

# out in the mountains

VERMONT'S VOICE  
FOR THE LESBIAN,  
GAY, BISEXUAL &  
TRANSGENDER  
COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1985

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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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## The Long and Short of It

**H**appy 20th Birthday to *OITM*! Twenty years is a long time for any publication to survive, and for one that was begun, for a long time was staffed, and is still sustained by volunteers, it's a lifetime.

In 1986, *OITM* reported it when K. Micque Glitman introduced a bill in the legislature to prohibit discrimination on the basis of "HTLV-3 antibody test results." Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VLGR) was soliciting support for the bill in our first issue. Lesbians and gay men were holding separate caucus meetings in Noble Hall of what was then Vermont College in Montpelier to discuss whether and how they could work together and to choose the first community liaisons to the governor's office (interim liaisons were Terje Anderson and Beth Dingman). Peggy Luhrs wrote "Breaking the Taboo Against Women Loving Women," and *OITM* reprinted an article I wrote for the weekly Vanguard Press about the suicide of Dan White, the man who murdered openly gay city Supervisor Harvey Milk in San Francisco.

Also that year, Phyllis Schlafly came to Vermont to oppose the state's own version of the Equal Rights Amendment, Vermont Law School first banned military recruiters from campus because of their discriminatory policies, Integrity (an organization of gay Episcopalians) celebrated its eighth anniversary at St. Paul's in Burlington, and 500 people showed up for the "No Turning Back" Gay Pride rally and march (at which Governor Madeleine Kunin and Mayor Bernie Sanders – then a gubernatorial candidate – spoke). *OITM* surveyed statewide candidates, and Deborah Kutzko (aka "Gooch") was hired as the state's first AIDS coordinator. And in the December issue, *OITM* printed the first of many fundraising appeals.

Some things change, and some things stay the same.

The long part of my tenure as editor is that my four years here are a fifth of the paper's existence. My stint here began with controversy: the outgoing editor ran a photo montage from the Drag Ball on the back page of the March 2002 issue that included Yolanda with an outsized fake phallus. We got letters and subscription revocations for months, some of them from men. I wrote two news stories and an editorial for that "overlap" issue.

During these four years, I've written 261 articles (a handful of which were co-written): short and long, news, features, profiles, and reviews. I've explained, exhorted, pled, argued, celebrated, mourned, chastised, and pontificated in 36

editorials (the other 12 were written by guest editorialists), 8 "Editor's Notebooks," and 8 "Squibs" columns. Together that's a total of over 300 pieces. We have published the work of literally hundreds of talented writers who wrote as a labor of love for the paper and the community.

The short of these four years is how fast they have gone by, from the panic and determination of the first six months to my current confidence that our pages would be filled with worthwhile and entertaining writing. Seven months after I became editor, my dad died. It feels like a few months ago.

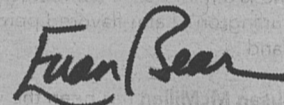
Over these years I have been privileged to witness how our communities have grown – and grown together – showing a maturity that allows all our groups to work together politically and socially. Our communities and organizations have supported both the newspaper as a whole and me personally as its editor with occasional praise, growing trust, and rare but heartfelt criticism.

Likewise I could not have done this job without the daily support of talented and committed colleagues: *OITM*'s first Operations Manager (and current webgoddess) Tania

Kupczak and her successor (also Advertising Manager) Michel DuBois; Art Directors Pete Gershon and his successor Don Eggert; Assistant Editor Susan McMillan, who cares as much as I do about the right and wrong of commas and clauses; the unsung heroes of publishing, the sales staff (currently including Roland Palmer and Miguel Bernard-Rivera); and Calendar Editors Sandy Reeks and her successor Dan Brink. Finally, without the Board members who since 1995 raised the funds, kept the books, held the vision, talked the talk and walked the walk, we would not exist at all. The Board currently includes Ron Bernard, Shawn May, Dana Anderson, Brian Cote, Greg Weaver, and Tom Fleury.

And now it is time to pass the torch, to say goodbye in my official capacity, and to urge you all to offer your support to incoming editor Lynn McNicol.

With gratitude and respect (and a certain amount of relief),



Euan Bear, Editor

## OITM's Future Is Yours

It's the start of a new year and the beginning of a new decade for *Out in the Mountains*. Collectively, we will all help determine what happens in our community and our world this year, and in the next 10 years. In just a few short years, we have almost gotten used to the idea of civil unions and gay marriage. So much has happened, and in such a short period of time. What seemed impossible came to be. I'm writing this on Martin Luther King Day, and think of King's dream, and of the changes inspired by his words.

We all have dreams, no matter who we are, what label we go by, what age we are. What seems impossible now may someday seem almost ordinary – a world where every person in his or her uniqueness is celebrated and free. This world will not be given to us. It will take the involvement of every one of us to bring this future about.

I hear that young people in our community are not so interested in the right to marry; their priorities lie elsewhere. This paper fortunately received a grant for the new Youth Project starting this year, providing a platform for this new generation. As I am beginning in my new role as editor at the same time, I am eager to learn what their dreams are, and feel honored that I can take part in fostering the growth of this new focus.

Three years ago, I came on board as a new writer for *Out in the Mountains* with much encouragement and support from Euan Bear.

In writing for *OITM*, I have met many wonderful people in our community and learned more about the issues we face. As editor, I will miss working with Euan in that role, and at the same time I look forward to being more deeply involved in spreading the news that affects our community.

This is a year when many political choices will be made that will no doubt affect us all. From the mayoral race in Burlington to Congressional races in Vermont and other states to a new Supreme Court justice, *OITM* will be watching closely.

There is also room in these pages for humor and personal stories, and your take on sports, spirituality, education, health and entertainment. I look forward to hearing from people in all walks of life from all corners, to sharing your stories and wisdom and dreams. *Out in the Mountains*, after all, is here so we can hear your voice.

Lynn McNicol, Editor