

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

Taking Pride in One Another

by Hugh Coyle

Before coming out and becoming editor of the news-magazine you're now reading (a rags to riches story best saved for another issue, perhaps), I used to view events like Gay Pride Day with some reservations. I didn't consider myself an activist; I wasn't a fan of organized (or disorganized) marches; and at the time, I felt I had nothing to be proud about. Getting in touch with other gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in this state, however, has changed all that.

I could end this editorial right now with the strong assertion that I'm now proud of who I am, but that stops light years short of the strength and nature of the pride which I look forward to experiencing and expressing on Gay Pride Day. That pride is deeply rooted in our community and in the many individuals and groups which make up that community.

Perhaps "taking pride" is the wrong phrase to use for events like Gay Pride Day, because the pride many of us feel is given and earned. It's given by those members of the community who share their lives and experiences with us to help make us each feel stronger, and it's earned by every one of us on each day we make steps forward in establishing ourselves as open and vital members of society as a whole.

For example, a close friend recently confided that she hadn't felt proud to be a lesbian in a while until hearing the joy with which Brian McNaught read a chapter called "I Like It" from his book *On Being Gay* during his recent evening in Burlington. His pride was as infectious as hers is now, and I felt proud of both of them, doubling my appreciation of the event.

Another friend was so moved by the crowd gathered at the April 20 vigil protesting violence against lesbians and gays that

the next day he submitted a signed letter to the *Free Press* describing the strength and pride he had witnessed and felt the night before. Seeing his letter in print multiplied that sense of achievement; pride passed from person to person that day.

At the Hate Crimes hearing in Montpelier on April 19, one individual after another took the stand to tell his or her story of how fragile yet precious a thing pride is, of how even in the face of such vicious reality as the Easter-night beating of Roger Macomber, pride could survive the retelling of personal horrors and grow stronger.

I recall one man in particular who came out in public for the first time at that hearing - in front of an SRO audience, television cameras, and newspaper reporters. That man's self-respect would not be insulted or defeated any longer, and in the short space of three minutes he won the respect and pride of the majority of people in that room.

Our pride is not some special flag that we wave as individuals in a crowd. It is a special gift which we share with one another constantly as we take those further steps toward freedom and equality.

This Pride Day, come out and celebrate not only for yourselves, but for your friends, families, and supporters. Let the world know that our pride is not hoarded like material wealth; it is something we invest in one another so that we may all grow to our full potential.

Taken collectively, our pride is an enormous wonderment worthy of display. It thrives on recognition and grows with each instance of expression. And if you're still feeling personally deprived of pride, then that's all the more reason to come out and celebrate. After all, there should be plenty there for everyone.

HARNES HI-TECH

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