

# Lesbian /Gay Health

## Letters *from page 3*

well. After reading your 3rd year's newsletter, I had to send it to you! Where would the movement be without the movement press? Thanks for your work!  
Pam from Haymarket People's Fund

To the Editor,

I'd like to take a moment to respond to Ms. Olklasi's letter in the February issue of OITM. Ms. Olklasi claims that OITM is not "displaying our diverse aspects" and that "All that talk about you-know-what should be confined to you-know-where."

First off I disagree with her first statement, I think that in showing everything but our sexual antics OITM is being diverse. We are more than sexual beings, I think that OITM does a great job in showing our diversity.

Secondly, I think that our you-know-what (read:SEX) doesn't belong in OITM. There are many other places in which erotica and pornography can be had. I don't think OITM should be a clearinghouse for readers' sexual fantasies. OITM provides a great vehicle by which news and factual information can be obtained. Keep the sex out of OITM!

Thank you, OITM for all that you provide.

An OITM Fan in Williston

OITM-

Fairy! Lezzie! Man-hater! Faggot!

These are all epithets hurled at us by an ignorant group of uncaring people. Words that hurt when used in a derogatory, demeaning manner but, can be shrugged off because they are flung by outsiders.

But what happens when members of our own community shun one of us?

"I am not trying to hurt you but I am no longer willing to be seen with you anymore because you came out as a lesbian on T.V. last night." A friend of mine was told, or they will not be seen talking to you, an out of the closet gay man.

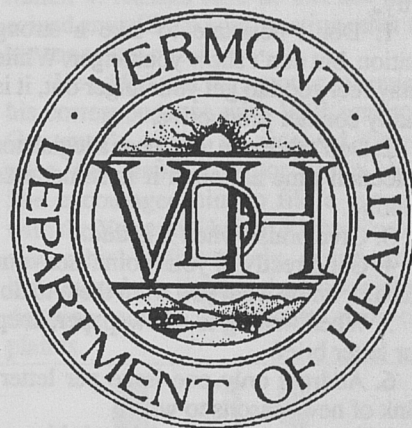
It hurts and it rips us up inside. After we get over the initial devastation we wonder about the internalized homophobia of our own community. How deep is this homophobia? How prevalent?

Are those of us willing to acknowledge our gayness in public doing so at the risk of becoming a shunned minority within our own community?

I guess when I began work on the Civil Rights Bill banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation I thought that not only myself but our whole community would benefit but, perhaps I was wrong. Maybe the only people who will benefit from this legislation will be those individuals willing to take advantage of its statutes when passed, by taking the risk of then acknowledging to themselves that they are indeed a lesbian or a gay man.

Holly Perdue

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