

Letters to the Editor

Die-In Calls for Shame

Dear *OITM*:

I was ashamed of some of my gay brothers and sisters who took part in the so-called "die in" demonstration in January in Burlington. It was, to say the least, a vulgar farce, and we do not need this kind of press. It was an insult to the 500,000 people who are still, in spite of 25 years of research and billions of dollars spent thereon, dying every year from cancer.

Some of those participating acted like complete idiots, using vulgar and offensive language and behavior. None of us should be pointing the finger and blaming society for the AIDS problem, nor making accusations that not enough is being done.

Proportionately, AIDS research funding is equal to or more than cancer research, and it is stupid to assume that our medical science is going to instantly find cures no matter how much money or time is spent. We, as a society, have an uncanny ability to ignore our behaviors, which are usually responsible for diseases like AIDS and some cancers. We don't want to take the

responsibility for things that befall us...it's a lot of bullshit and I'm sick and tired of listening to it.

Most of the blame for the proliferation and spread of AIDS lies within the gay community, but we ignore talking about this, because now that the rest of society is at risk, we can blindly feel the monkey is off our backs, and this too is bullshit. None of us even like to be told that we "reap what we sow," but when you objectively look at what's going on, it does come down to that...plain and simple. If you smoke, you'll probably get lung cancer. If you butt-fuck or engage in oral sex without condoms, you probably will get AIDS.

So, everyone, especially those in the gay community, should quit their bitching and clean up their acts. People will also get cancer and AIDS even if though they live safe and clean - that's just the way it is. Get real and accept it.

M. Carey
Essex Junction

Group News

New Rutland Area Group Emerges

Following the demise of a number of Rutland's gay and lesbian groups, a new outlet for the central Vermont community has been established. The Rutland Area Gay/Lesbian Connection had its initial meeting at the end of last year, and looks forward to sponsoring a number of gay and lesbian events in the year ahead.

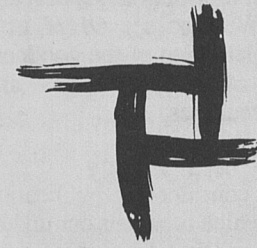
Organizers of the new Connection point out that the group is not intended to be a dating service, but rather "a group of gays and lesbians from the greater Rutland communities who come together once a month for mutual support, to plan activities, have workshops and rap sessions, and share Vermont's organizational resources. We would like to encourage those within our surrounding communities to join us in the many activities we'll be planning and lend your voice to us with concerns and interests."

The founders of the group felt it was important to establish a connection in the

area, "especially in time of isolation, fear, and violence against us." Though the group's original intent is non-political, facilitators agreed that they would move in that direction if the members desired.

Following an initial publicity campaign, group organizers distributed a welcome letter and questionnaire to potential members. A meeting in Rutland on the 18th of January was held to chart the course of the new group. Listed activities included game and video nights, barbecues and beach parties, and field trips to places like Montreal and Provincetown.

The group has already attracted members from a diverse range of towns in the central Vermont area and looks forward to hearing from more gay men and lesbians in the region. If you are interested in knowing more, write to RAGLC at PO Box 455, East Middlebury, Vermont 05740.



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