

Editor

Euan Bear editor@mountainpridemedial.org

Art Director

Pete Gershon art@mountainpridemedial.org

Copy Editor

Euan Bear

Classifieds

Sandy Reeks classifieds@mountainpridemedial.org

Calendar

Sandy Reeks calendar@mountainpridemedial.org

Source Editor

Tania Kupczak source@mountainpridemedial.org

Contributors

Justin Barton-Caplin, Euan Bear, Alison Bechdel, Anne Watson Bongiorno, Crow Cohen, Eric Cross, Jane Dwinell, Michael Fannon, Les B. Frank, Keith Goslant, Cynthia Himmel, Christopher Kaufman, Karen Kerin, Robert Kirby, Rob Larabee, E. Lynne Lemont, Bill Lippert, Brewster Martin, Ernie McLeod, Judy Murphy, Eric Orner, Wise Owl, Roland Palmer, Alverta Perkins, Margaret Porter, Dean Pratt, Carrie Rampp, Sandy Reeks, Skeeter Sanders, Dennis Scott-Bush, Margaret Tamulonis, Pat Winer, Leah Wittenburg, Gail Zatz

Advertising Manager

Jennifer Ponder ads@mountainpridemedial.org
(802) 434-5237

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc (212) 242-6863



MOUNTAIN PRIDE MEDIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Justin Barton-Caplin, Dan Brink, James Garris, Ernest McLeod, Roland Palmer, Alverta Perkins, Jim Petrie, Vicky Phillips, Carrie Rampp, Richard Slappey, Isabel Smiddy.

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, Fairfax VT.

The paper maintains offices at 39 Bridge Street in Richmond, Vermont. The subscription rate is \$23 per year within the United States of America.

© 2002, Out in the Mountains

Out in the Mountains

PO Box 1078
Richmond VT 05477-1078
TEL (802) 434-OITM
FAX (802) 434-7046
editor@mountainpridemedial.org
www.mountainpridemedial.org

www.mountainpridemedial.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.

letters

Marijuana & Governor Dean

Thank you for running "Medical Marijuana Key Issue for AIDS Patients," which gave readers a solid overview of the issue.

By the time this letter is published, we may know if Gov. Howard Dean has made good on his threat to kill H.645, Vermont's medical marijuana bill. As I write this in mid-April, reports from the state-house consistently indicate that Dean has been twisting arms in the Senate, in hopes of keeping the measure from ever reaching his desk. If the bill dies, Dean's fingerprints will be on the corpse.

When I came to work at the Marijuana Policy Project last year – after a dozen years in GLBT and AIDS journalism – I knew of Dean primarily as a hero in the civil unions battle, and was shocked to discover he opposed protecting seriously ill people who use medical marijuana. I've been even more shocked by the inaccurate statements he has made to both local and national media about the bill – claiming, for example, that it authorizes possession of three pounds of marijuana. That's nonsense and the governor knows it.

It's also nonsense to claim, as Gov. Dean has done, that medical marijuana legislation is inappropriate unless marijuana goes through the FDA's drug approval process. Hundreds of herbal remedies are sold and used every day without being licensed as drugs by the FDA. The FDA even allows individuals to import unapproved medications from abroad – drugs that are often vastly more toxic and dangerous than marijuana – for personal use. Surely as a medical doctor Gov. Dean knows this.

Dean has been making the rounds of national GLBT political events in apparent preparation for a presidential run. Along the way he has been implored by GLBT and HIV/AIDS organizations, publications and elected officials to support medical marijuana legislation. We must ask ourselves: Is someone who is willing to put PWAs in jail for using a medicine that relieves their pain and nausea really our friend? Can we trust someone whose explanations of his position are so consistently inaccurate and misleading?

Sincerely,
Bruce Mirken
Director of Communications
Marijuana Policy Project

P.S.: Readers interested in following marijuana policy issues can find a trove of information on our web site, www.mpp.org.

Warm Fuzzies

The April issue of OITM is a real knockout! Great coverage of new community ideas, initiatives, a whole theme section on gardening, with a new editor who writes well, plus beautiful new layouts – what else can one ask?!

More of the same, please!

I wish you all great success in keeping up, and improving as you already have, a Vermont GLBT tradition that has never read better or looked better.

Cheers,
Joe Ryan
East Middlebury

Congratulations on a great issue! I was so energized by once again having the paper be meaningful to me.

Thanks for the gardening articles and the reminder of community. I am a lesbian of the Stonewall era and I housemate with a young lesbian. I mention that because I see my perspective lightening up, being more optimistic by her "less burdened" one. I think this newspaper is a wonderful platform for that. We can share each other's perspectives and experiences. Up until recently, it seemed dominated by the men and by subjects that meant little to me. I was thrilled with April's issue and am so glad you are the editor.

Many thanks,
Judith Ruskin

I want to say "ditto" to readers' response to the back page of the March issue. Man (womyn), that was enough to scare anyone.

Mostly I want to embrace Euan Bear as the new editor, and say thank you, thank you, thank you for profiling some of our local beautiful wimmin doing their thing.

We're very lucky to have Euan, and I hope we can all support her throughout her tenure. You go girl.

Mary Wallman
Williston

And Not So Warm ...

If I were a middle-aged, professional, tie-wearing yuppie, bent on making the straight world view me as just like them, I would read *Out in the Mountains*. Unfortunately, I fit into the other (probably more numerous) crowd of GLBT individuals who find the picture of Miss Yolanda on the back cover of your rag refreshing. If the so-called elite of Vermont's gay

> continued on page 6

editor's notebook

A 50-ish gay man mentioned the case to me in a phone conversation. A fundamentalist Christian pastor and religious school principal had been indicted for molesting boys he had met through the church or the school. Wouldn't it be interesting, he said, to find out what the alleged child molester had said in his church about gays and lesbians.

Well, yes, in some kind of "aha – gotcha" way. It can be so tempting to gloat when those who condemn members of the lgbtq community as "immoral" are caught being way less than perfect. In some perverse way, it's sort of satisfying when they get caught in behavior that in their ignorance and homophobia they attribute to members of our community.

But I decided not to pursue the story in any formal way. The reason for that decision has to do with how unattractive gloating is and, more seriously, with the toll in human lives and potential for the victims of the alleged molester. The minister pled not guilty at his arraignment, even though the police filed an affidavit saying the man had confessed. But regardless of the legal outcome, at least three – and perhaps more – boys have reported being molested.

They'll have to deal with that reality for the rest of their lives. They were incredibly brave to buck not only society's messages about males never admitting being victims, but also the community's perception of the man they've accused. As a result of their experiences, their faith may be

destroyed. They will never get back the chance to choose their own first sexual partner. They will have to sort out whether being molested means they are gay or whether they are somehow to blame. It may take them years to feel at ease with physical intimacy, to trust men. They may act out their anger at being sexually used against male authority figures or even against men they think are gay, making the same erroneous assumption that many supposedly educated commentators make about priestly child abusers.

This is not an "aha" story. It's reason to mourn.

In Search of ...

I'm searching for writers and photographers, especially for news and feature stories that have

an impact on our communities. Columnists we've got – everybody's got a personal opinion. But if you can ask good questions, take accurate notes of who said what, do research on the Web, write clearly, and meet deadlines, then you're the people I want to talk to. Everything you read that's not by me in this or any future issue of OITM is written by someone who is donating his or her time and energy. I'm grateful for the folks who wrote this issue – and I'd love to see a few more. Contact editor@mountainpridemedial.org to volunteer.

Almost Perfect?

I'd like to think so. At least, no one mentioned any major errors beyond a few typos (Kitsch-en, not Kitch-en; gardener, not gardner, along with a few others).