

**Out in the Mountains**  
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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!

# Editorial

## Is Angell An Angel?

Paul Olsen

Forget for a moment that Vermont's new Catholic Bishop, Kenneth A. Angell, is facing racketeering charges for allegedly covering up the sexual abuse of young boys in Rhode Island. Forget that Bishop Angell refuses to allow young women to serve as altar girls and opposes the ordination of women as priests. Forget that, in the spirit of christian disunity and ecumenical separatism, Bishop Angell will not allow the installation of Vermont's new Episcopal Bishop to occur at Saint Michael's College because she is a women. And finally, forget the fact that in spite of calls for a nationwide boycott, Bishop Angell recently went to Colorado to meet that other man in a dress, the Pope (note: in the spirit of full disclosure, I must admit that while in high school even I made a pilgrimage to New York City's Madison Square Garden for an audience with the Pope). The purpose of my latest tirade is to explore how Bishop Angell may (or may not) serve Vermont's lesbian and gay community.

After serving 18 years as auxiliary bishop in Rhode Island, Pope John Paul II appointed Angell the eighth Catholic bishop of Vermont. Succeeding the wretched John Marshall, 63 year-old Angell began his reign as bishop after his installation on November 9,

1992. Since that time Angell has criticized the city of Burlington for extending health insurance coverage to "so-called" domestic partners of city employees. Citing the breakup of the "family", Angell's dribble failed to address the fact that extending insurance coverage might effectively solve the problem of many Vermonters lack of access to health care. Labeled an activist by the media, Angell's plethora of foolishness also failed to point out that Burlington's initiative would confront the institutionalized oppression faced by lesbians and gay men in the work place.

With the exception of blessing a few statues, Bishop Angell's tenure in Vermont has been marked by controversy and his failure to in any way reach out to Vermont's lesbian and gay community. As the "spiritual leader" of Vermont's 144,000 Catholics, Angell's narrow-mindedness and rhetoric are disturbing. When I asked Bishop Angell's Communications Director, Gloria J. Gibson, if Angell would have publicly opposed Vermont's anti-discrimination bill when it was pending in the Legislature she replied "yes". Thank God he wasn't bishop back then. ▼

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