

Purpose

The purpose of *Out in the Mountains* is to serve as a voice for bisexuals, lesbians, gay men, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *OITM* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the bisexual, lesbian and gay communities.

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 bisexuals, 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, Lesbian, and Bisexual 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!

Gay National News

Hate Crime Bill Passed

The U.S. Senate passed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act by a 92-4 vote on February 8, serving up a stunning setback for Senator Jesse Helms.

Prior to approving the Act, the Senate overwhelming voted down Helms' proposed amendment, which stated that "the homosexual movement threatens the strength and survival of the American family as the basic unit of society." The final vote to defeat that amendment was 77-19.

Only three Senators sided with Helms to oppose the bill itself: William Armstrong (R-CO), Gordon Humphrey (R-NH), and Trent Lott (R-MS).

Passage of the Hate Crimes Bill marks a major legislative victory for the gay rights movement.

News Updates

Other news from around the nation continued to flood the *OITM* mailbox even as we were busy determining the state and fate of the paper. Here are some of the top stories we'll be following and reporting on in upcoming issues:

Controversy continues at UVM over the decision of the Acacia fraternity to deny admittance to an openly gay pledge on the basis of his sexual orientation. Though the UVM administration has taken action on the case, many argue that its response was not sufficient.

Successful lobbying by the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA) caused the American Bar Association to include a ban against discrimination based on sexual orientation in its draft Model Code of Judicial Conduct, which means that lesbians and gay men can expect and demand fair treatment in the judicial system.

The New York Appellate Division heard the first case submitted to an appellate court on whether a lesbian who raised a child with her former partner (who is the biological parent) should be allowed to seek visitation rights as a parent. This could establish important standards for the legal recognition of non-biological lesbian parents.

A recent survey of lesbians ranks Partnership Rights as their top issue for legislative advocacy. The survey was conducted by the Lesbian Issues and Outreach Project of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

"Having a wonderful time, Wish you were here on the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill." So read the post cards for a major campaign launched by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) to increase support for the Federal Bill in the U.S. Congress. The campaign will run through June as part of lobbying efforts for the Civil Rights Amendment Act (S47 Senate, HR655 House) which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual orientation in the areas of housing, employment, credit, public accommodations, and federally assisted programs. To obtain post cards and more information, write to the NGLTF Post Card Lobbying Campaign at 1517 U St. NW, Washington DC 20009.

NGLTF will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the introduction of the Federal Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill on March 25-27 with a series of commemorative events designed to increase momentum and awareness of the anti-discrimination legislation.

NGLTF is also seeking data for its Annual Violence Report and urges local activists and organizations to provide documentation on harrassment and violence incidents for its "1989 Anti-Gay Victimization and Defamation Report." The deadline is mid-March; contact Kevin Burrill at 202-332-6483 for more information or write NGLTF at 1517 U Street NW, Washington DC 20009.

Sixty-four activists lay down in the streets of Atlanta, Georgia, to protest that state's 156-year-old sodomy law. The state's House of Representatives recently rejected a move to repeal the "ancient statute," drawing condemnation from NGLTF. Meanwhile, activists in Missouri urged their elected representatives to repeal their state's sexual misconduct provision.

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