

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

To Submit Articles

We encourage our readers to participate in bringing this publication to Gay and Lesbian Vermonters. Please assist us by submitting articles no longer than two double-spaced typed pages. Your submission should be received by OITM no later than the 7th of the previous month.

Thank you!

Editorial

OITM: Our Labor of Love

February is here, a month in which we celebrate love. For some, the concept of love is limited to romantic love, as in the celebration of Valentine's Day. During this month we may also recognize and celebrate love in a broader sense, as that which goes beyond feeling and extends itself into action.

Loving involves the expansion of our boundaries beyond ourselves as individuals and toward ourselves as partners, members of a community, as human beings, and continuing outward. The transfer of this loving energy into action is the root of many creative projects, best described as labors of love. We at OITM consider this paper to be one such labor of love.

OITM began publication three years ago, this month, when Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights obtained a grant from the Haymarket's People's Foundation. For the first two years, all layout of the paper was done by hand, and charter subscribers learned of the paper's existence from a brief press release in the Burlington Free Press.

In our efforts to improve the paper's readability, OITM computerized its design and layout operations in January of 1988. Desktop publishing has markedly improved our presentation, which in turn, has attracted more advertisers, and has increased readership response and signifi-

cantly increased subscription requests, particularly from far flung corners of the state.

We are presently in the process of writing grants in order to obtain our own computer equipment, while continually contacting businesses to display and/or advertise in OITM. We are also waiting impatiently for more reader feedback via letters to the editor.

As with any project, love in and of itself, is not enough to manifest our dreams into reality. Love is the foundation of the vision, energy, and commitment we devote to our endeavors. Yet practical skills and resources are needed to build upon this foundation in order to produce a newspaper that truly represents and reinforces our sense of gay Vermont community.

Money is one such resource that we at OITM need to continue to transform our labor of love into an effective end. We are generally uncomfortable asking for funds. Money often has a negative charge associated with it, and evokes a strong reactions from people when offered or requested. It is, however, a means to an end.

In our request for donations to underwrite our purchase of publishing equipment, we ask of ourselves and our readers to remember that money itself is neutral. It is what we choose to empower with it that is significant.

Letters from OITM Readers

Dear OITM,

It's again my pleasure and good luck to be able to share some financial resources with you. Bless you for your work and inspiration.

Love,
Pat Fontaine

Editors Note: Thank you, Pat, for your faithful generosity and support.

Dear OITM:

To the reader who warns against displaying our diverse aspects to lawmakers and mothers: I totally agree. All that talk about you-know-what should be confined to you-know-where. Let's keep *Out in the Mountains*, Vermont's newspaper for Straight People about Lesbians and Gay Men.

Sincerely, Anni Olklasiit

A letter to Gwendolyn-
Hello:

I think you're the funniest thing next to Dave Barry (Boston Globe).
K.J.

OOPS!

We made a few mistakes last month and would like to make some corrections-
Page 11-Bridges by Euan Bear-"...In a world with so many walls, we've got to keep building bridges to get anywhere at all.

-Awards-" A mini-auction...brought in over \$1500 for the organization."

-Christine Burton-"Christine is writing a novel, "I'm a Sitting Duck"-- very serious, also very funny."