

## Out in the Mountains

established in 1986

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## To Submit Articles and Letters

We encourage and implore our readers to do what they can to make OITM a paper both for and by gay, lesbian, and bisexual Vermonters. Please assist us by typing your articles and letters double-spaced and including your name and phone number in case we have any questions. Your submission should be received by OITM no later than the 1st of the previous month. Thank you for helping out!

## Editorial

I've been reading *Odd Girls & Twilight Lovers*, Lillian Faderman's history of lesbian life in twentieth century America. In addition to being a fascinating and revealing social history, Faderman's book highlights the great diversity of lesbian lives.

OITM similarly celebrates the diversity of our community. In this issue alone you can read about gays and lesbians who are Pentacostals, publishers, Episcopalians, parents, professors, Jews. A review of the Resource Page shows the variety of organizations we are involved in. From lesbians and gays who loudly proclaim their identity to those (as in the letter from Moira) who lead more quiet lives, we are everywhere.

Another view of lesbian and gay lives is reported in the articles about eastern Europe. Despite repression and fear much worse than ever experienced by most of us in western countries, the first ever gay and lesbian rights and AIDS conference was held in Leningrad and Moscow at the end of July. For four days, participants from the U.S. and the Soviet Union met in workshops, attended films, and held public demonstrations, including the distribution of condoms.

Next month, on National Coming Out Day, October 11th, we celebrate in a very public way, that which we live every day.

For a preview of activities in Vermont read the Coming Out Day article in this issue. The October issue of OITM, our annual Coming Out issue, will have more information on activities, along with articles, book reviews, coming out stories and a bibliography.

Deborah Lashman ▼

## Letters to the Editor

Dear OITM,

I recently read a letter in your June issue about a former member from Chiltern Mountain Club who unfortunately left the club with a bad experience and an inaccurate perception.

I joined two years ago and have met some great people. Chiltern offers gay men and women an alternative to meeting people in bars. Activities such as biking, hiking, tennis and cross-country skiing allow people to meet in a positive, healthy environment.

Many people who have joined liked the fact that up front we do not publicize that we are a gay organization. In this manner, a neighbor or friend reading the face of a letter would have no clue as to the nature of the club. Membership lists are kept strictly confidential.

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.

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Sponsors 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. S-91