

➔ letters

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

**The Washington Supreme Court Decision**

The "activist judge" accusations of the religious and political right must be hitting home. The Supreme Court decision against marriage wrote, "while same-sex marriage may be the law at a future time, it will be because the people declare it to be, not because five members of the court have dictated it." If the courts of the 1960s had followed this logic, we might still be waiting on civil rights legislation.

As much as I wish the court had decided for same-gender marriage, I still appreciate their truth that marriage equality will become law when "the people declare it to be." Last summer I unicycled for five weeks and 1,000 miles to gather stories of gay, and lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. I also asked hundreds of straight people what they thought of equal rights. Even for those who thought homosexuality was a sin, when I told about specific couples, and the specific hardships which the Supreme Court noted in last weeks decision, almost to a person, people

responded, "Yes, they should have those rights."

The fastest way to the privileges and responsibilities of same-gender marriage is to recognize that that we're talking about real people, and real gay and lesbian families that already exist. A young gay man during my tour last summer defined an ally for me. "Allies listen. And they believe what they hear." Getting beyond political and religious polarization will require us to tell our stories, listen to one another, and believe what we hear. As soon as we act, as soon as declare it to be, we can achieve marriage equality.

*Straight into Gay America: My Unicycle Journey for Equal Rights* has just been released. It's my way of adding a voice to the equal rights movement. A neighbor who is reading my book addressed me with some frustration, "You're making me think about things I've never thought about before."

"Good," I replied to this mother of two young girls, "If your daughters grow up lesbian, now you'll be ready to keep loving them." So many gay and lesbian, bisexual, and transgender families have been torn apart by hatred of homosexuality. Real family values

don't tear families apart. Marriage equality will give dignity to all families. Let's do what the court says, and "declare it to be."

**LARS CLAUSEN**  
Chelan, Washington

**Pride from Rehoboth Beach to Burlington**

The weather is mighty hot and humid this time of year in the quaint town of Rehoboth, Delaware. As I chat to another member of the Rehoboth Writers Guild, we shared thoughts of Burlington, Vermont.

Mine being the most recent and first time ever, I glowed like a lightning bug in the still of the night as I plummeted scenarios, adventures, people met, and the Pride Fest of Burlington. I exploded with joy about the nature of the people I met and the at-home feeling I possessed while in town. From the shores of the Atlantic Ocean to the view of Lake Champlain, the Pride Fest was solid and liquefied the need to be out through personal expression in the mountains and by the ocean, wherever. As I was leaving town, I

stumbled upon the Pride Fest and the personality of Lynn and could not leave the rainbow flag or the event itself.

We express the same attitude and charisma here in Rehoboth Beach. Although the sights of nature may differ, the heart of our annual Pride Fest carries the same respectful support of community and those whom embark upon.

We here in Rehoboth Beach want to thank you and yours for being especially open and receptive to out-of-town "family." And we invite you for a taste of Atlantic serenity as your lovely town of Burlington has done and will continue to for many road trips to come. Keep in mind that a few of us locals do rent rooms to those who visit (oisea2@aol.com).

Thanks for the opportunity to share these thoughts in *OITM*. I am looking forward to writing again, possibly in the future of political stands and rights (VT/DE), national issues and articles of community connection:

**PAMELA J. BERGMANN**  
Rehoboth, Delaware

**Offended at Defense of Mary Cheney's Book**

What is it with these Gold Coast Log Cabin Republicans in Miami? Another letter targeted at *OITM*.

This time it's the Mary Cheney opus. Obviously the book is not selling. Uncle Tom to the rescue!

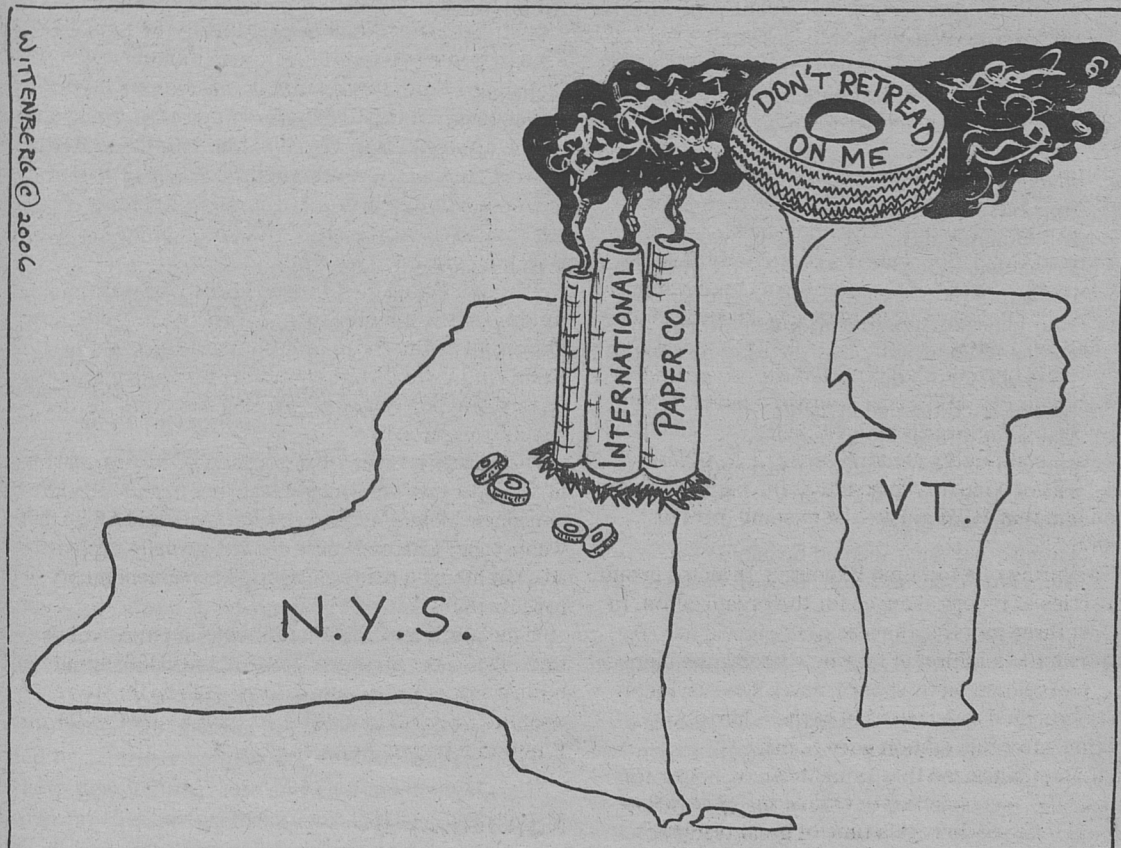
**ALBERT SANTERRE**  
Salem, New Hampshire

*(Editor's note: the letter Mr. Santerre is referring to (July '06 OITM) was distributed to a number of gay publications, OITM being one of them. I included it in the letters as representative of another viewpoint from the gay community).*

**Correction**

The correct email for Queer Social Space is qssvermont@gmail.com. There was an incorrect listing in the August issue.

**WITT'SEND BY LEAH WITTENBERG**

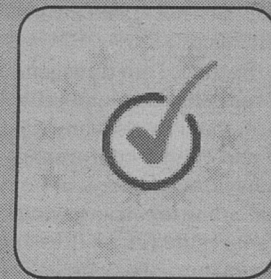


Breathe Free or Die

**Express Yourself Register to Vote!**

**Vermont**

The deadline for registering to vote in Vermont is September 5, 2006 for the Primary Election. The deadline for registering to vote in the General Election is October 30, 2006.



**New Hampshire**

New Hampshire residents may register with the town or city clerk where they live up to 10 days before any election. You may also register on Election Day at the polling place.

**New York**

The deadline for registering to vote in New York for the Primary Election has passed. The deadline for registering to vote in the General Election is October 13, 2006.

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