

# Letters to/from Our Readers

Dear OITM:

I just received the most recent issue of OITM. I read the editorial about outing, and it spurred me to action. For some time, I have considered writing to you and asking that you stop sending my newsletter in a manilla envelope. After reading the editorial, I am taking action. From now on, please send my copy "naked." I have nothing to lose, and it will save paper and postage.

Susan Rosenthal  
Brandon

Dear Susan:

We applaud your initiative and courage, and sincerely wish we could fulfill your wishes, but postal regulations require that every issue of OITM gets mailed out the same way, and for now that means "in a discreet manilla envelope." Naked mail-

ings are an all-or-nothing deal; either everyone asks to strip away the wasteful brown envelope, or we keep mailing the issues out in their postal uniforms. Thanks for taking the stand all the same. And don't forget to leave the latest issue out on the coffee table for company...

Dear OITM:

Having very recently relocated from Vermont (and thus technically still a resident), there are a couple of comments I would like to express regarding your very important August article entitled "Substance Abuse and AIDS."

First, when asking yourself about the safety of your sexual behavior - whether or not alcohol or other drugs are involved - don't kid yourself about the reality of the risk of AIDS/HIV infection. Now more than ever, if you're healthy, staying that

way is up to you. So yes, have sex. And please, have fun! But don't throw caution to the wind; the threat is very real.

Secondly, try not to think only of yourself. Keeping yourself healthy also means keeping your partner(s) healthy. And our caring about each other can help to keep sex the joyful celebration of life it was always meant to be.

So take control - and enjoy!

Jim Charlton  
New York City, via Burlington

*The following is in response to a letter published in the Vermont News Guide by John W. Willmott. In his letter, Willmott criticized First Lady Barbara Bush for her supportive remarks to the gay community, arguing that she "has forgotten to play by the 'rule book' of both Christians and Jews, (continued on next page)*



ELECT

## ALTHEA KROGER

STATE SENATOR • CHITTENDEN COUNTY  
DEMOCRAT

*Send Back to Montpelier  
A Strong Voice  
For All Vermont Families!*

"As far back as 1982, Althea Kroger stood alone in the House Judiciary Committee -- fighting passionately to give lesbians and gay men the same protection against domestic violence given to other family members in Vermont.

In 1990, I am convinced the State Senate needs Althea's energy and dedication to equal rights, if a strong "Gay Rights Law" is to become a reality in Vermont.

Althea's leadership and continuing commitment to Vermont's lesbian and gay community should not be forgotten on September 11!"

Peter Welch  
Former Vermont Senator & 1990  
Gubernatorial Candidate