

Media Watch

Commonwoman Returns

by Cheri Goldstein

Commonwoman is back. Yes, the Vermont Women's Publication of news, culture, and dialogue from a feminist perspective has returned, and I for one would like to thank the dozen or so dedicated women who have put in all of the hard work and found a way to bring back this vital link to the community.

I know many of these women – at least by name and by sight. They are strong-minded and strong-willed women whose voices have not been heard (or read) by the general public in quite some time. The original *Commonwoman* quit printing in 1984.

I had heard about this radical feminist magazine in some of the circles that I travelled in when I arrived in this state. *Commonwoman*, then already defunct, was sort of a legend that was being talked about by folks who were politically aware and active in the early 1980's.

Other folks talked about it – but had never actually seen a copy of it. It had become a piece of Vermont folklore to many. After all, we all knew that people who were politically active in the 70's and 80's were now living in the suburbs, driv-

ing their 2.3 children and dog to private schools, and watching Dan Rather for their political opinions.

Crash – shatter the dream; *Commonwoman* arrives in my mailbox and the people of legend once more become reality.

It is good to be able to read the news, opinions, and stories of this section of our culture. There is a great deal of lesbian effort going into the newspaper, even though the publication is not solely lesbian-oriented. I am sure I will not always agree with what will be written in every issue, but I am pleased that there will be an issue there for me to read.

The lesbian and gay communities have for too long shunned our subcultures, treating them as though, for some reason, they don't belong or fit. The radical feminists have been shunned; the leather community has been shunned; the queens in genderfuck have been shunned – all because the "larger" gay and lesbian community is either too scared or too uneducated to want to believe that all our subcultures belong to our larger community.

We all have voices and we all deserve to be heard, even if a lot of other people do not agree. I wish I knew a way to have more

of our points of view put out into the public eye. Acceptance still seems to be an idea with which we are desperately struggling.

So, thank you *Commonwoman* – and here's to all of the controversy that you might return to our conversations with your re-emergence. It is good to have you back.

Join The Fight!

Support The Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men

in their work to pass legislation guaranteeing equal rights to Lesbians and Gay men in Vermont and insuring protection for People With AIDS and HIV+ persons. Contribute to our cause and add your name to our mailing list. We need your help.

Yes, I want to be a part of making Vermont safer for Gays and Lesbians. Add my name to your mailing list.

Accept my contribution of _____ to help with expenses and general coalition building efforts.

See Address on Resources Page

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

THANK YOU!

Emma Goldman Players Play Vermont



The Emma Goldman Gypsy Players, a theater troupe of radical faeries, recently toured Vermont to give shows sponsored by the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men and the Mansfield Bucks. Pictured are Gypsy Players Mark Weinstein, B.J. Atanasio, and Spree. They are accompanied by Craig "Pride Day Majorette" Balaun on the far left and Keith "I'll do anything to get my picture in OITM" Goslant on the far right. The Emma Goldman Gypsy Players plan a return trip to Vermont in the spring.