

### 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

November 8th -the national presidential election. Some people ask -"What's in it for me? I can only choose between the lesser of two evils in the large political parties and a better, but no-chance-of-winning candidate in the obscure independent party." So people either continue to feel dejected and vote their party line, vote for the independent or choose not to vote at all.

The 8th of November isn't just the national election, but also the statewide election. The governorship, U.S. House and Senate seats and even a state house and a senate seat are up for grabs. The best way of voting is to be informed thoroughly about all the candidates. With the statewide primary past, the options for voting have been narrowed significantly. We want to know where the candidates stand on lesbian and gay rights (See related article and insert). Are the candidates willing to co-sponsor a lesbian and gay rights bill? Would they sign a lesbian and gay civil rights bill into law?

People ask-"Why should I take part? The government doesn't listen to the people anyway." Over the past two years lesbians and gay men have come a long way in the pursuit of equality in the state of Vermont. Last year the State Senate passed a lesbian and gay anti-discrimination civil rights bill. More and more politicians are learning that lesbians and gay men are a voting block that can't be ignored. More politicians are willing to co-sponsor national and state legislation. How have those political changes come about? By increased pressure on legislators using our voting rights as U.S. citizens, lobbying heavily as a minority group that deserves recognition, being visible at political rallies and demonstrations. Politicians are learning that they can't just ignore lesbian and gay issues for fear of losing in elections. Politics is often a game of give and take. Lets use our right to vote and ensure that lesbian and gay civil rights are not taken out of the picture.

## Letters from OITM Readers

To the editor:

Harassment of lesbians and gay men is not just a big city problem. Homophobic acts of violence and acts which threaten the well being of lesbians and gay men happen right here in Vermont. Cases in point: two lesbians are hit by a car in the northeast kingdom; Pearls bar repeatedly has windows broken; patrons of gay bars in Vermont are chased or assaulted; fraternities at the University of Vermont have "fun" with the slogan "kill queers"; etc. During the weekend of September 10-11 the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance at UVM had 4 of its posters defaced with anti-gay slogans. Ironically that same weekend was the VT Coalition for Lesbians and Gay Men's workshop on how to lobby for lesbian and gay civil rights. With each anti-gay incidents that occurs, we see how vulnerable our rights and lives are to the whims of others. We must band together now to obtain our equal rights.

Mimi DeSouza

To the Editor:

Lesbian and Gay Pride Day was celebrated in New York City this year on Sunday, June 26th. At least two Vermonters were present and joined in the March, walking proudly behind the Gay Male Sadism and Masochism Activists

(GMSMA) banner.

Spotty showers in the late morning dried up just in time for the beginning of the March, and the sun warmed the huge gathering for the remainder of the day. Hordes of individuals filled the broad streets, far outnumbering the thousands lining the sidewalks to cheer, yell, clap and sometimes hug the marchers. As the mighty parade turned onto Fifth Avenue, my attention was directed to the scene before us, it took one's breath away. For as far as the eye could see, some thirty city blocks in the steamy sunlight, there was one solid wave of people with balloons shimmering joyfully, completely filling in the cavernous distance between Central Park to Greenwich Village, roughly 50 blocks (60th St. to Christopher St.).

Hecklers had been anticipated at St. Patrick's Cathedral. We saw that its steps were filled by N.Y.C. Police... and no one else. A few people with placards (the most legible and interesting one I saw said, "God gave Adam Eve, not Steve") stood peacefully on the other side of the Cathedral. No incidents developed with other sign carriers, the whole event was boringly smooth.

Wondrous to behold was the extreme variety of participants, from YUPPIE to the elaborately crossed dressed, from a contin-

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