

➔ **letters** (WILL RETURN NEXT MONTH)

**Tell it like it is!** Send your letters to: editor@mountainpridemedia.org or Out in the Mountains, PO Box 1122 Burlington, VT 05402

## Who's Who in the OITM Zoo?

These are the people who produce *Out in the Mountains* for your edification and entertainment every month.

**Lynn McNicol** is the new editor of *Out in the Mountains*. She has written frequently for the paper, beginning with a front-page feature on the Meadow Dance community in March 2003, and following that with another dozen articles covering the environment, health, community profiles, organizations, civil liberties, and other topics. Her background in journalism includes a six-year stint as a correspondent and reporter at the Auburn, NY, daily newspaper *The Citizen*. She's been a delivery driver, sold ads for OITM, and worked in social services. She has also produced shows for VCAM, channel 15. McNicol is an avid gardener, bicyclist, and hiker, and is a member of Sambatucada!, Burlington's Latin-flavored percussion band.

**Susan McMillan** has been the volunteer Assistant Editor for the last two years. An amazingly energetic woman, she has traveled to Alaska and Canada (where she and her spouse, Becky Roberts, were married), juggled two or three jobs,

done relief work for veterinarians, started two businesses (The Clean Team and Vet 2 Pet), and bought and renovated a house, all while writing articles, proofreading final pages, and compiling *The Rest of Our World* for OITM. She and Becky were major players in packing up and moving our office from spacious but dowdy second-floor digs in Richmond to a cramped but homey and centrally located room in Burlington's R.U.1.2? Queer Community Center. In a move to return some breathing space to her life, she is regretfully giving up her work with OITM as of this issue.

**Dan Brink** is the quintessential numbers guy, so maybe it makes sense that he does the Calendar for OITM. A budget analyst for IBM, he became a member of the MPM Board in December 2000 and succeeded Roland Palmer as president in 2004, stepping down at the end of his term in 2005. For the Calendar, he gathers a ton of information, edits and formats it, and ships the document to us for the paper, a job that is unpaid and under-appreciated, and the results of which are incredibly visible and useful.

**Don Eggert**, our art director, has come full circle in his profession with *Out in the Mountains*. It's an interesting story that he tells best himself: "OITM was my first real graphic

design job. I started as a volunteer and then got a small stipend after a few issues. I learned a lot about publication design by working for OITM for about four years under two different editors in two different office locations. I designed the logo that we started using in 1997 when Chris Moes took over as editor, and I also named 'The Source.'" He credits the graphic design experience he got at OITM with getting his next two design jobs.

In addition to being the full-time Art Director and Webmaster for *Seven Days* for the past 8 years, he volunteers at Outright Vermont, helped found R.U.1.2? Queer Community Center, and served as its board co-chair until 2003.

Don says he's "very excited" to update our publishing software and roll out a new design this issue. "There's so much great content in OITM, and it's my job to make it shine, to bring the stories to life and use my skills to get the paper picked up and read by as many folks around the state as possible."

Don has a BA from Middlebury College where he studied Russian, Eastern European Studies and Women's Studies. He lives in Burlington with boyfriend Shawn Lipenski (the Men's Health and Wellness Coordinator at R.U.1.2?) and their Maine Coon cat, Portland.

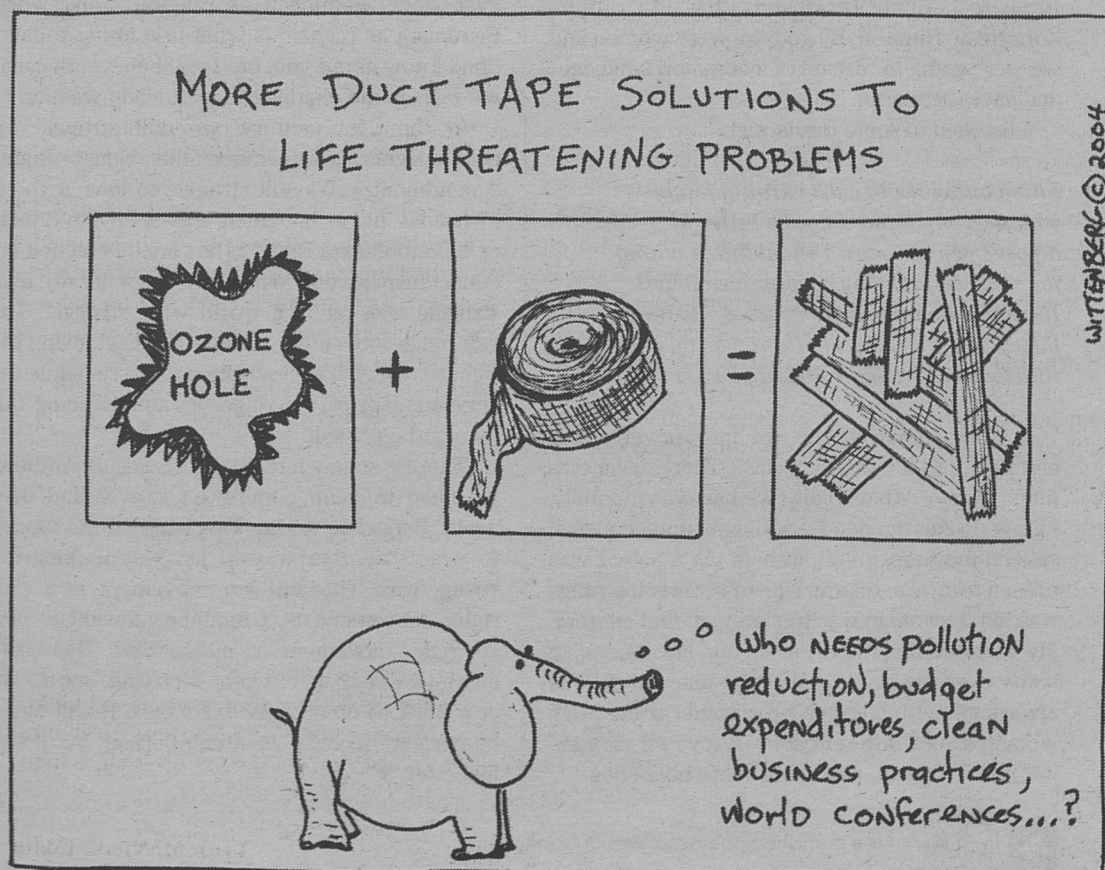
**Michel DuBois** took on a job – Operations Manager – in September 2003 that has grown exponentially to match his organizational and community-building skills. He eventually closed his own business as a sought-after housecleaner to concentrate on office management both here and at Vermont Design Works. Michel is responsible for increasing the quality of our print output, moved production from paste-up to electronic transmission, participated in our redesign, rekindled our volunteer program, and has built a sense of community among the volunteers who come to stuffing nights. He coordinates advertising logistics, tracks subscriptions, and oversees bulk distribution. His hands are the last ones on the files he sends to the printer. In addition, he provides support and information to the Mountain Pride Media Board of Directors. Unfortunately for us, Michel is preparing to move on in a few months to follow his entrepreneurial dreams.

**Roland Palmer** is a native Vermonter from Hinesburg and an inveterate Tab drinker who has been involved in *Out in the Mountains* for more than six years, ever since he attended a stuffing night and was later recruited for the Board. Currently he's our senior ad salesman, a job he has done meticulously for the last five years. He has also written articles and reviews, delivered mailing bundles to the bulk mail post office, and served five years on the MPM Board of Directors, including as Secretary (taking over for Joe Ryan), Vice President, and President. When his term as President ended, he stayed on the board for another year to chair the Fundraising Committee. When he's not driving the Interstate to visit his current love or sitting front row center in the Flynn Theater for a performance, he is the Operations Manager at Vermont Design Works, a creative design and marketing company in Winooski.

**Miguel Bernard-Rivera** is our newest advertising salesperson. A native of the New York and New Jersey area, Miguel now lives in Burlington with his partner, Ron Bernard, and their yellow lab named Ginger. They have two grown daughters, one in college and the other just graduated. A former lobby supervisor at Fletcher Allen Health Care, Miguel is now studying architecture at Vermont Technical College. When Miguel had some extra time on his hands, partner Ron – also chair of the MPM board – suggested he could sell ads for the paper. Miguel not only agreed, but has gone after new accounts with enthusiasm and creativity in support of *Out in the Mountains* and our publishers, Mountain Pride Media.

**Tania Kupczak** is currently our Webguru/goddess extraordinaire. She began with OITM as our first Operations Manager (followed in that job by Michel), taking on several different jobs that had previously been either volunteer or board responsibilities. When she decided to relocate to Seattle in 2003, she agreed to keep our website in good repair and to post our online edition. She also fixes broken links in the archives for us. Tania graduated from Oberlin College with degrees in Molecular Biology and Art History. She received her MFA in Visual Art from Vermont College, with an emphasis on Installation Art, Digital Media and Cyberfeminism, and published her graduate work in *Domain Errors: Cyberfeminist Practices* (Autonomedia, 2003). Tania currently lives in rainy Seattle, where she works as the Operations Manager of On the Boards, a contemporary performing arts center. She also comprises one half of Yes Sir, a tactical collaboration producing work that incorporates found sounds and images with electronic media into installations involving audience participation and site-specific contents. She returns to Montpelier twice a year as the New Media engineer for Vermont College's MFA residencies. ▼

## WITT'SEND BY LEAH WITTENBERG



**Support the advertisers who support US!**

**Say you saw their ad in:**

