

# Out in the Mountains

MAR 12 1990

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VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR BISEXUALS, LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

Volume V, Number 1

March 1990

## OITM Alive and Kicking

*Out in the Mountains*, contrary to its name, may have been down but it's certainly not out, at least not in that sense of the word. An outpouring of help and support from *OITM*'s readership has resurrected the paper and saved it from the point of collapse.

A lack of volunteers and burnout among the core members of the collective had put *OITM* on hold and drawn dire warnings that the last issue was just that - the last issue. However, a meeting on February 17th to determine the future of *OITM* drew nearly 45 people from across the state to the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington and showed that *OITM* must continue to fill a need among the gay, lesbian, and bisexual population in Vermont (especially those living in remote areas) to receive news on local and national events as well as listings of resources and connections.

Among the ideas the group came up with for the long-term survival of *OITM* was the hiring of a part-time coordinator paid for by a number of grants. The duties of the coordinator would include serving as a liaison to the community as a whole, doing office tasks such as responding to mail, and organizing the volunteers in their

respective duties as they get the paper out.

It was also decided that the paper needed to branch out more to other parts of the state as a means of preventing future burnout among collective members. Ideas to harness such energy included the establishment of satellite groups around the state, movement of the paper from community to community, or the use of existing local organizations such as college groups for support.

Following discussion on the above issues, the group broke up into three committees: financial, structural, and publishing.

The financial group discussed the present fiscal state of *OITM* as well as future potential sources of income. In particular, they addressed means by which the paper might hire a coordinator. Plans for an *OITM* fund-raising party may soon be on the drawing board to supplement the paper's income.

The publishing group drew up a list of ideas as to the content, format, and overall look of *OITM*. Suggestions included switching to newsprint in order to include more articles and advertising per issue, working out a satellite system around the state to get more local and regional Ver-

mont news, and making *OITM* a news monthly with a larger, quarterly features supplement. One immediate change enacted was the acknowledgement of bisexuals in the paper's readership; check out the new wording at the top of the page.

The internal structure group discussed the possible duties of the coordinator and volunteers in terms of making the paper run more efficiently.

More planning and input are still needed on all of the above issues to determine how *OITM* will continue to function as a viable source of information to our constituents. An additional meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 1990, at the Burlington Fletcher Free Library in the Pickering Room from 1-4:00 p.m. to work further on these ideas. Everyone is encouraged to attend, even if you could not make it to the first meeting (we won't even ask what your excuse was).

*Out in the Mountains* needs to hear from you, our supporters, about how the paper can continue to serve the best interests of Vermont's gay, lesbian, and bisexual population.

## Phoenix From the Flame

As *OITM* rises Phoenix-like from the hot ashes of spectacular burn-out, we'd like to thank those people who helped make the first four years possible, especially those people who pushed themselves to and beyond the point of burn-out in order to make sure that the paper survived. We're indebted eternally.

Though the paper you now hold is but four pages long, we felt it best to get the word OUT that the paper is NOT folding, and that it will return in bigger and better shape as time goes on in response to the fact

that gay, lesbian, and bisexual activities everywhere in Vermont are still thriving.

Though there was no room or time to include ads in this issue, we'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those businesses and individuals who have advertised in *OITM* and kept the paper alive financially. We will resume regular advertising in the mid-April issue. We hope that our readers will express their personal thanks to all of our present and previous advertisers by supporting their businesses and letting them know that saw them in *OITM*.

Thanks also to those who continued to express faith in the paper and subscribed even when it looked like a year's subscription would amount to only one issue. Don't worry - there are more on the way. Take note, all ye who have yet to subscribe, and send that form in with your check today.

Finally, thanks to all of you taking the time right now to read these words. Even more thanks to those of you who took the time to let us read your words in articles and letters. Keep them coming, and we'll keep *OITM* coming out to you.