

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

Republicans and Gays- Not Such Strange Bedfellows??

Democrats and gays and lesbians are increasingly recognizing in each other something of value. Jesse Jackson's open embracing of gays and lesbians during his 1988 presidential campaign effort demonstrated the importance he placed on what was for him, a natural constituency. Last year the Vermont Democratic Party took the unprecedented step of adding support for gay civil rights to their party platform.

During last fall's congressional campaign, after a picture of Peter Welch addressing a Burlington gay and lesbian church group made the front page of Out in the Mountains, fellow Democratic contenders fought for time to address the same group.

Certainly the steps toward accommodation are tentative, but they are undeniable and welcome. A danger we see in all this, however, is that civil rights for gays is increasingly becoming a Democrat's issue, one that Republicans might feel comfortable in dismissing.

A National Gay and Lesbian Task Force survey last year showed gays and lesbians overwhelmingly identify as Democrats. We can think of many reasons why this is so, not the least being the welcome extended to us from progressives in the party. We realize, however, legislation will not pass without bi-partisan support, either locally or nationally. And we cannot let gay civil rights be debated as a partisan

issue. Party affiliations aside, our case must be made on civil rights grounds, which are not the moral province of either party.

There is nothing in the Vermont Republican tradition which is antithetical to gay civil rights. In fact just the opposite is true. Vermont gays and lesbians have found a wonderful friend in Representative Vi Luginbuhl, a Republican, who has chosen to spearhead the fight for gay civil rights in the House of Representatives. Her philosophy of "great respect for people to be what they want to be, and do what they want to do" leads her logically to sponsor our legislation. Andy Christiansen, a Democrat, makes his case to his critics even more succinctly with an age old maxim, "Respect the land, and what your neighbors do is their own business."

The far right positions taken by Senator John McClaughry and his fellow conservatives are not Republican in any traditional fiscal or social sense-- and they no more reflect the will of moderate Vermont Republicans than do Ronald Reagan's Christian soldiers nationally. As legislators, they must be exposed for what they are, a splinter organization with a dangerous and intolerant agenda.

We must not concede the moderate Republicans of this state to the fundamentalists. Support for gay rights should be a litmus test not for a good Democrat, but for a well-educated politician.

Letters from OITM Readers

Dear OITM;

I was very excited when a friend told me about your publication. I have been reading similar magazines such as the Advocate and a couple of others dealing with the New England area, but there usually isn't much in them dealing with Vermont.

The February 1989 issue is the first I've read and I am very excited about it. If possible, I would be very interested in helping out with the making of the newspaper. I am sending along my check for a one years subscription plus an additional donation of \$50.00.

Although I am not able to get over to Burlington except once in a while on a weekend, perhaps there is some other way I could help with the newspaper. I do have a home computer along with various software packages and telecommunication capabilities. Please let me know if I can help out in any way. Thanks for the great

newspaper!!

Sincerely,
Tim Wilbur

Dear OITM,

Thanks so much for being here.
Anonymous donator from Putney, VT.

To whomever:

"She left me--not for another but because the 'me' she loved wasn't willing to take on another of society's labels. Its true--you can love--really love someone, and their spirit is sexless... You would love them whether they be man or woman. We stifle each other by needing labels."

Euan Bear's article (Jan. OITM 1989) was an affirmation that bridge building is needed everywhere-- to support people in letting their love flow- in whatever form they choose.

Thanx Bear.
Kim

(Continued on next page)