

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

established in 1986

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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*

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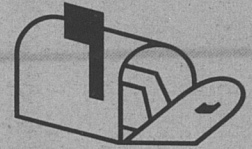
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www.mountainpridemedi.org is updated to include the current issue of *OITM*, generally by the 10th of each month.

OITM is available in alternative formats upon request.

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

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@mountainpridemedi.org



Obscenities

The first item in the November short news section reminded me of a line from the Vietnam War melodrama, *Apocalypse Now*. As Martin Sheen prepares to fulfill his mytho-poetic assault on Marlon Brando, who is dictating into a tape machine, Brando says, "Our generals train young men to drop fire on people and then they do not let them write 'fuck' on their airplanes because — it's obscene."

Should we be happy that the Air Force will no longer drop bombs on a country that may soon run out of targets that say, Die Faggot? It's all obscene, isn't it?

Andrew Whittaker

Various Places in Northeast Kingdom

The Source

Just wanted to say that you've developed a great page [The Source]...a great cause, and I've got a lot of fantastic information off of it!

Sincerely yours,

Josh Hallock

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Via the Internet

Response to letter from November

What a well written article full of opinions and sentiments that I fully agree with. My only problem with that article is that it is unsigned. The author can never be acknowledged. If the article were totally contrary to my own beliefs, but signed, I would personally defend that individual's right to disagree with me. If you don't stand for something, you will FALL for anything. So, I encourage the staff of OITM to adopt an editorial policy of NOT publishing letters of people who have no courage. After all, the title of this paper is "OUT in the mountains", and NOT something like, "HIDING in the hills". Facilitating fear never accomplished anything, so I recommend that OITM stop doing that. Thanks!

Patti York

Via the Internet

Ani's Choice

Ok, let me just start by saying I don't know you, you don't know me. Im not even sure who wrote what was on the first page of the website because there was no name after the article, but this is my comment to who ever wrote that.

I am not writing this to offend you but simply to make a point. We are all free to say what we want and to have our own opinion but after I came across your web page, I have to say, I was a bit offended by what you said.

Not because you offended Ani, but the fact that you are saying that because Ani married a man is in someway offensive to you. Why do you care, or should anyone care for that matter, who or what gender she, or anyone, chooses to be with.

I know that a lot of "lesbians" took great offense when she married Andy G., but isn't that exactly what we want others not to do? We, and I say we, speaking of the gay and lesbian community, have a hard enough time with "straight" people not accepting us, for fellow gay and lesbians to not accept others who maybe at one time preferred girls then maybe prefer boys. Don't quote me on this, but I don't think Ani has a sexual preference. I don't think it matters to her if they are male or female, black or white. So I't shouldn't matter if Ani sleeps with a girl or a boy.

She isn't saying sleeping with a girl is wrong and I don't think she has ever said sleeping with a guy is wrong.

It really shouldn't matter to anyone who anyone sleeps with. That's their own business. Not ours!!!!I'm rather sure it doesn't matter to her who you sleep with.

And by the way, Ani is not a sell out, she is anything but. She still has very strong political views and still stands up for what she believes in.