

Cover Story

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of *Out in the Mountains* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *OITM* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities.

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of the staff. This paper cannot and will not endorse any candidates and actions of public officials on issues of importance to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

We will not publish any material which is overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, or homophobic.

All materials submitted must be signed so we can contact the author should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit materials for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us. This paper is here for you. The deadline for submitting material for each issue is the 7th of the month prior to publication.

Materials should be sent to:
Out in the Mountains
PO Box 177
Burlington, VT 05402

How to Advertise

If you would like to run an ad in *OITM*, please contact us for rates, sizes, and information. Ad copy must be received by the 7th of the month to be included in the next month's issue. Copy can be mailed to: *OITM*, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402, or call Ellen at (802) 860-1922.

OITM Retrospective (from page one)

areas to receive *OITM* were Montpelier, where a man distributed 200 copies, and Brattleboro, where copies were sent off to Colors, one of the town's gay bars.

Over the next four years, *OITM* began to gain power as the mouthpiece of Vermont's gay and lesbian communities. A case in point is the political polling often done. When VLGR would poll candidates before the November elections regarding their stands on issues of interest to the gay and lesbian communities, it received little response. However, when *OITM* conducted a similar poll in 1986, almost all of the candidates responded when it was made clear that the results would be published.

OITM covered major stories as well. The first issue of *OITM* covered legislation that would ban discrimination against those who are HIV+. Since then, *OITM* has covered the Pride parades, the 1986 ERA campaign, the Gay Rights Bill hearings of 1987 and 1988, and the 1987 March on Washington.

Membership, however, did not grow during that period. A handful of people were still doing the jobs of writing, typing, laying out, and distributing the paper. By 1989, key people had left and new ones hadn't come in. The collective had dwindled to four people. One member was going to leave the area the following sum-

mer, and the other three had all reached the burnout point. This would have been the end of *OITM* unless, as Carrie Coy put it, "we could scare up people to help out."

An insert was put into the January 1990 issue with the ominous declaration that "This is *OITM*'s last issue." The insert had one ray of hope - it also said that a meeting would be held the next month to discuss whether *OITM* should be kept alive or be allowed to die a dignified death.

On February 17, 1990, over forty people from all over Vermont met at the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington. Local media showed up as well, and the meeting was covered on WCAX News that night and the *Burlington Free Press* the following morning. The consensus was that *OITM* needed to be kept alive, for *OITM* served a vital role in the lives of gay and lesbian Vermonters and their friends.

For Carrie Coy, however, even this positive reaction left her a bit skeptical: "I wasn't sure if the group was willing to put the work into it." But now, she says, "It's wonderful to see the paper thrive."

Since that February meeting, a group of fifteen or so individuals has met regularly to put the paper out on a monthly basis and to live up to the purpose as it was stated in the very first issue five years ago and as it continues to be stated today.

SUBSCRIBE TO *OITM*!

By subscribing now to *OITM*, not only will you guarantee delivery to your mailbox (in a discreet envelope, of course), but you will also help underwrite the rising costs of publishing the newspaper. We also welcome any additional contributions you can make to support our continuing existence. Checks should be made payable to *OITM* and sent, along with this form, to: *OITM*, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, Vermont 05402.

Name _____

Address _____

One-year (\$20) Low-income (\$10) Donation (\$_____)

Donations are especially welcome from those who prefer to pick up *OITM* at one of the paper's distribution points rather than be added to the mailing list.

Please also let us know if you'd like to get involved in the newspaper.