

Editor Euan Bear
editor@mountainpridemedia.org**Assistant Editor** Susan McMillan**Copy Editor** Euan Bear**Classifieds** Dan Brink
classifieds@mountainpridemedia.org**Calendar** Dan Brink
calendar@mountainpridemedia.org**Source Editor** Michel DuBois
source@mountainpridemedia.org**Contributors**

Euan Bear, Alison Bechdel, Dan Brink, Eleanor Brown, April Elizabeth, Michael Fannon, Stuart Granoff, Michael Holden, Glenn Johnson, Ric Kasini Kadour, Julia F. Kimball, Robert Kirby, Christopher Kaufman, Lee Lynch, Susan McMillan, Emma & Lluvia Mulvaney-Stanak, Lauren Parker, Cynthia Potts, Cathy Resmer, Kris Rowley, Scott Sherman, Neth Urkiel-Taylor, Leah Wittenberg, Bob Wolff. Photos: P. 1, top: Chris Ewers/in newsweekly, P. 2, top: Chris Ewers; bottom left, Steve Desroches/in newsweekly; bottom right, Euan Bear; p. 2 photo of Ariel by Peter Braun. P. 3 photo by Julia Kimball. P. 6 photo by Euan Bear. P. 8 photo by Joan Tabachnick. P. 10 photo by Lluvia Mulvaney-Stanak. P. 11 photo by Cathy Resmer. P. 17 photo by Sasha Brunelle. P. 20 illustration from Daddy's Wedding by Michael Wilhoite.

Ad Manager Michel DuBois
ads@mountainpridemedia.org
(802) 434-6486**National Advertising Representative**
Rivendell Marketing Co., Inc. (212) 242-6863**MOUNTAIN PRIDE MEDIA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Ron Bernard, Dan Brink, Brian Cote,
James Garris, Shawn May, Fran Moravcsik,
Alverta Perkins, Vicky Phillips, Greg Weaver**Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of Out In The Mountains [OITM] is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender 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 transgender communities here in Vermont and elsewhere.

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material that 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, as a non-profit organization, cannot and will not endorse any political candidates. We reserve the right not to publish any material deemed to be overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, xenophobic, or homophobic.

Unless otherwise specified, all submissions of articles, photographs, graphics, and advertisements herein are the property of Mountain Pride Media, Inc. and any republication or broadcast without written permission is prohibited. We are not responsible for the return of unsolicited materials. All contributions are donated to Mountain Pride Media, Inc. for our use including, but not limited to, publishing in print and electronic (Internet, Web, etc.) versions, advertising, marketing, and archival purposes with appropriate attribution to the original author. No assumption should be made about the gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation of any contributor or any person named in these pages. OITM is not responsible beyond the printing of corrections for errors in any submitted materials.

OUT in the Mountains (ISSN 1081-5582)

is published on the last Wednesday 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 bulk mail subscription rate is \$29 per year within the USA.

© 2003, Out In The Mountains, All Rights Reserved

CONTACT US: POB 1078 | Richmond VT 05477
TEL (802) 434-OITM [6486] FAX (802) 434-7046
editor@mountainpridemedia.org

www.mountainpridemedia.org is updated to include the current issue of OITM, generally by the 10th of each month, in our online archive. OITM is available in alternative formats upon request. OITM is printed on recycled newsprint containing 30% post-consumer and using 100% soy-based inks.

editorial**Pride and Joy and Shame****W**hat a year it has been since last year's Pride! The U.S.

Supreme Court ruled state sodomy laws unconstitutional, at last freeing gay men (and only by inference, lesbians) from the stigma of criminality based solely on private sexual acts in our own homes. The implications were huge: all those laws and policies that told us we were not worthy of certain jobs or of adopting children or raising the ones we already had – because, after all, we were known criminals if we were at all open about our sexuality – were now shown to be discriminatory, sheer bigotry.

And, darn, if Antonin Scalia's bitter dissent from that decision wasn't right on the mark. The Court majority ruling, he wrote, would open the door to gay marriage.

Soon thereafter, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court told state officials that they could no longer deny same-sex couples equal access to marriage. The Court leaped beyond Vermont's Supreme Court when it affirmed in February that civil unions were "separate but equal" and that "separate is seldom if ever equal." The Court denied the Commonwealth's legislature the option of wiggling out of equal marriage by that route.

That same month, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsome jumpstarted the whole process by directing county clerks to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and pioneering lesbian activists Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, with a half-century of love and care between them, were the first.

A handful of other towns and counties joined in before they were all, sooner or later, stopped by court injunctions filed for by right wing organizations.

But despite the right's best efforts, nothing could stop equal marriages from taking place on May 17 in city halls, churches, and other gathering places throughout Massachusetts. There, captured in front-page photos in mainstream daily newspapers and on millions of television screens, were scenes of Pride. And Joy. And Love.

How different these images are from the ones released just the week before. The U.S. military, notorious for its homophobia, had documented for itself members of its own units abusing detainees in Iraq (with later revelations about similar situations in Afghanistan and earlier ones, mostly ignored, about the treatment of detainees in Guantanamo).

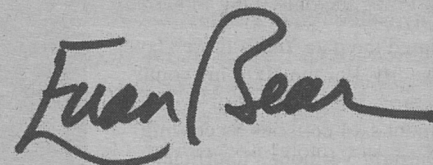
While, yes, everyone from the White House on down has declared how "appalled" they are, it has been left to the gay and lesbian press to notice the high percentage of the abuse that is about forcing male prisoners to enact or simulate sex with other male prisoners, or to endure being raped by male guards. New York's *Gay City News* carried some of the provocative photos under banner headlines: "Pentagon's Anti-Gay Culture at Heart of Iraqi Prisoner Abuse Scandal" and "Impeach Rumsfeld."Commentators, including gay Muslims Mubarak Dahir and Faisal Alam, and spokespeople from gay and human rights organizations, have decried the abuse in general, and the homophobia expressed thereby in particular. The author of *Beyond Shame: Reclaiming the Abandoned History of Radical Gay Sexuality*, Patrick Moore, told *GCN* he "felt the government had found a way to use sexuality as a tool of humiliation both for Arab men and for gay men here," and that the pictures evoked "a deep sense of shame as a gay man."We don't have to accept this shame that others are so eager to heap upon our shoulders, insinuate into our hearts, and etch onto our minds. We must not be confused – the acts depicted and reported are not about *our* sexuality, but about the perpetrators' limited imagination of their own worst fears. The difference between the Abu Ghraib abuses and our sexuality is the difference between rape and love. We reject any shame associated with these images.

We do not reject our obligation to care about and for these damaged human beings. We accept our responsibility to take action to stop these abuses. And we recognize that all the shame belongs to the

perpetrators of such outrages. This shame belongs to the system that encourages them, to the hypocrisy of the military and religious doctrines that dehumanize ordinary people: the victims being mistreated, those of us whose sexuality is being perverted for use as a weapon against those victims, and even the low-level soldiers following their orders and indoctrination. Let's face it: any soldier who would commit such acts has been dehumanized about as much as the "detainee" he or she has abused.

The thing about shame is that it can easily turn into a rage that can burn at a low simmer for years until the right opportunity comes along. The Stonewall Rebellion could be characterized that way: the simmering rage from the years of shame, harassment, and arrest experienced by the drag queens and butch dykes at the bars finally exploded on a hot night in June. We date our Pride from that shame-shedding explosion.

We have overcome the shame with which society has tried to smear our lives. We have our Pride and our joy and our love, which now speaks its name loud and clear. We won't go back.▼

Euan Bear,
Editor**Production Notes:** *Tongue in Cheek* by Kevin Isom and *Queeries and Quandries* by Lavender Lizzie were held due to an overwhelming amount of local and timely articles and viewpoints. Look for them in the July Pride issue!