

Letters to the Editor:

More Best of...Worst of...

Best Coffee House...Muddy Waters
 Worst Lesbian/Gay Bar...Blairs (in Plattsburgh)
 Best Lesbian Newsletter...Lesbian Connection
 Worst Coffee House...Last Elm Cafe
 Worst place to meet Lesbians...Plattsburgh
 Best place to meet Lesbians...Women's Nite at the Last Elm Cafe (the other six nights suck!)
 Best volunteer Lesbian political cause...Women Helping Battered Women
 (they do work with battered Lesbians)
 Worst Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Associations...SUNY Plattsburgh and Johnson State College
 Worst Social Event...Pride March (purely unpolitical!!!)
 Worst Vermont Company...Vermont Teddy Bear Company (they sponsor Rush!)
 Worst towns to be "out" in...St. Albans and Morrisville
 Best political organizers...Judith Beckett and Paj Bailey
 Worst (and scariest) place to meet Gay men..."the loop"

Jennifer C.
 Burlington

Mingling with the Hets

Really annoyed that Pearls has opened up to non-Lesbians/Gays. The Hets have every bar/dance club around. Why did Pearls "sell out" and deny us the right to "our own space".

I heard that Robert Toms (manager of 135 Pearl) said that not enough of "us" would drop out of the Pearls scene to make a difference. I think he should think about how he is hurting the Lesbian/Gay community. Maybe we don't want to become "Club Toast" or the "Metronome"...we want Pearls, the way it is.

We don't need to mingle with homophobic people that may, or may not, be there to create problems for us. This leaves us a bar in Plattsburgh, which is truly awful, or the Montreal scene.

Come on, Robert and (DJ) Craig (Mitchell), let us have our space back. The dollar means more to you than our pride and dignity. There are many Lesbians and Gays that will find other alternatives...besides spending time with straight people. We do that all day and we don't want to have to do it at night in a bar that was created for us.

C.T. Creevs
 Burlington

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And it does not seem to be hurting his career one bit. Go, Elton, Go!

3. **Four Weddings and A Funeral** (Mike Newell, Director) -- By far, this is one of the best and smartest films of the year. And this is a special film for gays for two reasons: 1) the main characters, played by Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell, sleep together and then fall in love - what a recent review in *Out* calls "straight romance on the gay plan", and 2) the only truly maritally blissful couple in the movie is Gareth and Matthew, the gay lovers. The scene in which Matthew pays a poetic tribute to Gareth shows more truth and more love than any movie this year. See it now!

2. **Yes I Am (Melissa Etheridge)** -- Yes she is! Etheridge was one of the most successful pop music stars of the past year, and in article after interview after review, she openly and honestly discussed her sexual orientation. "Come To My Window" is turning into one of those songs that radio stations will be playing for years to come, and "I'm The Only One" seems to be following in its footsteps. She even played Vermont twice this year. Another strong example of how you can be successful and out. We love you, Melissa.

1. **Stonewall 25/Gay Games** -- The most important lesbian and gay event of the year garnered so much press coverage on CNN and the evening news, in *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *Time*, that our visibility increased by fairy leaps and bounds. More "middle Americans" learned about the gay rights movement in June than in the past two and a half decades since the actual Stonewall Rebellion. Vermont even had a contingency proudly playing in the Games. An exciting time during an exciting year.

Have a happy and safe Christmas, Channukah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, Generic Holiday, and New Year's. Mazel Tov. ▼

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.

A "Letter To The Editor" printed in this issue was sent in by a reader who feels that the "language and subjects" in the cartoon "Dykes To Watch Out For" are "not appropriate" for *OITM*, especially since it is distributed in many churches throughout the state.

Do you agree that "Dykes To Watch Out For" is in "poor taste" and inappropriate for this newspaper?

Readers' opinions will be printed in an upcoming issue. Responses to October's question concerning coming out are not printed here since none were received. ▼