

### 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 and Letters

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 and letters to the editor no longer than one double spaced typed page. Your submission should be received by OITM no later than the 7th of the previous month.

Thank you!

## Editorial

### Has the Time Come?

It has happened. Massachusetts now has a statewide law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, credit, insurance, public accommodations, and employment. After 17 years the struggle, hard work and dedication of lesbian and gay activists has paid off. But their struggle is not over. Hours after the law was passed as a bill by the legislature, there were cries by conservatives to repeal the measure in the form of a referendum on the next election ballot. Unfortunately, in the state of Massachusetts it is relatively easy to place referendum questions on the ballot. The going won't be easy for the right wing though. The Massachusetts Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights say that they will contest every single signature of the 33,000 that the conservatives need to place an item on the ballot. Pro-gay forces also point to popular opinion polls which show that 70% of Massachusetts voters support a law for gay civil rights. Maybe it is a good thing if the conservatives can bring it to a vote. If it passes a ballot vote then it will stay a law.

As we in Vermont look at our southern neighbor's success, it reminds us that hard work and dedication definitely win out in the end. Their victory will aid in rejuvenating lesbian and gay political forces throughout the country let alone in our state. Yet, there is also the reminder that there is a need to be ever-vigilant against conservative, bigoted politics.

The beauty of the passage of this law was that no new strategies were employed, no potions concocted, no magic hats used, no curses evoked. Strong and persistent lobbying works for lesbians and gays as well. Now that we see that we also can obtain civil rights through our country's political system, it provides impetus for continuing to fight. Vermont might be several years behind Massachusetts in terms of legislature's liberal composition, but we can continue to better our chances with each election.

Of course, there are those ever present questions. Is the passage of the law in Massachusetts a fluke? Will it be repealed and put conservatives back on their toes to prevent its passage ever again? Will it take another decade or so before the another state can claim a similar victory?

Or are we starting to see a shift in thinking of politicians? Are Republican lesbians and gays really starting to influence the voting of their representatives? Is this a signal of a different generation of politician entering the arena? With all the baby-boomers, flower children and hippies now in their mid-to-late 30's, are they providing a more liberal backdrop to politics?

Time will only tell for many of these questions, but in the interim it is necessary to continue making phone calls, writing letters and knocking on doors in order to move closer to our civil rights.

## Letters from OITM Readers

Dear OITM:

This the final installment in my series about gay men and the women who love them.

Throughout the months I've received a great deal of positive feedback on these pieces, both from people in Vermont and in other areas. It speaks well off your publication that you have allowed the series to run uninterrupted.

I'd like to congratulate you all for work. OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS is worthwhile and the articles beneficial to all Vermonters, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Best Wishes,  
K.K. WILDER

Dear folks at OITM,

First of all, let me congratulate you, and also thank you, for putting out such a good publication. OITM is a real treat. I am

new to Vermont and pretty much homebound due to chronic illness. It has been real special to me to have some regular news of the lesbian/gay community here, particularly since I've been unable to meet people and be a part of things in a more direct way because of my Health. OITM has helped to fill a real crucial gap for me, and I, m sure for many others. I am grateful that you've all put the time and energy in to make it possible.

I guess the main point is that i appreciate what you are doing, and would like to support your efforts. I know that thank you,s, although they are nice, don,t get the work done and don,t pay the bills, and I know how much it takes to keep something like OITM going. I will certainly be in touch when I am once again well enough to help out in a more active way. In the mean time, know that I am cheering you on and

(Continued on page 3)