

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!

Letters to the Editor

Lost in Space: An Open Letter to Senator James Jeffords
cc: *Out in the Mountains*

Dear Senator Jeffords,

I've thought about your proposed legislation that would prohibit the use of billboards in outer space. While this may be an admirable goal, I'm again writing you about an issue that is much closer to planet earth.

While claiming that you are opposed to discrimination, you've consistently refused to co-sponsor the National Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act. As you know, this neutral piece of civil rights legislation would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation nationwide. With passage of Vermont's anti-discrimination statute, it is clear that Vermont has spoken on this issue and, as a Senator from Vermont, you should carry this message to the rest of the country. Why is what is good for Vermont not good for the nation? Your opposition to signing onto this bill appears to be motivated by the Republican primary you will face in 1994. It's discouraging to think that rather than principle you are motivated by self-interest and self-preservation. Does the primary you face next year also explain your absence on the confirmation vote of (openly lesbian) Roberta Achtenberg to her position at HUD?

Come back to earth, "phone home", and back your bark with bite by joining Senator Leahy and Representative Sanders as a co-sponsor of this critical piece of civil rights legislation. While gay and lesbian Americans continue to lose their jobs, homes and children, your work on billboards in space is insulting, trivial, and lost in space.

Paul Olsen

(Note to OITM readers: Staffers of Senator Jeffords claim he has heard from few Vermonters regarding the National Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights Act. If you believe this is an important issue call Senator Jeffords at 1-800-835-5500 and express your opinion).

Dear Deborah Lashman, Editor

In the September issue, 1993 under page 10, I found *Nocture for Diverse Instruments* by Alison Bechdel to be porn trash. In picking up *Out in the Mountains* I seek education, awareness and something of interest. I can't see how this cartoon gives a positive light to any lesbian.

Sincerely flustered and ired,

Brother Richard R. Labbè, S.C.
Brothers of the Sacred Heart

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