That we need to turn our knee-jerk desires for retaliation over to the care of those in our midst who have the courage to respond non-violently (like Ghandi, Mandela, King). That we do a fearless and searching moral inventory of our past mistakes, confess them honestly to each other, find support in changing these devastating patterns. That we make amends to those we have harmed and spend the rest of our lives focusing on helping others so we don't sink into greed, self-absorption, self-pity and rage which will lead us back to our addiction to domination. Admittedly, I'm grasping at straws, but sitting here three days after the attack, I can't come up with any damn suggestions other than the spiritual principles I try to live by in my own life which have definitely led to a modicum of serenity in the midst of chaos.

Anonymous
VT

Middlebury College presents a series of Coming Out Week Events

Sunday, October 7

Boys Don't Cry

A film based on the life of Brandon Teena, starring Academy Award winner Hillary Swank.
4:00 pm AND 7:30pm at Dana Auditorium, Sunderland Language Center

Wednesday October 10

Before Night Falls

A film based on the life of Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas, who suffered persecution and imprisonment by Castro's repressive system for being gay and dissident. Directed by Julian Schnabel.
8:30pm at Dana Auditorium, Sunderland Language Center

Thursday October 11

Coming Out Week Speaker Emilio Bejel Cuban Homophobia in Retrospect

Professor Bejel, Chair of the Spanish Department at the University of Colorado, Boulder, has written extensively on gay related literary topics, both in the USA and the rest of America.
4:15pm at Warner Hemicycle, Warner Hall

Friday October 12

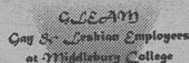
Coming Out Week Panel

Featuring Middlebury College Gay and Lesbian Alumni
4:30 at Redfield Proctor Lounge in Proctor Hall, 2nd Floor

All events are FREE.

All locations are on Rt. 125 West, College Street, Middlebury, Vermont. For directions or more information, contact (802) 443-5588 or visit our website at

www.middlebury.edu



These events are generously sponsored by the following organizations:
Middlebury College Office of Institutional Diversity
Middlebury College Department of Spanish
Middlebury College Department of Women's and Gender Studies
GLEAM (Gay and Lesbian Employees at Middlebury)
Pan-African, Latino, Asian, and Native American (PALANA) Center

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

established in 1986

EDITOR IN CHIEF

editor@mountainpridemedia.org

Jason Whipple

ART DIRECTOR

art@mountainpridemedia.org

Mack Roark

CLASSIFIEDS

classifieds@mountainpridemedia.org

Sandy Reeks

CALENDAR

calendar@mountainpridemedia.org

Sandy Reeks

SOURCE EDITOR

source@mountainpridemedia.org

Mack Roark

CONTRIBUTORS: Michael Alvear, Alison Bechdel, Crow Cohen, Vincent Downing, The Rev. Jane Dwinell, Charlie Emond, Karen Kerin, Robert Kirby, Greg D. Kubiak, William J. Mann, Joel Nichols, Paul Olsen, Eric Orner, Pat Robinson, Dennis Scott-Bush, Jade Wolfe

ADVERTISING MANAGER

ads@mountainpridemedia.org

Jennifer Ponder
(802) 434-5237

NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc 212-242-6863

MOUNTAIN PRIDE MEDIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mountain Pride Media

Justin Barton-Caplin, Euan Bear, Dan Brink, Brian Cote, Pam Kinniburgh, Ernest McLeod, Diane Miller, Roland Palmer, Alverta Perkins, Jim Petrie, Carrie Rampp, Esther Rothblum, Richard Slaphey

Out in the Mountains was founded in 1986 with start-up money from the Haymarket People's Fund. Mountain Pride Media's current funding sources include the Chicago Resource Center, Green Mountain Fund for Popular Struggle, Gill Foundation, Haymarket People's Fund, Physicians Computer Company, Samara Foundation of Vermont, and individual private donations.

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.

Out in the Mountains (ISSN 1081-5562) is published on the last Thursday of each month by Mountain Pride Media, Inc. It is printed by BD Press. The paper maintains offices at 39 Bridge Street in Richmond, Vermont.

The subscription rate is \$23 per year within the United States of America.

©2001, Out in the Mountains

Out in the Mountains
PO Box 1078

Richmond VT 05477-1078

TEL (802) 434-OITM

FAX (802) 434-7046

editor@mountainpridemedia.org

www.mountainpridemedia.org

www.mountainpridemedia.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.

OITM is printed on recycled newsprint containing 30% post-consumer and using 100% soy-based inks.