

Out in the Mountains

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR LESBIANS, GAY MEN, AND BISEXUALS

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OITM Celebrates Fifth Birthday

A Look Back at the Paper's History

by Miki Thomas

I remember back in the fall of 1985 when the idea of a gay and lesbian newspaper for Vermont started to gain momentum. As Philip Roberts wrote in an article celebrating the second anniversary of *Out in the Mountains* in February 1988, the now defunct Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VLGR) felt that "a vehicle was needed to help the lesbian/gay community develop a method of sharing what was happening in our political, social, and personal lives."

Late November of that year, a meeting was held at the Peace and Justice Center in

Burlington to start up such a paper. Representatives from VLGR and interested community members such as myself attended the meeting. We discussed the contents of the paper and the name of it (*Out in the Mountains* was chosen based on past gay pride logos of New Hampshire and Vermont). To finance the enterprise, we applied for a grant from the Haymarket People's Fund of Boston for start-up money.

The grant from the Haymarket People's Fund came through for \$2,000 to get the paper going. Several meetings were later held, and the next February, the first issue of *Out in the Mountains* appeared.

Carrie Coy joined *OITM* after moving to Burlington in February of 1986. She

remembers that it was exciting for her to work on the paper. A small handful of people would meet at the beginning of each month to plan the next month's issue and then would meet later to read over and edit whatever stories and press releases came into the office, which at that time was rented from the Peace and Justice Center. As *OITM* was not yet computerized, all of the layout was done by hand.

Once the paper was printed up, the collective members would then collate it and get it ready to mail to subscribers and distribute around town. There were only fifty to sixty subscribers at that point, with the emphasis being on free distribution around the Burlington area. The only other

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publicity photo by Erik Borg

The Uncontrollable Gal!

Janice Perry, a.k.a. Gal, is a native Vermonter who grew up in Baŕre and now lives in Ferrisburgh. A wildly talented performance artist who makes her audiences think and laugh at the same time, she spends half her time performing in the United States and the other half in Europe.

Gal celebrated her 40th birthday last October with a sold-out performance at Contois Auditorium in Burlington. Recently, she talked to *OITM* about living in Vermont, her work, and the special challenges of being a feminist who's funny.

OITM: Why do you stay in Vermont.

GAL: Born here!

OITM: That's the reason?

GAL: Where else am I going to go?

OITM: You could go to New York or London – all those places where you do your work.

GAL: Oh, I do. I do that. But having my house in Ferrisburgh makes it possible for

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