

Editorial

This is my last issue as editor of *Out in the Mountains*. It's hard to believe it has been three years since I took over, but the time has come for me to resign. I began before my second son was born (some issues were edited in the early hours of the morning with him in my lap). I will be starting a new career this fall (entering law school at age 40) and Fred Kuhr will take over as Editor with the next issue.

I want to thank everyone who has worked on the paper during my tenure for their help, patience, and support. I especially want to thank those people who have become the "board" of *OITM*, David Grist, Ellen Hetherington, Bruce Howden, Fred Pond, and Steven West. Their donation of countless hours of time and energy to make sure Vermont has a paper each month is remarkable. Larry Wolf, who served as Chair of *OITM* for much of my time on the paper, also provided invaluable help.

I want to thank our readers who keep us challenged, write us letters, let us know what they like (and don't like) and are the reason for our existence.

Most importantly I want to thank my family for putting up with the demands of pulling together a paper each month. They, as well as I, have gained much from the experience.

It's been an exciting three years, both in Vermont and nationally. We have a level of recognition higher than ever before and with that comes both the opportunity to expand our civil rights and the backlash from those who would keep us from full realization of those rights. We've celebrated some great victories here in Vermont; the hate crimes bill, the civil rights bill, second parent adoption, and just this month extension of domestic partner coverage to state employees. Two of our three representatives in the US Congress (Senator Patrick Leahy and Representative Bernard Sanders) support a federal civil rights bill. We've also had setbacks; the rise of the right and religious fundamentalists, the attack on Vermont CARES, the response to education efforts at Harwood Union and Winooski High Schools.

OITM will celebrate its 10th anniversary next year, a testimony to the strength and commitment of the lesbian and gay community in Vermont. I hope all of you will join us as we move into the next decade and the continuing struggle for full freedom.

Deborah Lashman ▼

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Out in the Mountains
established in 1986

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Out in the Mountains is published monthly except for a combined July/August issue by Out in the Mountains, Inc., a non-profit Vermont corporation. The newspaper maintains offices at 109 South Winooski Avenue in Burlington. Our mailing address is PO Box 177, Burlington VT 05402. Bulk rate postage for the mailing of the newspaper is paid in Burlington. The subscription rate is \$20 per year within the United States.

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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!

How to Advertise

If you would like to run an ad in *OITM*, please contact us for rates, sizes, and information. Ad copy must be received by the 1st of the month to be included in the next month's issue. Copy can be mailed to: *OITM*, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402, or call Ellen at (802) 860-1922 Steven West at (802) 864-6399 or Bruce at BMH graphic design at (802) 8647198.