

## OITM

### Needs Distribution Points

Help! To all our readers: You can help us locate more drop-off sites for "Out in the Mountains" around the state. We want to make our newspaper truly accessible for all, gay and straight citizens alike, who would enjoy reading O.I.T.M. and could benefit by it. Please let us know addresses and phone numbers of bookstores, libraries, churches, etc., which would be receptive to being distribution points in your area. Thanks!!



### Lesbian Support Group Forming

Are you a woman who previously (or still) identifies as a lesbian and yet your current relationship is with a man? Support group/network now forming. Let's discuss this issue that has become such a "hot topic" in the lesbian community and give ourselves the validation and support we need.

Call Jane at 754-8780.



## Mother's Day: A Mother's Reflections

Since Mother's Day falls in May, we thought it would be appropriate to solicit a mother's opinion on what it is like to be the mother of a gay child. Following are one mother's thoughts.

How to begin. I'm not sure I can sort out my feelings sufficiently to make a contribution to others. But for what it's worth, I'll put down a few things.

I often feel that people in general don't think that gay people have mothers; that somehow they came into being as they are today in adulthood. Maybe because it's easier to deal with a single entity than as a member of a family. Yet a mother (and father) is the one thing all humans have in common since in order to exist, we have to be born of a mother.

I am a mother. I have five children who are all very special to me and I love each of them for their uniqueness. They have brought great joy into my life and many anxieties as well, as they grew to adulthood. As a parent I have tried to accept each child with understanding for what he is and I have expected in return, the same tolerance for my foibles. I have always felt that I had no right to expect my children to fulfill my dreams for them or to be disappointed when they chose their own path in life.

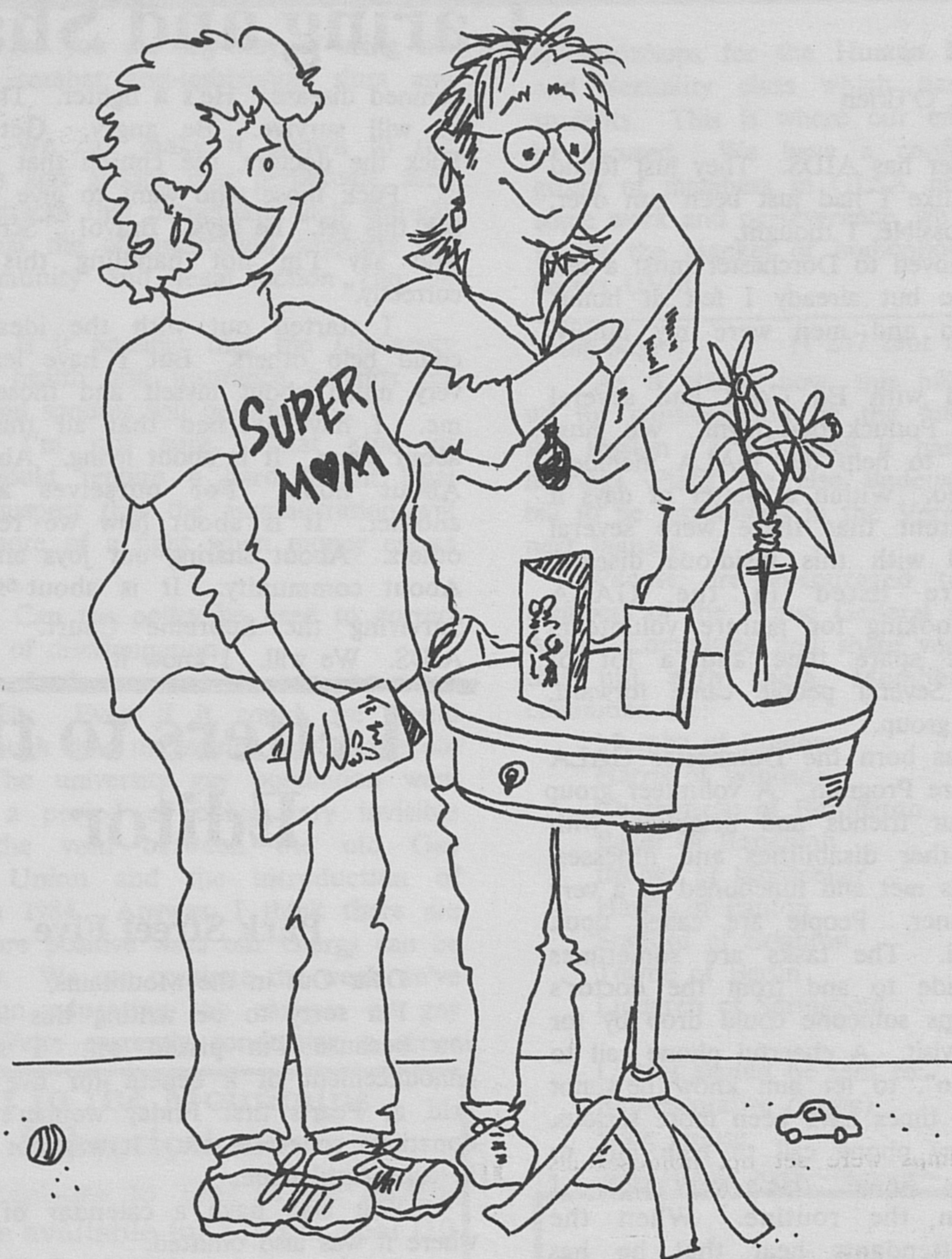
Thus when my son revealed that he was gay, I could accept it. I knew he had not come to tell his father and I without

much soul searching and agony. I admired him for being willing to accept the consequences of that revelation in order to be true to himself. As far as I'm concerned he is still the loving, caring and talented person he always was and would be. I knew I would not be able to fully understand its meaning but I would support him fully and endeavor to keep our relationship as close as it had always been. At the same time, I know his life would have additional difficulties because of society's feelings about "differences." He has always tried to live his life in an ethical way, lived on the golden rule, which is included in one form or another in every creed, but which is very seldom put into practice by most organized religions. If practiced, all kinds of discrimination would disappear or at least be lessened.

My son and I have a very special, joyful, loving relationship for which I am grateful. I have met many of his friends in the gay and lesbian community. I have been impressed with their friendliness, their caring for each other, and their pride in themselves. They have chosen a difficult role to play in the community but they are willing to advocate for their rights.

Being a mother has been an interesting informative role for me in my journey through this life. It is only one of the roles but it certainly has been one of the most difficult but most fulfilling. I also realize that I have much more learning to do and certainly need to think more about my role as a mother of a gay son. I've loved being a mother and I look forward to all the learning yet to come.

Time to get started.



"What a Mother's Day! I got a t-shirt from my lover, flowers from my daughter, and cards from my lover's twins, my ex-husband's gay stepson, and my sperm donor!"