

Dear Gertrude & Alice

Having a problem? Do you need another opinion? Send you queer queries to Gertrude & Alice, C/O 'Out in the Mountains', PO Box 177, Burlington, Vermont, 05402.

Oh No! Only one question this month. We hope this means you are saving them up, and we'll get 10 next month. We love hearing from you!

Dear Gertude and Alice,

I am trying to decide whether to identify as bi- or lesbian - I need more experience with women before I can make an informed decision. "How do I "get it" ?

-Looking for it in Burlington

Dear Looking,

First a note of caution: we have found "biphobia" to be fairly prevalent in both gay/lesbian and "straight" populations, so you might want to "feel out" (pun fully intended) someone before you confess your "identity" crisis.

Now to the fun part: gay bars can be fun for meeting people, but usually not good for meeting "someone", but you can meet "some one" through other people. Try to expand your repertoire of lesbian friends. Maybe they'll know someone else who's looking. How about joining a gay/lesbian organization? OITM would welcome you to its volunteer staff, and we also list "Vermont Resources" on our back page. Happy researching!

## "Maurice" is a Must See

by Terje Anderson

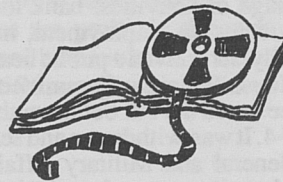
"Maurice" is a gay movie; it cannot be mistaken for anything else. Male homosexuality is the central theme, not a discrete piece which a reviewer can write off as a subplot, not something which can be ignored by someone who does not wish to notice it.

Equally importantly, it is a pro-gay movie. It unabashedly takes the side of the gay male lead, whose ability to accept and enjoy his own sexuality is viewed as a major victory. No apology, no explanation, no sense of tragedy is connected with Maurice's sexual orientation, even in the hostile environment of Edwardian England.

"Maurice" is the kind of movie Hollywood has always refused to make: a truly gay romance, a film which makes you cry when the hero doesn't get his man, and makes you tingle when he finally finds love.

Based on E.M. Forester's semi-autobiographical novel "Maurice," the film is by the same team of Ivory and Merchant who made the acclaimed "Room With a View." Set in England around 1910, it chronicles the efforts of a young gentility which surrounds and stifles him.

Maurice faces challenges along the route. A college lover becomes straight because the price of being gay is too high, refusing to acknowledge his past romantic involvement with Maurice. An old friend is arrested in a police set up, and his life is shattered. A psychiatrist attempts to "cure" him, then offers him the advice that perhaps



he is best off leaving England and living somewhere" where people are more accepting of human nature."

"Maurice" reminds us is that, sadly, it hasn't changed that much. Gay men still face the same conflicts and issues. "Maurice" is our story, not simply a reflection of "how it used to be."

The film is lushly photographed and well-acted by a talented cast. "Maurice" is a romantic, erotic, charming and ironic movie, and an important piece of gay culture.

"Maurice" opened in large cities in September. It will play in Vermont early in

## 3-H Seminar

by Roddy O'Neil Cleary

Cooperative Christian Ministry at UVM sponsored a seminar Oct. 19th, 1987, to promote education and dialogue on the topic "Homosexuality, Homophobia & Holiness." It was one of a series of ten such seminars being held this fall throughout the New England area. The facilitators, Rev. Robert Nugent and Sr. Jeannine Gramick, have been involved in gay ministry since 1971. In 1977 they cofounded New Ways Ministry, a national ministry to reconcile the Church with the lesbian and gay community.

This seminar was held in an effort to deal constructively with the prejudice, fear and misunderstanding that contribute to increasing physical and psychological violence against gay and lesbian people. The participants spent the day examining how Christian teachings and the natural sciences relate to homophobia.

During one of the video presentations entitled "A Time For Dialogue," several young men who were members of Dignity, a Catholic organization of gay and lesbian persons, discussed their sexual orientation. One spoke of embracing his gayness as a gift from God and how it forced him to seek God in places he would never otherwise have looked. Another said there's "something intrinsic about being looked down upon that challenges you to question the status quo." They both described the authority of the church as pluralistic, and spoke of the need for more understanding of real-life experiences of its members.

A homophobia survey that was given to each of the participants led to discussion and enlightenment. For example, Thomas Aquinas taught that homosexuality was unnatural because it did not occur in the animal kingdom. His belief was based on 13th century biology now known to be inaccurate. Also it was significant to learn that 64% of non-industrial cultures accept homosexuality.

The thirty-five participants included graduate students, nuns, priests, ministers and lay persons from UVM, St. Michael's College and several other communities. Cooperative Christian Ministry at UVM hopes to be part of an on-going dialogue regarding homosexuality and the churches.

### HAVE OITM DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR!

By subscribing, not only will you guarantee prompt delivery of the newspaper to your mailbox (in a discreet plain envelope, of course), but you will help underwrite the sizable cost of assembling, printing, and distributing the newspaper. In addition to subscriptions, we welcome contributions to support our continued existence. Checks should be made payable to Out in the Mountains or OITM and sent, along with this form, to: Out in the Mountains, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

One-year (\$10) Low-income (\$5) Donation (\$ \_\_\_\_\_)  
I'd like to get involved in the newspaper. Let me know how I can help.