

Out in the Mountains

established in 1986

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To Submit Articles and Letters

We encourage and implore our readers to do what they can to make *OITM* a paper both for and by gay, lesbian, and bisexual Vermonters. Please assist us by typing your articles and letters double-spaced and including your name and phone number in case we have any questions. Your submission should be received by *OITM* no later than the 1st of the previous month. Thank you for helping out!

KEEP US POSTED!

Please let us know of any events that you feel should be on our calendar so that we can share them with all our readers. Send your group's listings or other information to: *OITM*, PO Box Box 177, Burlington VT 05402. Materials must be received by the 1st of the month prior to publication in order to be assured of appearing in print.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor, *OITM*

This may be a very unusual request, but I'll be very grateful if you could grant me this. I am seeking your help in finding penfriends. I live in Jamaica in the West Indies and the gay community here is small and closeted. I could not put an ad in any of our newspapers seeking gay penfriends and that's why I am asking you to help me. I need people who I can relate to. In other words, I need gay friends. Below are particulars of myself.

Sophia Simpson, age 22, 19 Avery Crescent, Edgewater, Bridgeport P.O., St. Catherine, Jamaica, W.I.

By the way, I love your magazine although if and when I get them they are 1 year old.

Yours Truly,

Sophia Simpson

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Dear *Out in the Mountains*,

I just got done watching the eleven o'clock news. I felt that a word must be said on the ban that was lifted today and the court cases against gays and lesbians. This is a great thing. But I want all of us to take a moment and remember all of the ones that died and didn't get to see this day. One such person I will never forget. I was in D.C. in 92 at the AIDS Quilt when walking through the rows of panels I found my self looking down at an all black panel with white letters and a picture of an officer. This panel said "They gave me a medal for killing a man and a discharge for loving one."

I didn't know this man but I'd give anything if I could tell him the news of this. So I hope that all will think of people that didn't get to see this day and thank them for their part.

James

Editor's Note: The officer referred to in James' letter was Leonard Matlovitch. ▼

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Dear Editor,

After years of fighting against the ban on gay men and lesbians in the military, we were very pleased with President Clinton's strong, principled commitment to this effort.

One factor that will determine the outcome of this fight against discrimination is the extent to which our congressional colleagues hear from their constituents on this issue. The single most important thing anyone can do to

fight this discriminatory policy is to write to the people who represent him or her in the United State House and the United States Senate. Members of the House and Senate are influenced far more by expressions of opinion from the people in their own constituencies than they are from other sources.

We would add one additional letter that is important to send — to President Clinton to thank him for standing up for the principle that Americans should not be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation, despite strong political opposition.

There will be organized efforts on the part of those opposed to fair treatment of gay men and lesbians to flood Members of Congress with constituent communications against the President's position, and its is essential that those who believe fairness do what they can do to offset this. And if after writing your own letter or making your own phone calls you can persuade friends, co-workers, relatives, etc, to do the same to their own Representatives and Senators, that will also be very helpful.

Representative Gerry Studds
Representative Barney Frank

Editors Note:

To contact your representatives in Vermont write or call:

Representative Bernard Sanders,
U.S. House of Representatives;
Washington, DC or call (802) 862-0697
Senator Patrick Leahy, U.S. Senate,
Washington DC, 20510
(1-800) 642-3193
Senator James Jeffords, U.S. Senate,
Washington DC, 20510
(1-800) 835-5500

In New Hampshire

Senator Judd Gregg, U.S. Senate,
Washington DC, 20510
(202) 224-3324
(in Concord, NH 225-711)
Senator Bob Smith, U.S. Senate,
Washington DC, 20510
(202) 224-2841
(in Manchester, NH 634-5000)
Representative Dick Swett,
U.S. House of Representatives;
Washington, DC
(202) 225-5206

White House Opinion Line
(202) 456-1111

General Colin Powell
(703) 697-9121 ▼