

## Letter to the Editor:

### Cover to cover, no more!

I want to express a personal view that issues of the paper during the past year or so have seemed less relevant than what I have experienced in past years. I used to read *Out In The Mountains* cover to cover. I no longer do that. I would like to share with you some thoughts about what I would like to read as well as what I would like to write:

Highlight Vermont communities through interviews with men, women, and youth living in those communities. So much focus is upon Burlington and Chittenden County. If in fact the paper is to serve as a means of communication among Vermonters who, as you noted in the (September 1994) issue, live in more isolated areas than one would experience in most other states, then the paper should focus upon who those people are and what their lives are like...

Much more needs to be done to connect with youth...I would like to see some focus placed upon what is occurring in public schools that is enriching to Vermont gay youth so that information is communicated to all the youth who read the paper as well as those of us who are interested in those issues...

Highlight one person each issue, someone who might not otherwise be highlighted. I have a plethora of suggestions: the leader of SAGE, a person such as Chris Cozzy who (ran) for public office, a woman who works with AIDS patients in remote communities...I am not suggesting that the "highlight" be of people...who are already visible but instead of people who otherwise do not gain the recognition they deserve.

More book reviews, most especially of books which may have relevance to people's lives in Vermont...

A major theme should be churches and synagogues--those that are affirmative, those that are struggling with the issue, and those that are preaching hatred against gays. In addition I would like to see coverage of New Journey, the group Rev. Craig Benson has started in Jericho in his "ex-gay ministry". This is happening here in Vermont and should, I believe, be explored by the gay press.

Cleland E. Selby  
Middlebury

*(Editor's reply: I agree with many of the ideas mentioned above. The problem is that the necessary human resources are not available and willing to cover such stories. In fact, I contacted the short list of reporters who have written for OITM in the past year trying to find someone to cover Chris Cozzy's campaign effort. No one was available or willing to write the story. If you feel passionate about a story that you feel should be covered by OITM, write it. If anyone is interested in becoming a staff reporter, please contact me immediately.) ▼*

## Letter to Another Editor

*The following letter appeared in the September 16, 1994, edition of the Burlington Free Press. Just in case you were feeling a little apathetic today, we thought we would reprint it here in OITM. Enjoy!*

I would like to address articles/letters regarding homosexual lifestyles and the politically correct idea of considering this normal, and, therefore, totally acceptable.

A reputable New Orleans organization for homosexuals who wish to change had a first-year success rate of 70 percent; five years later 60 percent were still happily heterosexual. Subsequent initial years have had 40 to 70 percent success rates. Students of psychology/statistics know this success rate would not be possible if it were as ingrained, as natural, as many of the homosexual community would have the general public believe.

A psychiatrists' report on the average male homosexual sexual encounter shows nothing normal/loving about it. Figures show homosexual males may have 50 to 100 partners a year; other figures, a minimum of 100 partners in a lifetime. This dispels the picture painted of most homosexuals in warm, loving relationships.

Gay bashing/beatings are wrong. Also, discrimination in the job market--with, however, some restrictions in dealing with youth. This lifestyle should not be condoned/supported as normal and with special legislation, i.e. offering employees health care coverage for live-in partners; allowing adoptions; artificial insemination.

What a strange, peculiar idea of equality/justice is working to pervade society today.

Stella Burke  
Enosburg Falls ▼

## Opinions In The Mountains

Readers are encouraged to voice their opinions by responding to the question posed in this monthly feature. Please send responses to *OITM* at P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402, or via the Internet at [OutVermont@aol.com](mailto:OutVermont@aol.com).

In the wake of 1994's political season, this month's question concerns the gay and lesbian community's traditional allegiance with the Democratic Party.

**Do you usually vote Democratic simply because it is the traditional home of the gay and lesbian community? Do you use a candidate's stand on the issue of lesbian and gay rights as a litmus test?**

Readers' opinions will be printed next month. Responses to September's question concerning domestic partnership legislation are not printed here since none were received. ▼