

Purpose

The purpose of *Out in the Mountains* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, 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 lesbian, gay, and bisexual 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 lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

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!

Editorial

Beware the "B" Word

With the first issue of Volume V of *Out in the Mountains*, bisexuals had their ranks listed in the masthead alongside gays and lesbians. What we thought was a small change proved two things: 1. People actually READ the masthead, and 2. The change was not as small or innocent as we presumed. At meetings and in the mail, we have heard strong words spoken about the inclusion of bisexuals in the paper's target audience.

Obviously, we should have explained the change more fully in our last issue, but with only four pages to work with, there wasn't much of an opportunity. Recent conflicts in the gay and lesbian communities concerning the rights of bisexuals to join in events such as Pride Day have shown us the significance of the issue, even here in the Green Mountain state.

The decision to include bisexuals here in *OITM* was not made at the whim of a member of the editorial staff; it was agreed to at the first open meeting of the paper - a meeting to which all interested gays and lesbians were invited. To claim, as a recent letter protested, that there was no input from the gay and lesbian community on the decision would be to overlook the outpouring of support this newspaper received after it was announced that the paper's folding was imminent.

Some of that support came from the bisexual community; hence the change to recognize that effort. As a matter of fact, at least two members of the current production staff claim alliance with the bisexual community as well as with the gay and/or lesbian communities.

A few readers questioned the placement of the word "bisexuals" in the masthead, and it has since been changed. No

prioritizing was intended in the previous wording, but now that attention has been called to the wording any claims to impartiality must be defended: We have reverted to the original masthead, adding the "b" word after lesbians and gay men.

By including bisexuals, *Out in the Mountains* hopes to increase and/or acknowledge the outreach of the paper and thus draw strength from the diversity of its audience. It is not our goal to be exclusive of those who identify with gay or lesbian issues. It is, however, our goal to challenge prejudice and discrimination wherever and whenever it occurs, even if it is to be found in our own ranks.

We encourage continued discussion on this matter, especially from the bisexual perspective (since some readers don't believe such a thing exists). Thanks to all of those who have expressed their views so far on the matter; we will soon be asking for your input on a number of other potential changes to the paper (the inclusion of personal advertisements, for example, which has engendered more debate than the "bisexual" issue at recent meetings).

One change of special note: we have decided to put out a mid-summer issue in July to keep you posted on the many events happening in the warmer months of the year. We also hope to reach out to the great numbers of summer people who continue to support the paper by subscribing year-round. We will resume monthly production with the September issue.

There are still some staff positions available, so if you're looking to become more actively involved with the paper, send us a note or join us at our next meeting on Saturday, April 21, at 1:00 p.m. in our Elmwood Avenue office in Burlington.

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