

Out in the Mountains

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

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This is OITM's last issue

Burlington

Yes, it's sad but true. OITM is officially folding this month, on its fifth anniversary. Our collective energy no longer registers a blip on the radar scale of commitment.

Come to our forward-looking, open meeting at the FletcherFree Library, College Street, Burlington on Saturday, February 17th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. No guilt strings attached. We will discuss what kind of newspaper our Vermont lesbian and gay community needs and can sustain.

Come even if you've never been involved with OITM. Come even if you don't regularly read the newspaper. Come even if you don't intend to work on a new incarnation of OITM. Come because it matters to you that our far-flung community finds a way to keep in touch with each other. We've scheduled the meeting so people from outside Chittenden county can attend.

Maybe if new people step forward to take over the paper's operation, OITM can live on.

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Otherwise, help us collapse gracefully. Many of you have responded generously to our pleas for financial support. What should we do with any left-over funds? Donate them to Vermont CARES, the Statewide Coalition, or another newspaper?

Could OITM re-surface in another part of the state? Too many good causes, some people say, compete for attention in the Burlington area. They think

OITM might thrive in suburbia.

Others are enthusiastic about launching a lesbian feminist newspaper.

The bottom line is our community needs a voice. OITM, since it was launched five years ago, has grown tremendously. Each new advertiser, from Allstate to Capitol Lincoln Mercury to Mountain View Animal Inn, gave us a new way to do business with each other.

When gay rights legislation passed the Vermont Senate, OITM offered a way to hold legislators accountable. Through the years, our list of Vermont Resources grew right off its page. Even as we were deciding to shut down, new subscription requests were arriving.

Please come to our meeting on February 17th. Spend an afternoon discussing how we might salvage some of the wonderful progress we've made.