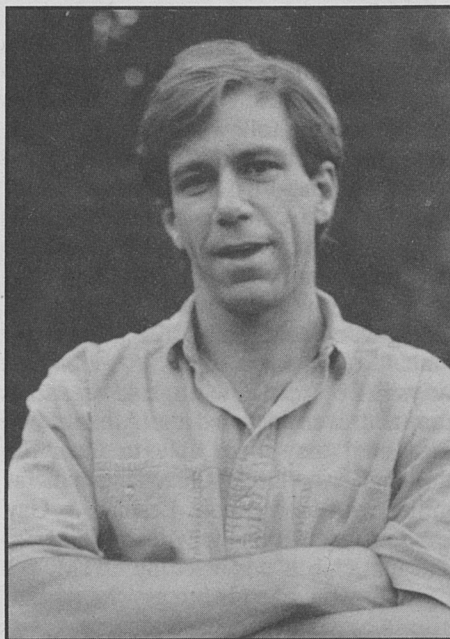


A FOND FAREWELL TO HUGH COYLE



by Sage Russell

Few readers of *Out in the Mountains* realize how much of the success of the paper since its rebirth in February, 1990 is due to work of one person, Hugh Coyle, editor from then until last month's issue. It is quite possible that the paper would not have survived the year without him. *Out in the Mountains* is much stronger now than it was a year ago, and we feel confident at this point that we can continue in his absence. Nevertheless, it has taken at least four people to replace him.

Hugh has been deeply committed to *OITM's* mission, and has put endless amounts of his time, talents, and impressive capacity for hard work into the paper, working, like everyone on the staff, as a volunteer. Many of the changes readers have noticed over the past year are the result of his leadership: among them, the current 24 page format

(leading him to refer to himself as a "size queen"), the focus on Vermont news, and the paper's own "coming out," with the increased use of signed articles and a masthead.

His behind-the-scenes contributions have been no less important. In addition to his editorial skills, Hugh is a talented writer, with an insistence on quality and more than a touch of perfectionism. He did most of the copy editing and, when necessary, worked with contributors to improve their writing. When promised articles came in late, or sometimes not at all, he wrote copy to fill the gaps. Many of the unsigned articles and cover stories this past year were his. On at least one occasion, he raided his journal for material. Last November, when the situation looked especially dire, he threatened to fill the entire issue with hand turkeys (outlines of his hand).

Hugh laid the paper out in marathon weekend sessions at his home in Ripton, assisted principally by Mocha, the wonder dog, featured on the front page of the May issue. When the layout fell on a holiday weekend, as it often did, Hugh gave up his holiday. His patience and good humor could wear thin on these occasions, but were usually restored by the time he picked the paper up from the printer.

Hugh is definitely not all work and no play. He felt strongly that working on *OITM* should be fun. The paper is mailed out once a month on a Saturday morning, and an editorial meeting follows in the afternoon. It is not clear how the practice of ending the day with an obligatory visit to Ben and Jerry's started; what is certain is that Hugh was deeply involved in the decision. He was a prime mover behind two staff parties that were held during the year, as well as the 5th anniversary celebration at Pearls in February.

As of September, Hugh will no longer be out in the Green Mountains; he will be out in Big Sky country instead, as a graduate student in English at the University of Montana. There is a lingering suspicion among the staff that the real reason he is leaving is because *OITM* burned him out. That may not be the case, though. Recently, he was heard to mention that there is no gay/lesbian newspaper in Montana...yet. ▼

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 1st of the month prior to publication.

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