

Letters to the Editor

TIME's there, and understands?

This letter, dated 12/29/87, was sent to an OITM reader who wrote to TIME about their lack of coverage of the March on Washington.
Dear TIME Reader:

Thank you for your letter in which you express your dismay over TIME's failure to report on the Oct 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. We are sorry to have disappointed you. Certainly, the editorial decisions that go into any weekly edition of TIME are open to challenge. The Oct 26 issue was no exception.

A part of the problem had to do with the fact that the march was held on a Sunday. Most weekly newsmagazines close on Saturday, which means that, unless the magazine was held open (and this is rarely done and is reserved for the most extraordinary circumstances), we could not have reported on the event until the Nov 2 issue. You should know, however, that the march was monitored by TIME correspondents, and information about it has been incorporated into our research files on gay rights and on AIDS funding. Perhaps some future, related coverage will enable us to make reference to it.

But more important, we want to assure you that this omission does not reflect on our views about the gay population or on our assessment of the tragedy that AIDS represents. We do not think readers could easily find another magazine that has paid such close attention to the gay rights movement or to AIDS in its medical, social, and legal ramifications. TIME's readership has been well served by that coverage, we think.

Our thanks, again, for letting us hear from you. The editors appreciate your interest, and send their best wishes to you.

Sincerely,
Amy Musher

Veterans Organizing

Dear Folks,

Since the introduction of H247, the bill to protect the civil rights of gay and lesbian Vermonters last year, a number of lesbian and gay Vermonters who are veterans of service in the Armed Forces have been discussing the idea of organizing as a group. Our numbers are small, but so far we may already represent a cumulative total of over 150 years of service to the nation. Being new our goals are not highly defined, nor is our structure.

Our immediate goal is to organize and to find new members; to that end we're asking your support in passing word of our existence among your members and friends, and to help us make contact with them. Other goals under discussion include, but aren't limited to: affiliating with one of the national lesbian/gay vet groups, serving as a social outlet, and supporting the civil rights bill currently in the State Senate. We feel that if even one of our members can go before the Legislature and represent veterans, we can silence the idiotic cries that to be gay or lesbian is to be anti-country. We also feel we have the right to say that we have worked to make this country what it is and to point out that now our legislators are obliged to return the gesture by passing a guarantee of our rights as free people.

It is important to point out that we have tremendous respect and sensitivity for the issue of confidentiality, as we already have people interested who still serve in Reserve components. In addition, we don't care how long a person served, whether it was/is on active duty, Reserve, National Guard, Merchant Marine or Coast Guard, or what kind of discharge they may have received; we welcome all veterans.

Looking toward the future we see the opportunity to become an advocacy group for the rights and needs of lesbian/gay/bisexual veterans, another social outlet if they so desire, and an additional strong link in the vital network of support for the rights of all citizens to live their lives free from need and fear. Anticipating your support, we thank you for any help in passing the news of our existence and look forward to going back on duty with you in working for the civil rights bill.

Gene F. Barfield

c/o The Vermont Coalition for Lesbians and Gay Men, Box 1125, Montpelier, Vt. 05602

Purpose

The purpose of Out in the Mountains is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation for lesbians and gay men. We also see it as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian and gay community.

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of the staff. This paper cannot, and will not endorse any candidates and actions of public officials on issues of importance to lesbians and gay men.

We will not publish any material which is overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, or homophobic.

All materials submitted must be signed so we can contact the author should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. No revisions or rejections of materials will occur without dialogue with the author.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit materials for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us. This paper is here for you. The deadline for submitting material for each issue is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Materials should be sent to:
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