

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 10th 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 10th 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.

More Letters to the Editor

Cancer Support Group Continues

Dear *OITM*,

I noticed with dismay that the Lesbian Cancer Support Group is no longer listed in your health resources guide. My first thought was that this was due to unconscious erasure, another example of societal denial of the disease by ostracizing those who have it. All of us in the group have experienced this. Old friends are not heard from. The group we used to hang out with somehow never gets to us about an upcoming party. Acquaintances will talk to us about anything except to ask how we are feeling. I have told people I had cancer and then wondered if I had really said it because that statement was totally ignored. I hope your omission was not erasure, but a simple error of some kind.

Cancer is not a lesbian or gay disease, but we get it as surely as straight people. We suffer the same consequences plus the extra ones of being "other." We must get a medical power of attorney for our lover so she/he can be with us in the recovery room. We have to constantly tell the medical profession "this is more than a good friend, this is the essential person in my life."

My partner and I started this group because we felt the need for the kind of support a group can offer, and we did not have the time or energy to deal with the homophobia, questions, and need for lesbian and gay education we would face in a

straight group before we could be accepted. Our group is for cancer patients, their partners, singles, and women whose partners with cancer can't or won't come. Our age range is from the twenties to the fifties. Our diagnoses vary. Some are facing final diagnosis and the choices and fears of treatment. Some have completed treatment and face the fear of recurrence. Others of us are facing the surety of death from our disease; we just don't know exactly when or how. All of us have cancer as an over-riding concern in our lives.

We meet bimonthly in the Burlington area at members' homes in the evening. Our meetings have no planned structure or leader and are usually intense. We often call each other between meetings if something unusual is happening or if we feel the need for additional support. Our contact phone number is 660-8386. *OITM* has been our major source of new members. Please, don't erase us as straight society has tried [and is still trying] to erase HIV and AIDS.

Sincerely,
Helen McHenry

Ed. note: The original notice of the group's formation, listed in our December issue, did not specify that the listing was to run monthly. We apologize for the misunderstanding and ask that groups keep us (and our readers) up to date on such matters.

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 _____

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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.

THANK YOU!