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plished, and for what their future has in store!

**PETER JACOBSEN
BURLINGTON**

congratulations on your 20th anniversary. it brings me great joy and pride to read your paper online. i was raised in winooski vermont gay pride movement back in 1970. i moved to springfield mass. in 1972 and live springfield for 5 years. i move again in 1977 to san francisco and still live in sf. i left vt when there was not even a gay bar and now look at everything now. it has meant so much to be able to keep up in what happening in the gay life of vt from your paper. it is so well written. happy 20th anniversary and looking forward to my continued reading of your great paper.

**DAN COLLINS
SAN FRANCISCO**

OUT in the Mountains has been the way that I could keep up with the news in the GLBT community both locally and nationally, thanks largely to the editor Euan Bear. I look forward to continuing to receive it in whatever form it takes!

**ALVERTA PERKINS
SOUTH BURLINGTON**

My most significant memory of *OITM* is when Ellen DeGeneres visited UVM in October 1999. I was a grad student at the time and somehow ended up being the coordinator for her visit, thus I hosted Ellen (and Anne Heche) for several hours. I remember riding in the limo with them to the venue and being unsure of what to say or talk about. They asked questions about how many people would be at the performance, and what people would be like. It took me a while to realize that they had no idea what the GLBT climate was like here because every time I explained something, they said, "Wow. This place is really liberal."

I told them everyone in the audience was wearing pink Freedom to Marry stickers: "Wow. This place is really liberal."

Yolanda popped her head into the backstage and gave a flamboyant "Helloooooo." After I explained who she was, they said "Wow. This place is really liberal."

I told them the Burlington mayor and UVM's president wanted to give a welcome and that's why we were waiting so long before going on stage. Again, I heard "Wow. This place is really liberal."

And finally, I showed them their "green room" which was outfitted with modest amenities, including the most recent edition of *OITM*. I showed them the paper and they said something like, "You have a whole paper focused just on gay stuff? Wow. This place is really liberal." Sadly, I don't remember them actually reading it, but I do remember it contributing to their amazement with our accepting climate.

**JILL HOPPENJANS
BURLINGTON**

I will never forget the first time I found *OITM*. My partner and I were living in Manchester, VT, where we owned and operated a small motel (it was 1986 or 87). We were very closeted and knew no other lesbians in the area.

Imagine our delight when we found several copies of *Out In the Mountains* at the local Northshire Bookstore. We devoured the contents and looked forward to every issue. *OITM* helped us through a very lonely time in our lives. Thank you *OITM* and here's to many more birthdays!!!

**BEV YOUREE
RICHFORD**

When my partner and I first moved to Burlington (1999), *OITM* was a great resource for me. Like an anthropologist, I pored over every new issue, eagerly learning as much as I could about a community that I hoped to be a part of. Everything seemed to contain some clue as to how I could have a life in Vermont. I began to find familiar names and faces. Later, *OITM* has served as a way for me to reach out to the community for projects that are important to me. These days, I might still seek out the latest issue, but I comfortably turn the pages to something that grabs me, whether it's a column, a book review, or the comics. Perhaps I have become less serious as I've gotten older. It may no longer be my primary resource (it can't represent every viewpoint in the community) and there have been times when I have disagreed with what I have read, but *OITM* is still something to be appreciated.

**MARGARET M.
TAMULONIS
BURLINGTON**

Over the last few years, I have come to know and love *Out in the Mountains*. Euan has done a tremendous job as editor (and same for Michel in his job). And that's important. *OITM* plays a pivotal role in building our communities. It connects us, whether we live in walking distance to the Queer Community Center, or live in small villages sprinkled throughout the state. *OITM* nurtures, welcomes, and celebrates our community. Thank you to Euan, the staff, board, donors, volunteers, and advertisers of *OITM* for 20 years of award-winning work and service to our communities. *Out in the Mountains* isn't just a source of information; it's a source of pride.

**REP. JASON LORBER
BURLINGTON**

As an openly gay youth growing up during the 1960s in Vermont I got used to feeling isolated, thinking I was the only one who felt like this. I spent most of my youth waiting to hear the person in the front of the room say the words that acknowledged they knew I was in the room.

Eventually I stumbled upon a flyer talking about an effort to organize Vermont's gay community. It was at that first men's caucus meeting in White River Jct that I also stumbled upon *Out in the Mountains*. Here was the voice that I had been looking for, the connection to other people who felt like I did, who did not want to move away, but wanted to create a home, a safe community here in Vermont.

Out in the Mountains became that connection to a larger, and as yet still hidden, community that truly stretched from St Albans to Bennington. It became the forum where we talked about our sense of isolation, our personal and public needs, and

20 years

(and we're still queer!)



OITM looks back at two decades of community-building in Vermont



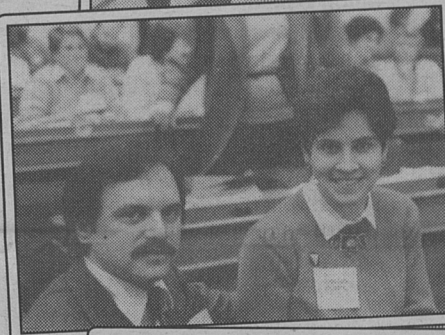
how to connect with each other. It became the vehicle by which we came to define our community and take control of our lives.

When we embarked on an ambitious political journey, *Out in the Mountains* became our organizing tool and the means to keep our community informed on the work ahead, who were our allies, and the schedule for those endless legislative hearings.

What has *Out in the Mountains* meant to me over the past 20 years? It was the catalyst that has allowed me to be able to define my life on the terms that are true and right for me, and to find the community and family for which I had been searching.

**KEITH GOSLANT
BARRE**

Keith Goslant is one of two official liaisons from the LGBT communities to the Governor. He has held that office since 1986.



From inception, *Out in the Mountains* has been a clear voice, speaking up and speaking out on behalf of so many across the state. Sometimes pushing, sometimes pulling, always direct, always honest, many staff and boards have worked very hard and usually more for love than for money. Twenty years of deadlines and cliff-hanger budget crunches have aged more than one editor, but the results have been rich: a sense of community, knitted together through the sheer force of will and love. With a deep sense of gratitude, thank you.

**SAMARA FOUNDATION
BOARD AND STAFF
BURLINGTON/ NORWICH**

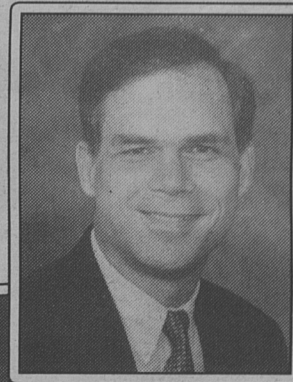
Out in the Mountains provided a connection to the community when our daughter Elizabeth Hane moved to Richmond, Vermont. She made many friends through her volunteer work with the organization. Following the civil union between Elizabeth and Stina Bridgeman in 2002, *Out in the Mountains* provided both sets of parents an opportunity to publicly express our love and support to both of them through a "parents' perspective" article.

**CARL AND NANCY HANE,
(AGES 62 AND 60)
NORMAN, OK**

I want to add my voice to the inevitable chorus of praise for Euan as her editorship comes to a close. She has done a splendid job with the hardest job in our community, and we will all miss her perspective. Best of luck as Euan and *Out in the Mountains* move forward into new eras!

**BENNETT LAW
BETHEL**

Bennett Law is a former president of MPM.



Top to bottom: *OITM*ers Carolyn Ashby, Barb Dozetos, & Tina Giangrande; Liaisons Keith Goslant & Heather Wishik; Cherie Tart & the boys in blue; Lois Farnham & Holly Puterbaugh; then-Auditor Ed Flanagan; Dykes on Trikes 1998; Kate Jerman.