

Letters to the Editor

Squires a Valuable Vermont Resource

Dear *OITM*,

Thanks for *Out in the Mountains*. The Vermont community needs this monthly newspaper.

On February 13th I was panicked by the visit to my home by representatives of my County's Prosecutor's office and plain-clothes Vermont State Police whose on-the-spot, in-the-driveway-attempt to question me about the nature of my friendship with a neighbor caused me to respond with: "I'm going to get a lawyer." My 18-year-old friend, under custodial care of fearful, ignorant, homophobic neighbors, had apparently been intimidated into revealing our relationship. And feeling threatened by this, a complaint was filed, and thus an investigative visit followed.

Frantically, within ten minutes of their departure, I called Ron Squires, Vermont State Representative, using the 800 number appearing in the Resources listing on the back page of *Out in the Mountains*. We had met over fifteen years ago on the Amtrak train between Montpelier and Brattleboro, and I wasn't sure he'd remember me. A page at the State House took my call, and Ron returned my call within ten minutes.

I recounted the scenario, giving him some background. He did remember me. He said: "let me make some calls," and he called me back in another ten minutes, and gave me the name of a competent, sympathetic, seasoned attorney in private practice in Burlington. I called and summarized the situation with the attorney and was advised that he didn't feel there was a legal problem, but offered to represent me should there be any further inquiries from my County Prosecutor.

In the space of 45 minutes I realized just how vital and valuable the community can be, how important it is that we have Ron Squires in the State House of Representa-

tives in Montpelier, and how important a role *Out in the Mountains* played in this triangle. Ron Squires is definitely a resource, and a super one at that. Frankly, I was overwhelmed by his responsiveness.

I hope you will print this letter in the next issue of *Out in the Mountains*.

OITM Reader

Northeast Kingdom

Bigger Fish to Fry

Dear *OITM*,

Regarding the editorial in the May 1991 edition of *OITM*. "'Gay' v.s. 'Queer'"—what's wrong with "homosexual?!?!". Sounds pretty inclusive to me... there are bigger fish we could be frying.

- Name withheld by request

Chiltern Draws Fire

To the Editor,

Some few years ago, I was invited to attend a meeting at the Hotel Coolidge in downtown White River Junction. If memory serves me correctly, it was a cold December Sunday with the friendly city decorated with its finest Christmas lights glistening on the snow. By way of S.A.M. in Norwich, I was invited to participate in a general information meeting that eventually gave birth to *Out in the Mountains*. Being a longtime member of S.A.M. and a public relations professional, I hope that my contribution at that meeting met with some degree of success. With many friends and a general romance with Vermont, I eagerly look forward to your monthly publication.

While reading your April issue, I was

somewhat disoriented by your story on Boston's Chiltern Mountain Club. I was actually surprised at first that the independent Vermont native would be controlled by a Boston organization. The few dozen Vermont Chiltern subscribers would be best served with Vermont Lesbian & Gay Outdoors instead, organized and managed by Vermonters, a less closeted 1991 approach also. Being a former member, Chiltern is rife with sexism, exclusion, age discrimination and a steadily declining membership, all documented here at Seacoast Gay Men.

Vermont deserves better!

Best Regards,

Albert Santerre

Seacoast Gay Men

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

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