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Photos: Pp. 1, 2, 3, Euan Bear; p. 6, Scott Sherman; p. 8, John Cavanagh; p. 9, courtesy LGBTQA Services; p. 17, Yves Langlais - EyesNetwork.com.

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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.

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OUT in the Mountains (ISSN 1081-5562)

is published on the last Wednesday of each month by Mountain Pride Media, Inc. It is printed by the Press Republican, Plattsburgh, NY. The paper maintains offices at 34 Elmwood Ave in Burlington, Vermont. The bulk mail subscription rate is \$29 per year within the USA.
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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

Why We Still Need a Gay Press

It was one of those things that just jiggled my elbow, a collection of hmmmnn moments.

When the March 2005 issue of OITM came out, it carried a centerfold arts story on Vermont resident and filmmaker John Scagliotti (*Oliver Button Is a Star, In the Life, Before Stonewall, After Stonewall*). Scagliotti's new documentary, *Dangerous Living*, on how it is to be gay or lesbian in the rest of the world, was shown in Montpelier during the Green Mountain Film Festival at the end of March. I waited to see how other media would handle it.

And I waited. And I waited.

There was nothing in any of the media I checked: not in the Barre-Montpelier *Times Argus*, the Burlington *Free Press*, *Seven Days*, no mention on Vermont Public Radio. And some of those media outlets, like WPTZ Channel 5 and VPR, ballyhooed "Vermont filmmakers," including Nora Jacobsen (*Nothing like Dreaming*) and Ed Dooley (*Sacrificial Lambs*).

I even checked all the references to the film festival's 2005 series that I could find on the Web, and the only places *Dangerous Living* was mentioned outside a calendar listing were on the Festival's own website (www.focusonfilm.net) and in the pages of *Out in the Mountains*. Hmmmnnnnnn. The film's showing, by the way, sold out.

The second hmmmnn moment occurred during and after the ceremony in which the University of Vermont and St. Michael's College conferred honorary degrees on South African Anglican Archbishop ("retired") Desmond Tutu. I was in UVM's Patrick Gymnasium with the hundreds of others to hear the Nobel laureate speak.

It was Roman Catholic St. Michael's College President Marc A. vanderHeyden – not President Dan Fogel of secular UVM – who commended Bishop Tutu for his stand against homophobia, among other ills (racial discrimination, hunger, poverty, war) we humans inflict on each other. And the dear bishop himself mentioned it at least twice, declaring that his god called "all, all, all, all, all" of us to

the table as family: brown, black, yellow, red, and a pale shade of pink; "gay, lesbian and so-called straight" included.

VPR did us all a service by re-broadcasting a slightly edited version of Bishop Tutu's remarks. But otherwise, that inclusive call was omitted from the news coverage I saw of the speech. News media from television to radio to print routinely focused solely on Tutu's call to end racial discrimination and to embrace racial diversity. And that was certainly the major focus, but what makes the peace prize-winner truly remarkable is that he has seen and understood and says out loud repeatedly that hate

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and discrimination in all, all, all, all, all its forms is inimical to peace – like "spitting in God's face." Hmmmnnnnnnnn.

There was how little coverage was given to the Episcopal House of Bishops' response to the worldwide Anglican Communion's call for the US denomination to cease ordaining gay or lesbian bishops and for an apology following the ordination of Gene Robinson. What little coverage there was in Vermont focused solely on the proffered apology, not on the declaration that no bishops would be ordained rather than singling out potential lesbian or gay candidates to refuse to ordain (see "Blessings of the Times," *Out in the Mountains*, March, 2005).

I saw no coverage of the Translating Identity Conference anywhere

but here, even though there's a relevant bill in the legislature right now.

In ways large and small, our concerns, our stories, support by well known and well respected allies for our issues are routinely ignored by local and national media every day, every week, every month.

Except here.

That's why we still need – need more than ever – a gay press.

Please support your gay press: advertise, subscribe, volunteer. Tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in our pages and that you appreciate their support for our community.

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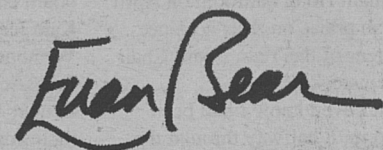
Write letters to the editor about issues that concern you. Tell us when we're doing a good job and when we could have

or should have done better.

And, of course, donations are gratefully accepted – and tax-deductible besides.

Support your gay press, so we can continue to be your eyes and ears, your news analyst, your stimulating commentator on issues you care about – or that snag your attention unexpectedly – and will find only here.

Thanks. ▼



Euan Bear, Editor