

# letters

## Marathon Experience

What a wonderful experience all around. I finished 2 minutes better than my previous record, despite the hilly course. I would call the Vermont City Marathon the best marathon yet.

I really appreciate the fabulous article in *Out in the Mountains* - you all do such good work up there. I am thinking about subscribing to the newspaper. I did not get to meet up with Jenn [Baudreau, who wrote "Marathon Man" OITM's June cover story about Ted's run] while there, but we talked on the phone. I did however get to meet with Matt Mulligan at Vermont CARES. Matt gave me a personal tour of the clinic. I also met with Kate Jerman of Outright Vermont. We had such an incredible talk about all sorts of things.

All of it made my running the marathon so inspirational and very powerful. Even in the midst of cramping up at mile 20, I was able to work through it all by thinking about why I was running the marathon. How my one-person act could help others keep the memories alive about Lollie and Julie.

Again thanks for all your hard work in getting my marathon run to others. I am currently working with a writer for the Advocate about a story about Lollie and Julie. I am highly considering running the Vermont City Marathon again next year for the 10th Anniversary.

**Ted Hobart**  
Arlington, VA

*Ted Hobart ran the Vermont Cities Marathon in memory of his friend Lollie Winans and her partner Julie Williams. He also raised over \$100 for Outright Vermont.*

## Not on the Trail

I just saw two articles on your site that contain false information, particularly surprising because they purport to come from friends and admirers of

Lollie and Julie.

They were not, repeat not, hiking or backpacking on the Appalachian Trail that week. They had registered for a week of hikes on side trails in Shenandoah National Park. The campsite where they were murdered is east of both the A.T. and Skyline Drive. They did have to cross the A.T. to get to the restaurant at Skyland Lodge, where they were seen at least one night. Because of where their car was parked, we conjecture that they briefly were on the A.T. to walk from the car to the intersection of the side trail down to their campsite, at the beginning of the week, but that was it.

That does not change the fact that their murders were despicable acts of violence, nor does it change the fact that many in the A.T. community were, and are, shaken by them and we mourn them. But, the other fact is, they were not hiking or backpacking on the A.T.,

and a simple check with the law-enforcement authorities in the park or with the U.S. attorney's office would confirm at least that part of this sad story.

**Brian King**  
Director of Public Affairs  
Appalachian Trail Conference

## VDH: Not Hypnotic

Thanks so much for your ongoing coverage of the health initiatives at R.U.1.2? Community Center. We are proud of the work that we are doing in helping queer and allied Vermonters make healthier choices for themselves.

The Vermont Department of Health did ask us to clarify one point in your May article on our tobacco cessation programming. The State of Vermont did help pay for a cessation class at the Center co-sponsored by Fletcher Allen Health Care in January 2005. That class offered information

and supplies including nicotine replacement therapy.

However, the cessation class offered by hypnotherapist Betty Moore Hafter that was offered this spring was not paid for or endorsed by the Vermont Department of Health. We are thrilled that Betty volunteered to run a hypnotherapy class and we know from the evaluations of the participants that they felt very positive about their experience. Hypnotherapy, like many alternative health care practices, is effective for many individuals but is not currently endorsed by the Vermont Department of Health.

We hope to have Betty return in the future and we will continue to work with the Department of Health, local practitioners and other partners to offer innovative, culturally competent queer health programs.

Thank you very much for your coverage of these

important issues.

**Christopher M. Kaufman, M.Sc.**  
Executive Director  
R.U.1.2? Queer Community Center

## Republicans Infiltrating?

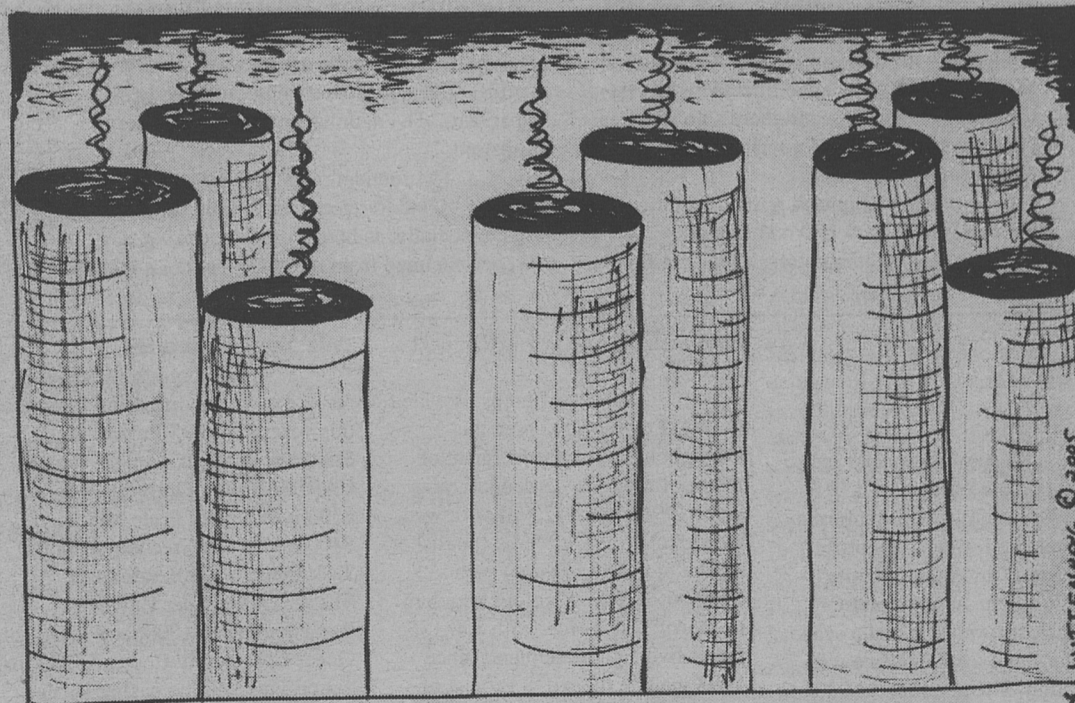
Interesting to read that OITM has been targeted by the toady Log Cabin Republicans ("George W Is Right," Letters, June). Remember Troy's Trojan Horse? Lock the doors at night, you never know who will crawl in. Love those nebulous gay statistics, obviously from Karl Rove. No mention of the non-existent weapons of mass destruction that sent and killed thousands of young American soldiers, not to mention even more Iraqi citizens.

You have to question how many of these rapid letters were sent to other newspapers across the country. A mailing party around the swimming pool while sipping adult beverages, the Gold Coast address says it all.

**Albert Santerre**  
Salem, NH

## At Witt's End

## Leah Wittenberg



♪ OH BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES ♪

**Corrections:** Because of incorrect information supplied to OITM, the name of the company that donated condoms for HIV/AIDS prevention in Cuba in last month's article "Southern Transport" was wrong. The company was Boston-based Global Protection Corporation.

And due to an editing error, the "In Memoriam" piece on Jack Nichols in the June issue was misattributed. The writer was Malcolm Lazin, executive director of Equality Forum.

Finally, the caption was omitted from Leah Wittenberg's "At Witt's End" cartoon last month. It should have read: "No dollar left behind."

OITM regrets the errors.▼