

## Internal Affairs

### Out in the Mountains to Hold General Meeting

A year ago at this time, *Out in the Mountains* was still whisking the dust off its shoulders and getting back on its feet after a mid-winter brush with death. Now, Vermont's only statewide newspaper for lesbian, gay men, and bisexuals appears to be in good health.

A look at the numbers point to a successful year for the paper: advertising has increased by about fifty per cent, as has our subscriber list, which jumped from 189 in February of 1990 to 324 with the current issue. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to both constituencies.

The paper has also grown in size and content and now publishes consistently at a length of 24 pages. This again is due in great part to our advertisers and readers' input. New bulk mailing procedures have helped us to keep pace with the increased distribution, which continues to include

free delivery at a number of locations across the state for those who, for one reason or another, cannot have the publication mailed to them at home (even if it is mailed with incredible discretion in the *de rigueur* brown paper envelope).

Many changes have occurred since a new staff took over back in February of 1990. For starters, bisexuals were included in the scope of the paper's interest, with several articles addressing that segment of the gay-identifying population. Monthly health articles have addressed the AIDS epidemic from a number of different angles and perspectives in a constant effort to keep Vermonters informed of the threat of the disease without resorting to clinical and/or chemical analyses that would frustrate the most informed pharmacist.

*OITM* has also been delighted to include "Dykes to Watch Out For" as the nationally-known cartoonist Alison Bechdel has moved to Vermont (see interview on pp. 12-14). We hope to continue to increase the visual appeal of the paper by including more artwork, photography, etc., in the future.

The initiation of our "Classifieds" section has also generated some much-needed income, in addition to providing yet another outlet for our readers to communicate with one another. If you have

yet to take advantage of our "free classifieds" offer, please be aware that subscribers can place up to six free ads of any kind per year (within reasonable size and content limits, please!).

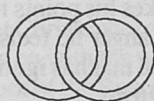
The next hurdle for the paper involves a restructuring of the editorial process as the current Editor-in-Chief, Hugh Coyle, prepares to leave the state and head west. Other reliable members of the staff, including a couple of our finest writers, will also find themselves unable to continue on in their regular capacity with the paper.

In response to this reorganization, and in order to maintain contact with our general audience, *Out in the Mountains* will be holding a General Meeting at the Vermont Law School in Royalton (first floor in the classroom building; follow the signs) on June 16th from 1-3:00 p.m. If you or your friends have any ideas which might help the paper, or especially if you'd like to get involved in some way or another (writing, envelope stuffing, event planning, or distribution), please come and join us.

The meeting is open to any and all interested people and will be followed by a reception with fine (and free) food and beverages. (Rumor has it that Vermont's favorite ice cream, used in the past to bribe new staff members into attending editorial meetings, will be on hand as well.)

This is, once again, a crucial time in the newspaper's history, and we'd like to have as much community input as possible as we prepare to move forward from here. We hope to see you at the meeting (particularly if you're from the southern parts of the state, where we need to establish more effective lines of communication). Any questions or comments can be directed to either of the paper's current co-chairs, Cheri (229-0109) or Larry (563-2938).

#### LESBIAN AND GAY JOINING CEREMONIES WEDDINGS



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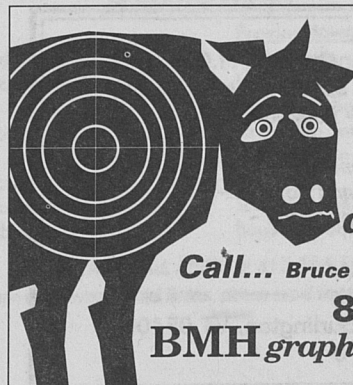
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