

Out in the Mountains

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Lesbians and Gays Overtake Montpelier

The Sixth Annual Vermont Lesbian and Gay Pride March took place on June 11th in Montpelier. Four hundred lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and supporters converged on the state capitol on a glorious summer afternoon. As usual, beautiful weather was the order of the day. This was the first year that the march was held in the state capitol; in the past it had always taken place in Vermont's largest city, Burlington.

The primary reason for holding the march in Montpelier this year is related to all of the legislative action involving lesbians and gay men recently, namely the two AIDS related bills and S-278, the anti-discrimination bill. It was felt that having the march in the capitol would spotlight these legislative events. Other reasons for choosing the location were the fact that it was more centrally located and the Burlington area activists who have been organizing the march since its first year were, quite frankly, suffering from burn-out. (Continued on page 8)



VT Lesbian and Gay Pride 1988 (photos by Janet Coles and Deb Heissen)

Come Out, Come Out, Whoever You Are

The First National Coming Out Day is this October 11 - marking the anniversary of last year's March on Washington. It is hoped that Coming Out Day will become an annual event across the United States - each year having a different theme. As reported in May's OITM, this year's theme is "Take the Next Step." This slogan centers on the idea that coming out is a life long process and one that is essential to the liberation of lesbians and gay men.

For some people, taking the next step may involve private and personal issues - exploring coming out to oneself or close friends. Others are perhaps ready for more visible actions - public events or political activism. The day is designed to accommodate ideas from everywhere along this continuum. Personal and local events across the country will gain national impact

by sharing the common theme and date.

Various groups and organizations in the VT area indicated that they may organize group activities for Coming Out Day, but that it is too early yet for them to have firm plans. However, numerous individuals volunteered their ideal or fantasy Coming Out Day activity. These included: greeting the bus driver or salesclerk with a cheery "Good morning, I'm a Lesbian", coming out to parents/friends/employers, "Gay and Proud" chalk graffiti on sidewalks everywhere, integrating a "ridiculously heterosexual" bar, airing a pro-lesbian/gay public service announcement on prime-time television, and polling political candidates for their stand on lesbian/gay issues.

OITM would like to publish a list of such activities, plans, and goings on for October. Our new deadline is the seventh

of each month. Please send information regarding your group's plans/events to: OITM, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402.



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