

## 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 7th of the previous month. Thank you for helping out!

# Editorial

## Dedicated to the Dedicated

by Hugh Coyle

With this issue, *Out in the Mountains* celebrates the completion of its fifth year of publication. A year ago, it seemed as though the newspaper was doomed to die a sudden death on its fourth anniversary. Today, *OITM* continues to grow, supported by the efforts of a group of people whose monthly meetings make the paper less like a business and more like a family, a gathering together of positive energy.

My own personal involvement with the paper is perhaps indicative of the need for such a publication; if it were not for *OITM*, I would not have met the people who have become some of my closest friends in the past months. Over a year ago, I submitted an article to the paper and, with some inkling of pride and a greater touch of innocence, allowed my name to accompany it in print. Certain people saw the article, mentioned it to certain others, and through the generous efforts of a common friend, we were all brought together one night in February to come to know one another, to share our experiences as lesbians and gay men, and, between bites of the best brownies I've ever had, to discuss the then-dire fate of *OITM*.

Maybe there was some secret ingredient in those brownies which spurred us on to greater action, for a few weeks later, we were all in attendance at the emergency meeting scheduled to determine the future, if there was to be one, of Vermont's only statewide gay and lesbian newspaper (at that time, bisexuals were not included in the paper's masthead). A few months later, we had joined forces with the committed group of people determined to bring the paper back from the brink of extinction. Today, we are happily engaged in a shared venture

none of us had ever thought would claim us - publishing.

Over the past year, *OITM* has shifted its focus more firmly into the heart of Vermont and away from a monthly recap of national news. We have opened our field of vision to encompass the bisexual community, searching always for new and bolder ways to promote inclusion over exclusion. We have, with some issues, added as many as eight pages to the paper, thanks to the allowing and generous support of our subscribers and advertisers. We have received the largest grant in the paper's history to purchase our own desktop publishing system (thank you very much, Green Mountain Fund!). We've also added "Dykes to Watch Out For," to which we extend a heartfelt thanks and welcome to one of the newest members of the Vermont community, Alison Bechdel!

The energies which produce this paper are all voluntary, and I for one have been truly astonished and impressed by the amount and range of energy present in Vermont's gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities today. This paper wouldn't be happening without it, and it wouldn't be growing substantially if something BIG wasn't happening out there in the state.

So, to all those who are helping to make it happen, even as the country heads into a period of war-time crisis; to those who continue to show us that we must stand tall and carry on regardless of adverse conditions; to those whose love and passion have made Vermont a state more accommodating of the love and passion we feel - this issue (and all the issues of the *next* five years!) finds its dedication.

May our spirits and passions remain strong.

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