

### 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 7th of the month prior to publication.

Materials should be sent to:  
Out in the Mountains  
PO Box 177  
Burlington, VT 05402

### Please Note:

OITM is enjoying an overabundance of advertisers which is great for paying the bills. But, this means less space for articles. Please assist us by submitting articles no longer than two double-spaced typed pages. We hope to alleviate this problem in the future.

Thank you!

## Editorial

### Upping the Ante

A lot of discussion has been brewing lately, both nationally and locally, about the need to explore using civil disobedience (CD) as a legitimate and necessary response to our oppression as lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. Many people in our community have been involved in acts of CD as part of their involvement in other movements (peace, gender, race, etc.), but the times that we have spoken out that strongly on the issue of lesbian/gay/bisexual oppression have been few and far between (the CD action at the U.S. Supreme Court in October 1987 being one obvious exception).

Our strategy so far has tended to be doing a lot of work within the system. That

strategy has worked well, to a point. The work within the state legislature the past two years has shown significant gains in our power and influence in this state. But are "significant gains" enough? At what point does it make sense for us to assert that nothing less than total equality-now-is enough?

What CD is really about is a refusal to follow socially accepted rules and regulations. In essence it means choosing to value one's cause over and above being "nice." We've proven that we are good at being nice. Perhaps now, the challenge is upon us to prove that we dare, and may choose, to be otherwise.

Let us know your views!

## Letters from OITM Readers

To the Editor:

In the May 1988 issue of O.I.T.M., there was a letter from two individuals (identifying themselves only as S.C. and J.W.) that recounted an anti-gay incident at U.V.M.

Part of the letter stated that the incident was a "deeply felt affront not only to the Gay community, but to the University community and the city of Burlington as well."

Although I feel that the incident should not be casually dismissed, I also feel that any Gay person is doing themselves a grave disservice by allowing themselves to feel "deeply affronted" when these kinds of incidents occur. Isn't that what our political opponents want? Each time one of us allows ourselves to feel discouraged and emotionally or psychologically beaten down by one of these incidents, our opponents have scored another victory, at our expense, once again. My suggested solution to this problem is quite simple. Stop giving them what they want! Refuse to allow them to batter you emotionally. This solution has been 100% successful within the framework of my own family, why not try using it in the political arena?

As long as the opposition sees us as unassuming, unassertive, and easily intimidated, they can get away with violating our civil rights. Look at how many thousands of years the opposition has been allowed to ignore us, treat us like second class citizens, and downplay our significance. Isn't it time that it all came to a screeching halt? I'm not suggesting that we answer hostility with violence, what I

am suggesting is that we stand our ground and not run away when faced with hostility or homophobia. It's been my experience that most people can be reasoned with if one just remains calm and collected and does not become overbearing.

It is also wrong for us to assume that we have no rights. We all have rights, we were born with them, we just don't have legal protection for them, YET. As I stated in a previous editorial to the Caledonian-Record, "our cause is only as hopeless as we allow ourselves to become." This is not just sappy poetry, either. If one bothers to look at the track record of attempts to get Gay rights legislation passed, one major contributing factor to it's demise has been hopelessness.

However if we keep returning to Montpelier in greater numbers insisting on being heard, not accepting defeat, asserting our rights, and not giving the opposition any more points, eventually they will listen. They'll have to.

Ms. Patti A. York

Eds Note:

The response of the UVM administration to the homophobic incidents that occurred at Sigma Phi Epsilon and Lambda Iota was the demand of a formal apology from both fraternities. In addition, Lambda Iota was placed on a two year probation. Included in the requirements to be met were no alcoholic parties with out UVM's permission, more community service and mandatory attendance at workshops on racism, sexism and homophobia.